

INTHECOMMUNITY



Access Communications was proud to again partner with the **Regina Humane Society** to present its 29th Annual Telethon on February 19th. In just four hours, the telethon raised \$60,000 and more donations came in after the replay on Access7 later that week. Access7 has presented the Humane Society telethon for all 29 years and has helped to raise over \$1 million through the annual telethon that has gone to support the great work the RHS does to make a difference, one-by-one, for animals in our community. Over \$500,000 is raised each year through telethons - only on Access7.



We are committed to providing programs that are meaningful to our customers. That is just one reason why Access7 not only airs **Regina Pats** hockey matches played at home, but we also go on the road (Brandon, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon) to bring the games back to Pats fans in Regina. Of course, Pats hockey features great action with the NHL stars of tomorrow and Access7 will be following our first-place team right into the playoffs.



Access7 crews were at **Waskimo** in Regina on the February long weekend, **Chinese New Year** celebrations, high school basketball tournaments including **LIT** and the **Balfour Classic**, the **Regina Mayor's State of the Union Address** and the **Battlefords Citizen of the Year Banquet**, just to name a few.

Coming up in our **Rock the House** curling series are the Traveler's Curling Championships in Estevan on March 20. You can also catch the **Saskatchewan Provincial Cheerleading** competition on March 25; and the annual **First Nations University of Canada Pow Wow** on April 8.



Thank you to Access Communications TV subscribers who support the work Access7 does in our communities. Over 55% of Access7 programming is produced by local groups and individuals. If you have an idea for a TV program - or would like to volunteer on a production, please contact us.

Check your local listings for what's coming up on your Access7 community channel.

*Access7 programs available OnDemand in select communities



Supporting Youth

We feel strongly about giving back to local youth who volunteer their time in order to improve their communities. As a 100% Saskatchewan-owned, non-profit co-operative, social responsibility is at the forefront of everything we do. Since 2005, Access Communications has put more than \$275,000 into the hands of high school graduates across our province. We are so proud that our support and involvement has helped these students pursue their dreams.

We are happy to announce that our **Scholarship Program** has been refreshed. Access Communications will be accepting applications, reviewing and choosing the top applicants throughout the province. The Access Communications Scholarship will be awarding \$1,000 to 20 graduating students who demonstrate exemplary community involvement. Submission deadline is April 20, 2017. For more information, or to apply, go to MyAccess.ca/In the Community.

And the **Access Communications Children's Fund TV Bingo** is again holding its popular March Madness when over \$44,000 in total prize money will be given away. TV Bingo airs live every Saturday and proceeds go directly to the Children's Fund to support organizations across the province to benefit children and youth at risk or in need. The Fund has donated over \$1.6 million since the start of TV Bingo in 2006 with recent recipients including the Battlefords Boys & Girls Club and the Moose Mountain Literacy Group.



For all the latest news, videos and contests - visit us on:



YOURACCESS

ISSUE #66

March 2017

A newsletter for the members of Access Communications Co-operative Limited



A Record Year for Access

On January 24th, members across the province attended the annual general meeting for Access Communications to learn about the continued success our co-operative achieved last year and what is coming up in the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Chair Ken Shaw spoke to members about the successes and the challenges of being a not-for-profit, community-owned co-operative keeping pace with an evolving province and rapidly changing technologies.

"Our Co-operative is an integral part of everyday life for thousands of people across Saskatchewan."

Fiscal 2016 was another strong year financially for our co-operative with record revenues of \$84 million. Access Communications Co-operative continued to grow revenues, manage expenses and post a positive bottom line. 100% of earnings are reinvested in the co-operative and the communities we serve.

Mr. Shaw highlighted the work of the Access Board this past year including its work with senior management to develop a sound business plan and strategies for both the short-term and into the future. "Staying current and understanding the future - all while ensuring that our co-operative values are upheld - is the mandate of your Board and Access Communications as a whole as we work hard to continue to contribute to a thriving and evolving Saskatchewan," said Mr. Shaw.

