

the Chamber *■ your business connection*

The Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce

President's Report

Dear Chamber Members,

I am very pleased to be submitting this welcome message in our Monthly Newsletter. One of our goals in our Strategic plan is the commitment to improved communication to our members. What better way to keep all of our valued members informed than through a Monthly publication. This circulation will be use to keep all of you informed of the Chamber's latest happenings and to recognize achievements, any important news or events pertaining to business in the Portage and District area.

I would like to commend our Executive Director, Cindy McDonald for her hard work and ambition on bringing the monthly newsletters back in to circulation and we hope that you, the members see the value in this. Any and all feedback is encouraged so that we can better serve the business community.

We are meeting weekly to grow partnerships and further our **Positively Portage** Initiative and look forward to keeping you all up to date on our progress as we work to instill and continue community pride in Portage and area.

Representatives from the Portage Chamber will be attending the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce's AGM this May. Last year the Portage Chamber submitted two successful resolutions. The first addressing Nutrient Removal in Municipal wastewater. The second, talking to the lack of Affordable, Accessible Childcare. This year we hope to continue that momentum and present a resolution that is important to you. So I encourage you to please contact myself at the Chamber office if you have any concerns that you would like to the Chamber, along with the MCC to bring forth and lobby the Provincial government.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you reading this for continuing to see the value in being a Portage Chamber member and for your continued support. At the Portage and District Chamber of Commerce our motto is to be **the Voice of the Business Community** and we hope with the re-introduction of this newsletter that those lines of communication are reinforced.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Bolton
President, Portage and District Chamber of Commerce

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Chamber Office

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Cindy McDonald
Executive Director

Upcoming Chamber Events

March 10th - Women In Business Lunch and Learn
Aaltos Garden Café-Canad Inns, Portage

March 18th - Curling Funspiel
CanadInns

April 14th - Quarterly Lunch - Winnipeg Blue Bombers
PCU Centre

Women In Business Lunch and Learn

In celebration of International Women's Week, the Portage Chamber, Central Plains Inc, and Community Futures White Horse Plains have partnered to offer women in the Central Plains an opportunity to share, learn and network.

This is an excellent opportunity for professional women; women business owners or those thinking about becoming business owners; women looking to advance their careers or rejoining the workforce to get together and share their knowledge and energy.

Guest speaker Jill Ruth, co-owner of Headingley Sports Shop, is coming to share her entrepreneurial journey with us. Jill will share her experience of being a woman growing a business in an industry predominately operated by men, what it was like to balance business and family life, and why she feels women are perfectly wired to be business owners.

The Women's Enterprise Centre will be making a presentation on how they help women find information, improve their skills and acquire financing so that they can start, expand or purchase an existing business.

Free attendance. Buy your own lunch off the menu.

Thursday, March 10th 11:30-1:30pm

To register call the Chamber at 857-7778 or e-mail info@portagechamber.com

Seating is Limited, so register NOW!!!

“Meet your fellow Businesses” 14th Annual Curling Funspiel

FRIDAY, MARCH 18th , 2011

FIRST DRAW STARTING AT 12:00 PM

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 64 CURLERS

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of curling followed by prizes and supper.

A great opportunity to network with you fellow businesses.

Registration is open to all!

Curling & Dinner \$50.00 (plus GST)

Extra Dinner tickets \$20.00 (plus GST)

Contact the office for registration form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 11th, 2011

Lunch with the Blue Bombers

Thursday, April 14th, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

PCU Centre

Join Blue Bomber players, mascots and staff for lunch and discussion on building partnerships between Chamber members, the City of Portage la Prairie and the Blue Bombers for not only the 2011 season, yet well into the Future. Enjoy a presentation by the Football Club, their vision for the future, new stadium, potential partnerships, a Q & A and networking opportunities.

