

Errors and Omissions to Kith n' Kin 2005

If you see any errors or omissions please submit to Susan Anholt so they can be added to this page.

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

By John Boehmer

The purpose of the Chamber is to promote and to improve Trade and Commerce along with the Economic, Civic, and Social Welfare of the district.

The newsletter of April 1980 is headed with the words "**Blizzard Capital of Saskatchewan.**" The executive was President: Floyd Wright, Vice: Ron McEwen, Treasurer: Tom Vaughan, and Secretary: Rose Lightfoot. An invitation was extended to the public to attend the meetings, and they were held on the third Wednesday evening of the month. Items in the newsletter were, the main street program, the new Chamber sign, three new businesses, and "hats off" to our local farmers.

To promote business it was decided to have a trade fair, which was held annually in the fall and was called "**Autumn Action Days.**" For the first few years this was a big event starting out with a pancake breakfast and going on for two days. Many displays filled the skating rink! Other activities that took place were pie throwing, and raffles. The "jolly snowman" walked among the crowd.

The Chamber raffled a three-wheeler ATV to raise money one year. The draw took place at the Lions Octoberfest dance. To create a few more ticket sales, Larry Parks, CoOp manager at the time, came roaring in the front door on the ATV, cut a few power turns on the dance floor and went back out the door. Needless to say, ticket sales were brisk after that!

Over the years the trade fair continued, moving to the curling rink, then to Kenaston Place. The fair became a combination craft and trade show. In an effort to improve the show we added a garage sale one year and in 2004, with a little more promotion and two high profile speakers, we increased attendance. In the late seventies we had a couple of bad blizzards that kept people stranded in town for several days. When traveling on Highways #11 and #15 the weather often changes in the Kenaston area. This was one reason the Chamber adopted the slogan: "Blizzard Capital Of Saskatchewan!"

History repeated itself in the winter of 2005, when twice we had blizzards that stranded motorists in town overnight! With the help of many volunteers, the travelers were put up at the hotel, Kenaston Place and private homes. Of course we had to tell them about being the "Blizzard Capital." I think they all knew why!

The senior hockey team adopted the name Kenaston Blizzards. At the time it was popular for many communities to adopt a mascot to help foster town spirit and tourism. In an effort to capitalize on the blizzard theme, after much discussion, the Chamber adopted a snowman as their mascot. A plan was developed resulting in the purchase of our huge 18 ft. snowman. It is made of fiberglass, steel ribs, plywood, and was manufactured by Meldon Plastics of Regina. The cost was \$5000. It is impressive! The snowman arrived in Kenaston in the fall of 1983 and was placed at the end of 3rd St. and Front Ave. The official unveiling was on Nov. 22 with 200 people attending. The officials in attendance were S. Clark of Urban Affairs, K. Connicek and D. Shelley of Tourism and Small Business, Mayor Paul Rucpich, Chamber President Gus Millsap, and local Chamber members. Entertainment was Scrooge, Old Man Winter, the Abominable Snowman, and the Blizzard Capital theme song (page 174) composed and sung by two local snowmen, Patti Hertz and Rosemary O'Handley. Refreshments consisted of hundreds of snowman cookies, baked by Marlene Millsap, Linda Boehmer, and Agatha Rucpich and served with hot chocolate! Many tourists have stopped and taken photos of the snowman.

In March 1985 the chamber started the Blizzard Festival as a promotion and community activity. A pay loader was brought in to clear snow so the Blizzard Babes could have a ball tournament. The event lasted two days with events including horseshoes, hole-in-one-golf, hayrides, ice sculpture and beard growing contests. A dance was held Sat. evening and the ice carnival on Sunday. Chamber members spent many hours at Boehmer's Garage, building small plywood snowmen, which were later mounted to street lamp poles by Dale Lightfoot.

A concerted effort was made to get industry to our community and an industrial park was formed, west of the railroad tracks and south of #15 Hwy. Stan Ouellette, Gus Millsap and other Chamber members were able to lure a manufacturer from North Dakota. They set them up at McCaig's farm south of town where they built double hopper fertilizer/grain boxes for seeding. This supplied employment for a while but the owner eventually moved back to the states. This shows that with a great deal of effort success can be achieved!

In the late 80's and early 90's, under the leadership of Presidents Gene Zazula and Leon Tomlenovich the lawn, wooden fence, canopy, flagpoles, trees and underground sprinklers were installed at the snowman park. Local students are hired to cut the grass.

A major beautification project in 2005 included a chain link fence and the planting of evergreen trees with watering system.

The Chamber operated on a smaller scale through the last several years. The sign in the shape of a snowman, listing all business locations, was placed by the 4th St. access into Kenaston in 1995. We have operated a welcome wagon, actively supported new businesses, purchased a podium for Kenaston Place, supported Spina Bifida, organized the annual Trade Fair, purchased picnic tables, and maintained the snowman site.

2002-2004 there has been resurgence in Chamber activities with a new business plan, large attendance at our noon monthly meetings, and many new projects. Committees are working at tourism, economic development, business, beautification, and also getting international students to attend our school to learn English.

The summer of 2005, hundreds of trees were planted, a major part of a walking trail was completed, a cleanup and flower planting promotion took place. We are attempting to get a business development group together consisting of the Village and R.M. Councils and other interested parties to try to expand our business community.

A Tourism committee is working on refurbishing the water tower and planning a display to enhance the Louis Riel Trail. The Chamber has a bi-monthly newsletter and a website www.kenaston.ca loaded with information.

Our slogan into the future, **Heritage, Spirit, Vision**, inscribed on a satellite dish is visible as you enter Kenaston on 3rd St.

I hope, 20 or 30 years into the future, when a new history book is written, there will be a great deal more success to talk about!

Page:

6 -E.V. Mitchel

53-Wayne Roberts not Bud

65- Aikins School 1934 should read 1937

70-Jenece Hoffmann, Helen Zdunich, Rose Zdunich

72-NW 22-29-1-W3

75-SW 3-31-1-W3

100-Gordon Holder son of Issac, son of Roy
117-Left to Right, College home not Haas
259-Hornby
260-Class 1964 Principal Wm. Prociuk
334-Tom Holder and unknown
348-on top left should read #17 in margin
363-Ted Kramchensky (UGG)
364-Obrodovich Steve, Sally, Lloyd, Milton, Hugh
374-SW 31-28-2-W3
397-2nd St. should all read 3rd St.
470-NE 32-28-3-W3
476-Firby NE 25-29-29-W2nd (Arm River)
SE 25-29-29-W2 “
497-Florence (1961) Dwayne (1962)
511-NE 34-28-2-W3
532-SW 18-29-1W3
543-Frank on right
544-SE 33-29-2-W3
550-S 27 & N 22-30-29-W2
601-Expo 67
659-should read Alene then Pat
624-Joanne (Babock) McBroom
684-Edgar (1924-1998)
725-Pete on right
751- 20-29-1-W3