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## 2023 President's Message

On behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, we would like to thank you for your membership and continuous support of our community. I'd also like to introduce myself if I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting your business. I'm Vanessa Andres and I have the honor of serving as the President Chamber and advocating for your business. In operation since 1898, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce actively supports economic development in our city. It is my responsibility to continue the Chamber's efforts and present improved programs and services that will bring great value to your business.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to cultivating and connecting our business community. We strive to create a thriving business environment & strong economy that will result in Yorkton & District being a highly sought after area to live, work & invest. Our success in achieving our mission and purpose is due to a collaborative effort. I look forward to working with our dedicated board of directors, staff, City Council, elected officials and community members to aspire to make Yorkton a city "Where Good Things Happen". I am open to listening to everyone that has an interest in Yorkton and certainly open to changes that will directly and positively impact our members and our city. I am confident that we can achieve great success and work towards a common goal: seeing Yorkton prosper and be recognized as the great City we all know it is.

2022 was a great year for Saskatchewan. Latest numbers from StatsCan show we had the largest annual population growth in more than a century. With strong growth brings strong communities and a strong economy. We can be hopeful this growth will continue for our province and our community which will bring forth new jobs to help Yorkton flourish.

The Chamber's various committees are well underway with 2023 shaping up to be a busy year. In January and February, the Chamber met with many elected officials:

- Sask Caucus MP's discussing four major areas of concern from its members. These include the carbon tax, rising interest rates, the Canadian dollar and CEBA repayments.
- The Chamber held its first Chamber on Tap for the



new year featuring guest speaker MLA Yorkton Greg Ottenbreit.

- Members of the Policy Committee met with Erika Ritchie, MLA Saskatoon -Nutana and Opposition Critic for Municipal Affairs.
  - Yorkton City Council
- And in the region this year, exciting things are on the horizon:
- The intersection improvements on Highway 9 N.
  - Construction will be taking place for passing lanes on Highway 16 East & West.
  - Yorkton's new hospital planning and scoping is underway.

Our membership has once again remained strong, and as our numbers get stronger so will our influence; I encourage you to spread the word, ask a colleague to join the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents over 450 businesses and is truly "the voice of business in Yorkton". We have many networking opportunities and services to support businesses, our Chamber embraces a culture of vibrant engagement and proactive advocacy. We look forward to your involvement in building relationships with one another in our community this year. We value our members and always welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to better assist each one of you.

Thank you again for your support and participation, and we hope that you will have continued success and prosperity in your business!

**Vanessa Andres**  
President Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

## Congratulations

- Key Auto Group on being named a Finalist in the WorkSafe Saskatchewan Safe Employer Award
- Ram Industries on 50 years in business
- T & H Trucking on 35 years in business
- Parkland College on 50 years of serving the community

Junction of Highways #9 & #16  
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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 Feb 15. Many more to be recognized in the April edition)

