

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Originally from Broadview: Markwart travels to Zambia with EWB

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

When Chelsea Markwart was growing up in Broadview, she knew that she wanted to travel. With a career that has taken her to many countries, and a recent trip to Zambia with Engineers Without Borders, she has certainly got her wish.

"This might sound strange, but I became a professional engineer in order to travel," she says. "It gives you opportunity in life to be able to travel."

She studied engineering at the University of Regina, and graduated in 2005.

"I took industrial systems, and I've been working as a project engineer, and a mechanical engineer."

"Since 2005 I've been working in Alberta for Global Thermoelectric, and did a lot of work on international projects. When a customer comes in and wants a project I would design it. Usually the design work was done in Calgary, but a lot of our clients were in southeast Asia, and I did some travel in southeast Asia and Europe."

She first made contact with Engineers Without Borders shortly after receiving her engineering degree, but the trip she took was a spur-of-the-moment decision.

"I signed up for their newsletter when I first moved to Calgary, but I did nothing with it," she says. "I had written up applications before, but it never seemed like good timing."

"Then I saw a posting for a four-month volunteer position in Africa, and the closing day was the next day."

"It seemed like good timing. Work was stressful in Calgary, and it was just time to do something like this. I had always wanted to volunteer in Africa."

So she was off to Zambia, a landlocked country in southern Africa, an area a little larger than the size of Saskatchewan, with a population of over 13 million. Much of the population is concentrated in the capital, Lusaka, and the rest of the population spread across the countryside.

"I arrived in the cold season," Markwart says. "I went from Canadian summer to cold, about 10 degrees. I wasn't prepared for how cold it was—you don't think of Africa as being cold."

"During the cold season, it's not as lush. Just as I was leaving the rainy season was starting, and everything was greening up. Mangos were falling from trees everywhere. Mangos get to the point of being wasted—people can't sell them anymore because there are so many of them."

She found no language barrier in Zambia as English is widely spoken. Nunja and Bamba are the two main tribal languages but 73 tribal languages are spoken across the country.

There is little strife between the different tribal groups, which is a point of pride for many Zambians.

"If you talk to random strangers on the street, one of the first things they will say is 'How do you find Zambia? We're a very peaceful country—you must love it.'"

"Many African countries don't have quite as many tribes as Zambia, and it brings huge pride to Zambians that they have maintained peace."

The last few years have brought a lot of changes to the southern African country.

"Zambia has changed over the last five years," says Markwart. "About five years ago it was one of the bottom 10 malnour-



Above: Chelsea Markwart at a market in Zambia.

Below: A street scene in Lusaka.



ished countries but in recent years the economy has increased significantly.

"You do see wealth in Lusaka, but it's a bubble. You see malls in Lusaka that rival Calgary, but there is starvation in the country, there is poverty in the country. If you leave the tourist bubble there is significant division between wealth and poverty."

The people she met were surprisingly like Canadians in some ways . . .

"I found Zambia to be a relatively reserved country like Canada, but very friendly. When you walk down the street you get lots of hellos and greetings."

And different in others . . .

"Social pressures in Zambia are extreme compared to here," she says. "You're expected to help not only immediate family but extended family. There's a very strong emphasis on marriage at a younger age."

She was surprised by how developed

the capital is.

"Lusaka was definitely more developed, with restaurants similar to here—Mexican, Indian, Thai food, sushi, deli type foods from a coffee shop, you could get all of that, I wasn't expecting that side of it. People say the city has been transformed in the last few years. A lot of the shops in the malls are from South Africa, products on the shelves in the stores are from South Africa."

A small village where she spent some time was a marked contrast to the capital. "Muni Lunga is 15 hours on the bus from Lusaka, and it's very different. In the villages everything is made from bricks. You see a lot of the brick homes with thatched roofs or tin roofs."

While she was overseas with Engineers Without Borders, she wasn't engineering a project.

Engineers Without Borders used to do

technology projects suited to engineers, but they found those projects didn't seem to help local communities as much as it helped the engineers that were going. They switched the types of projects they support, and this one was a partnership with a small rent-to-own company.

"They sell business equipment on a rent-to-own basis. Their typical customers don't have access to capital, or might not have the transportation to get the equipment there, or might not have access to training."

"The company I worked with, all of the equipment they sold was to small businesses to improve their businesses."

"A typical customer might be a family shop, they would sell them a deep freeze so they could sell cold meat or whatever, or a pump for a farmer."

"A pump can only cost a few hundred dollars, but that might not be affordable for some people without the rent-to-own approach. Something as simple as a pump can significantly improve their income, the family can send children to better schools, it helps in a lot of

ways.

"I helped with data, procedures and reports—maybe not glamorous work but it helps."

Markwart says she feels that she made a difference.

"I feel I definitely helped," she says. "When I was first there, they were having trouble keeping up with the amount of work that was needed, when I left they were having fewer problems."

"Engineers Without Borders has found the technology projects just didn't seem to have as much impact as helping set up SMEs—small to medium enterprises. In Malawi they're working on water and sanitation projects, more community-built projects than technology projects."

What was the biggest surprise about Africa?

"It would be the malls," says Markwart. "You could go for a nice coffee in an air conditioned mall if you wanted to. It was not something I expected to have available. I was expecting to be in one of the smaller villages. When you are in Lusaka and you have everything available, it doesn't feel that much different."

"I had wanted to be outside Lusaka, I was a little upset when I got posted in the main city and didn't get the rural experience, but I got over it. I was able to go out to some of our smaller locations. I was able to go out and visit, and you really see that there is a difference."

"In the city you see more progressive thinking—I'm not sure if it's the Western influence or what it is. When we'd hang out with young professionals, it was no different than hanging out with young professionals in Canada."

"In rural areas the cultural differences show up a little more in that the progressive thinking and modern way of life isn't there. It's a little more hierarchical society where men's and women's roles are a little more defined. A lot of women were housewives taking care of children."

Will she ever go back? "I definitely want to go again someday," she said. "They offered to extend my position, but I'm not sure if this is the right time right now."

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Anatomy of a fraud: Uncovering the details of massive fraud took time and patience

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

There were years of suspicion, frustration, and close looks through the books before Gregor Gmerek was charged on Dec. 14 with defrauding his former employer, Prairie Livestock, of more than \$700,000.

Gmerek is alleged to have been forging and cashing company cheques over several years, and has been charged with numerous counts of uttering a forged document, forgery, and fraud over \$5,000.

Kirk Sinclair, owner of Prairie Livestock, says investigation has continued since the charges were laid and feels by the time the final audit is complete the fraudulent entries will add up to more than \$1 million.

