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President's Message



At the January Board meeting, Sunil Shah was elected President. The new Executive includes Mike Stackhouse, Vice President and Chair of Policy; Bob Knox, Chair of Business Development; and Stephanie Buckle will chair both the Events and Marketing & Communications committees.

It is an honour to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. I would like to take this occasion to thank my fellow Directors for entrusting me with this position. On behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, we would also like to thank each of you for your membership and continuous support.

Since my initial year in 2018; I have witnessed excellent dedicated business leadership in our community. Our business leaders work diligently to create the best business environment possible. Due to this commitment and enthusiasm, we continue to see growth, expansion, and diversity in our city.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to cultivating and connecting our business community. In 2023, our goals were to continue to build on city relations and advocate for our members to ensure that both City and Business were aligned and had opportunities to thrive. In 2024, we will continue to connect with our members by offering a variety of informative events; culminating in the hosting of the Celebrate Success Business Awards to recognize individual achievements. In 2024, we look forward to another strong and monumental year where we will work with the various orders of government and will continue to strive to strengthen the business community.

I welcome dialogue with anyone who has an interest in Yorkton and am certainly open to ideas that may directly and positively impact our members and our city. I am confident that we can achieve remarkable success as we work towards common goals such as seeing Yorkton prosper and to be recognized as the great city we all feel it to be.

You have invested in your business by becoming a member of the Yorkton Chamber. Your membership dues allow you to have an added voice. It is our duty to help represent you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any Yorkton Chamber Director. Increasing awareness among our members is always a priority. We have a strong group of incoming Directors, and I am excited to work with each one of them.

Sunil Shah CPA, CA President

Congratulations

- To **RBC Royal Bank** on 155 years and for serving Yorkton for 106 years
- **Hancock Plumbing** on 65 years in business
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Yorkton** on 40 years serving Yorkton and area
- **Yorkton Boys & Girls Club** on 30 years of service to Yorkton
- **Danny Ismond of Harvard Media** on being named by the Canadian Radio Music Awards the recipient of the Music Director of the Year Award (small market)

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Thank You!

Thank you to the following businesses which have invested in their businesses by renewing their memberships in the Chamber (as of January 18th. Many more to be recognized in the March edition)

101132359 Saskatchewan Ltd., 102098915 Sask. Ltd., A & W Restaurant, AgraTactics Agronomy, All Secure Storage 2015 Ltd., Aspira Yorkton Crossing, Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Assoc., Auto Trim Design of South East Sask., Axiom Ag, Bailey's Funeral Home & Cremation Care, Baker Tilly SK LLP, Bartel & Simms CPA, Beaver Lodge Farms, Beverley Bielinski, Big Brothers Big Sisters, BK Spine Center, Broda Farms Inc., C.A. Reed Consulting Engineers, C.K. Electric Inc., C.P.K. Entertainment, C.R. Enterprise Holdings Inc., Canadiana Agri-motive Co. Ltd., Canora Service Station, Cargill Ltd., Cheron Minke Farms, Churchbridge Daycare, Community Futures Ventures, Companion Animal Hospital, Core Real Estate, Crystal Clear Imprints Ltd., Culligan Water, Custom Microsystems, Custom Printers Ltd., Cutters - Jody Lang, Dairy Queen, Dance Innovations, Days Inn & Suites Yorkton, Diggers Excavating & Demolition (2006) Ltd., Divine Dental Center, Dr. Brass Daycare Center, D's Signs & Designs, Dyste Counselling Services, East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc., Edward Jones-Kristen Zubko & Tristen Sawchuk, EG Electronics, Farm Credit Canada, Ford Dairy Farm, G & G Ostafie Farms, Good Spirit Air Services, Good Spirit Housing Authority, Grain Millers Canada Corp., Great Canadian Oil Change, Hair Shop Kreations, Hancock Plumbing Ltd., Handshake Services, Hnidey Farms, Iron Town Mfg Inc., JFJ Fabricators

