

COMMUNITY COURIER

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2025 AGM A Success



President Sunil Shah presented the 2024 Director of the Year Award to Bob Knox. The 2024 Directors voted for the Director they each thought was deserving of the Award which "acknowledges dedication, enthusiasm and a positive attitude to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce." The Award was first presented in 1997 in honour of Ruth Shaw, a former Manager of the Chamber.

A sell-out crowd enjoyed a lovely meal provided by The Owl's Nest Restaurant at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting held April 23. The main purpose of the AGM was to hear the audited financial report from 2024. It was presented by Nathan Bewcyk, BBA with Sensus Chartered Professional Accountants. Following the formal portion of the meeting Bob Knox was presented with the 2024 Director of the Year Award. Bob was selected by his fellow Directors for the Award based on his commitment to the Chamber and his attendance at Chamber meetings, events and activities. Bob has been a Director since 2018 and

is currently serving the second year of his 5th term. Congratulations, Bob!

Following the meeting, Mayor Aaron Kienle delivered his first State of the City address. He shared information on a number of projects the city has recently undertaken and their progress. Some of the highlights include:

- The repairs to the Kinsmen Arena are on schedule and it is expected to open, fully refurbished, by the end of August
- The various tax abatement programs the city has initiated have been well received. These have been carried into 2025
- 78 new Business Licences were issued in 2024 and to

date, 22 new Licences have been issued in 2025

- www.yorkton.ca features a tax calculator
- Shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca is a great communication tool. He said, "Everything going on in the city is on this website."
- National Volunteer Week is April 27 – May 3. Mayor Kienle concluded by thanking all the many volunteers who help to make this community great

Jenna Niebergall of Suncrest College delivered a short presentation on their scholarship programs and the upcoming Career Explorations event October 7.

In addition to several city Councillors, five MLAs were in attendance including David Chan; Sean Wilson; Hon. Warren Kaeding; Aleana Young; and Jared Clark.

Thank you to Access Communications for sponsoring the event.



Following the Chamber's AGM, Mayor Kienle delivered his first State of the City address in which he spoke about the city's plans for the future.

Congratulations

- **BG Denture Clinic** on 55 years in business
- **Sherring Optical** on 35 years in business
- **M & M Water Supplies** on 25 years in business

- Chamber Director **Stephanie Buckle** on being named the Volunteer of the Year Award by the **Yorkton Terriers Junior A Hockey Club**
- **Councillor Randy Goulden** on recent re-election as **President** of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)



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Chamber Hosts Federal Election Forum



After answering 4 questions from the Chamber and 7 from the audience and before heading out onto snowy, slushy roads, the candidates took time for a photo with Moderator Doug Forster (centre). From left: Alec Guggenmos, Luke Guimond, Valerie Brooks and Cathay Wagantall.

With the federal election set for April 28, the Chamber hosted an All Candidates Forum April 22 at the Anne Portnuff Theatre. Despite the weather, several people attended the Forum to meet and listen to 4 of the candidates running in the Yorkton – Melville riding. The candidates represented the Conservative, Green, Liberal and Libertarian parties.

Questions posed to the candidates covered such topics as how, if elected, the candidate will ensure the interests of the constituents are represented; how tariffs on canola, peas and hogs will be handled; what are the plans to attract investment in the country; and how “ecological corridors” won’t interfere with food production and commerce.

The floor was then turned over to the audience to ask questions of the candidates.

The Chamber thanks the candidates who participated in the Forum. Thank you also to **The Rock 98.5** and **Access Communications** for broadcasting the Forum live; and to **Harvard Media** and **Yorkton This Week** for its extensive coverage of the Forum.




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Upcoming Dates


- May 14 – Member Appreciation Event and Honourary Life Member Induction. Supper courtesy Yorkton Chamber. Watch your emails for details
- May 22 – 24 Yorkton Film Festival
- May 23 – Deadline for appealing property assessment in Yorkton
- June 3 – Luncheon courtesy Regina Airport Authority
- July 2 – 5 Yorkton Exhibition Summer Fair (Parade July 5)
- Oct 8 – Chamber Business Dinner



Enjoy the journey, not just the destination.