Sinclair says he was suspicious of his former employee, but it took a long time to figure out exactly what was going wrong with Prairie Livestock's books.

"I have stacks of paper on my table, and some of them have been there for two years—looking through them, trying to figure out where the money was going," he said. "I knew something was wrong, but I just couldn't figure it out."

He said Gmerek perpetrated the fraud by writing cheques to himself, then voiding those cheques on the accounting system and entering legitimate-looking payments into the system—for example payments to farmers for cattle.

Gmerek would then intercept bank statements with images of the actual cheques written to him, Sinclair said.

Sinclair said it was frustrating knowing that something didn't add up but not being able to nail it down.

"For the last three years I knew something was wrong but I didn't know what it was," he says. "I was trying to catch him. We have our books audited every year, and I had the auditors go through the books closer for two years, but they couldn't find anything."

"Since the charges have been laid we



Gregor Gmerek

found he was moving figures from the balance sheet to the income statement to hide it every time he printed out income statements, then moving it back.

"We finally found it through an entry in an accounts payable account that was sitting on the books for a long time. It was only one account, but it had two years of data in it."

The last entry in Prairie's books that Sinclair believes is fraudulent was Gmerek moving \$1.146 million from the balance sheet to the income statement to cover up missing funds.

How does Sinclair feel about being defrauded by an employee in a position of trust?

"I definitely feel angry because he was given the ultimate position of trust in my company and he obviously 100 per cent disregarded any kind of ethical concern

for my business," Sinclair said Friday.

"If this had happened when I was just starting in business I could be bankrupt over it."

"The worst feeling is, he was new to the area so I would take him and his son quadding, or have his family over for supper."

"To think that the whole time while you're doing that for him, he's working on bankrupting you by stealing everything he can—it's a pretty big slap in the face."

Sinclair said he is hopeful justice will be done in this case.

"I have no doubt that the criminal proceedings will find him guilty and we hope to have some success civilly as well," Sinclair said.

RCMP need hard evidence

Cpl. Andrew Dolman of the Moosomin RCMP says it's important to get hard evidence of a theft before charges can be laid. "In general, if someone came to us to say

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Various cheques Gregor Gmerek is alleged to have forged, in order to steal from his former employer, Prairie Livestock.

Above is the last cheque, written earlier this month for more than \$134,000.

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Pipestone Villas ready to begin phase two

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

The shareholders of Pipestone Villas in Moosomin decided at a recent meeting to begin initial preparations to build a second 24-unit, three-story apartment complex.

It will be immediately east of their Wright Road complex opened in September.

The second complex constitutes phase two of Pipestone Villas' three-phase plan.

The plan is to eventually have three 24-unit apartment complexes, more or less identical in structure, built in a horseshoe pattern, with the one opened in September serving as the centre building. While there is no age-restriction for tenants, it was modeled as an adult living facility. Those

living in the first phase are mostly 60 years of age and older, said Bill Thorn.

Before the construction of the second phase can begin, Pipestone Villas needs to have people committed to leasing 15 of the 24 units, by making a \$1,000 non-refundable deposit. They haven't yet done much marketing for that, Thorn said.

"We haven't had anybody that has committed to renting an apartment, but we've had a lot of people who have asked about it," said Thorn.

When 15 apartments have a deposit placed on them, construction will begin on the building, expected to cost roughly \$6.5 million.



The Pipestone Villas phase one apartment building in Moosomin, opened in September. The second phase, including another 24 units, will be constructed immediately to the east of this building.

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Uncovering the details of massive fraud

Continued from page 3

We have had cameras installed to catch employees stealing from a till, for example. We will conduct interviews with all the employees to determine if someone was involved.

"If it is more complicated or intricate like Prairie Livestock, the boss did an internal audit to discover what was happening. He came to us with proof as well, not just suspicions."

Dolman said it is important for businesses to have the proper procedures in place. "Many people are demanding criminal record checks to hire someone, but that only shows if they have been caught before," he says.

"If there are gaps in the system, then the guilty will exploit them for gain. Employers should make sure they have good security/money handling procedures and paper trails to limit the opportunities for employees to steal."

He said that charging an employee with theft rather

than just firing them sends a message. "If someone does steal, make an example of them and follow through. This is a good deterrent," he said.

"We treat this as simply a theft/fraud from the employer and if there is evidence to lay a charge, the suspect gets charged."

Owners must maintain control

Elizabeth Nguyen is an expert on employee fraud with Meyers Norris Penny in Regina.

She says business owners should pay close attention to any red flags, as an employee who defrauds his employer usually does so on an ongoing basis and the losses can add up.

"The average amount of loss is \$100,000, but usually when people detect a fraud it is one transaction discovered by accident, or through a tip. It might be a \$300 accounting discrepancy or a missing cheque, and that is usually just the tip of the iceberg. Usually the fraud is 7 to 10 times that initial discovery."

She said an employee who commits fraud will usually start small. "They will try something small first, and if management doesn't detect it, they'll try something bigger. It's usually ongoing, because there's some sort of hidden need—whether a gambling addiction, a drug addiction or a financial need—and that need is usually ongoing."

She said an employee suspected of fraud should be removed from his or her position but not fired.

"We suggest if you suspect an employee, it's best to have that person removed from the organization—send them off on a course or on vacation, use that time when they're away to look deeper into the documents, or suspend them. If an employee is suspended, they're still an employee, and obligated to come in to be questioned, or to assist with the investigation. Don't terminate the employee right away."

She said forensic accounting can almost always uncover fraud. "If you have a suspicion and you've looked into it, it's usually best to call in a forensic accountant. Forensic accounting can uncover anything. We find it difficult if there's collusion by a couple of people in an organization, but we've never had one that we haven't figured out. We usually uncover what's going on."

She said owners should never cede too much control to an employee. "It's important to remember that, as an owner of a business you have full right to review anything you want. Owners are sometimes afraid of confrontation, afraid to ask questions, but you have full right to ask them anything and look through anything."

"The best thing an owner can do is not to relinquish management oversight. Sometimes someone will hire an accountant, a trusted person, and leave it all for them to control. As an owner, you have to take the time, review the goings on. Have the company's bank statement mailed directly to your house, review the scans of cheques, and ask yourself with each one, does it make sense? Does that look like my signature?"

"We see a lot of fraud related to personal use of company credit cards. Have those statements mailed

directly to your house. If employees know you're looking at it, the chances of fraud are a lot lower."

"Another important thing is to do spot checks on the bank deposit, do your own bank deposit now and then, and take it down yourself."