Members and guests also heard from President & CEO, Jim Deane about current trends in the communications industry and operational priorities Access Communications has set for fiscal 2017.

2016 Board Chair Ken Shaw addresses members at the annual meeting which was held simultaneously in six Access Communications regional districts.



An online version of the 2016 annual report is also available on our website.

What's Inside

- ▶ 2017 Board Directors
- ▶ Coming up in 2017
- ▶ Southey Welcomed
- ▶ In the Community
- ▶ Supporting Youth



Proud to be named one of Saskatchewan's Top 25 Employers for 2016

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Access Communications Co-operative BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017



Left to Right: Brenda Watson, Patrick Kelly, Doreen Polischuk, David MacLeod, Twila Walkeden, David Dekker, Dale Ripplinger (2017 Board Chair), Ken Shaw, Hiedi Pearson, Dick DeRyk, Bernadette McIntyre, Alan Bachynski

Under the co-operative bylaws and governance best practices, the terms for a third of the board directors expire each year. At our annual general meeting, member delegates elected the following directors to 3-year terms on the Access Communications Board of Directors:



Dick DeRyk

- Vice Chair, Director, Access Communications Board of Directors 2014 - 2017
- Owner, Uncommon Sense Business Solutions
- Director, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce; Chair Public Policy Committee
- Former Councillor, City of Yorkton (1987 – 2009)
- Past President, Saskatchewan Golf Association
- Co-founder and editor, Yorkton This Week 1975 - 1987



Patrick Kelly

- Retired, Lawyer & Queen's Counsel, McDougal Gauley
- Member & Delegate; Access Communications
- Director, Regina Exhibition Assoc. (7 years)
- Director, Can. Lawyer's Insurance Assoc.



Doreen Polischuk

- Retired, Office Administrator, Besnard Lake Correctional Camp
- Access Communications member & delegate
- Deputy Mayor, Town Councillor; Town of La Ronge (2000-2016)
- Director, Cable Ronge Community Fund
- Director, Cable Ronge 2004 - 2007



Brenda Watson

- Director, Access Communications Board of Directors 2014 - 2017
- Partner, Baker Watson Chartered Accountants
- Past Board member, Better Business Bureau of Saskatchewan Inc.
- Past Board member, Canadian Council of Better Business Bureaus
- Chartered Accountant

Fiscal 2016 Highlights

- ▶ Grew revenues by 2.7% to \$84.0 million - a record for the Co-operative; and grew telecom revenues by 18%.
- ▶ Distribution costs decreased due in part to the purchase and operation of our own phone switch. Operating income (before amortization) of \$22.4 million, an increase of 7.9% from prior year.
- ▶ \$2.6 million was directed to community programming in order to enhance and expand local programming - an amount exceeding CRTC licence minimums.
- ▶ \$21.6 million was re-invested in our communities as part of an aggressive capital plan to maintain, grow and enhance our infrastructure and launch new services including the new rural wireless internet service.
- ▶ Recognized as one of Saskatchewan's Top 100 Businesses; and one of Saskatchewan's Top 25 Employers.

OUR MISSION

We are a community owned co-operative dedicated to providing exceptional communications and entertainment services and unique opportunities for local expression.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

We live by our belief in honesty, respect, and trust in everything we do.

Employee-Centered

We enable everyone's involvement, growth and contribution in a challenging, safe and fun environment.

Customer-Focused

We deliver extraordinary value reliably, dependably and consistently.

Community-Oriented

We are an integral part of the communities we serve, contributing to their energy and progress.

Innovative

We create and embrace change that enhances customer service, the community and our organization.

