



The Voice of Business



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Mayor Hipsley Delivers his "State of the City" Address

At the Chamber's recent AGM, held as a combination virtual and in-person event, Mayor Hipsley delivered his first "State of the City" address.

He touched on a number of the highlights of the year including the construction of the new City Operations Centre and the Roundabout at Mayhew and Darlington; and the introduction of the Business Improvement Incentive Program.

He also talked about the reconstruction of York Road; the availability of residential and commercial lots for sale; and the beautification of the intersection of Broadway Street and Highway 9.

Mayor Hipsley added that the planned expansion by Richardson will see the largest canola crush plant in North America located in Yorkton.



When the expansion at the Richardson Crush Plant in Yorkton is complete, it will be the largest canola crush plant in North America



2020 Director Of The Year

Each December, the Board of Directors selects by secret ballot, the Director whom they think has displayed the most enthusiasm and dedication for the Chamber throughout the year.

The recipient is then announced at the following year's AGM.

Juanita Polegi, Executive Director of the Chamber presented Marty Sveinbjornson with the 2020 Award at the recent AGM.

The Award was first established in 1997 in honour of Ruth Shaw who served as the Chamber Manager from 1975 to 1997.

Congratulations
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Chamber Salutes Volunteers

"The value of one, the power of many" was the theme for National Volunteer Week April 18 - 24.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce salutes all the volunteers in this community who coach the kids, are members of service clubs and all others who help their neighbours so freely. Each of you is to be commended for your time and effort. Your volunteerism contributes to the fabric that holds the community together. Thank you.

Volunteers are the essence of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce as they serve on its Board of Directors and committees. People have been committing their time, skills and knowledge to the Yorkton Chamber since 1898. The current 16 volunteer Directors are elected by their peers to serve literally as "the voice of business" in Yorkton to guide the Chamber in its policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of the business community. They strive to "... make Yorkton & District the best place to live, work and invest."

As representatives of a broad business sector and each possessing a range of skills and knowledge, each Director brings a different perspective to the Board table when discussing opportunities and issues facing the local business community. From their discussions, the Board is able to set a course of action for itself or make recommendations to the various orders of government. The Chamber Board doesn't hesitate to point out to any order of government policies that will advance or hinder the business interests in Yorkton and area. Advocating for the Chamber members is what the Chamber does best.

Internally, Directors have been known to assist the staff with the delivery of Chamber events and activities; provide creative ideas; and provide guidance and assistance when gaps in skills appear. The sharing of these ideas and knowledge enables the Chamber to evolve and grow as it serves the business community.



Videos Tell the Story: Want to Be Involved?

Over the course of the past couple of months, the Chamber has reached out to its membership and offered to record the thoughts of various members on the impact the pandemic has had on their businesses. The Chamber thanks the members who participated in the videos by sharing their stories. The videos demonstrate the message the Chamber has been sending to various order of government - the restrictions placed on business due to the pandemic have had negative effects. On the positive side, many businesses report that their customers/clients have remained loyal and together, they are working through this pandemic. There is an element of hope in each video.

If you haven't yet viewed the videos, they can be found on the Chamber's facebook and YouTube pages. And very soon, there will be a new batch of videos produced through the **Shop Local Project!** Interested in becoming involved? Contact the Chamber office 306-783-4368 or jpolegi@yorktonchamber.com Only those businesses which are currently members will be considered for the project

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Did You Know?

- Many Chamber expenses may be claimed as a business expense? Check with your accountant
- The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) indicated recently that the total injury rate for 2020 was 4.46 per 100 workers, a 10 per cent decrease from 2019. From 2008 to 2020, the workplace total injury rate dropped by more than 56 per cent!
- In 2020, 90% of the employers in the province achieved Mission: Zero. This is the highest percentage of employers to achieve Mission: Zero in a single year
- The Yorkton Chamber is one of 640 companies that has signed the Health & Safety Leadership Charter
- WorkSafe Saskatchewan (the partnership between the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety) has launched a comprehensive online psychological health and safety resource centre. The resource centre offers a variety of tools and resources to help Saskatchewan employers and workers develop psychological health and safety programs in their workplaces or enhance their existing efforts. In addition to tools for leaders and workers, the resource centre has a comprehensive list of provincial mental health resources, as well as webinars and workshops
- The centre also provides answers to some commonly asked questions about psychological health and safety and lists contact information for community mental health resources in Saskatchewan. The resource centre is located on the WorkSafe website, under the "Resources" tab.



