



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY  
COURIER

**While You Worked in Your Business,  
the Chamber Worked for YOU!!**

You invested in your business by becoming a Chamber member. The Board of Directors doesn't take that investment lightly and has been working for you throughout the year.

As "the voice of business in Yorkton", the Chamber has undertaken a number of advocacy efforts on your behalf. While you worked to grow your business, the Chamber was working to ensure the interests of the local business community were represented.

**Below is a summary of the 2020 highlights:**  
**Advocacy: Informing the various orders of government of policies or legislation having an impact on the business community:**

- Had meetings with City Council; and Cathay Wagantall, MP
- Letter to Premier Moe commending his government on pointing out to the Federal government the many ways SK has reduced its carbon footprint
- Letter to Cathay Wagantall, MP asking her party to urge the government to find a peaceful solution to removing the railway blockades. Letter on same topic sent to Mayor Maloney
- Letter to Cathay Wagantall, MP asking her party to urge the government to put provide immediate support to small and medium businesses affected by the pandemic
- Letters to Ministers of Health and Rural & Remote Health pointing out the inconsistencies in determining which businesses could remain open and those which were ordered to close
- Letters to Ministers of Health and Rural & Remote Health with questions about decisions affecting small businesses as the second wave of the pandemic settles in
- Presentation to City Council on the importance of proceeding with major infrastructure projects such as the City Operations Centre and the Mayhew roundabout as they had already had budget approval
- Letter to Mayor Maloney commending the city on re-opening facilities in May

- Letter to City Manager requesting a bike rack be installed on Second Avenue
- Letter to Greg Ottenbreit, MLA urging his government to announce by August 1 its plans for allowing banquet facilities and halls to host more than 30 people
- One of 34 signatories to an Open Letter to the Businesses and Citizens reminding the businesses that we cannot have a full-scale lock-down; and to the citizens reminding them to please shop local
- Developed Talking Points 2020 for the Municipal election
- Hosted All Candidates' Forums for the provincial and municipal elections

**Education & Networking:**

- Those early days of the pandemic were dark and uncertain for businesses but the Canadian & Sask Chambers provided all sorts of information on protocols and programs for the Yorkton Chamber to distribute to its membership
- Staff called members during the spring lock-down to check in
- Staff conducted "Curbside Chats" with businesses and posted these photos and videos on the website
- Conducted surveys about the impact of the pandemic
- Hosted webinars about applying for programs and HR during a pandemic
- Unveiled the new Chamber logo
- Hosted presentations by the YRHS Junior Achievement students
- Chamber on Tap with Nicole Campbell & Guy Gendreau
- Chamber Lunch with former Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco as Guest Speaker
- Presented a scholarship at Parkland College
- Hosted the 14th Celebrate Success Business Awards

**Let the Chamber work  
for your business in 2021!**

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Yorkton Chamber  
of Commerce

Website: www.yorktonchamber.com

Season's  
Greetings



**Yorkton Chamber of Commerce  
2020 Board of Directors**

- Photo courtesy Photography by Mitch

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## Celebrate Saskatchewan 2020

A pandemic can mess up the best laid plans! Eight and one half months following the announcement of the finalists for the 14th Celebrate Success Business Awards, the event was finally held November 25. Rather than a crowd of nearly 400, fewer than 25 people were in St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre at any one time. No food, no beverages, no handshakes, no finalists. Production crew and sponsors only. Masks and hand sanitizer mandatory. And a technical glitch prevented the event to be livestreamed. But it was recorded and can be found at <https://youtu.be/b3TgfZpsK1M>

Over 80 nominations were received for the various categories. From these, the Judging Panel narrowed the field down to 37 finalists. The Judging Panel was also charged with the task of selecting the Business Leader of the Year and the Small and Large Businesses of the Year. The public was given the opportunity to select the Peoples' Choice Award.

Representing the judges, Deb Schmidt indicated the judges were impressed by the nominated businesses. She said that as there were so many deserving nominees, the selection process was a very difficult one.

Following the Judges' comments, the presentations of the Awards began! The Chamber thanks all who contributed to the success of the Awards Gala. Celebrate Success will be back in 2022.





