

COMMUNITY  
COURIER

While you worked in your business, the Chamber worked for you:



The 2023 Chamber Board and Staff. Photo courtesy of LF Photography

You work hard in your business and for your business. You invest in your business by belonging to business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce. As “the voice of business in Yorkton and district”, the Chamber’s purpose is to work for you on the opportunities and issues facing the entire business community. 430 voices are louder than just one. Below is a summary of the 2023 highlights:

*Advocacy: Informing the various order of government of policies or legislation having an impact on the business community:*

- In January, the President and Executive Director met with the Saskatchewan MP Caucus to discuss areas of greatest concern to the membership including the carbon tax; interest rates; the value of the Canadian dollar; and CEBA loan repayments
- The Policy committee met with the City council 3 times. A variety of issues were discussed including reconstruction of York Road; repairs on Grain Millers Drive; encouraging business growth and expansion; legislation around non-resident business owners voting in municipal elections; and city tenders
- The Policy committee met with MLA Greg Ottenbreit to discuss the 2023-24 Provincial Budget; the PST on labour on construction projects; a new regional health care facility; and the need for provincial and federal funding for a new Water Treatment Plant
- When the Canadian Chamber learned that a motion would be put to the Standing Committee on Heritage that “poses a serious threat to the privacy of Canadians and to their rights to hold and express opinion on public issues” (see April 2023 Courier), it asked local Chambers to send letters to their MPs

Continued on Page 2

**Congratulations**

- To **CTV Yorkton** on 65 years in business
- To **Canadian Tire** on 50 years in business
- To **Access Communications** on 45 years in business
- To **RH Electric** on 40 years in business
- To **Dustin Brears of Credence Group** on being selected to receive the Safety Leader Award from the Sask Construction Safety Association
- To **Melody Kelts of Sage Pharmacy** on receiving the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award from the Saskatchewan Indigenous Enterprise Foundation (SIEF).
- To **The Visionary Hub, Prosperity, Well-being and Leadership Development** for being on the Lead committee at the recent national LEAD Conference in Saskatoon. **Laurie Renton** was a panelist while **Sylvia Henheffer** greeted participants and assisted backstage
- To the **City of Yorkton** on being selected as a recipient of a Provincial Heritage Award for the exterior restoration work it has done on the former Land Titles Building (on Smith Street)
- To **Key KIA and Yorkton Toyota** on achieving COR certification. Key KIA and Yorkton Toyota are the only two COR certified automotive dealerships in Saskatchewan

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expressing their concerns. The Yorkton Chamber did this and due to the backlash of the Canadian Chamber network, the motion was amended

- The Yorkton Chamber lent its support to a letter prepared by the Canadian Chamber indicating opposition to any legislation on prohibiting replacement workers in federally regulated industries
- The Chamber hosted a meeting of Stakeholders to discuss Grain Millers Drive. Businesses, MLA Greg Ottenbreit, Mayor Hipsley and Reeve Trost were among the attendees. The Chamber then sent letters to a number of Ministries pointing out the concerns about Grain Millers Drive. The stakeholders all signed the letters
- Members of the Policy Committee met with Cathy Wagantall, MP to discuss the impact of the carbon tax; high interest rates; and ongoing labour shortages
- The Chamber supported the sale of the building housing the Public Library for 3 reasons: 1) an immediate infusion of cash into the city coffers; 2) collecting about \$60K in annual property taxes; and 3) it enabled an existing business to expand. President Andres appeared before Council to make these points
- The Policy Committee met with Carla Beck, Leader of the Opposition. It also met with Erika Ritchie, Opposition Critic for Environment, Energy and Resources
- A letter was sent to the federal Minister and Associate Minister of Health discussing the impact of Health Canada's proposed changes to the Natural Health Product Industry
- A letter was sent to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting an extension on CEBA loan repayments
- The Yorkton Chamber co-signed resolutions to

- the Canadian Chamber submitted by the Sask Chamber: 1) that uranium and potash be included in the list of critical minerals; 2) that the on-farm fertilizer GHG emission reduction goals remain voluntary
- The Chamber hosted the Minister of Highways as he met with all the stakeholders regarding Grain Millers Drive
  - The Chamber co-signed letters from the Canadian Chamber to the Prime Minister and other Federal Ministers urging a quick resolution to the west coast port labour disruption

*Education & Linking: Providing members with opportunities to grow their businesses through enhanced learning and linking with other businesses*

- MLA Greg Ottenbreit was the Guest Speaker at Chamber on Tap
- A Member Appreciation Night in celebration of the Chamber's 125th year was held

- Jack Dawes and Lyle Walsh were inducted as Honorary Life Members of the Chamber
  - The Chamber's new website was launched
  - A highly successful Business Summit was held in June with a number of local business people as the Guest Speakers or panelists
  - At a Chamber Luncheon, 3 Chamber members shared their experiences with Business Succession Planning
  - Mayor Hipsley was the Guest Speaker at the Chamber's AGM
  - Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey addressed a number of questions when he was the Guest Speaker at a Chamber on Tap
  - The Chamber hosted a Business Lunch featuring speakers who shared their experiences hiring and working with employees with disabilities
  - The Chamber hosted a highly successful Chamber Business Dinner with Guest Speaker Jess Tetu
- As one wise person said, "A Chamber of Commerce is a small hinge that swings really big doors".