Chamber Members	\$20.00 (plus GST)
Non-Chamber Members	\$25.00 (plus GST)

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Deadline is Friday, April 8th, 2011

To reserve your tickets call 857-7778 or email info@portagechamber.com

10th Annual Youth Career Opportunity Expo

The City of Portage la Prairie is pleased to be hosting the 10th Annual Youth Career Opportunity Expo on Tuesday **March 15th 2011** at the Portage Collegiate Institute Main Gym. This is a fantastic opportunity for the business community of Portage la Prairie to educate our young people about the many career opportunities waiting for them right here at home! The Youth Career Opportunity Expo is open to local high school students and the general public from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30pm. This event is totally **FREE** and you may end up the winner of new valuable employees for your business.

This year, in consultation with the school and based on feedback from students and exhibitors, we are expanding the expo to Grade 9 students which means there will be approximately **500 students** cycling through the career fair!

We hope that you will not miss out on this opportunity to participate!

To register, visit the City of Portage la Prairie website @ www.city-plap.com and download a registration form. For more information contact the Kathy McGregor at 239-8334

Registration deadline is March 9th

Members News

Congratulations to Century 21 Andrich Realty's Rhonda Lodwich.

Portage la Prairie's own Rhonda Lodwick has been recognized for excellence in unit sales since closing a record year in 2010. Rhonda was 6th in Unit sales for Century 21.

Portage Chamber Best Business Award winners from 2010 will be forwarded on for consideration to the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce for their annual Business Awards in November. The Manitoba Business Awards were established in 1983 by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Manitoba's business community.

The awards are formally presented at a grand gala that is typically attended by over 400 business, government and community leaders.

Out and About

Workplaces In Motion-Introduction to Action Plan

Do you want your employees full of energy and excited to come to work? You can by creating a work environment that supports physical activity on the job and at home. Come and learn how to make a plan around physical activity that suits your staff and your workplace.

FREE

Date: Wed. May 18

Time: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Location: Daily Graphic Room, PCU Centre

Instructor: Beatrice Davidson-Workplaces in motion Consultant

To register call the PCU Centre at 857-7772

Blood Donor Clinic

On Monday, March 21, Portage Collegiate is hosting a blood donor clinic from 11:30 - 3:30 p.m. At this point, there are only 9 appointments booked, while we need approximately 100 to ensure a successful turnout for patients in need. With your help we can benefit up to 150 patients

with blood for trauma, surgery, cancer and other treatments.

The second clinic is at Portage Alliance Church on Tuesday, March 29 from 12:30 - 3:30 & 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Over 220 donors are also needed at this clinic.

Call 1-888-2 DONATE (1 888 236 6283) to book your appointment.

Welcome New Members

Byte Me Computers

33 Royal Road South
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 1T8
Ph: 239-6788

Creekside Camping & RV Park

Box 46
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 3B9
Ph: 871-5829

Canadian Blood Services

777 William Ave.
Winnipeg, MB
R3E R4
Ph: 204-789-1049
www.blood.ca

Spray Foam Insulation Eco Systems

39 Royal Road North
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 1T9
Ph: 239-2060

Portage Regional Recreation Authority

245 Royal Road South
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 0L8
Ph: 857-7772

Chabot Implements Co

2610 Sask. Ave West
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 3J9
Ph: 857-9397

FaithWorks Renovations

151 4th Ave. NE
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 0E9
Ph: 857-7360

Mellco Realty Ltd.

27 Bridge Road
Portage la Prairie, MB
R1N 3H3
Ph: 274-2301

MEMBERS of the BOARD

President - Daniel Bolton
Richardson Pioneer
274-2301

Vice president - Jerry Lupkowski
MNP
239-6117

Treasurer - Barry Watson
Austin Credit Union
385-6171

Directors

Chris Tompkins
Simplot
857-1401

Dave Omichinski
Portage Credit Union
856-2700

Keri Unger
Scotia Bank
239-8663

Chris Bures
C.H.B. Developments
239-4759

Jeff Bereza
Becker Underwood

Trevor Shwaluk
Meseyton Construction
239-6267

Kevin Dales
Portage Consumers Co-op
856-2125

A reminder that 2011
Membership fees are due now.
If you haven't received an invoice from the
office please call
857-7778.

Check out the
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce website
www.mbchamber.mb.ca
For Business Tips, Member Listing,
Virtual Networking, Upcoming MCC events
and much more!