

Shoplifting Costly to Businesses



Staff Sgt Burton Jones urges businesses to report every incidence of shoplifting to the police so they learn who is involved.

Staff Sgt Burton Jones was the featured speaker at the inaugural **Coffee with the Chamber** in mid-September. He shared information on how to prevent and deal with shoplifting. He urged businesses to report all incidents of shoplifting so that the RCMP are aware of where and when shoplifting occurs and by whom. The law treats repeat offenders differently than first-time offenders. He indicated that even if a business calls the police when theft has occurred, it is ultimately the decision of the business as to whether or not they press charges. If charges are pressed, then someone from the business who witnessed the theft will have to make a statement and must be prepared to testify in court.

Staff Sgt Jones relayed the many ways people will try to

shoplift upon entering a store. He also mentioned that some of these activities also include fraud – such as tag switching.

He encouraged the business people in attendance not to engage physically when confronting an alleged shoplifter.

Following his presentation, attendees asked questions and shared their experiences.

According to an official with the Retail Council of Canada, “Prior to the pandemic, retail crime contributed about \$5 billion in losses across Canada, and are likely higher now. This amounts to roughly 1.8 per cent of all retail revenues in the country.”

Thank you to Staff Sgt Jones for making time to meet with the business community and share valuable information.

Upcoming Dates

- Oct 9 – Deadline for submitting Nomination Papers for City Council
- Oct 10 – Coffee with the Chamber 7:00 AM Grumpy’s Grill (Fire Chief Morrissey will talk about the new amendments to the Fire Protection bylaw; and an RCMP Officer will talk about protecting yourself in a potentially dangerous situation.)
- Oct 16 – All Candidates’ Forum (Provincial) 7:00 PM Gallagher Centre
- Oct 23 – All Candidates’ Forum (Municipal) 7:00 PM Gallagher Centre
- Oct 28 – Provincial Election
- Oct 30 – Nov 2 – Harvest Showdown
- Nov 6 – “Wine Not Wednesday” Theme: Women in Business – watch for details
- Nov 13 – Municipal Election
- Nov 23 – Santa Claus Parade

Congratulations

- **Under the Covers** on 20 years in business
- **Yorkton Pharmacy** on 10 years in business
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- **Yorkton Dental** on 5 years in business
- **Yorkton Minor Football** on 20 years of coaching and mentoring our youth
- **Yorkton & District Community Foundation** on 5 years serving the community



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- 1) Chambers Plan Telemedicine
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2) Business Assistance Service (BAS) Helping you manage your business more efficiently

Most small businesses can't afford to have a team of specialists on hand to help deal with unexpected problems that require an expert opinion. The Chambers Plan BAS is designed to fill this gap. This confidential service provides access to professional accounting, counselling, legal and human resource experts who understand the challenges faced by small business owners. One-on-one consultation is often financially out of reach for many businesses, however through the Chambers Plan BAS, firms have access, free of charge, to expert advisors who can help their business grow.

3) Teladoc Medical Experts Helping employees make important medical decisions

When you or someone you love is faced with illness or injury, you want to have access to the very best medical expertise available. That's exactly what Teladoc Medical Experts gives you, connecting individuals and their treating physician with world renowned specialists to provide an expert opinion on an existing diagnosis and treatment plan, without having to leave home.

Don't forget, your dependents as defined in your benefit plan can also use Teladoc Medical Experts. Plus, with the Extended Family Benefit, your parents and parents-in-law also have access to Teladoc Medical

4) Hugn Authentic Connections A mental wellness app that helps you and your employees feel connected.

We can all feel isolated or lonely at times. But did you know that a lack of social connection is bad for our health? Research tells us that lacking social connections carries a risk factor potentially worse than smoking, obesity, physical inactivity and air pollution. Hugn Authentic Connections can help. Hugn's self-guided digital program can help users measure their level of social connection, discover how to build and maintain authentic connections, and regularly share how they're feeling with those closest to them.

5) my-benefits Health® Connecting members to health-empowering solutions

Any health issue or concern brings about questions. **my-benefits health** is the Chambers Plan wellness site, providing Plan members easy access to reliable health tools and resources, allowing them to choose the best course of action for their family.

To learn more, contact the Chamber Office 306-783-4368



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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, Keeseekoose, The Key, Zagime Anishinabek, Kahkewistahaw & OceanMan First Nations) in the Treaty 4 territory.

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Did You Know?