*Baker Tilly was the Patron sponsor of the event. Darcy Spilchen, CEO and Finance Partner announced the Large Business of the Year Award to Yorkton Hyundai; and Small Business of the Year to Modern Mattress.*



*Charles Ryder, General Manager of the Painted Hand Casino brought greetings to the event. The Casino was the Production Sponsor which enables the Chamber to produce the finalists' videos.*



*Kimberly Foy of the CIBC announced that recipients of the Award of Excellence included Painted Hand Casino; Parrish & Heimbecker; and Yorkton Tribal Council.*



*Business Leader of the Year was awarded to Evan Ortynsky. Making the announcement was Donna Brothwell of YBID.*



*Amie Evans of TD Financial Services announced that Jessica Richards of the Scrub Hub Boutique was the recipient of the Young Entrepreneur Award.*



*Doug Jones of the Cornerstone Credit Union announced that CORE Real Estate was the recipient of the Community Involvement Award.*



*The recipient of the New Business Venture Award, Credence Construction, was announced by Joseph Ortynsky of Key Auto Group.*

**Edward Jones**  
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The Business Growth & Expansion Award recipient was RH Electric as announced by Logan Parachoniak of BMO Bank of Montreal.



Announcing that Baillie Boys Towing received the Customer Service Award was Trevor McLachlan of RBC Royal Bank



Mayor Hipsley, on behalf of the City of Yorkton announced that the recipient of the Property Restoration Award was Yorkton Dental.



The finalists for the Safety Award were introduced virtually by Gord Dobrowsky, Chair of the Sask Workers' Compensation Board.



Announcing that YBID was the recipient of the Marketing Award was Brenda Airth of Community Futures Ventures.



Representing SaskTel was Leanne Woodhouse who announced that the recipients of the Community Merit Award included Big Brothers Big Sisters Yorkton; Parkland Search & Rescue; and Royal Canadian Legion Branch #77.



Brendan Wagner of the Parkland College announced that CrossFit Function was the recipient of the People's Choice Award.



Photos of the Award Recipients are on the Chamber's website.



In addition to our Patron, Production and Award sponsors, several other businesses generously supported the 14th Celebrate Success Business Awards:

**EVENT:**

Yorkton This Week • The Rock 98.5 FM • ReFined Magazine • Saddles & Steel Productions  
Access Communications • St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

**BEVERAGES:**

The Wireless Age • Michelle Bailey & Deb Cook (Century 21) • Canadian Western Bank  
RBKR Law • Miccar Aerial/Good Spirit Service

Thank you to Jesse Ellert Studios for the photos used in the finalists' videos;  
Timecatchers Digital Imaging for the photos of the sponsors and awards;  
and to Skycron for recording the event.



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## Cathay Wagantall

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## Letter to Business Community and Residents of Yorkton

Businesses know all too well that the pandemic has created great hardship - for business owners, their families and their employees. Lay-offs and revenue losses. "Pivoting" in order to adapt. These are all circumstances few business owners or managers would have imagined a mere 12 months ago. But these have become our reality.

The business community has been strident in working to ensure the guidelines and restrictions put forth by the province's public health experts are being followed.

As we move into the holiday season, it is absolutely critical that businesses and citizens continue to follow the protocols that will ensure our continued safety. Returning to a widespread, large scale lockdown would be catastrophic - for businesses, families and jobs.

The Chamber further implores the citizens of Yorkton and area to shop local this holiday season. Shop in-store or shop on-line - whichever way you choose to make your gift purchases, please shop LOCAL. This is a critical time for many businesses. These are the same business which employ your kids and neighbours and which give so generously to community events and activities. A strong business community translates into a strong community.

As "the voice of business in Yorkton", the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce has strived to ensure its member businesses have been kept informed of the programs available so their enterprises remain operational and viable. We will continue to do so.

Our world and our community are different than 12 months ago yet we are surviving. We are grateful for the efforts of our health care professionals. We are grateful for the people in our provincial government working to find a balance between keeping everyone safe and keeping the economy running. We are grateful for the businesses and citizens who are so diligently following the protocols to protect us all from the pandemic. We are all in this together.

On behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I ask that you take care of yourselves and that we all be kind to each other.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Polegi, Executive Director

## Director of the Year 2019

*Sarah Kowalchuk was presented with the  
Director of the Year Award for 2019.*

*In a normal year, Sarah would have received the Award  
at the Chamber's AGM in April but as this year's AGM  
was virtual, the Chamber waited until the recent  
Celebrate Awards when more people were present  
to witness the presentation.*

*The recipient of the Director of the Year Award  
is selected by the Directors.*



Sarah Kowalchuk

## Years of Service Recognized

*October 5 marked a special anniversary  
in the Yorkton Chamber.*

*On that date, 15 years ago, Sherry MacDonald  
joined the Chamber Staff Team.*

*Sherry is now the Chamber's Director  
of Marketing & Administration.*

*Thank you Sherry for all you do!*



Sherry MacDonald