Presentation to Past President

At the recent AGM, President Marty Sveinbjornson presented a plaque of appreciation to Mike Stackhouse for serving as president of the Yorkton Chamber in 2019 and 2020. Mike was first elected to the Board in 2016 and has also held the position of Chair of the Policy committee.

Welcome New Members

Get in the Loop - 10 Sunset Drive North, Yorkton - Shop Local App

White Stone Enterprises - Box 54 Saltcoats - Gravel, Track hoe, Excavation

Handshake Services - Box 429 Sasltcoats - Welding, Ironworking, Millwrighting

Rant Plumbing & Heating 517 Broadway St E, Yorkton - Plumbing & Heating

Copper Springs Health & Safety Consultants - Box 1957 Esterhazy - Development of OHS solutions

Mid-Can Window & Door Mfg - 141 Palliser Way, Yorkton - Manufacturing Doors & Windows



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306-786-4701
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Value Tire

Serving Yorkton and Community for 36 years

Value Tire in Yorkton has deep roots in the Yorkton area. John DenBrok, co-owner of the business said that when he and his three brothers established Value Tire, they purchased Saltcoats Welding Machinery and Gulf from their dad - a business that evolved from the blacksmith shop he established when he came to Canada after the Second World War.

The brothers moved the business to Yorkton in 1985. Expansion occurred in Regina about 25 years ago and into Saskatoon about 20 years ago. There are now 2 locations in Saskatoon. Within the 3 cities, Value Tire currently employs 40 people.

All tires destined for Value Tire locations and its dealers arrive in Yorkton and then are distributed. And while this is good for Yorkton, it comes at a cost. "There is a premium to have containers shipped to Yorkton as opposed to Regina or Saskatoon," he explained. "Fortunately, the volume of tires we carry enables us to bring the tires here."

Value Tire offers a unique service. "Our volume of tires and our desire to have in our inventory a variety of sizes, including odd ones, has people ordering tires from all over the 3 prairie provinces which has spin-offs for the community. For example, a couple of years ago, a farmer drove from Alberta, arriving in Yorkton after midnight so he had a hotel room, a couple of meals, filled his truck with fuel and then headed home with the unique tire he needed."

John is very thankful for his loyal, customer base. He appreciates their references. He said, "you just can't put a value on one neighbour saying to another - "Have you tried Value Tire? They just might be able to help you."

John is pleased to see the expansion in the business community occurring in Yorkton. As Richardson and P & H expand, he believes this to be good not only for his business - everyone drives a vehicle - but for the entire business community. He recommends the city sets a tone of welcome so that more businesses will find it profitable to establish in Yorkton.

As with all businesses, the pandemic has taken its toll. "It's been stressful," he said. "Firstly, worrying about the health of our employees and their families. And then the sourcing of stock and the constantly changing prices." John expressed his appreciation to the Chamber and other industry associations that enable the businesses to speak together. "These organizations enable the small businesses to speak with a bigger voice and tell our politicians about the pulse of the business community."

Serving the community for 36 years, Value Tire takes its corporate responsibility seriously, supporting a number of charitable organizations that enhance life and living in Yorkton and area.



John DenBrok (second from right) and some of his staff at the Yorkton location at 470 Broadway Street East. Value Tire has been serving customers in the Yorkton area for 36 years

Yorkton - Where Good Things Are Happening!

The transition between winter and final arrival of spring is often difficult and perhaps much more so this year.

It's easy to be negative - but when you look around the city, there are many positives. Our processing sector such as Louis Dreyfus, Richardson, Harvest Meats and Grainmillers have in recent years expanded or are in the process of doing so.

Parrish & Heimbecker are expanding.

Buildings in the downtown have been purchased and are being renovated.

The construction of the City's Operations Building is progressing. Walking trails, the skate board park, parks and open spaces, the Godfrey Dean Art Gallery, the Water Park and golf courses are just some of the many amenities Yorkton has to offer.

Good things happen here!!