- **The cost to build a home in Yorkton is going down!** The City recently introduced a home building incentive that offers a **50% rebate toward the purchase of any City-owned residential lot.** The rebate will be made available to anyone looking to build a new home in Yorkton. There is no application – simply choose from one of the city’s Available Properties and then contact Economic Development to pick your lot and start the process.
- The City offers **even more incentives** to build a home in Yorkton! In addition to the 50% rebate on a city-owned lot, the city is offering an incentive that **grants a 100% tax rebate over a 5-year period** to the owner of a new one, two, three or four unit dwelling constructed on a City or privately-owned vacant residential lot. **Now that’s good news!** And with the financial industry anticipating a further lowering of interest rates, this is a good time to be building a new home. Where better than **Yorkton?**
- Businesses are encouraged to light up their store fronts with **purple or blue lights** the evening of **Oct 17** in support of inclusive employment for individuals experiencing disability. Send photos of your building lit up by emailing them to dstroshein@saskabilities.ca and she will share them on social media
- The link to the City’s recently released **Community Cultural Plan** is <https://shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca/culturalplan>
- It was **Rail Safety Week** Sept 23 – 29. Information about being safe around rail property can be found at www.operationlifesaver.ca

Yorkton Terriers Visit Chamber



Just prior to their Home Opener for the 2024-25 season, the Yorkton Terriers stopped by the Chamber office to meet the Chamber staff. Terrier Captain Jaron Desnoyers (who scored 4 goals in that game!) presented a sweater to Juanita Polegi, Executive Director of the Chamber which will hang in the reception area of the Chamber/Visitor Information Centre throughout the Terriers’ season. Junior A hockey teams **generate economic activity** in each of the communities in which they have a presence. **Good luck Terriers!**

Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

Welcomes New Members

The Chamber welcomes new members

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Labour Market Playbook

The Saskatchewan Chamber recently launched a document entitled **Labour Market Playbook: Showing Up Differently to Win Talent in a Challenging Labour Market**.

Targeted at Small and Medium enterprises, the comprehensive Playbook is designed to equip businesses with **practical strategies for attracting and retaining top talent**, exploring innovative hiring practices and advancing equity goals. Grounded in thorough research and tailored specifically to Saskatchewan's dynamic business environment, the Playbook offers actionable insights that can drive success.

To access a copy of the Playbook, visit <https://saskchamber.com>

Although some of these things may be difficult to look at or may result in unsafe situations, such as needles, please be assured we have mechanisms in place to respond to and deal with them when reported.

Our new by-law is in place to give us the ability to help individuals get to services like shelter rather than sleep in a back alley or a make-shift fort.

If you find a needle or see someone sleeping in an area like a back alley which is unsafe because it is a roadway not because they are sleeping, or other areas that are not designed nor developed for this purpose, you can phone 306-786-1725. This number is for our by-law dispatch services. Your concern will be prioritized and dealt with in a respectful manner. Please do not call 9-1-1 unless you or someone is in some sort of actual danger.

Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey

Elavon Offers Credit

Open a new Payment Processing account with Elavon for your business by October 31, 2024 and you will be eligible to receive a \$100 statement credit!

Elavon provides 24/7 customer support, next business day funding, no long-term contracts and you can be connected in as little as 1 business day.

To learn more about Elavon and this incredible offer, visit join.paymentstart.com/cachamber



Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Chambre de Commerce du Canada

Bylaw Changes Ensure Services are Provided to Citizens Equally

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce received this article from Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey. In order to ensure the business community does not miss it, it has been included in this newsletter.

such as lack of housing, addictions, food security, and domestic violence. As such, we are tirelessly working to bring stakeholders together for efficiencies in service delivery and new ideas to close the gaps faced by our less fortunate.

The root causes of these challenges are complex, and solutions are not without challenges. I can say that our commitment is unwavering.

It is important to note that this is not a Yorkton-specific issue; this issue is nation wide. It is how we respond that makes it Yorkton-specific.

Our response to this issue comes from a place treating every individual with the same level of respect, regardless of their economic status.

We all need to understand that:

1. Being homeless does not make you a dangerous criminal; committing a dangerous crime does.

2. Your ethnicity does not make you a threat to society; hurting people does.

3. Sleeping in a public place does not mean you're going to hurt someone; it means you're tired and out of options.

4. Having an addiction doesn't make you dangerous; it means you're desperate.



Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey stated that the amendments to the Fire Prevention Bylaw demonstrates "the City of Yorkton's commitment to providing services to all our citizens equally".

Yorkton Fire Protective Services is happy to say our By-Law changes were passed at this week's (Sept 9) council meeting. The changes emphasize the City of Yorkton's commitment to providing services to all our citizens equally. Yorkton Fire has recognized the increasing challenges faced by some members of our community,

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