

COMMUNITY COURIER

Junction of Highways #9 &
#16 Box 1051, Yorkton, SK S3N
2X3

Ph: (306) 783-4368

Email: info@yorktonchamber.com
Website:

www.yorktonchamber.com



Author and Consultant to Speak at Dinner

At a recent Media Conference, Geoff Propp, President and General Manager of Harvest Meats announced that global leadership consultant **Jennifer Barroll** will be visiting Yorkton to deliver the key note address. At the 26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner, October 8. Jennifer is renowned for her ability to inspire lasting change, build resilient leaders, and foster high-performing teams. Her keynotes are a mix of compelling storytelling, humour, and research-backed insights that equip audiences with practical tools to lead with confidence, communicate with impact, and

build meaningful connections. Jennifer was named one of Avenue magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" and is a recipient of Branded Magazine's Game Changer Award. In Fall 2025, she'll release her first book, ***Make Work Not Suck: A Conscious Leader's Guide for Building Teams That Thrive***, which promises to be a beacon of insight for leaders seeking to foster environments where teams flourish." If you wish to hear Jennifer's presentation, tickets are available at the Chamber office or on-line www.yorktonchamber.com



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26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner Sponsor Announced

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce recently announced that the Platinum Sponsor of its 26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner is **Harvest Meats**. Harvest Meats is a cornerstone business in Yorkton and has been a member of the Chamber for decades. **Geoff Propp**, President and General Manager of Harvest Meats, in his comments about accepting the Platinum sponsorship, talked about the company. "Established in 1928, Harvest Meats has been a part of the Yorkton community for nearly 100 years, and 4 generations of family management. Our organization works tirelessly alongside our employees to maintain a family like atmosphere. From employee birthday celebrations

to staff appreciation days, we consider each and every one of our staff a part of the extended Harvest family. Our small town roots and community-minded approach laid the foundation for the company Harvest has grown to be, and we could not be more proud to call Yorkton home. We look forward to supporting the community for years to come." The Yorkton Chamber greatly appreciates **Harvest Meats** supporting the Business Dinner. The Chamber Business Dinner will be held Wednesday October 8th at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are now available.



Geoff Propp, President and General Manager of Harvest Meats said the company is proud to call Yorkton home and looks forward to supporting the community for years to come. Harvest Meats is the Platinum Sponsor of the 26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner.

Congratulations

- **Yorkton Dodge** on 20 years in business
- **Good Earths Shop** on 15 years in business
- **W.I.L. Demolition & Salvage Inc** on 5 years in business



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Chamber's Work on GMD Pays Dividends

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is pleased with the announcement by the Government of Saskatchewan that it will fund up to 50% of the cost to repair Grain Millers Drive. This is great news!

The file on Grain Millers Drive is one the Chamber has been working on for over 2 years.

It all started with a meeting with City Council when they announced that York Road would be upgraded and therefore closed while the work was being done.

Some of the Chamber Directors knew that Grain Millers Drive was already in poor shape so to take on the burden of the extra traffic while York Road was being repaired would cause the Drive to deteriorate further.

Then the Chamber organized a meeting in **March 2023** with the RM of Orkney, the City and the stakeholders along GMD.

From that meeting, the Chamber sent 2 letters to the Government of Saskatchewan:

1) Requesting that the GOS provide to the RM of Orkney financial assistance to repair GMD; and 2) Requesting traffic lights be installed at the junction of GMD and Hwy 9.

The Minister of Highways at the time responded indicating "he has committed a number of actions to be taken by the Ministry of Highways (see the June 2023 edition of the Courier). In addition he indicated he will personally make a site visit this summer and follow up with a meeting with local officials and stakeholders – which he did in Au-

gust 2023. The Chamber once again hosted a meeting with the Minister, City Council, RM Council, 4 MLAs and several of the stakeholders to discuss GMD. The meeting concluded with the Minister committing to working towards finding a solution for GMD. Shortly thereafter, there was a Cabinet shuffle and a new Minister of Highways was appointed. The Chamber sent a letter to her updating her on the importance of GMD, its need for major repairs and the Chamber's willingness to help the Ministry ensure these repairs happen.

Since the August 2023 meeting with the Minister, every meeting the Chamber has had with City Council and an MLA (whether on the Government side of the Legislature or in Opposition), the need for a fix on GMD has been discussed.

Most recently, the Chamber sent a letter in July 2025 to the Mayor asking about the status of the study on GMD the City, RM and Province had entered into.

The Chamber has played a pivotal role in keeping GMD top of mind in the 2 orders of government.


Bottom line – a win for Yorkton, the province and the Chamber.



Yorkton Chamber Work Beyond Yorkton

Over the past couple of months the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce has been working beyond the city limits to assist our business community.