**Let the Chamber work for you in 2024.**



*Door prize winners at the Chamber's Member Appreciation Night in April*

**Edward Jones**

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## SaskPower Holds Workshop



*Nanette Salamon, Manager, Supply Planning Sask Power answered a number of questions relating to Sask Power's plans to build its supply and work towards net zero emissions.*

SaskPower was recently in Yorkton to host a workshop on the future of power in Saskatchewan. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, express concerns and share ideas about our future power supply as the corporation strives to meet net zero emissions. The facilitators put forth 2 scenarios for power sources and projected costs by 2035 and another 2 scenarios for 2050. These generated thoughtful comments and questions from the participants. SaskPower expects to host similar events in the future. The Chamber will continue to assist with their promotion and is hopeful more of its members will be able to attend.

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



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! Early in January, the Chamber will make announcements about the upcoming Celebrate Success Business Awards event, the Award categories and how to apply for an Award. The organizing committee has been hard at work to find ways to make this premier business event even more interesting and exciting. New Award categories will be offered along with some of the categories that have been offered for years. Every business in Yorkton is eligible to apply for an award; and businesses can apply for multiple awards! Think about it. Could your business be a recipient of a coveted Celebrate Award in 2024?

## When Is Your Milestone?

Making it to 5 years is reason to celebrate! Let the Chamber office staff know if your business is celebrating a milestone year in 2024 (5 year increments). We will announce your accomplishment in the Congratulations section of an upcoming edition. We also like to announce if your business receives an award or receives special recognition from the industry or achieves a certain level of accreditation. Just getting your business started? We'll announce your Grand Opening – and provide information to help you plan it, as well.

The bottom line is, if it's something you're celebrating, let the Chamber know so we can pass along your good news.



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# Ballroom Blitz is Back



Chamber member **Dance Innovations** is once again hosting Ballroom Blitz. The event is intended for everyone to have some fun, to raise some funds for local charities and for the Dance Innovations Performance Troupe to raise some funds to further their dance education in 2024. People who will be dancing, representing some of our Chamber members include:

Vanessa Andres, President of the Chamber and co-owner of **Triple A Directional Drilling**; Wade Windjack of **Remax Blue Chip Realty**; Bailey Decker, of **Hearn's Pharmacy**; **Dr. Peter van Rensburg**; Dustin Brears of **Credence Group**; Roby Sharpe & Kaely Niebrandt of **YRHS**; and Tribal Chief Isobel O'Soup of **Yorkton Tribal Council**. The Charities which are benefitting from the Blitz include **Bruno's Place**; **Sask Abilities**; **The Health Foundation**; **Parkland Search & Rescue**; **Yorkton Minor Football**; **Paws & Claws Animal Rescue**; and the **GSSD Foundation**. Visit [yorktonballroomblitz.ca](http://yorktonballroomblitz.ca) to learn more about the dancers, how to donate and to order your tickets for the event, **March 16, 2024**.

*President Vanessa Andres and her partner Wade Windjack are dancing in Yorkton's Ballroom Blitz. Several charities will benefit from this event including their charity, Bruno's Place.*

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## Interested in Serving the City?

In Yorkton, if you're interested in serving the city by volunteering to sit on one of its Boards, Committees or Commissions, then complete the application form available from city hall or the city's website [www.yorkton.ca/committees](http://www.yorkton.ca/committees). You will be required to submit a brief letter (500 words or less) indicating why you are interested and what you believe you can contribute to the Committee on which you wish to serve. Deadline for submissions is 4:00 PM December 22.

The Mayor will announce the appointments to these committees, boards and commissions at the first meeting of Council in January.



## Chamber Sends Letters to Senate

The Board of Directors of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Canada's Senate urging the Senate to pass Bill C-234 *An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. The Act, which was passed by the House of Commons in March 2023, is intended to exempt fuels used to dry grain and to heat and/or cool barns and greenhouses from the carbon tax. The Chamber pointed out to the Senators that every dollar taken by the carbon tax is one less dollar farmers and ranchers have to spend in the local economy.

A second letter was sent to the Senators from Saskatchewan asking them to share with their fellow Senators the concerns of the farmers and business people of Saskatchewan.

In a Media Release, Vanessa Andres, President of the Yorkton Chamber said it is imperative for this Bill to be passed by the Senate. "The Senate has had many months to consider this Bill," she said. "Bill-C234 needs to be passed immediately by the Senate in order for the exemption of the carbon tax to take effect. Exempting the carbon tax on fuel to supply safe, affordable food will benefit not only the farms and local businesses but all Canadians."

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