She said cheques are involved in most cases of fraud. "The main thing we see in business is cheque fraud, whether that's a forged signature, or writing a cheque to themselves. We see owners pre-sign cheques, which opens the door to fraud. Personal use of company credit cards is also a big issue because, for the employee, it satisfies an immediate need, and they know that statement won't be reviewed for another month, if at all. Another common thing is straight theft from cash deposits or theft when a customer pays cash."

She said many insurance policies cover the cost of a forensic audit. "The biggest tip we like to give owners is to look at their insurance policies. There are insurance policies that cover you for employee misconduct, which covers not only the loss but the professional fees associated with investigating the loss."

Suspicious from former employer

Prior to working for Prairie Livestock, Gregor Gmerek was Chief Financial Officer of FarmPure Seeds Inc.

On September 4, 2008, FarmPure Seeds Inc. filed a Notice of Intention to File a Proposal for bankruptcy. FarmPure operated a forage and grass seed processing plant in Nipawin that includes packaging and shipping to destinations around the world.

FarmPure had also operated a canola processing and treating plant in Laurier, Manitoba and a retail distribution centre for forage, grass and canola seed in Brandon, Manitoba.

Al Bridgen of Kisbey was a member of the board of FarmPure. He called the World-Spectator after he read about Gmerek being charged with fraud.

He said FarmPure directors had some suspicions about Gmerek and ended up locking him out of his office.

Those suspicions were not taken to police at the time, but Bridgen says he thinks the case deserves a second look now that Gmerek has been charged with defrauding Prairie Livestock.

He said the company had been profitable before it ended up going into bankruptcy with a deficiency of more than \$8 million.

According to the bankruptcy trustee in the FarmPure Seeds case, "it is apparent the board relied on their Chief Financial Officer (Gmerek) and other staff to operate an expanding corporation and it appears insufficient controls were in place to recognize financial difficulty in a timely fashion."

The trustee noted some strange intercompany transfers. "The corporation had provided significant intercompany advances to the parent corporation for investment in affiliated companies, which were in the development stage. As of the last financial statement it was also identified that the corporation needed additional financing or recovery of intercompany loans in order to meet its financial obligations."

At one point FarmPure had around 100 employees. Gmerek will be in court in Moosomin in February to face the charges against him.

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- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED TRUCKS**
- 2012 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4X4, 6.2L V8, GAT, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, 853, CF5, AP3, BT, PDD, PDI, JF4, JL1, White, 82,630 kms, was \$39,995 **NOW \$36,995**
- 2011 GMC CANYON EXT**
RWD, 1SA, 2.9L, 4 cyl, Manual, A-C-T, 16" Alum, G80, Bench, Silver, 15,029 kms, was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT EXT 4X4**
Nevada, 4.8L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, Keyless, Z82, NZZ, G80, Bluetooth, Silver, 54,267 kms, was \$22,995 **NOW \$21,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4X4, 5.3L V8, GFX, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 20" Alum, AP3, UVC, UOD, PDD, PDF, UK3, JL1, White, 66,325 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLE CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, PDF, AP3, 17" Alum, JL1, G80, Z82, White, 93,517 kms, was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2011 CHEV AVALANCHE LT 4X4**
5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, AP3, Z82, JL1, Steps, Silver, 38,501 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$33,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT EXT 4X4**
5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd Lthr, PDD, PDF, UOD, AP3, 18" Alum, steps, JL1, Blue-green, 37,155 kms, was \$30,995 **NOW \$31,995**
- 2010 GMC K2500HD SLE 4x4**
Crew, 6.6L Duramax, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, 17" Alum, 6" ovals, AP3, Black, 82,116 kms, was \$40,995 **NOW \$39,995**
- 2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, CF5, AP3, DVD, 18" Alum, Z82, Z71, PDD, NZZ, DK, Blue, 110,671 kms, was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2010 CHEV K1500 LTZ CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Leather, CF5, 18" Alum, Z71, PLUS Pkg, AP3, G80, White, 105,898 kms, was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW 4X4**
5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd Leather, GAT, PDG, 18" Alum, AP3, G80, PDF, UK3, White, 85,312 kms, was \$31,995 **NOW \$26,995**
- 2009 FORD F150 FX4 4X4**
SUPERCAB, 5.4L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Keyless, Silver, 125,156 kms, was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2009 CHEV K1500 LT CREW**
4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PCM, PDD, PDF, AP3, 17" Alum, Z71, Z82, White, 130,262 kms, was \$20,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2009 CHEV AVALANCHE LT**
4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, CF5, UK3, G80, Z82, Bluegrnt, 152,536 kms, was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**
- 2008 CHEV K1500 LT EXT**
4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, PCW, PDD, UOD, JF4, AP3, 18" Alum, JL1, PDF, White, 146,584 kms, was \$20,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2008 CHEV AVALANCHE LTZ**
5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, 20" Alum, CF5, UOD, AP3, JF4, Z82, White, 125,182 kms, was \$25,995 **NOW \$23,995**
- 2007 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL**
4X4, CREW, 3.5L, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, AUO, CD, Blue, 151,545 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$16,995**

- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED TRUCKS**
- 2006 FORD F150 XLT CREW**
4X4, 4.6L A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Keyless, Box, Cap & Liner, JL1, Blue, 82,630 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2006 GMC 1500 EXT 4X4 SPECIAL EDITION**
4.8L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, 40/20/40, 17" Alum, Tubes, Black, 116,261 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2005 CHEV K1500 LS EXT 4X4**
5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, Tubes, 17" Alum, CJ3, NZZ, Z71, Z82, White, 133,285 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED SUVs**
- 2011 HYUNDAI SANTE FE AWD**
GL, 6CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL, Htd & Cld Buckets, Keyless, Alum, CD, Silver, 58,989 kms, was \$23,995 **NOW \$22,995**
- 2011 CHEV AVALANCHE**
4x4, Auto, 8 Cyl, Sask. Tax Paid, 38,501 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL2**
AWD, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd & Cld Lthr, Nav, 20" Alum, C3U, UVC, BT, White Diamond, 38,590 kms, was \$40,995 **NOW \$39,995**
- 2010 CHEV TRAVERSE LT**
SK, AWD, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7Pass, DVD, UOD, BT, 18" Alum, V92, XM White, 74,850 kms, was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**
- 2010 CHEV TRAVERSE LT AWD**
3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7Pass, BT, XM, V92, 18" Alum, UOD, Tubes, XM, Black Grnt, 101,249 kms, was \$22,995 **NOW \$21,995**
- 2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT**
4x4, 2.5L, 4cyl, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets Keyless, 17" Alum, CD, Blue, 100,955 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$16,995**
- 2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT**
AWD, 3.0L V6, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, AUO, Alum, CD, Black, 39,773 kms, was \$24,995 **NOW \$20,995**
- 2010 CHEV EQUINOX LT1**
FWD, 2.4L, 4 cyl, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, 17" Alum, Mocha, 75,442 kms, was \$22,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2009 GMC ACADIA SLT**
SK, AWD, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, 8 Pass., DVD, 18" Alum, UOD, BT, V92, XM, Gold, 93,805 kms, was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2009 PONTIAC TORRENT AWD**
GT Podium, 3.4L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Buckets, CF5, 17" Alum, AP3, UK3, XM, Silver, 47,702 kms, was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**
- 2009 CADILLAC SRX**
AWD, 3.6L V6, Htd Lthr Buckets, Luxury Pkg, 17" Alum, C3U, AP3, Conv. Pkg., JF4, 7 Passenger, White Diamond, 83,080 kms, was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**
- 2008 CHEV SUBURBAN LT**
4X4, 6.0L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, AP3, UOD, 17" Alum, CF5, 6CD, DK Blue, 105,304 kms, was \$27,995 **NOW \$26,995**
- 2008 CHEV EQUINOX LS FWD**
3.4L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, 16" Alum, CD, Keyless, Blue, 141,130 kms, was \$10,995 **NOW \$9,995**

- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED SUVs**
- 2008 CADILLAC ESCALADE AWD**
6.2L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Lux Pkg, Nav, DVD, White Diamond, 144,442 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$33,995**
- 2007 DODGE DURANGO LTD**
4X4, 5.7L V8 Hemi, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, CF5, 20" Alum, 7 Pass, 77,600 kms, Sask. Tax Paid, was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**
- 2005 CHEV EQUINOX LT AWD**
3.4L V6, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Htd Leather, Buckets, 17" Alum, CD, Gold, 152,609 kms, was \$11,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED VANS**
- 2009 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE**
3.3L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, 7 Pass., Buckets, Keyless, CD, Blue, 114,284 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED CARS**
- 2010 CHEV IMPALA LT SEDAN**
63,940 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2010 CHEV COBALT LT COUPE**
Team Canada, 2.2L, 4cyl, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, 16" Alum, CF5, USB, XM, UK3, Black, \$2,996 kms, was \$13,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2010 CHEV COBALT LS SEDAN**
2.2L, 4cyl, 5 speed, Buckets, CD, Silver, 44,774 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2010 CHEV COBALT LT SEDAN**
2.2L, 4cyl, 5 speed, ACT, PW, PL, Buckets, Keyless, 15" Alum, CD, Silver, 103,680 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2010 CHEV IMPALA LTZ**
Team Canada, 3.9L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Leather, CF5, AP3, 18" Alum, F&F, RR Seat, Gold, 64,643 kms, was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**
- 2009 PONTIAC G6 GT COUPE**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, 17" Alum, AP3, Monsoon, Sunroof, UK3, Silver, 100,332 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2009 PONTIAC G6 SE COUPE**
2.4L, 4CYL, Podium Edition, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, CF5, AP3, 17" Alum, UK3, White Diamond 92,818 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2009 CHEV COBALT LT COUPE**
Team Canada, 2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, 16" Alum, Spoiler, XM, UK3, Red, 117,178kms, was \$11,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2008 PONTIAC G6 SE COUPE**
2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, Keyless, Spoiler, CD, Black, 158,902 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA SEDAN**
50th Ann., 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, CF5, 18" Alum, AP3, UK3, Black Grnt, 146,629 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2008 BUICK ALLURE CX SEDAN**
3.8L V6 ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, Alum Wheels, Chrome pkg, Silver, 110,173 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT SEDAN**
3.8L V6, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16" Alum, CD, Silver, 112,779 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**

- OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED CARS**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA LS**
Sedan, 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 16" Alum, Keyless, Spoiler, CD, Grey, 84,500 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA SEDAN**
50th Anniversary, 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, Buckets, CF5, 18" Alum, AP3, UK3, Black, 88,802 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2007 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT SEDAN**
2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16" Alum, Red, 107,000 kms, was \$10,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2007 BUICK LUCERNE CXL**
Sedan, 4.8L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, 17" Alum, UOD, AP3, Lux Pkg, Bronze, 115,261 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2007 PONTIAC G6 SE SEDAN**
2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, Sunroof, 16" Alum, Black, 126,312 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2007 BUICK ALLURE CX**
3.8L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, Silver, 104,342 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2006 PONTIAC G6 GTP SEDAN**
3.8L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, Sunroof, 18" Alum, JF4, AP3, Black, 96,142 kms, was \$11,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2006 PONTIAC G6 SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, 16" Alum, Spoiler, UK3, Gold, 154,643 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2005 PONTIAC G6 GT SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, Sunroof, 17" Alum, AP3, Monsoon, UK3, Silver, 140,426 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**

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Markwart travels to Zambia with EWB

Continued from page 1

What did she learn on her trip? "I now know how much I don't know," she says. "I may know a little bit more, but there is a huge amount of culture in different areas of Zimbabwe—different groups in different areas have their own cultures."

"Their approach to time and how we use it is different than Canadians. We joked around about Zam time—it's not quite the same as here. I attended a wedding and I came to the wedding on time for the ceremony and I sat completely on my own for an hour—no one showed up. The pace and the time is a little different. You learn patience."

"It depends on the person you're working with, though—some people were on Zam time and some are on Western time. You would get to know the different taxi drivers—some would say 'coming down now' and that meant they were coming in an hour—others knew that you were a Westerner and they would come right away."

Did she miss anything about Canada? "Of course I missed my family and friends—and I missed showers. The flat I lived in didn't have running water on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays because it didn't have any power. You would warm up water in a kettle and have a bucket bath."

"I also missed my washing machine—washing clothes by hand takes hours and hours and hours."

One of the best parts of the experience, Markwart says, was the people she met in Zambia. "I met a lot of interesting people. It is a little bit more reserved culture, but I did make some close friends. Engineers without borders has a lot of old EWBers who are living in Lusaka and working, some of them have found employment there."

She felt safe throughout her visit.

"The flat I lived in would be considered a lower middle class area—it wouldn't be the poorest areas in Lusaka, and it was safe. I went to church with a coworker who lived in one of the compounds. Even just walking to church in the morning there would be drunks walking in the area and the church seemed like a sanctuary from everything going on."

