

INTHECOMMUNITY



Access7 kicked off 2016 with new programs and season premieres of returning favourites.

On January 31st, Access7 was proud to present the **2016 Viterra Scotties Tournament of Hearts** women's provincial curling championship final and semi-final games live from Prince Albert. The games were available to all Access TV customers and were shared with Shaw and SaskCurl so that viewers across Saskatchewan could catch all the action. **Rock the House** curling events continue with the Mixed Doubles, Seniors and Juvenile championships in March. Access7 is also covering the Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships in April.



Regina Humane Society



On February 14th, the annual **You've Got A Friend Telethon** aired live in the Regina area helping to raise much needed funds to support the work of the Regina Humane Society. Approximately \$500,000 is raised each year on Access7 through telethons in a number of communities. **The Four** is back for its third season. Series community producer and returning host Bevann Fox, welcomes new co-hosts Ashley Norton, Wendy Whitebear, and Pamela Rockthunder. The panel invites viewers to share an indigineous viewpoint as they educate, inspire and empower others. Another new show that premiered in January is **TME TV** (The Millennial Edition). Access7 is also developing its April provincial election coverage working with local organizations to broadcast candidate forums and will again invite all candidates to air their election messages in communities in their constituency.



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

**Access7 programs available OnDemand in select communities*



New Discounts for Access Members

As a proud member-owner of The Co-operators Group, we are pleased to offer a new **Member Benefits Program** to our members with exclusive insurance coverage and savings through The Co-operators.

As a not-for-profit co-operative, Access Communications does not provide dividends or service discounts to our members. The purpose of this new Member Benefits Program is to provide something extra for our Access Communications members. The Co-operators Group is a co-operatively owned and controlled organization and it works to build meaningful relationships with its member organizations - and the broader co-operative and credit union community. Discounts are now available for travel insurance; life, health and dental benefits; farm insurance; and home and auto insurance. There is flexibility in the plans offered by The Co-operators and their advisors are available to assist Access members in choosing the appropriate plans. 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



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



YOURACCESS

ISSUE #61

February 2016

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



Evolving and Growing

On January 19th, 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 Howard Louie spoke about what it means to be a not-for-profit, community-owned co-operative keeping pace with an evolving province and rapidly changing technologies.

"A strong, local co-operative that is dedicated to helping our communities thrive."

Fiscal 2015 was a strong year financially for our co-operative. 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. With recent additions including Arcola and Yellow Grass, we now are privileged to be in 230 communities across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Louie highlighted the work of the Access Board this past year including the challenge of staying current while ensuring that our co-operative values are upheld. The Board worked with senior management to develop a sound business plan and strategies for both the short-term and into the future.

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 2016.

2015 Board Chair Howard Louie addresses members at the annual meeting which was held simultaneously in six Access Communications regional districts.



An online version of the Access 2015 annual report is also available on our website myaccess.ca.

What's Inside

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Access Communications Co-operative BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016



Left to Right: Bernadette McIntyre, Brenda Watson, Hiedi Pearson, Alan Bachynski, Ken Shaw (2016 Chair), David MacLeod, Dale Ripplinger, Dick DeRyk, Twila Walkeden, Howard Louie, Deborah Charles. Not pictured: David Dekker

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:



David Dekker

- Retired, Former part-owner and General Manager, CJNB (Battlefords & Meadow Lake); forty years' broadcasting experience
- Past-president, Saskatchewan Association of Broadcasters
- Past-president, Western Association of Broadcasters
- Former Member, Battlefords Community Cablevision Co-operative



Bernadette McIntyre

- CEO, Wascana Centre Authority
- Director & Treasurer, Canadian Capital Cities Organization
- Co-Chair, 2013 Grey Cup Festival Committee
- Chair, 2016 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship
- Past Chair, EVRAZ Place



Hiedi Pearson

- Human Resources Manager & Member of Senior Management Team, Harvard Developments Inc.
- Director, Regina Palliative Care Inc. & Greystone Bereavement Centre
- Co-Chair, 2013 Grey Cup Festival Committee
- Past Director, University of Regina Alumni Association



Dale Ripplinger

- Chair, International Consortium of Real Estate Associations
- Board Member, Real Estate Insurance Exchange
- Past President, Canadian Real Estate Assoc., Assoc. of Saskatchewan REALTORS and Assoc. of Regina REALTORS; Recipient, CMHC REALTOR Distinction Award (Sask.)
- Past Chair, Tourism Regina Events Committee, and BID Regina

