



COMMUNITY COURIER

The VOICE of Business

Candidates Attend Forum

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce has a long history of sponsoring an All Candidates' Forum whenever an election is called for every order of government. On March 16, the Forum was held to profile the candidates running in the Yorkton Constituency for the upcoming Provincial Election. Thank you to Aaron Sinclair, Liberal and Greg Ottenbreit, Sask Party for attending and participating in the Forum.

Prior to the Forum, the Chamber sent to each of the candidates six questions to address at the event. The questions included when Yorkton might expect a new health centre; how the province will assist the City with the infrastructure work that is required along Broadway Street; will the Small Business Loan program be re-instated; how will the province reduce the debt; will the province reduce the assessment cycle for calculating property tax; and will the province encourage investment in renewable energy.

The candidates also answered a number of questions posed by the audience.



Liberal candidate, Aaron Sinclair chatted with President Corey Werner prior to the start of the Forum. This is Aaron's first run at office.



To begin the Forum, President Corey Werner welcomed everyone and introduced Randy Atkinson who served as the Moderator.

Randy Atkinson played the role of Moderator with his usual flair and humour, ensuring questions were succinct and the answers were answered in the allotted time frame. Randy encouraged everyone to vote - and if they don't vote, not to complain about the government!

The Chamber extends its thanks to the Gallagher Centre for co-hosting the event.



Incumbent Greg Ottenbreit, candidate for the Sask Party, chatted with President Werner. He is seeking his third term as MLA for the Yorkton Constituency.

Yorkton's Bid for the 2018 RBC Cup

The bid for the 2018 RBC Cup has been submitted! Thank you to all the businesses and individuals for the letters of support.



The bids were sent to the CJHL which in turn, will submit them

to Hockey Canada. Hockey Canada reviews the bids in April

and then the Bid Committees whose bids have been short listed will be invited to do a presentation sometime in late April/May. Here's hoping Yorkton's Bid Committee will be asked for a presentation!

Congratulations!

- To **Parkland Mall**, currently managed by RioCan Management Inc., on 40 years in business.
- To **Freedom Sound** on 30 years in business.
- To **Skinner Garden Classics** on 25 years in business.
- To **Laurie Renton** who has been nominated for a **YWCA Regina Women of Distinction Award** in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation category. The

description of the category is "This recipient has a solid vision of the future, and possesses creativity and ingenuity that separates her from her peers. She has taken an innovative approach to solving a problem, filling a need or breaking into a new market. She has made sacrifices or risked a great deal to successfully manage, launch or revive a business, product or service."

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Fire Protection Inspections

Imagine working at your desk on a quiet morning when suddenly, a fire truck pulls up in front of your business and 4 fully uniformed fire fighters jump out of it and come through your doors! Such a situation might cause a bit of panic in your staff and customers.

Recently, one of the Chamber's members called to say this is what happened at his business. He asked the Chamber to look into the inspections being conducted by the City's Fire Protection Services. The member was concerned for two reasons - the sudden appearance of a fire truck and fire fighters at the business; and the frequency with which these inspections are conducted.

Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey was called and he offered the following explanation:

The City of Yorkton does not have a Fire Marshal or an Inspection Department. It does have ten people who are qualified as Fire Inspectors. Fire Inspectors are able to enforce the National Fire Code.

A Fire Inspection by the Fire Protective Services is done periodically to determine if any changes have been made to the building since it was built and if these changes meet the Fire Code. If they do, great; if they don't, the Inspector will indicate what needs

to be changed. Fire Chief Morrissey said that the Fire Protection Services will always recommend the installation of smoke detectors if they discover these are not in a business. However, smoke detectors are not required.

As to the frequency of the inspections, each business is classified on the basis of its occupancy and then further classified on the basis of hazard. Those with higher hazard ratings, such as a fuel bulk station, will be subject to inspections more frequently than a lower hazard business, such as a flower shop.

The city's Fire Protection Services has 4 platoons. Each platoon is given a list of businesses to visit throughout the year. As each platoon conducts the visits while on duty, the entire platoon travels in a fire truck in the event it is called to respond to an emergency while on inspections.

The Chamber appreciates Chief Morrissey's explanation.