"The whole thing was just an adventure and an experience, from getting to go out with the field officers to sitting on the back of the bike to going out to the bars with some of the workers, it was a great experience."

She said the trip made her look at her life in Canada through new eyes. "You definitely notice how many good and materialistic items we have. We have so much of everything. I stared at our kitchen the other day—we have enough coffee mugs and cutlery to serve 25 people—that's a lot different than when you have enough utensils or cups just for the family,

you have a pot, you just have enough to make your daily meals within your immediate family. It's quite crazy.

"When I stayed with one of our field officers, his house was smaller than this room (in the newspaper office). There were five people living there, and I was a visitor, so there were six of us staying in that small space."

"It opens your eyes to how much we have here and also how different communities can be. There are a lot of things we can take from different cultures and adapt to ourselves and our way of thinking. Canada's becoming more of an individualistic society, and there are things we can learn from people who don't have as much."



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The top ten wedding to-dos

He has finally proposed? Then your top priority is to do a bit of bragging and tell everyone the good news! Once your initial excitement has calmed down a touch, though, you'll have to take time to do some serious thinking. There are so many details to plan, a budget to draw up, and deadlines to be met: it seems so overwhelming. If you are finding it hard to get some traction and launch your wedding planning, here are ten tips to give you some direction and help you get moving.

1. Establish your budget per guest. In fact, this is the perfect time to draw up your guest list.
2. Order your invitations, being careful to include your names, the date, time, and place of the wedding and reception, as well as the date by which you need to receive replies. Being clear about this will help you save a lot of precious time and money. Be sure to include stamped, addressed envelopes if you can.
3. The reception hall is often one of the biggest expenses, so be sure to reserve one as quickly as possible. If you want to keep expenses down, think about holding the reception at a family home or in a garden.
4. Creating a good atmosphere is just as important as choosing a caterer, although you don't want to skimp on food either. To cut costs, consider serving fewer courses, with a focus on excellent quality instead of quantity.
5. Make up or order wedding favours for your guests. These are put with their place setting or offered at the end of the reception. Let your imagination run wild: you could offer small homemade soaps, candles, local produce in mini format, bath pearls, or small boxes of candies. It can also be fun

to have a "retro" favour, such as a pack of matches with the bride and groom's names embossed on the matchbook cover.

6. Give yourself enough time to find a wedding gown that really suits your personality. It is also possible to rent a dress for the occasion, much as your beloved can buy or rent his tuxedo.
 7. Book your hair, make-up, esthetician, and manicure appointments several weeks before the wedding. If possible, plan a test run.
 8. Put all your heart into writing down the vows that you would like to make during the marriage ceremony. If you plan to make a speech at the reception, be sure to get that down in writing as well.
 9. Plan the reception down to the last detail: create the atmosphere you like with suitable music, entertainment, and a décor that matches your personality. (Don't forget to decorate the bathrooms, a place everyone will see at some point!)
 10. Organize your honeymoon so that you can celebrate your new life together.
- And while we're talking weddings, here are a few other tips to keep in mind:
- Avoid giving important jobs to the parents of the bride and groom — unless they really want to be involved that way. Instead, let them enjoy being with the guests.
 - If you intend to create a gift list, be sure to put it on the Internet so that it will be easily accessible to everyone.
 - If small children will be at the reception, plan to have a space available where they can play and a quiet room where they can sleep.
 - Take photographs of your hair and makeup

test runs so you can choose the perfect combination when you're well rested. Prepare a make-up kit for any touch-up jobs on your big day.

- Leave a guest book at the entrance of the reception hall. It's a great souvenir to keep, along with your photo album.

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Photographer Kim Poole from Moosomin caught some Midget AAA action recently in Yorkton. Shown here is Ethan Bear from Ochapowace in action with the Yorkton Harvest during a game against the Moose Jaw Generals on Sunday, Jan. 6. The Generals won 3-0.



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Lotto 365 off to a good start for 2013

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Lotto 365 has put more than \$400,000 into the community over the years, and organizers feel they are off to a good start for the 11th annual lottery—one with a twist.

Lotto 365 started with the idea of allowing the winner to live free for a year. The prize consists of \$1,000 a week for 52 weeks—enough to cover most people's bills for the year.

The lottery was the brainchild of former Moosomin Kinsmen Club member Terry Barros.

The lottery has run virtually unchanged for the last decade, but this year it includes a second component—a 50/50 draw that ticket buyers can get in on.

"Lotto 365 was a hit from the start," Ryan Thorn of the Kinsmen says. "I understand it was a lot of leg work in the beginning, but it was almost an instant success. People are just happy to support it because they know the money stays local, they know we will do the best things we can with the money for the community."

The fundraising lottery is a big project for a service club. "It's the main topic of most of our meetings, but I believe it's made the club successful," says Thorn. "The success draws in the members. As we've gotten successful we've brought in more members. It would be tough to go a year and not do it."

He said the annual lottery becomes easier each year. "When you have a formula in place it's easier," he said. "It's still a challenging thing to account for and manage—it's not something we take lightly. It takes a lot of effort by the whole club. It's a team effort. The ticket sellers contact their families, their business associates and colleagues. Advertising and direct mail also help a considerable amount, and our reputation helps sell it too."

Many of the tickets are sold locally, although some have been sold as far away as B.C.

The 50/50 draw is the one thing that's different about this year's Lotto 365.

Now when someone buys a \$100 ticket, they can get a 50/50 ticket for another \$20. The winner takes half of what goes into the 50/50 pot, and the rest goes into the community.

"I would say 90 per cent have bought the 50/50 so far," said Thorn. "If it stays that way, there will be approximately \$11,000 for the winner and \$11,000 for the club."

Proceeds of Lotto 365 have gone to many community projects over the years, and the funds are earmarked for a portable ultrasound machine for the Southeast Integrated Care Centre. "The doctors say it's something they would use every day," says Thorn.

He said the 50/50 draw was added both to change up the annual lotto and to

raise money for the Kinsmen's project to upgrade a diamond at Bradley Park.

"The plan is to have it done by the end of this summer," he said. "We've put in a lot of work there, we've had some great guidance from the Moose, and some of the businesses we've worked with have given us some guidance."

"There have been lots of volunteer hours out at the

ball diamond, but we try to have fun while we do it."

Thorn says the lottery is also a fun project because of the community support. "It's awesome," he said. "People start asking when you're doing lotto in August or September. It's fun to phone the winners and tell them that they've won, and it's fun to give the money back and see parts of Moosomin change. We

love doing it.

"It can get a little stressful toward the end, but when you sell out it's a great feeling, and we've sold out every year but two."

