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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba
January 2020 • Volume 13, Number 1



This was the scene last week from the Kangaroo Island farm home of former Moosominite Lois Kangas-Wilson as bush fires burned on a neighboring property. Lois and her family live on a farm where they and her husband's family run a 3,000-sheep operation.

Australian bush fires threaten family's home: Woman from Moosomin evacuated from Kangaroo Island home

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Two people have been killed and 56 homes have been destroyed in recent weeks by bush fires on Australia's Kangaroo Island—fires that left one woman originally from Moosomin fleeing with her family as the blaze threatened their Kangaroo Island Home.

Lois Kangas-Wilson grew up in Moosomin and graduated from McNaughton High School in 1988. She is the daughter of Cynthia Griffin.

She now lives with her husband and three children on their sheep farm on Kangaroo Island and was evacuated twice from her home—once when fires came very near on January 3, and a second time on January 8, when she and the children evacuated to the nearest safe community while her husband and neighbors stayed back to try to save the house.

The World-Spectator spoke to Lois on January 8 as she arrived safely in Kingscote, a town on Kangaroo Island unaffected by the wildfires.

"It is really close to our property right now," she said.

"On the third of January it was threatened by that fire but basically the wind changed and it missed our property, but on the island we live on at least 56 homes have been destroyed."

While we spoke with Lois, her husband and others were back at the farm trying to save the house, which they managed to do.

"The fires have been very close, like within a few kilometers, but the sad thing is that today the fires are still continuing and the threat has increased for our property exponentially. My husband and his parents and two of our friends and my husband's cousin are staying to defend our property. There is a really strong north wind



Lois and Scott Wilson, Nicole, Brayden and Jack at Vivonne Bay, Kangaroo Island, Australia. The family's home was spared by wildfires that spread across the island, but there was smoke damage to the home. Lois is the daughter of Cynthia Griffin and grew up in Moosomin.

and the temperature is expected to be 35 degrees and the north wind just comes off the main land so it just adds to the heat of the fire.

"We just evacuated about two hours ago. I've got three children and so we're 45 minutes from our property at the moment.

"There are two fires that are threatening our place and then further on to another small community that has about 25 houses," Lois said.

"Then there is another fire on the other side of the island that is still burning as well."

Kangaroo Island is just off the Australian mainland near Adelaide.

It has been one of the sites of fires that have devastated much of southeast Australia.

The fires started on the island last month.

"On Dec. 20 fires were started on the far northwest side of the island and three houses were lost then," says Lois.

"On Dec. 30 there were more lightning strike fires in Flinders Chase Park. The National Parks and Fire Service tried to maintain the fire but on Jan. 3 we had another hot day and the fire broke containment lines and headed through the park destroying the remarkable rocks boardwalk, all the vegetation, the visitor centre, and three ranger stone houses.

"It then travelled down and destroyed the five-star resort Southern Ocean Lodge.

"From there it continued to other properties, nearly getting our property, but continued with a destructive path across the island, destroying 56 houses and over 100,000 sheep.

"Sadly two landowners perished in the bush fire attempting to return to their property after assisting a friend with a fire on his property."

Continued on page 5

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13 Ways to Kill Your Community

Doug Griffiths, author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, will be speaking at Moosomin, Estevan, and Weyburn in February, in a series of presentations organized by Southeast Community Futures. The following is a really brief summary of Doug Griffiths' points in 13 Ways to Kill your community:

1. Water Quality

If water quality in a community is bad, the community is probably in sharp decline with businesses closing, empty houses for sale and a community that appears decrepit and unsightly. Nowadays, people view good quality water as an essential quality of life. Furthermore, many industries require good quality water to be sustainable, including agriculture and tourism.

If you want your community to fail, if you do not want to see it grow—just don't bother to address the issue of water (supply, quality, safety, disposal, etc.)

2. Business Attraction

The more businesses and business competition in a community, the more likely it is to be sustainable. People like variety and choices and they are willing to drive an hour or more to get what they are looking for. Successful communities are very innovative in their efforts to retain and attract business to the community. They understand that businesses create jobs and expand the tax base; more shoppers means more revenue in the community.

If death of your community is the ultimate goal, don't bother doing anything about attracting new people and new businesses to your community; don't change your by-laws or do anything to entice business development.