Fiscal 2015 Highlights

- Grew revenues by 1.6% to \$81.8 million; with operating income (before amortization) of \$20.3 million, an increase of 14.2% from prior year.
- \$2.6 million was directed to community programming in order to enhance and expand local programming in almost 90 Access Communications communities.
- \$13.2 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 a phone switch with leading-edge technology.
- We launched Business Voice services; and subsequent to year-end, we acquired Askivision TV and internet systems along with Little Loon Wireless rural highspeed internet business.
- Recognized as one of Saskatchewan's Top 100 Businesses; and one of Saskatchewan's Top 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 VISION

Our passion, commitment and leadership are producing unrivalled communications and entertainment services in the communities we serve.

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

Head Office:

2250 Park Street, Regina, SK S4N 7K7
www.myaccess.ca

Member Relations:

member.relations@myaccess.coop
306.565.6640 in Regina or Toll Free
1.866.211.6334 ext. 6640

Toll-Free 24/7 Customer Service
1.866.363.2225

Access Communications Co-operative Limited 2016 Board of Directors

Ken Shaw - *Chair, Regina*
Dale Ripplinger - *Vice Chair, Regina*
Dick DeRyk - *Secretary, Yorkton*
Alan Bachynski, *Regina*
Deborah Charles, *La Ronge*
David Dekker, *North Battleford*
Howard Louie - *Regina*
David MacLeod, *Regina*
Bernadette McIntyre, *Regina*
Hiedi Pearson, *Regina*
Twila Walkeden, *Weyburn*
Brenda Watson, *Regina*

Priorities for 2016

(cont'd from page 1)

Consumer choice was an industry focus this year. As reported in previous editions of *YourAccess*, Access Communications has been involved with the CRTC Let's Talk TV proceedings to represent our members and customers. Access supports choice. However, regulatory and contractual restrictions - and the rising cost of channels especially for sports programming - have restricted packaging options. We were excited when the CRTC issued new regulations that will allow us to offer a small 'skinny' basic along with new small theme packages effective March 1, 2016. Access Communications already offers many channels on a stand-alone digital basis. By December 1, 2016, following necessary contract negotiations with signal providers, Access Communications will be able to offer all digital channels individually.

Technology is what we do, and we love it!

Access Communications is also participating in the current CRTC Local TV / Community Channel review. At the AGM, Jim Deane thanked all those Access7 supporters who submitted comments last fall to the CRTC commending the work that our 90 Access7 channels do to bring the news and tell the stories of Saskatchewan near and far.

Earlier this month, Access Communications appeared before the CRTC to emphasize to the Commissioners that the current regulatory and funding framework has been successful in supporting the work Access7 does. While the CRTC is not expected to issue any decisions on this until the spring, we are hopeful that no new regulations will be enacted that will hinder our community programming efforts.

"Technology is what we do, however helping our communities thrive is why we exist," Jim Deane went on to say. 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 including the launch of a new local Access7 channel in Arcola in December.

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.

New members very welcome. An application form is available online.



Access Communications representatives, Carmela Haines, Jim Deane and Wade Peterson before the CRTC on Feb 3, 2016 aired on CPAC

Access Communications Children's Fund TV Bingo celebrates 10 years on air!

Ten years ago, Access Communications worked through many regulatory and technical steps and in February 2006, premiered **TV Bingo** live on Access7.

Since then, the weekly TV Bingo program has grown in popularity. It is now the major source of funding for the charity providing over \$100,000 each year that goes to benefit children and youth in need or at risk in Saskatchewan. As well many Access7 viewers have had the opportunity to have fun playing Bingo at home and to win significant jackpots. *Check myaccess.ca for a bingo card vendor in your area.*

If you know a youth-focused program that would benefit from support by the Children's Fund, an application form can be found at myaccess.ca/childrensfund.



Access Again Named Top Employer



SASKATCHEWAN'S
TOP EMPLOYERS

The Saskatchewan's Top Employers is an annual regional competition organized by the Mediagroup editors of the Canada's Top 100 Employers program.

This special designation recognizes Saskatchewan employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. Our Co-operative is pleased to again be named one of those selected in 2016 for Saskatchewan.

If you or someone you know is looking for a progressive company with unique career opportunities, competitive compensation and benefits, and where you don't just have co-workers you have friends - please contact us for more information.



(Left) High school students getting a feel for TV production at a Career Fair.