Some non-Kinsmen members help out with the annual lotto. "People help us out because they believe in it," says Thorn. "It's more like a Moosomin project than a Kinsmen project."



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(Rules of play will be provided upon request.)

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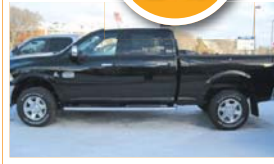
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Wild boar gone from Moose Mountain—for now

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

They're the neighbors no farmer wants: They charge cattle, they breed like crazy, and they're a serious nuisance. But wild boars have been a problem for some time near Moose Mountain Park.

Bob Brickley knew he had a wild boar problem when he saw his cattle on his Kennedy farm one day. They were standing a mile from their feeding area, bawling, and they had torn through three barbed-wire fences. One of his cows had a broken leg. It had to be put down.

None of the other cows would go back to their feeding area for three days, not even for water. During that time they kept a mile away from their troughs, continuing to bawl. Six cows ended up aborting their calves.

"They were pretty distraught, terrorized," Brickley said.

They had been stampeded by a cell of wild boars, a group of up to 25 animals that lives, hunts and scavenges for food together. When hunting, they spread over an area, and when one finds a food source, they all zone in on it and move in. What had happened, Brickley thinks, is that they located his grain and charged in and ran the cows out of their area.

"Unless you see a stampede and the results of it, you can't really understand how bad it is. It is pretty brutal."

Brickley never saw it happen, but he saw tracks and signs that it was wild boars, which he had known were in the area. That event happened seven years ago, the time when the population had begun to explode in Moose Mountain Park, near his Kennedy farm.

Brickley and other farmers waited for a year and a half for action from the government, but nothing of substance materialized.

"They attempted to live-trap them, and they had moderate success with some of the

young ones, but the older ones wouldn't get caught," he said.

During that year and a half, the population of wild boars in the area grew exponentially. So Brickley and a group of other farmers decided it was time to take action and hunt the wild boars themselves to wipe them from the area.

Wild boars are an introduced species. The ones that live in the wild in Saskatchewan are the descendants of those that escaped from farms in the province over the years. Wild boar farming is still practiced in Saskatchewan, and many continue to escape, something that angers Brickley.

"It's extremely irresponsible for anyone to continue to bring them in. They're destructive to the environment, they're destructive to life, and it's beyond my comprehension that anyone will allow them to carry on, yet there is still a strong voice from people who are farming them domestically."

In fact, wild boars have spread through much of the world this way. Originally from Eurasia, wild boars are now living in the wild on every continent of the world other than Antarctica, a spread that is the result of wild boars having escaped from farms that they had been imported to. There are millions of them in the southern United States, particularly in Texas, where they are considered to be an environmental train wreck, said Ryan Brook, an assistant professor at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources in the University of Saskatchewan.

Brook has been studying wild boars for some time now. He said the damage wild boars have caused to agriculture in the United States has been over a \$1 billion. The invasive species, he says, brings with it not only wildlife and crop damage but also disease. The recent ecoli outbreak in California spinach was caused by wild boars.

Continued on page 16

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Pipestone Villas ready to begin phase two

Continued from page 5

As was the first Pipestone Villas apartment building, construction of the second one will be financed by funds provided by the company's 15 shareholders, all but two of whom are from the local area; and each tenant will be required to make a second deposit of \$65,000 when construction begins.

The tenants will receive three per cent interest on that deposit for every year they live at the complex, and if a renter decides to vacate, they will get their money back within 90 days.

Thorn said that the company shareholders are aiming to get construction started on the second phase by the end of 2013.

"Like any investment, you have challenges getting the product marketed, but it's nothing that we can't handle. We think we're in a really good location and have a really good product. We've learned a lot from dealing with phase one, and we think we'll do a better job in phase two," Thorn said.

Pipestone Villas property manger Judy Bood said that there are five people on the waiting list for tenancy in the phase two building, and seven on the list for the phase

three building.

"As soon as I get the chance, I'll contact those people to say that we're moving forward with phase two and let them know that they can make the deposit on an apartment if they like," Bood said.

Pipestone Villas was incorporated around two years ago by locals who saw a need to have an adult living complex in Moosomin. Thorn said that he expects that the need for adult-living apartments in town to only increase in coming years.

"There are a lot of things happening around, and we think the timing is good on it, of course. We anticipate that when the new permanent jobs open up at the mine, there might be a little spike in the real-estate market, so people might be thinking about downsizing and relocating when they can maximize their personal real estate," he said.

The contractor that Pipestone Villas has hired to build the three phases of the is Bridge Road Developments, a construction company based in Winkler, Man. The developer is also one of the 15 shareholders of Pipestone Villas.

"We adopted the Bridge Road building model concept

and molded it to our own needs," Thorn said.

The residents of the Pipestone Villas apartment building on Wright Road are a mix of locals and those from outside of the area.

"It's about half and half, about half locals and half out-of-towners. We've got a couple from Redvers, some from Rocanville, Welwyn and Virden," he said.

Thorn said that, with most of the occupants being seniors, many of those living in the building were attracted by the lower maintenance for those apartments compared to their old homes.

"They want some freedom to travel, and now they can just walk out and lock the door and you don't have to have someone to look after the place. It's a pretty easy way to live," he said.

He said that the residents have been mostly satisfied with the apartment complex, and the new complex will be slightly different to incorporate needed adjustments.

"It's a good community there. The people in there are quite happy with it. There is the odd thing that we'll tweak for phase two, but, for the most part, it will be the same as phase one," Thorn said.

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6	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE 10:00 A.M.
11	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE 9:00 A.M.
13	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE 10:00 A.M.
17	SUNDAY	BONCHUCK SIMMENTAL BULL SALE
18	MONDAY	CLOSED - LOUIS RIEL DAY
20	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE 10:00 A.M.
22	FRIDAY	BRED COW AND C/C SALE 11:00 A.M.
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Wild boar gone from Moose Mountain—for now

Continued from page 14
He said that they range through Saskatchewan from the U.S. border to the forest line, but no one knows exactly where they are or how many there are. Their numbers haven't yet reached the level that they are at in the Southern U.S. But he said that we are now in a window of opportunity to prevent their growth before they become a major problem in the province.

"My general sense is that it's not a big deal yet, in the present, but I think the potential is that it's going to be one in the future," he said.

"It depends a lot of what is decided to do. Ultimately, it is said that your future isn't discovered; it's invented. When it comes to boars, it comes down to what decisions are made. If everyone stands back and does nothing, I could see us having a very large population of boar across the southern half of Saskatchewan and increasing damage to crop and environmental impacts."

