



The VOICE of Business

Employee Recognition Event Salutes Employees

The Employee Recognition Event began as Dine-A-Nite in 2003 and was an annual event. In 2010 it was given its new name and became a biannual event in 2011. Whatever its name, the ERE is an evening for employers to show their appreciation to their employees for the contributions to the company's or business's success.

Forty three nominations were received in 2017 for the 4 Award categories. Chamber staff had the pleasure of delivering certificates and carnations to each of the nominees. Most nominees were surprised and all were pleased to have been nominated for an Award. Many times we heard "you just made my day!" Congratulations to all the nominees.

The Chamber very much appreciates the support of its many sponsors: **Gold** - Painted Hand Casino; **Awards** - Budget Blinds of EC Sask; Castle - Yorkton Building Supplies; CORE Real Estate; and Key Auto Group; **Bronze** - The Vintage Vault; Yorkton Hotel; Value Tire Yorkton; Crusader Drilling; Shawn Patenaude Law; Pet Valu; YPH Mechanical; Logan Stevens; Fedorowich Construction; Painted Hand Casino; and the Yorkton Regional High School; **Program** - Custom Printers and EMW Industrial; **Floral** - All About Flowers; **Hotel** - Home Inn & Suites; **Wine** - Ron Hanishewski -Century 21; Service Master; Louis Dreyfus Commodities; Value Tire Yorkton; Wagner's Flooring; and Good Spirit Air Service.

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Joel Martinuk of Key Auto Group presented the Support Employee of the Year Award to **Lindsay Wolkowski**, Installation Technician at **Budget Blinds of EC Sask**. In his nomination, Lindsay was described as someone who pays close attention to details and is dedicated to the company.



Kelvin Prychak of Castle - Yorkton Building Supplies presented the Manager of the Year Award to **David Langley**, Facilities Manager at the **Yorkton Regional High School**. Described by his nominator as someone who has endless responsibilities, Dave works quietly in the background to ensure all is well for the students and staff.



Jody Johnson of Budget Blinds of EC Sask presented the Spirit Award to **Irene Baran**, Store Manager of the **Salvation Army Thrift Store**. In her nomination, Irene was described as someone who cares for her customers and staff and is full of compassion and has an energetic spirit.



Corey Werner of CORE Real Estate presented the Front Line Employee Award to **Janet Ostafie** of the **Ramada Hotel**. Described by her nominator as someone who always makes her guests feel welcome, Janet is friendly and accommodating.

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 Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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Congratulations!

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- To **Rayzrs' Pub** in Yorkton Hotel on 10 years in business!
- To **YPH Mechanical** on 10 years in business!
- To **Grain Millers** on its expansion adding 80,000 metric tonnes of oat production capacity at its Yorkton mill!

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Nominate Today for ABEX

The ABEX Awards, presented by Conexus Credit Union, recognize that Saskatchewan is rich in stories of business successes. Even in challenging times, Saskatchewan has countless businesses worthy of recognition in every community in the province. The ABEX Awards honour outstanding achievements in business excellence.

Businesses are eligible to enter in as many of the categories as they wish. The ABEX awards honour all private sector enterprises in Saskatchewan



regardless of size and economic activity.

We have outstanding businesses in Yorkton worthy of such recognition. Many Yorkton businesses have been named as finalists and have received Awards including Yorkton Plumbing & Heating; NL Construction; TA Foods; Royal Ford and Cornerstone Credit Union.

Nominations are available on the Sask Chamber's website
www.saskchamber.com

Upcoming Dates to Remember

May 8 - 13
Spring Yard Waste Clean Up

May 11
Sask Chamber AGM

May 25 - 28
Yorkton Short Film Festival

July 1
Canada Day at the Western Development Museum

July 5 - 8
Yorkton Exhibition Summer Fair

Sept 27
Chamber Business Dinner

Meeting with MP

Recently President Brent Murdock and Chair of the Policy committee, Mike Stackhouse and Executive Director Juanita Polegi met with Cathay Wagantall, Yorkton - Melville MP to discuss the opportunities identified in the document prepared by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce "Ten Ways to Build a Canada that Wins 2017" that are most relevant to the Yorkton area. These include upgrading Canada's regulatory system to get natural resources and other exports to world markets; ensuring small businesses have access to the resources they require in order to grow and flourish in the global economy; assuring better access to capital for Indigenous entrepreneurs; dismantling internal trade barriers that cost consumers and discourage investors; and encouraging

investment by cutting the cost of doing business in this country.

Wagantall indicated that in addition to these areas she believes promoting innovation and harnessing the power of data are also important.



Main Street Project



Royce Pettyjohn, Main Street Program Coordinator for Maple Creek spoke to Juanita Polegi, Yorkton Chamber; Randy Goulden, Tourism Yorkton; and Lisa Washington, City of Yorkton about Maple Creek's experience with the Main Street Program. As a result of this program, 18 new businesses have opened and 60 new jobs have been created in Maple Creek! Stakeholders will be invited to a future meeting to discuss how we might all work together in a coordinated effort to ensure a successful Main Street program in Yorkton.



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Did You Know?

- Yorkton has lowered its commercial to residential tax revenue ratio from 2.93 to 2.37. That means the commercial sector is now paying only 2.37 times the taxes than the residential sector.
- The City of Yorkton has a facebook page: @TheCityofYorkton Scroll far down the list of options and when you see the City's seal, you know you have the correct page.

Chamber AGM



At the recent ERE, the Chamber combined fun with business by adding the AGM to the Agenda. Past President Corey Werner was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his commitment to the Chamber during his Presidency by President Brent Murdock.



During the Chamber's AGM held at the ERE, President Brent Murdock presented Mike Popowich with the 2016 Director of the Year plaque.

Mike was selected by his fellow Directors for the Award which "acknowledges dedication, enthusiasm and a positive attitude to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce." The Award was created in memory of Ruth Shaw, Chamber Manager (1975 - 1997) for her tireless energy, drive and commitment to the Chamber.

Group Retirement Savings Plan

Looking for a Group Retirement Savings Plan for your employees? As a Chamber member, you may find that the Plan offered through the Chamber Group Insurance Plan will work for



you. To learn more, contact Lisa Seray at Zapshalla Financial Services (306-786-6262). This plan is exclusive to Chamber members so inquire today.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan

WorkSafe Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Safety Association of Saskatchewan Manufacturers (SASM) and the Chiropractors' Association of Saskatchewan (CAS), is striving to prevent ergonomic injuries in Manufacturing.

WorkSafe has produced 4 videos to address common injuries in manufacturing and to provide solutions.

Watch the videos on WorkSafe's YouTube page and share them at your safety meetings!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlIIPUkoedxpYABJSainIk8QUdFrGcf3V>



Work to live.

China 2018!

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce will partner with a well known travel company for an 11 day trip to China in 2018! Chambers of Commerce from all over Canada have been working with this company for years and find it to be an affordable, pleasant experience. The itinerary includes round trip airfare from Calgary; 4 & 5 star hotel accommodations; 3

meals daily; deluxe bus tours; entrance fees for attractions; AND fluent in English tour guides. The tour includes visits to Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou. For more information such as Ticket Prices and Orientation Sessions, call the Yorkton Chamber 306-783-4368 or the Saskatchewan Chamber 306-352-2671.