- 1) It has **co-sponsored a resolution** put forth by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Policy Resolution session at its October AGM and Convention. Resolutions put forth by Chambers of Commerce from across the country must have a national scope. If a policy is adopted at the convention, it will be added to the Canadian Chamber's list of policies and will "help set the Canadian Chamber's advocacy agenda for the upcoming year." The resolution put forth by the Sask Chamber is entitled "Amend and Improve the Regulatory Environment for Agricultural Advancements".
- 2) The Chamber has also been asked to **co-sign** some documents. One is a letter penned by Candace Laing, CEO of the Canadian Chamber in **support of Canadian agriculture and the agri-food industry** in light of the new Chinese tariffs on canola. The other is a letter from Commissioner for Employers - Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) that **proposes a new approach to lower-skilled immigration in Canada** – to replace the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.



Enjoy the journey, not just the destination.



Jenn Jones
Financial Advisor



Tyler Quart
Financial Advisor

1-306-786-2111
385 Broadway Street East, Unit 8, Linden Square
Yorkton, SK



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

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Chamber Meets with Minister of Immigration and Career Training

David Chan, MLA Yorkton invited the Chamber to a meeting recently with **Honourable Jim Reiter, Minister of Immigration and Career Training**. Directors in attendance included Bob Knox, Mary Carvalho and Vishal Sukhadiya. Many of our members were also in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on the Sask Immigrant Nomination Program (SINP), employment opportunities and job vacancies, and the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). Mr. Reiter actively listened to the concerns and suggestions made by the participants and offered to provide more information on some of the topics. He also suggested the Chamber write to him outlining some of these concerns and suggestions.



Honourable Jim Reiter (back row wearing jacket and tie) took time to meet with Chamber Directors Bob Knox, Mary Carvalho and Vishal Sukhadiya; and several Chamber members to discuss the importance of immigration to Yorkton and some of the challenges immigrants face.

Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

Welcomes New Member

The Chamber welcomes new member
CHESTER'S CHICKEN YORKTON

A membership in the Chamber is an investment in your business. These businesses joins over 400 businesses which belong to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you!

Thank you to the following businesses (as of Aug 20) for investing in their businesses by belonging to the Chamber. The Chamber works for you while you work in your business:

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Call to Rescind Emergency Response Charges



The Chamber has urged City Council to rescind that section of the bylaw that enables Fire Protections Services to charge for emergency responses.

On September 9, 2024 City Council passed Bylaw No.9/2024 to Amend the Fire Prevention Bylaw No.15/2010. It contained several amendments to the 2010 Bylaw – many that enhanced the safety of citizens.

Also in that 2024 Bylaw, the Schedule “A” Fees was amended. It allowed the City to charge for responding to a fire. While the limit was set at \$5K for a house, there was no limit set on the amount of fees that could be charged to a business. No one caught these changes and so they became “law”.

In May 2025, Bylaw No. 19/2025 was introduced to “clarify the fee structure”. This time, the fees were reviewed. Administration was hoping to pass all 3 readings of the “clarification” bylaw at the June 3 meeting of Council. As unanimous consent was not received, the new Bylaw could not be passed and was carried forward to the June 23 Council meeting.

The Chamber sent a letter to

Council, urging Council to repeal that section of Bylaw No. 9/2024 that enabled the City to charge residents and businesses when the Fire Department responds to a fire.

Since then, Council has met several times to discuss this section of the Bylaw. At the time of writing (late August) no resolution to the Bylaw has yet occurred so **as it stands now, if a business or residence were to have a fire, fees for fire protection services could be charged.**

At the August 14 Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting, much discussion about the Bylaw occurred but ultimately, Council referred the matter back to Administration. Once again, **the Chamber has urged Council to rescind that section of the Bylaw which enables the city to charge fees after the fire department has responded to a fire.** Administration is to bring its recommendations to the September 2 meeting of Council.

Chamber Meets with NeeStaNan



The mission of NeeStaNan is “to create utility corridors in Canada and functioning seaport on Hudson Bay to enhance existing trade routes and open new trade routes.” Several members of the Chamber’s Bus Dev and Policy committees and David Chan, MLA Yorkton attended a presentation by Robyn Lore, Director on NeeStaNan Board (3rd from Left) and Blaine Mersereau, Advisor (4th from Right). NeeStaNan will be a rail line and port built near Port Nelson on Hudson Bay. It has the advantage of being a year-round port. The Chamber looks forward to further meetings with this organization.

Upcoming Dates

- Sept 16 – Member Appreciation Event and Honourary Life Member Induction, Tapps 5:30 – 8:00 PM
- Sept 19 – EC Newcomer event for Welcoming Week (watch for details)
- Oct 7 – Career Explorations at the Gallagher Centre (Chamber members receive 10% discount on a booth)
- Oct 8 – 26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner, St. Mary’s Ukrainian Cultural Centre 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Nov 23 – Santa Parade

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