One of the reasons that they have been so successful at spreading nearly everywhere they have been imported is that they are very biologically fit. They

are extremely intelligent. They can have as many as 12 pigs a year, six at a time and two litters if their nutrition is sufficient. They are strong and tough and, in this area, have no natural predators. Brickley said the biggest one that he has shot weighed about 450 pounds. The largest one ever recorded weighed over 1000 pounds. They also eat just about anything.

Due to their large litters, their numbers can't be reduced in the ways other wild animals can be. When moose populations get too high, the government raises the numbers of tags available to hunters. This doesn't work with wild boars, said Brooks.

"Their capacity to reproduce means that, even if you're killing a lot of animals, you're not going to reduce their numbers."

"Once they get established anywhere, they're nearly impossible to eradicate," he said.

Bob Brickley knew about this when he and other farmers from the Kennedy area decided to work together to take care of the issue themselves. If they were going to get wild boars out of the Moose Mountain Park region and



A young wild boar.

surrounding farmland, they knew they had to go all in.

"If you go in a peck away at them, you're not going to get anywhere. They're fighting for their existence," he said.

So he and a group of about 12 farmers began to hunt them in the winters. First, they would fly over Moose Mountain Park to find their nests, usually made of reeds and cattails and leaves. When they spotted them, they would get back on the ground and would get on their snowmobiles and go to the nest. One of the ways that they spotted their nests in the airplane was from the steam from heat that the

another year so they don't learn."

When they moved in, three or four hunters would approach the nests with shotguns loaded with buckshot, and they would try to get about 20-30 yards to the nest before firing on them. A couple of other hunters would be 400 yards away on their flanks with semi-automatic rifles to get any that those in the centre didn't get with the shotguns. For extra insurance, a few other hunters, which Brickley calls interceptors, would be a quarter mile ahead of the action to get any that ran away.

They had to be careful. "It's a very dangerous endeavour when you have that many guns and people shooting," he said.

Since first hunting them in the park, the hunters took out about 600 wild

boars. Now they are gone from Moose Mountain, but there will be a few that live in the fringes of the park that have moved in from other areas. He said that, as he and the other hunters have proved, people can make sure that wild boars are eliminated from Saskatchewan.

"It depends entirely on the effort that was put into it. In two years we had them virtually cleaned out of the park, and that's some of the roughest terrain in southern Saskatchewan."

He agrees with Brooks that people shouldn't put off any longer a serious program to eliminate the animal from Saskatchewan.

"It's certainly possible, but the longer we leave it, the more difficult it is going to be."

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Wawota native stars on reality show

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN
Wawota native Owen Garratt's road to being one of the contestants on season two of Canada's Greatest Know It All began while watching the reality series with his nine-year-old son Hudson.

They were both big fans of the show, and both Owen and Hudson had always been quite outspoken in their opinions of some of the show contestants' shortcomings.

"We were yelling at the TV—'No, boneheads, you do it this way.' And Hudson looked up to me and said, 'Dad, why don't you play in the show?'"

Canada's Greatest Know It All is a reality show that airs on Discovery Channel and brings together highly intelligent Canadian know-it-alls—those kind of people who always seem to know the answer or reason for everything—to compete for the title of Canada's Greatest Know It All.

"The show started with saying, 'everyone knows those know-it-alls, those who always know what you should do,' and the show started off as a way to make fun of those people who think they know it all and they don't," Owen said.

One of the show's central ideas is that being smart is more than just being book smart, and also more than just being practically minded. It requires both. So its challenges incorporate problems that can be overcome with only a combination of both book and practical smarts, and its contestants mirror that: in its seasons, they have come from the ivory towers of academia to the mechanically minded, no-nonsense oil patch.

Owen is originally from Wawota, where his father's side of the family was from. When he graduated high school in 1986, he left home and went to Regina.

"I was part of the big exodus from small town Saskatchewan in the 1980s, but Wawota is still home for me. My best friends from high school are still my best friends. It's like the old 'you can take the boy out of the country' kind of thing," he said.

Currently, Owen lives with his wife Karla and their two children Hudson and Harding in Spruce Grove, Alta., just outside of Edmonton, where they own an art gallery that sells his pencil sketches. He also has a web site called pencilneck.com that shows some of his award-winning artwork.

Having had a very bohemian and artistic life, first as a musician and now as a pencil artist, Owen has had a lot of time to read books, making him a natural know it all, he said.

"I'm kind of a walking Trivial Pursuit game, and my wife has reformed me of the habit now, but I am just one of the guys not to play Trivial Pursuit against."

So when his son Hudson asked him if he would apply for the show, Owen told him maybe. But to his son's enthusiastic mind, that meant yes, Owen said.

His son's prods were daily at first.

"He would say, 'Dad, when are you going to enter the show?' Dad, when you going to call into the show? Dad when are you going to be on the show?"

So, he talked it over with his wife, Karla, whom Owen refers to as 'the colonel.' Being on the show would be a big commitment, as the application information said that contestants would be required to be away for the month of the show's shooting.

Running their art gallery is a full-time job, so the time away from the gallery was significant, as was being away from his family for that period.

"At the time our sons (Harding and Hudson) were seven and nine, so it's a big thing to go away for a month. But that's why I did it," Owen said.

Karla agreed to the idea, and he applied for the position, and he got one of the 10 positions available for the second season of the show.

That season was filmed in June in a large Southern Ontario city that Owen can't name, due to the show premiering on Monday, Jan. 14.

"They have a gag order on me," he said.

For the show, the contestants were broken up into two teams for each challenge. All of the show's competitors compete in the first two challenges, and a competitor from the losing team of each challenge, usually the weakest link, gets sent into the Danger Zone. The losing team votes on who gets sent into the Danger Zone.

"That's where the personalities come into play. Some people stepped up into the elimination round and some got really petty and snively. It's like, 'You've been up for elimination five times now. Suck it up.'"

The Danger Zone would be the third challenge that saw the losers from the episode's first two challenges play off for elimination. The loser of that would go home.

The first challenge in Owen's season was an underwater bomb disposal. The bomb was underwater in a pool, and to diffuse it, the contestants had to answer questions to get clues about how to decipher the puzzle.

The questions for that challenge ranged from the scientific to the trivial, from metallurgy to geography to questions about the Apollo program.

But they also had to diffuse the bomb manually. So they would have to get in Scuba gear and dive to the bottom to diffuse the bomb.

"If you didn't know the answer, you couldn't decipher the way to diffuse the bomb," Owen said. "And if you were afraid of water or had never Scuba dived before, too bad."