Contact Us

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1.866.363.2225

Access Communications Co-operative Limited 2017 Board of Directors

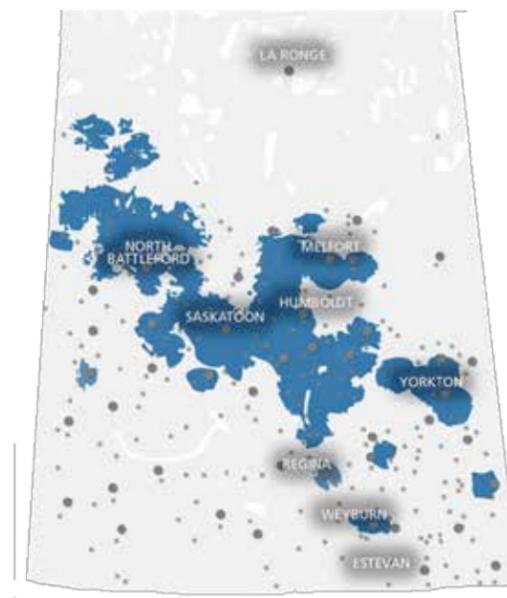
Dale Ripplinger - *Chair, Regina*
Dick DeRyk - *Vice Chair, Yorkton*
Brenda Watson - *Secretary, Regina*
Alan Bachynski, *Regina*
Deborah Charles, *La Ronge*
David Dekker, *North Battleford*
Patrick Kelly, *Regina*
David MacLeod, *Regina*
Bernadette McIntyre, *Regina*
Hiedi Pearson, *Regina*
Doreen Polischuk, *La Ronge*
Ken Shaw, *Regina*

Priorities for 2017

(cont'd from page 1)

During the past year, the CRTC implemented new regulations that allowed Access Communications to not only offer the small 'skinny' TV basic package, *AccessMicro*, but also many more standalone channels and small theme packages that provide our customers with more choice. Jim Deane also noted that we anticipate a successful renewal by the CRTC of our broadcast license for our Regina/White City system in 2017.

"The new Wireless Internet service is now a valued extension of our network with more than 100 tower access points across Saskatchewan," Jim Deane went on to say.



From one community 40 years ago, Access Communications now serves over 230 communities and will add more this year.

- Communities with Access Services
- Wireless Internet service area

DIRECTOR HONOURED



Access Board Director, **Bernadette McIntyre** was named the recipient of Curling Canada's Award of Achievement in February.

The Award recognizes people who have contributed significantly to curling.

Bernadette's name is synonymous with curling in Saskatchewan, as she has put in countless hours in all aspects of the sport. From the 1998 Scotties to the 2018 Brier, Bernadette has played an active role in many local curling championships.

Congratulations to Bernadette on her contribution and this recognition.

WELCOME TO ACCESS

Access Communications is proud to have the town-owned cable system in **Southey** gifted to our Co-operative effective April 1, 2017.

With Access, residents will enjoy enhanced services while preserving community-ownership through co-operative membership.

A new local Access7 channel will be launched later this year bringing a vehicle for local expression to the town.

We appreciate the confidence the town has in our Co-operative.



Expanded Business services, the availability of HyperSpeed internet in more communities, as well as the upcoming launch of AccessSmartHome security demonstrate Access Communications's commitment to providing solutions in communities big or small.

"Our success is a reflection of our commitment to customer service, as well as to operational excellence," Jim Deane noted.

We are COMMUNITY...

In addition to ongoing community support through the Access Communications Children's Fund, scholarship programs and corporate sponsorship initiatives, the Co-operative is continuing to invest in our community programming channels. In the past year, Access7 programs won not only 4 Tuned-In Canada awards but the 2016 Yorkton Film Festival national award for Best Community Programming. In 2017, additional Access7 channels will be launched and more great local programs will be available in HD and On Demand.

Access Communications Co-operative has embraced change successfully for over 40 years, and will continue to stay true to its co-operative roots as we address the challenges of providing leading-edge tools that our customers want to make their lives easier, and more fun.

We encourage interested parties to become members of our Co-operative. More information and an application form is available online at myaccess.ca.



MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAM

Access Communications is a proud member-owner of The Co-operators Group. Discounts are available to Access Communications Co-operative members for travel insurance; life, health and dental benefits; farm insurance; and home and auto insurance. We encourage you to contact The Co-operators to find out more about the discounts and services they offer.

[How to access the program](#)
or for more information:

Contact your local The Co-operators office directly; or visit cooperators.ca/memberbenefits