Canada Inc., Joe Beeverz Canadian Pub, Kade Johnson, K Counselling, Warren Kaeding, MLA, Kee's Taekwondo, Kid's Zone, Kondratoff Persick LLP, Kooler Refrigeration, Kryworuchka Farms, L H Accounting, Lakeview Insurance Brokers, Lakeview Land & Cattle Co. Ltd., Lane Realty, Lasch Holdings Inc., Legacy Co-op Agro Centre, Legacy Co-op Food Store, Legacy Co-op Gas Bar, Legacy Co-op Yorkton Bar, Legacy Co-op Yorkton Wine Spirits Beer Store, LF Photography, Liebrecht Farms, Lyn's Point of View, M.L. Plumbing & Heating 1976 Ltd., Mano's Restaurant and Lounge, Maple Side Sales, Mark's, Marlin Travel, Marsollier Petroleum / DMM Energy Inc. (Esso), Kenneth Merkl, Miccar Aerial Spraying, Brenda Nagy, Barry Neil, Kathy Neil, Northern Motors, Olson Diesel Ltd., Greg Ottenbreit, MLA, Outta Here Travel, Painted Hand Community Development Corp, Parkland Appraisals, Parkland Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners, Parkland CPAP Services, Parkland Denture Clinic, Parkland Printers, Pat's Premier Plumbing & Heating, PC Place, Penguin Refrigeration Ltd., Performance Promotions, Prairie Harvest Christian Life Centre, Prairie Smiles Dental Group, Puchala, Dr. Floyd DMD Professional Corporation, Quad-D Enterprises - City Limits, R & T Trucking, R. Miller's Plumbing & Heating & Electrical Ltd., Rant Plumbing & Heating, Rathgeber Farms Ltd., RBC Financial Group, RBKR Law, RCM Outdoors / RCM Safety Services Ltd.,

Richard's Auto Detail, Richardson Oilseed, Dr. Krista Bree Rogoza Optometry Prof. Corp., Royal Auto Group, Royal Honda, Ruff's Furniture Co. Inc., Ryan & Tanis Ferguson Farms, Sage Pharmacy, Sasktel, Schrader Motors/Holdings, Section 19 Farming Company, Sherring Gold Jewellers, Sherring Optical, SHSR Holdings Ltd, SIGN, Source Embroidery & Screenprinting, T & H Trucking, Tapps Sports Lounge & Grill, Terry Ortynsky's Royal Ford, The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, The ROCK 98five, The Soup Haven, The Wireless Age, Theodore ABC Daycare Inc., Triple A Directional Drilling, Trischuk Dental, TruckPro Yorkton, Tsagouris Investments, Value Village, Dr. Andries Van Heerden, Dr. Petrus Jansen van Rensburg, Vetted HVAC Services, Vision Sense Eye Care, Western Financial Group, Western Litho Printers, Western Trade Training Institute, White Stone Enterprises Ltd., Willowbrook Community Centre, Yellowhead Sales & Leasing, Yorkton Bucket Truck Services Ltd., Yorkton Dental, Yorkton Martial Arts Training Centre, Yorkton Sewing Centre, Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival, Yorkton Stories, Yorkton Tribal Council, Yorkton Welding & Machine (1983) Ltd., Zagime Management Authority Ltd., Zapshalla Rusnak Financial Services, Brock Zapshalla Contracting, Zazula Wealth Management (RBC)

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

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Could your Business Receive a Coveted Celebrate Award in 2024?

Think about the achievements of your business. You made it through the pandemic. You're making it through this time of high interest rates. **You have so much to celebrate!** Now is the time to apply for the Celebrate Success Business Awards!

The Chamber is excited to announce that some of the long-standing award categories remain but there are **also many new award categories!** Visit the Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com to view a description of each Award category and the respective application forms. Don't be shy! **No one knows your business better than you, so apply for an Award!** This is an ideal way for the community to learn more about your business.

Every business in Yorkton is eligible to apply for an award; and businesses can apply for multiple awards!

Think about it. And apply today. Deadline for submitting applications is **March 6.**

Mark your calendars for **April 17, 2024 – the next Celebrate Success Business Awards!**

How Far Did We Move the Needle?

At the 2023 Board Planning Session, the Directors identified 2 main focus areas for the year. At the December 2023 Board meeting, the Directors reviewed the work that had been done over the year. Through a show of hands, the Directors indicated how they thought the Chamber did in "moving the needle in these areas.