While the inspection may be inconvenient, keep in mind that these are conducted to ensure the **safety** of your business. They also provide the fire fighters with **important information** about locations of exits, stairwells, etc in the case they have to respond to an emergency at your business.



Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey says periodic inspections by Fire Protective Services ensure the safety of your business and employees. The fire fighters also gain valuable information as they map out the locations of exits and stairwells, etc for use in the event they are called to your business for an emergency.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- April 21**
Celebrate Success Business Awards, St. Mary's Cultural Centre
- April 27**
Chamber AGM Business Lunch, Ramada Hotel. Guest Speaker is Cathy Wagantall, MP
- May 26 - 29**
Yorkton Short Film Festival

RHIP and EZIP

At the City Council meeting March 21, approval was given to apply the Rental Housing Incentive Program (RHIP) to a property for a 5 unit rental housing complex. The property must remain as a rental facility for at least 10 years in order to qualify for the tax abatement. The Chamber is pleased that the City is continuing with RHIP and in fact, made a recommendation in 2015 through the City's Ec Dev Commission, that the program be continued.

The Chamber has also recommended that the Enterprise Zone Incentive Program (EZIP) be continued and that it be applied to the entire city. The Chamber has not yet been notified of the City's intention with regard to this program.

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Linda Turta, CEO of Ram Industries spoke about the impact being named "Business of the Year" in 2012 had on the company. In addition to the excellent publicity generated, she said there are 4 more benefits to being named a Finalist and ultimately, an Award Recipient. These include Education (others learn more about your organization); Pride (in you, your employees and your organization); Confidence (stakeholders receive affirmation that yours is a thriving and successful enterprise because the recognition comes from a credible and influential organization such as the Chamber of Commerce,); and Lingering Benefits (a stepping stone for applying for other awards and recognition, added credentials for your business in helping attract future customers and employees). Linda encouraged businesses to take the time to complete the nomination packages as they are an opportunity to share your business's success with the community. She said, "Don't be shy about sharing your achievements!"



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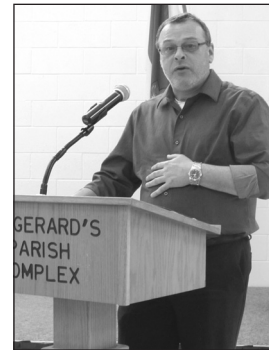
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COMMITTED TO YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

EMW Industrial is the Patron Sponsor of the Celebrate Success Business Awards. Ted Morrison, CAO announced the Finalists in all the Award categories at the "Countdown to Celebrate" Lunch. No Finalists were revealed for the Small and Large Business of the Year Awards as the recipients of those awards were selected by the independent Judging Panel from all the nomination packages submitted.




Did You Know?

- The Canadian Red Cross has a Friendly Visiting Program. If you know of a senior that is socially isolated and may benefit from visits by a caring Red Cross volunteer, please personally refer them or provide them with information about the Program. Contact Judi (306)681-3123 or friendlyvisittingsask@redcross.ca
- Kirsten MacDonald, daughter of the Chamber's very own Sherry MacDonald and husband Gord,

will be in Saskatoon April 16 & 17, representing Yorkton at the Miss Teenage Saskatchewan pageant. The young women participating in the 2016 Pageant have been collecting donations for "Cardiac Kids", a group associated with the Sick Kids' Foundation in Toronto. Many local businesses have supported Kirsten as she prepares for the Pageant.

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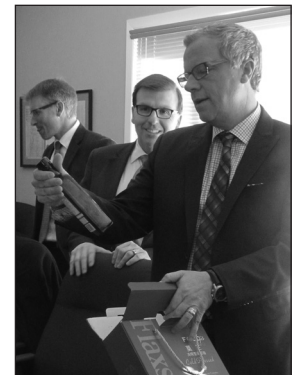
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Visit from the Premier



Premier Brad Wall visited Yorkton in late February and stopped for lunch with the Executive of the Chamber. The Hon. Greg Ottenbreit was also in attendance. The Executive outlined to Mr. Wall the issues of concern to the Chamber including infrastructure needs - such as the much needed infrastructure work on Broadway street, a new health centre, and the Airport; transfer payments; and the need to reinstate the Small Business Loan program.



Director Mike Popowich gave Premier Wall a sample of flaxseed oil, a specialty of TA Foods.

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