

The VOICE of Business

Presidents Message

Thank you to the 2017 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for electing me as the President, to lead this year's activities. I am honoured and excited.

2017 promises to be as exciting and busy as 2016 - perhaps even more so.

The Chamber's goal is to continue with its Vision "to be the voice of the Yorkton and District business community, making Yorkton and District the best place to live, work and invest".

We will advocate for resolution to the concerns of our members that are brought forward to the Chamber Board.

The Chamber will be a valuable link to all orders of Government and with a newly elected President of the United States, and a fairly new Canadian federal Government, it is sure to provide us with new challenges.

I am especially looking forward to working with the recently elected City Council. Yorkton, the city "where good things happen" is a city at a crossroads, in my view.

We are at a point where we need to do some things that will help take us to the next level as a city.

Some of these things are the development of an Airport Authority that is a separate body from City council.

Infrastructure improvements must continue.

Continued "transparency" efforts from the City are needed.



President Brent Murdock

conjunction with the changes to our demographics. Workplaces must learn how to cope with different cultures. Businesses will need to learn how their customer base is changing so they can continue to compete.

We are living in a historic time in Yorkton, and with the strong leadership in business and council, and the diverse and dedicated Directors on the Chamber, we are poised for success.

Now we must execute. The hard work begins for another year.

Let's work together to make Yorkton the city "Where GREAT things happen"!



On behalf of 2016 President Corey Werner, 2015 President Joel Martinuk presented the President's Gavel to Brent Murdock at the January Board of Directors meeting.

Pro-active initiatives to attract new big business are needed.

We are seeing the expansion of immigration to Saskatchewan. This will only increase with time. We need to be prepared for the changes that come in

Congratulations!

- To **Tom Seeley** on being selected Yorkton's 2016 Citizen of the Year. Tom is a member and former Director of the Yorkton Chamber.
- To **Regina Airport Authority (RAA)** on being shortlisted for the 2017 Routes America Marketing Award.
- To **Snowarama** on its 40th year!
- To **Alicia Simoneau** of the Pumphouse Athletic Club (PAC) on being named by Inside Fitness Magazine as one of Canada's most sexy and fit women of 2016. PAC has been a Chamber member for 10 years.



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Hello /Farewell to Chamber Directors



Mayor Bob Maloney led the installation of the 2017 Directors at a recent Chamber Business Breakfast. In attendance were Mike Popowich, Bent Murdock, Chris Bogdan, Donna Brothwell, Neil Weber, Joel Martinuk, Chris Kosteroski, Habibat Kasim and Carol Yaholnitsky.

Each October, nominations are called for 8 Directors to begin serving a two year term beginning January 1. When the nominations closed Oct 31, exactly 8 nominees let their name stand so no election was required.

Returning to the Board are **Corey Werner, Brent Murdock, Mike Popowich** and **Joel Martinuk** (who has accepted a one year appointment).

New to the Board are **Christopher Bogdan, Christopher Kosteroski, Donna Brothwell, Habibat Kasim** and **Neil Weber**. The Chamber welcomes all the Directors who begin their new terms and looks forward to their fresh insights and new ideas!

Leaving the Board December 31 were **Don Rae, Kelly Price, Shawn Patenaude** and **Susan Stewardson**. Don joined the Board in 2011 and served on a variety of committees. He was also the 2014 President.

Kelly and Shawn were both elected in 2015. Kelly chaired the 2016 Business Development Committee while Shawn chaired the 2016 Policy committee and served as Vice President. Susan served on a number of committees and was the 2016 Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee.

Both Peter Krasny and Gillian Potter joined the Board in 2016 but had to resign their positions when career opportunities took them away from Yorkton. Peter is in

Toronto and Gillian now resides in Brandon.

Thank you to all the retiring Directors. Your interest in the Chamber, your wisdom and your ideas were all greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- February 16**
Chamber Business Lunch - Presentation by SaskTel infinET
- February 16**
Celebrate Ag Day all across Canada
- April 26**
ERE and AGM

REMINDER

City of Yorkton Business Licence renewals are due March 31. Invoices were mailed the week of January 9. If you haven't yet received your invoice for renewal, contact Carrie Taylor 306-786-1710.

ERE Returns in April!

The Employee Recognition Event makes its return in 2017!

Mark April 26 on your calendar.

The ERE is an opportunity for the business community to **recognize** the wonderful **employees** whose service helps our businesses thrive and for the community-at-large to recognize those employees who provide excellent service that keep customers returning again and again.

More details to follow...



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Will Taxing Employer-paid Benefits Affect Your Business?

The Federal Government is considering taxing employer-paid health and dental benefits.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce wants to know what you think the effects will be on your business if employer-provided benefits are taxed. Please email either Hendrik Brakel (hbrakel@chamber.ca) or Susanna Cluff-Clyburne (scluff-clyburne@chamber.ca) who will ensure your views are shared with the federal government.

You may also wish to contact Cathay Wagantall, MP cathay.wagantall@parl.gc.ca and the Federal Minister of Finance bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca

Need help in composing your letter? Visit the Yorkton Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com to view a letter template to help you get started.

Webinars about Carbon Available

Interested in learning more about the Carbon issue?

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has 3 webinars you can view:

- From Paris to Marrakesh to Ottawa - The Paris Agreement and Canada's National Climate Plan

- Carbon Pricing 101 with the Ecofiscal Commission

- Carbon and Your Business: From Cost to Competitive Advantage

To view go to

<http://chamber.adobeconnect.com/p5oxzzfued0/>

Did You Know?

- New on the Chamber's website are the updated Profiles of the Directors. Learn more about the people serving you and representing the business community.

- The Chamber's 2016 Highlights are on the Home Page of the Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com

YRHS Students in Junior Achievement Program

During Semester 1 of the 2016-17 School Year, students from the Yorkton Regional High School Junior Achievement Program formed 4 different companies - Prairie Antler Co., Blissful Bath Bar, K-Korn, and Natural Wood Lighting. At a recent Chamber Business Breakfast, representatives from each of the companies shared the strengths and weaknesses in their respective companies and the obstacles each had to overcome. At the end of the project, all 4 companies made a profit and donated 10% of the proceeds to charity. And then they paid dividends to their shareholders. What a great



learning experience. Congratulations! Ms Jessica Schmidt and Ms Kristine Krekelwich are the teachers who facilitated the students.



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