The next challenge in the first episode was an old-fashioned pistol duel, with the chamber loaded with a single paint ball. A player from each team squared off back to back and walked to the mark and fired at their opponent. The first to shoot their opponent got to answer the question, but if they missed, their opponent could return the fire and answer the question. While Owen can't delve into further details about his success in that round, he said that he did surprisingly well for a big man.

"I'm 280 pounds. I'm not a lightweight, but I was the only guy who could dodge a paint ball. That freaked a lot of people out. I'm just glad I didn't scream like a little girl."



Wawota native, professional artist, and Canada's Greatest Know It All contestant Owen Garratt with one of his pencil sketches of an oil rig. The second season of the reality show, which Owen competed in, began airing on the Discovery Channel on Monday, Jan. 14

But those challenges were only the crust of the planet. There were 24 challenges over eight episodes, and the ninth and final episode includes a recap of the season. Owen can't spill any details

about how well he finished, but he will say this: "I did good. How's that? I came home with my head held high."

"My boys are proud of me."

On the Discovery Channel's web site, Owen was voted by fans of the show as the most likely to win.

When the show's airing is finished, it's not like Owen will be heading back into obscurity. He lives a charmed life. Celebrities have hired him to draw their portraits. Such names include Gene Simmons, Joan Rivers, Ivanka Trump, Cal Ripkin Jr, George Foreman, John Rich, and Adam Rich, he said. He says he is doing William Shatner's portrait in a few weeks.

One of the reasons that Owen draws his art with pencils is because he is three-quarters colorblind.

"The colonel won't let me play with crayons anymore," he said, again referring to his wife Karla.

"I've been an artist for 18 years, so that's what I do. I'm completely unemployable now," he said.

Somehow that seems hard to believe.

A few weeks ago he and Karla were in Dubai on his

commission from the Off-shore Oil Congress to do a drawing of an oil rig for the production of 700 limited edition prints.

"They will give them away for golf prizes or retirement gifts or VIP gifts or that kind of thing. That's a big part of my business."

"We were at the trade show in Dubai and hobnobbing with Arabian royalty, which was pretty cool."

But meeting celebrities and rubbing elbows with Saudi Arabian princes wasn't as special to him as was being a contestant on Canada's Greatest Know It All, he said. It was a journey he would do again in a twich.

"Absolutely I would do it again."

"I've done a lot of stuff. I've swum with beluga whales in the Hudson Bay and dolphins in Mexico and hammerheads and whale sharks and climbed frozen mountain peaks. And this was by far, outside of fatherhood, the best adventure I've ever had."

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Early prep begins for Wawota Relay for Life

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

Wawota's Relay for Life organizers are making early preparations for this summer's relay, set to take place on June 15, 2013, said Kristen Murray, one of the relay's main organizers.

The organizers are also looking for new volunteers to help them out, Murray said.

This June's Relay for Life is scheduled to be the first one ever held in the town. Relay for Life is a nation-wide event headed by the Canadian Cancer Society that raises money for cancer research, raises awareness about the disease, and provides an opportunity to celebrate cancer survivors and to remember who have fallen to the disease.

The organizers of the Wawota Relay for Life decided to have the event because of the many close friends whose lives have been affected by cancer. A little girl from the town whom was diagnosed with the disease in recent months provided them with the final motivation to host the relay.

"One of our close friends, her daughter has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, so this was just the right time to do it," Murray said.

Murray and her husband, Shawn, are co-chairs of the event. The organizers met first in September, and so far they have two relay teams signed up, Murray said. The organizers have also received some money in donations.

Their goal is to have 30 teams and to raise around \$50,000. For every dollar raised for the event, 94 cents will go toward cancer research in the province.

Every team that enters Wawota's Relay for Life is asked to raise \$100, although Murray said that any team that doesn't raise that much will still be allowed to participate. The teams are encouraged to do what they can to raise extra money for the cause, by asking for donations or by having barbecues or suppers.

Murray is herself a cancer survivor. She was diagnosed with cancer eight years ago, and treatment was able to put the cancer into remission not long after the diagnosis. Her cancer diagnosis was what first prompted her to participate in Relay for Life, and she and Shawn have partici-



Wawota is planning a Relay For Life event for June of next year. Relay For Life raises money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

ated in Relay for Life events in Redvers, Oxbow, Whitewood, Moosomin and other centres. Her relay team at those events raised money by having pork roasts, a casino night and selling hamburgers, she said.

While plans are still being finalized for Wawota's coming Relay for Life, Murray said the organizers have a general idea of what is going to happen.

The event will run from six p.m. to six a.m. And, like the Canadian Cancer Society's mission statement for Relay for Life, it will have three themes—the celebration of the lives of those who have survived cancer, the remembrance of those who didn't, and the fight against cancer.

It will begin with an opening ceremony, centred on a speech from somebody. Then, cancer survivors will walk around the track once, to celebrate their lives and struggle. The survivors participating in the lap do not have to be on a relay team. Then all the participants in the relay, expected to be around 10 per team, will all be introduced and will walk the first lap together. Then the relay will begin, with

one person from each team expected to be on the track at all times. Weather permitting, the track will extend outdoors, connected to the track inside the arena by the back doors of the Wawota Forum.

The remember ceremony, which is to remember those who have died from cancer, will take place at dusk during the relay, and will include another speech, the details of which have yet to be finalized.

As part of the Remember Ceremony, those who have lost loved ones to cancer

will have the opportunity to light a luminary and attach to it a written note. The luminaries will be tied along side the outdoor section of the track to provide light to the teams through the night.

The fight back ceremony has yet to be finalized and will be ironed out by the Fight Back committee, Murray said.

"Relay for Life is how we fight back against cancer, and we want to put an end to the disease, and it's up to the people to decide how they will exemplify that in the ceremony," she said.

Murray said that there would most likely be a band providing entertainment throughout the relay for those in attendance. There also may possibly be a pancake breakfast after the relay is finished.

Murray says that everyone is more than welcome to attend, even if they are not planning on participating in the relay.

"Relay for Life is always fun, and its inspiring," she said.

The organizers' next meeting is scheduled to be on Jan. 21, at 7 p.m., and it is open to all, Kristen said.

"Anybody who wants to know more about the event or wants to just come and check us out is more than welcome to," she said.

For those who would like to register a team, they can call Elly Van Winkoop at (306) 577-2215, or Amanda Marcenko, at (306) 739-2239, or Dalelynn Fahman, at (306) 739-2912.

Anyone who would like to volunteer or to find out more, they can call Kristen Murray at (306) 739-2527.



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