



NEWSLETTER

Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce

December, 2007

John Gormley Attending Mark of Excellence Awards

February 13, 2008 is the date for the Mark of Excellence Awards.

Six awards are being presented: Business of the Year (10 or more employees) sponsored by SaskTel, Business of the Year (Less than 10 Employees) sponsored by Assante Financial Wealth Management, New Business Venture sponsored by CJVR/CK750, Young Entrepreneur of the Year sponsored by Saskatchewan, Youth Volunteer of the Year sponsored by City of Humboldt and Citizen of the Year sponsored by Humboldt Journal.

Our guest speaker for the awards night will be John Gormley. John is a well known radio talk show host who is well versed with the activities in our Province.

We are quite confident that John will deliver an excellent message at the

event especially when our province is experiencing an economic boom.

The HDCC encourages all businesses, organizations and the general public to nominate a business or individual.

Nominations will be accepted from December 12, 2007 until January 18, 2008. Nomination forms are available at City Hall, Humboldt Journal, Humboldt Mall, Chamber office or online at

www.humboldtchamber.ca.

The Mark of Excellence Awards is an evening of celebrating success. This event is open to all businesses and citizens to attend. You do not have to be nominated to attend.

The venue will be at the Humboldt Uniplex in Jubilee Hall.

Tickets for the event will be available in early January. For further information, contact the Chamber office.



Above are the award recipients for the 2006 Mark of Excellence Awards.

Photos Courtesy of the Humboldt Journal

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2007/2008 Board of Directors

President:

Dean Hergott
Mark Seidel's Office

Vice President:

Lance Stockbrugger
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Larry Durand
Humboldt Ducks Unlimited

Kent Flavel
Conexus Credit Union

Devin Leonard
Doepker Industries

Jerry Angelstad
Angelstad's Quick Cobbler

Deb Haryett
Nutter's Bulk & Natural Foods

Dennis Ilg
Royal LePage Carlton

Bonnie Classen
Discovery Ford Sales Ltd.

Kelly Painter
Action Services Cleaning & Restoration Specialists

Tim Thibault
Humboldt Sign Services

Donna Muench
Cottage Boutique

Calvin Lukan
Modern Meat & Abattoir

City Council Rep./Board Chair:
Phillip Smith

Chamber Membership Increase in 2008

“Increasing costs and the desire to continue core economic development activities are the main reasons for the membership increase in 2008”, states President Dean Hergott.

In 2005, a special meeting of the membership was held to discuss membership rates. A

rate increase was voted in favor of for 2006. There was also a motion approved to add a clause into the bylaws that an increase to a maximum of 15% annually could be implemented by the board of directors if needed.

The board of directors did not increase membership rates in

2007 however, looking into 2008 there is a need for a membership rate increase by 15%.

The HDCC hopes that it's members understand the reasons for the increase. Comments or concerns can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the Chamber office.



Executive Director's Message

What an exciting year 2007 was! Population growth, entrepreneurs opening businesses and developers focusing on Humboldt is all the makings for prosperity for our district.

I have heard from a variety of businesses that they are noticing the increased economic activity. GREAT! With that in mind comes the labor factor. We are going to need to focus on retaining our existing employee base and finding ways to attract labor. As we get busier, there will be a need to hire more staff so the level of customer service can be maintained.

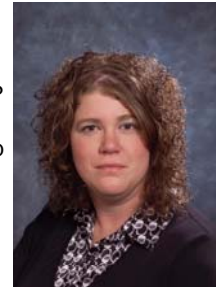
Our recent web poll asked "what is the biggest impediment to business growth in the Humboldt district"? 52.6% responded

that labor availability is the biggest impediment. Our economic indicator survey that we did in the summer also indicated that labor shortages was the largest impediment to business growth.

Labor shortages are not just happening in our area, it's a problem in the Province and across Canada. But what can we do? Well, we will just have to join the War For Talent that exists out there! We need to market our area and make ourselves visible. We need to get the word out there that the Humboldt area is a great place to live, work and play and that we are a safe community. We need to let the labor pool know that there are endless employment and business opportunities here. We may have to consider incentive packages to

attract them here and may also have to consider benefit packages if we don't already have them. We may have to evaluate our wages and make sure that we are competitive within the area. This would apply to skilled and unskilled labor.

Oh, and one other tip—have you ever asked yourself what makes your business different from others? That is a really good question to answer so you can relay that message to your potential employees.



Farewell To Long Time Members

Just recently we have had two long time members of the Chamber sell their businesses and will retire from doing what they loved to do.

Hugh and Carol Jenkins owned A&W for 14 years. They have recently sold their business to Orient and Deb Siermachesky. Deb is a long time employee of A&W.

Bernard and Jeanette Pfeil owned Hanigan's Catering for exactly 10 years as of January 1, 2008. They have also

recently sold their well-known establishment to Val Stolz, Doreen Reinhardt and Arlene Lockinger of Humboldt.

The Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the Jenkins and Pfeil families for their contributions over the years!

The Chamber would also like to wish the best of luck and good fortune to the new owners of these two businesses!

President's Report

2007 certainly proved to be an extremely active year for our community, our members and our Chamber and most people I speak with fully expect 2008 to be just as busy if not more. What a change we are going through; new people are moving in, new commercial development is beginning and our new hospital is just around the corner. Pretty heady times.

As for the Chamber we have been active in several new initiatives. We conducted an economic indicator survey and distributed the results to the memberships. Our mentorship program is beginning to come online. We hosted the Roy Prevost seminar on how to do business in the big box world and partnered with Action Humboldt on the

candle light dinner regional leadership summit. Lorrie attended the Calgary Trade-show, spearheaded by the Saskatoon Chamber, with the City of Humboldt and Carlton Trail REDA with the intent of selling our business community to potential investors and new employees. This was also the first year we coordinated our Harvest Showcase with the Kinette's Craft Show and the German Society's Oktober fest celebrations. As it was a provincial election year we also hosted the constituencies all candidate public forum. All this plus, the usual campground, tourism and mini golf administration. Award presentations for customer service, HCI scholarships and of course our annual highlight the Mark of Excellence

Awards. Newsletters and parades, the golf tournament and various luncheons, recruiting new members and addressing membership issues. Sorry for being long winded but it does give us an appreciation for what Lorrie and her staff provide. On behalf of the board and all our members I would like to thank them for their commitment and dedication to our organization.

So on to next year, with the hope, that good health and prosperity comes to us all. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

