

### WELCOMING NEW DIRECTORS

The Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce there are five new directors joining the board. The new directors are Deb Haryett, Nutter's Bulk Foods; Jan Hovdebo, Humboldt Fine Jewellery; Dennis Ilg, Royal LePage Carlton; Natasha Thacker, Discovery Ford Sales Ltd; and Carla Willems, Humboldt Eyewear. The Chamber would like to thank Deb, Jan, Dennis, Natasha and Carla for joining the Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce. We welcome them and look forward to working together as the 2006 Board of Directors.

The Chamber would like to acknowledge Rob Muench, Andy Burgess, Shannon Stroeder, and Evan Doepker, departing directors for their hard work and time on the Board. A special thanks goes out to Elaine Cann, long time director of the Humboldt & District Chamber of Commerce.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President of the Humboldt and District Chamber of Commerce? I didn't expect to be in this role at this time. You see I still consider myself a 'newbie' to Humboldt. I was thinking I would work my way slowly into the community. In many ways I have a great deal to learn about the city and the region. Nevertheless I look forward to contributing where I can.

You may be surprised to learn at least three of your Chamber directors (perhaps more) have recently moved, or repatriated to Humboldt from places such as Saskatoon, Calgary and Vancouver Island. These people have consciously chosen to make Humboldt their home, and place of business. To these people, and to many others who have chosen to live here, the area must have something going for it. Yet sometimes I'm not so sure we all feel this way.

Whenever I travel about the province I let people know I've relocated my family to Humboldt. The response is unanimously positive. "Humboldt!" they say, "What a great town! Vibrant! Progressive! Very friendly people too," they remark. After I correct them that we are now a city, I tell them that I agree. Humboldt is a wonderful place to live. Yet it's odd actually, for all the positive enthusiastic responses I've heard about our community from non-residents I can't say I've heard the same enthusiasm from within. Certainly we have our proponents but in general I just don't receive the same vibes from within than I do from people without.

Why is that? Is it that we're too close? Too familiar with the community and some of the challenges the community faces? Perhaps, perhaps not, but nevertheless my message would be: Humboldt is regarded very highly from those outside the region. We should build on this perception. In fact trumpet our successes, sing our virtues, blow our own horn, and if I may dare say, even brag about how attractive our community is to live, work and raise a family.

Like your chamber directors who volunteer their time, talent and effort to give back to the community, we're happy to contribute, as we're able. Personally, I'm proud to tell people I live in Humboldt. I tell people this is an exceptional community to raise a family. I think more people should do the same.



**President:**  
**Phillip Smith**  
*Credential Financial Strategies*

**Vice-President:**  
**Lance Stockbrugger**  
*Pricewaterhousecoopers*

**Board Chairperson:**  
**Aaron Behiel**  
*Behiel, Munkler & Will*

**Larry Durand**  
*Ducks Unlimited Canada Mr. Sub*

**Susan Noble-Griffeth**  
*Scotiabank*

**Devin Leonard**  
*Dunham Services*

**Dean Hergott**  
*Mark Seidel's Office*

**Jerry Angelstad**  
*Angelstad's Quick Cobbler*

**Deb Haryett**  
*Nutter's Bulk Foods*

**Jan Hovdebo**  
*Humboldt Fine Jewellery*

**Dennis Ilg**  
*Royal LePage Carlton*

**Natasha Thacker**  
*Discovery Ford Sales Ltd.*

**Carla Willems**  
*Humboldt Eyewear*

**Heather Lins**  
*Chamber Manager*

### Quick Tips

- ◆ In 2005 there were 373 bankruptcies in Saskatchewan totaling \$91,687,000. This was down 1.7% from 2004. Agriculture and forestry experienced the highest bankruptcies.
- ◆ Saskatchewan's January unemployment rate was 5.2%. The total number of employed was 482,900. The construction industry had the highest percent change over last January with 14.2%. Saskatchewan's annual unemployment rate for the year 2005 was 5.1% which was the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada. Alberta had the lowest with 3.9%.

## BUSINESS PROFILE: Stomp Pork Farms Ltd.

Stomp Pork Farms Ltd. is a family owned, independent hog production company. Ivan and Sharon, their children Jackie, Cristal and Stacey all work alongside an expanding team comprised of approximately 280 employees within Stomp, Sterling, Leroy Agra-Pork Co-operative and Excel Management Corporation.

On September 1, 1985, Stomp Pork Farm Ltd. began as a 450-sow farrow to finish facility within the RM of Prairie Rose. Through the course of many years, renovations and improvements were made, as well as expansion. In 1998, an office was built where all of Stomp Pork Farms Ltd. administration is run, including management services for the other locations. After a tragic fire in 2001, construction and expansion began. On May 21, 2004, Ivan and Sharon purchased Heartland Pork facilities and renamed it Sterling Pork Farm. Today, Stomp Pork Farm Ltd. is the largest independent hog operation located throughout Saskatchewan and still continues to grow, change and develop as time goes on.

Stomp Pork Farm Ltd. was honored with the 2002 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX Award in the Job Creation Category.

## SASKNETWORK REPORT

My name is Zina Shewchuk and I have been thoroughly enjoying my position as Promotion Director with the Chamber. To date, the presentation on the SaskNetwork has been going very well. I have spoken to forty-four businesses in the rural areas and plan to visit all the surrounding towns in the weeks to come. The businesses I have talked to have all been very excited about the information I have given them. I have held three presentations thus far; Meacham, Lanigan and Bruno. The businesses that I have been in contact with didn't know anything about the website. I also have dates booked for two more presentations. I am very pleased with the way it has all been going.

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Chamber Manager. Being born and raised in Humboldt, I believe I have great knowledge of Humboldt and area. I also bring with me Tourism Management education and a goal to work hard for the business community.

I have been with the Chamber for three months now, a busy three months. I have had the opportunity to help plan and organize various events. In February there

was the Mark of Excellence Awards which displayed great community involvement with record number of attendants. There were also many luncheons, including the Chamber's 100 year celebration at the Windsor Hotel on February 7th.

Looking into the next few months, the Chamber has a busy time ahead. Now that spring is here we are looking forward to camping season, tourists and mini golf. There are also some interesting and informative luncheons planned for the spring.

In closing, I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors and all members. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me at the Chamber office at 682-4990.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!

2006 marks 100 years for the CIBC.  
Here's to another 100 years...

### RESULTS FROM CHAMBER WEBSITE POLL

Widening of Highway #5:		
Yes	116 votes	92.80%
No	8 votes	6.40%
Unsure	1 vote	0.80%

### UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

April 13  
Hon. Eric Cline Reception

April 19  
David Karwacki Luncheon

April 24  
Business Women's Conference

April 27  
Post Budget Review Luncheon

May 9  
Scenario Seminar

May 17  
David MacLean Luncheon