In regard to **City Relations**, 56% of the Directors felt that the Chamber had been successful in encouraging the City to make businesses feel welcome while 44% of the Directors thought the City actually regressed in that area. 89% of the Directors thought the City took action on the items brought forward by the Chamber while 12% believed there was no change. 100% of the Directors thought the Chamber has had some success in explaining to the City the need for non-resident business owners to vote in municipal elections. (As voting eligibility is dictated by provincial law, changing voter eligibility has to be pursued with the provincial government).

In terms of the **Chamber connecting with the business community**, 100% of the Directors think that we were able to enhance the image of the Chamber. 100% of the Directors felt that while the Chamber offered a variety of events to its members, we stayed the same in our ability to engage members. As to whether the Chamber "celebrated" its members outside the Celebrate Success Business Awards, 100% of the Directors believe we made progress in that area.

To view the 2023 highlights of the Chamber's Advocacy work and Education and Linking opportunities, check out the December 2023 edition of the Courier. If you no longer have the paper copy, you can find it on our website www.yorktonchamber.com under Publications. It was also mailed with your membership renewal notice.

Upcoming Dates

- March 6 -Deadline for submitting Applications for Celebrate Success
- March 22 – Celebrate Success Finalists Luncheon
- March 27 – Business Luncheon Guest Speaker Chres Dekker, CEO STEP
- April 17 – Celebrate Success Business Awards
- April 24 – Yorkton Chamber AGM

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Hello, Farewell

As of January 1, there are some changes in the faces of the people sitting at the Chamber's Board Table. New to the Board, and elected by acclamation to serve a two year term are **Geoff Brand** (Brand Custom Ag), **Mary Carvalho** (RBC) and **Ajay Tadi** (Yorkton Tribal Council). **Paul Hoffman** (Parkland Appraisers) was appointed to fill a two year term vacancy. Returning to the Board for another 2 year term are **Bob Knox** (Value Tire), **Mike Stackhouse** (Source Embroidery) **Stephanie Buckle** (All About Flowers) and **Annelle Bodnarik** (Vetted HVAC). These Directors will join **Alicia Simoneau** (PAC), **Sunil Shah** (Baker Tilly), **Melody Kelts** (Sage Pharmacy), **Jody McPhee** (Little Grey Owl Massage) **Nicole Campbell** (Yorkton Concrete 2012 Ltd), **Doug Forster** (Legacy Co-op) and **Tristen Sawchuk** (Edward Jones – Tristen Sawchuk). **Amit Patel** (CIBC) and **Annelle Bodnarik** (Vetted HVAC) resigned after Jan 1.

Retiring from the Board are **Vanessa Andres** (Triple A Directional Drilling), **Breanne Swiezak Jones** (RBKR Law) and **Kaci Denesowych** (Yorkton Aircraft Service). Meghan Lindgren resigned earlier in the year as she and her family left the province for other opportunities.

Vanessa served one 2 year term and as the 2023 President. Breanne also served one two year term and was the Chair of the 2023 Marketing & Communications committee. Kaci was appointed to a one year term in 2023 and served on the Events committee. Amit served one year and sat on the Policy committee. Annelle served 2 two year terms and was a member of the Events committee.

The Chamber extends its thanks to Vanessa, Breanne, Kaci, Amit, Annelle and Meghan for their interest and time serving on the Board. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Did You Know?

- The **Yorkton Chamber of Commerce** has been granted **Accreditation for 2024-26** by the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada. The Chamber was evaluated against a rigorous set of national standards, and has demonstrated excellence in leadership, governance and operations. The Yorkton Chamber was first accredited in 2018. Currently, 71 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada have achieved this significant milestone.
- **Venture Connect** is a Community Futures initiative. Its mission is to maintain strong communities in western Canada through business retention. Venture Connect helps businesses find new owners and buyers find the right businesses. For more information, contact 855-421-0082; info@ventureconnect.ca; or ventureconnect.ca
- **Yorkton** was incorporated as a town in 1900
- In 1947, the Yorkton Board of Trade gave **Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip** a train carload of flour as a wedding gift

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Show off your Status Symbol

Ooo la la! A status symbol! Only select businesses have it.

Show off your status in the business community by displaying your **2024 Chamber Membership sticker**. These will soon be sent out to those businesses who are renewing or becoming new members of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber encourages you to prominently display the sticker in a front window or door. It signifies to your customers and clients that by **belonging** to the Chamber, **your business is solid and that it is a strong supporter of the business community.**

So be proud that you belong to the Chamber and show off your unique status symbol.