A & S Transport, A & W Restaurant, A-1 Furnace Cleaning, Access Communications, Air Bender Sheet Metal, All About Flowers, Aspira Yorkton Crossing, Auto Electric Service, Auto Trim Design of South East Sask., Bailey's Funeral Home & Cremation Care, Lori Bedwell, BG Denture Clinic, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Blaze Locksmithing & Security, Boys & Girls Club of Yorkton, Brendonn Holdings, Broadway Professional Building Ltd., Broda Farms Inc., Bucket List Vacations, Business Development Bank of Canada, Canadian Western Bank, Canora Weaving & Mfg, Cap-It Yorkton, Carpet One Floor & Home, Chartered Prof. in Human Resources Sask., Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools, Christie's Funeral Home Ltd., CIBC, City of Yorkton, Cornerstone Credit Union, Credence Group, Crestvue Ambulance Services, Custom Microsystems, Dance Innovations, Days Inn & Suites (Optimus Limited Partners), Dream Weddings Bridal & Formal Wear, DS Auto Plus, Ducks Unlimited, Edward Jones-Kristin Zubko & Tristen Sawchuk, Edward Jones-Linda Ouart, Eeol Electric, Epic Audio Video Unlimited, Everlast Eaves & Exteriors, Farm Credit Canada, Fedorowich Construction Ltd., Flaman Sales Ltd., Fox FM-Harvard Media, GetintheLoop, Giant Tiger, Godfrey Dean Art Gallery, Good Spirit Air Services, Grain Millers Canada Corp., Great Canadian Oil Change, GX Radio-Harvard Media, Haas Nissan, Habitat for Humanity, Hair Shop Kreations, Hair-is-ma, Handshake Services, Harvest Meats Co. Ltd., Hearn's Westview Pharmacy, Home Inn & Suites, Hometown Source for Sports, Inspiring Imagery, Iron Town Mfg Inc., J & J Foods Ltd. - Chicken Chef, Jesse Ellert Studios, Kahkewistahaw Gas & Convenience Store Ltd., Kee's Taekwondo, KEY Auto Group, Key Chevrolet Cadillac Ltd., Key Yorkton Kia, Kinsmen Club of Yorkton, KM Auto Care, Knight Archer Insurance, KPMG MSLP, 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, Little Grey Owl Massage & Wellness Centre, Louis Dreyfus, Lyn's Point of View, M & M Water Supplies, M.L. Plumbing & Heating 1976 Ltd., Maple Ag & Outdoor, Mark's, Marsollier Petroleum / DMM Energy Inc. (Esso), Mazer Group, McDonalds, McMunn & Yates, Kenneth Merkl, MetCredit, Miccar Aerial Spraying, Mid City Service/Bob Zuzak Auto Sales, Mid-Can Window & Door/Action Glass, Minute Muffler, Motion (formerly Golden Mobility), Mulder Cattle Company, NAPA Auto Parts, National Bank Financial Wealth Management, New Outlook Refrigeration, NL Construction, Olson Diesel Ltd., On the Land-Jack Dawes, Greg Ottenbreit, MLA, Painted Hand Casino, Paper Bag Players, Parkland Printers, Parkland Right to Life, Parkland Search & Rescue, Parrish & Heimbecker, Partners in Employment, Pat's Premier Plumbing & Heating, Peavey Mart, Penner Insulating, Percy H. Davis Limited, Customs Brokers, Pet Valu Yorkton, Doug & Loreen Poier, Potzus Construction Ltd., Prairie View Physiotherapy, Premier Care Hearing, Prestige Painting, Quad-D Enterprises - City Limits, R & T Trucking, R. H. Electric Ltd., R.M. of Orkney, #244, Rant Plumbing & Heating, Rayzr's Cellar, RBC Financial Group, Re/Max Blue Chip Realty, Refresh Massage Studio and Spa, Regina Airport Authority, Richardson Oilseed, Ruff's Furniture Co. Inc., Saddles & Steel Music Productions, Sage Pharmacy, SAMA, Sask. Mental Health, Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Scotiabank, Sensus Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd., Sharp Automotive Repair, Shelwin House, Shoppers Drug Mart #405, SIEL Human Solutions, Skinner Garden Classics, St. John Ambulance, Svein-Co Developments Ltd., Tapps Sports Lounge & Grill, The Bentley Yorkton Retirement Living, The Health Foundation of EC Saskatchewan, The Plum Tree, The Visionary Hub, The Wireless Age, Thorsness Appliance, Three Way Industries