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YORKTON TRIBAL COUNCIL

Yorkton Tribal Council is a not-for-profit organization that provides essential services to 6 Member Nations (Cote, Keeseekoosew, The Key, Zagime Anishinabek, Kahkewistahaw & OceanMan First Nations) in the Treaty 4 territory.

- Political Office, Administration & Finance
- Health & Social Development
- Justice Services
- Education
- Labor Force Development
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- Economic Development

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WESK Connect

In early April, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (WESK) to bring WESK Connect to Yorkton.

Held at Suncrest College's Trades & Technology Centre, the purpose of the evening was to enable women in business to meet and network. Men were welcome to the event as well. The key feature of the event was a panel discussion with local business women. Moderator Juanita Polegi, Executive Director of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, posed a number of questions to Alicia

Simoneau, owner of Pumphouse Athletic Club (PAC); Nicole Campbell, owner of Yorkton Concrete 20212 Ltd; and Kaitlyn Kitzan, owner of Kitzan Strategic Solutions. The women all had different stories to share about how they started their business and the unique challenges they have faced but they all agreed that they see a bright future for Yorkton with great opportunities for expansion of the business community. Following the panel session, those in attendance enjoyed some appetizers and visiting.



Town Hall on Property Assessment & Taxes

In late March, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce held a Town Hall on Property Assessment & Taxes.

Speaking on behalf of the Sask Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), was Regional Manager Sheldon Stechyshyn (L). Yorkton is just one of the 762 urban, rural and northern municipalities for which SAMA provides its assessment services. Sheldon delivered an overview of how property assessments are calculated. Ashley Stradeski, Director of Finance for the City of Yorkton (R) described how the city sets the tax rate. It knows how much is required to run the city for the year and then determines the tax rates for various classes of property. He likened the city's tax base to a pie and that a person's (or business's) taxes is the share of the pie. Property assessments in Yorkton may be appealed until May 23 as this is a re-evaluation year.



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At the recent presentation of scholarships to Suncrest College students, Teri Thompson, VP Academics presented the scholarship from the Yorkton Chamber to Nevaeh Lang, a Business Certificate student. Congratulations Nevaeh!

Thank You!

Thank you to the following businesses (as of April 23) for investing in their businesses by belonging to the Chamber. The Chamber works for you while you work in your business.

Back Forty Brewery Ltd; Bring2Life Creative Counselling; Canora Weaving & Mfg; Christie's Funeral Home Ltd; David Chan MLA; Custom Microsystems Inc.; Divine Dental Centre; Epic Audio Video Unlimited; Haas Nissan; Harvest Meats; Jeff Chapple Realty Prof Corp; Key Auto Group; Key Chevrolet Cadillac Ltd; Key Yorkton Kia; Louis Dreyfus Company; New Outlook Refrigeration; Photography by Mitch; Premier Care Hearing; Rant Plumbing & Heating; Re/MAX Blue Chip Realty; S & S Family Ranch; SaskTel; Staples Professional; The Owl's Nest Restaurant; The Wireless Age; Yorkton Auction Centre; Yorkton Concrete 2012 Ltd; Yorkton & District Community Foundation; Yorkton Ministerial Association; Yorkton Terriers; Yorkton Victory Church; W.I.L. Demolition & Salvage; and Young's Plant World.

Website Correct?

If you're a member of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, please visit the Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com and look for your business under the Member Directory. Do we have your business name spelled correctly? Do we have the correct address and phone #? Is your website linked?

If there are any corrections needed, please call the Chamber office so we can update both the website and our contact list.

Celebrating?

If you're a Chamber member and you are celebrating a milestone or have received an award or achieved a new designation or accreditation, let the Chamber know so we can add it to our congratulations section. Passing along good news just helps to keep the buzz in the community positive. Don't be shy – let the Chamber help you pass along your good news!

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