Inc., Time Catchers Digital Imaging, Triple A Directional Drilling, Truck Pro Yorkton, Under the Covers, Value Tire and Battery, Value Village, Vitality Veterinary Services PC Ltd., Wagner's Flooring Ltd., Western Development Museum, Western Financial Group, Western Litho Printers, Western Trade Training Institute, Westland Insurance, Willowbrook Community Centre, Winmar-Property Restoration Specialists, Xerox/Southern Document Solutions, York Lake Golf & Country Club, York Lake Regional Park Authority, Yorkton & District Community Foundation, Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd.-GPS Yorkton, Yorkton Animal Health Centre P.C. Ltd., Yorkton Auction Centre, Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Society, Yorkton Dodge, Yorkton Exhibition Association, Yorkton Hotel Inc., Yorkton Lions Club, Yorkton Ministerial Association, Yorkton Minor Hockey, Yorkton Pharmacy, Yorkton Sewing Centre, Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival, Yorkton Terriers Hockey Club, Yorkton Toyota, Yorkton Transitional Homes for Youth, Inc., Yorkton Victory Church, Young's Plant World, Zagime Management Authority Ltd., Zazula Wealth Management (RBC)

## Welcome New Members

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on becoming Yorkton Chamber's newest members. Belonging to the Chamber means the Chamber will, as its Mission states, "promote and advance the interests and growth of members and businesses in Yorkton and District".

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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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## Erika Ritter Meets With Council



Recently, Erika Ritter, Opposition Critic Municipal Affairs asked if she could meet with the Chamber while she visited Yorkton. Meeting with MS Ritter to discuss a variety of issues facing the local business community were Mike Stackhouse, Chair of Policy; Alicia Simoneau, Vice President; and Juanita Polegi, Executive Director.

### Grant\$ for \$mall Businesses

Through the Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP) you can access up to \$15K in funding from the Boost Your Business Technology Grant. The Grow Your Business Online grant will provide up to \$200 to help with the costs related to implementing ecommerce and supported by a network of e-commerce advisors. To learn more about how each grant may benefit your business, google Canada Digital Adoption Program.

## Ransomware a Local Threat

Recently, one of our Chamber members was hacked. For three days the business was unable to do anything until new computers were purchased and backed up files were installed. It was a nightmare! The business owner encourages all businesses to ensure their files are backed up frequently and regularly and to purchase cyber security insurance. John Hewie, National Security Officer, Microsoft Canada has prepared a document entitled **Canadian Small Business Survival Guide**. It's only 3 pages in length but it provides some very valuable advice. You can access this Guide by visiting [chamber.ca](http://chamber.ca) and clicking on the Jan 24, 2023 Blog.

## Welcome

At the February Board meeting, the Directors appointed Kaci Denesowych (Yorkton Aircraft Services) to the Board for a one year term. Kaci's appointment brings the Board to a full complement of 16 Directors. Nominations for Directors to serve on the Chamber Board open in mid October.

### More GOOD THINGS

In 2022,

- the City of Yorkton issued business licences to **41 new commercial businesses!**
- the City saw an **increase of nearly \$1 million** in building permit activity from \$27,318,754 in 2021 to \$28,195,153

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## She's baaaaaack!

After a long leave, Sherry MacDonald returned to the Chamber on February 16! Sherry will gradually work her way into full time so in the meantime, she'll be busy visiting our members. Her first visit was to **Brendon Holdings** where she met with Tony Ripa. If she visits your business, she will ask to have a photo taken with you to post on facebook and to ask you some questions. Welcome back Sherry!

## Chamber on Tap

At a recent Chamber on Tap held at Back 40 Brewery, Yorkton MLA Greg Ottenbreit addressed the Chamber members present with information about the work of his government. The members were then invited to ask him questions. It was a great evening for getting information, meeting other business people and enjoying the relaxed atmosphere following a long day of work.



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## Chamber and City Council Meeting



Over the past few years, the Chamber and City Council have committed to meeting regularly to discuss opportunities and issues facing the business community. At a recent meeting, topics discussed ranged from construction on York Road; breaking real and perceived

barriers to business establishment and expansion; the Gallagher Centre; and making changes to allow non-resident commercial property owners vote in municipal elections. Attending the meeting were Bob Knox, Councillor Brears, Mayor Hipsley, Councillor Chyz,

Lonnie Kaal City Manager, Alicia Simoneau, Councillor Goulden and Nicole Campbell. Missing from the photo are Councillor Haider, Mike Stackhouse and Juanita Polegi Executive Director.

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