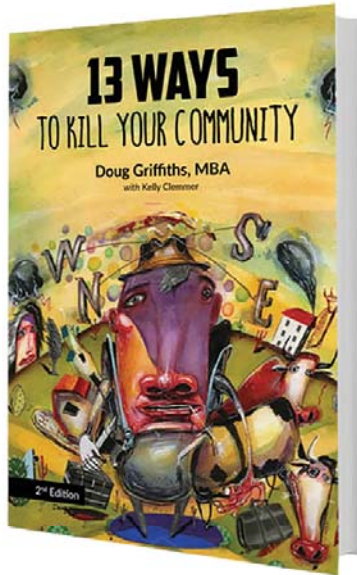
3. Youth Involvement

The more young people (35 years and under) are encouraged to participate in recreation, culture, and community affairs, the more vibrant the community is likely to be. These people have energy and fresh ideas. I guess all you have to do is look at the average age of municipal councillors in Saskatchewan to see that 'youth' are not part of the leadership mix. Successful communities say that complacency and saying that youth aren't interested are just excuses for not changing the old ways of thinking.

If stifling your community is your plan, continue not engaging youth, don't find reasons for them to stay and don't seek out and use their ideas.

4. Assessing Community Needs and Assets

You know the old saying, "fail to plan and you automati-



cally plan to fail." Well, that is especially true with communities. If you don't take a critical look at the community needs and then plan step by step how to meet these needs; if you don't take inventory of community assets and create opportunities and creative ways to use them to the community's advantage, you are just taking up space while your community continues to decline.

If the failure of your community is the ultimate goal, just continue doing things the way you have always done them while you continue to expect different results.

5. Shop Elsewhere

How many rural businesses do you know that actually seek their customers' feedback on how the business could provide better service or better products? Of those that do, they probably also engage their consumers in conversations and demonstrate that their customers are very

valuable to them.

Don't give local consumers a reason to shop local (poor service, don't keep the business clean and attractive, high prices, putting the 'guilt trip' on customers for not buying locally, 'bad mouth' other businesses).

These are 'sure fire' ways your business community can decrease business, lose customers and jobs and eventually close their doors.

6. Appearance of Businesses and the Community At Large

It's human nature to be drawn to attractiveness, whether aesthetically pleasing people or places. We don't usually buy houses, cars or clothes that are ugly. We don't usually shop in businesses that are junky, disorganized and messy.

What effect do rundown, dirty, dimly lit and 'shop worn' businesses have on consumers? Well, people will actually pay twice as much for a product or service from a business that is nicely decorated, freshly painted, tidy and well organized...even if it means shopping outside of the community.

The same holds true with people's reaction to communities with poorly lit streets, uncontrolled weeds and unsightly premises, cracked sidewalks, streets with potholes, poorly maintained civic and recreation facilities, damaged signage or lack of signage, lack of well groomed park areas and green spaces. There is no civic pride in an ugly community and this type of community is certainly where most newcomers would not want to live.

If the failure of your community is your ultimate goal, continue to make business and community aesthetics a low priority and you will no doubt be very successful in driving business and newcomers away from your community.

7. Co-operation

An essential requirement of all human relationships is co-operation (marriage, business, friendships, sports teams and work bees).

Another sure way of ensuring your community remains at a disadvantage is to refuse meaningful co-operation with other municipalities, organizations, businesses, etc. You can do this by ignoring activities, talents, efforts of other groups; you can actually pursue open conflict with other groups; or you can pretend to work with them while you 'bad mouth' them behind the scenes and follow your own hidden agenda. Any one of these is an excellent way to kill spirit and energy.

You can be assured of leading your community into a pattern of bullying, intimidation and hostility if you are determined and cunning enough.

Continued on page 8

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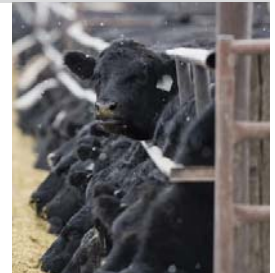
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Smoke from bush fires seen from the Kangas-Wilson family's yard.

Australian bush fires threatened family's home

Continued from front
 "The fires have continued in several places on the island with our property being threatened for several days. My husband, with many landowners, have been fighting the fires along with CFS and mainland fire fighters as well as the Army reserve.
 "Last night our home was threatened. My husband stayed to defend it with his cousin, two friends and his parents. When it became clear they would have to retreat, Scott made sure everything was doused from water.
 "They escaped to his parents' property but had to continue to escape the flames. They all made it to

friends of ours, who had lost their home earlier, but their daughter and her family's home was safe, so they all stayed there until the morning. This morning Scott has returned home and miraculously our home survived.
 "It was full of smoke so Scott reckons it was very bad. We have lost half of our hay but the chickens survived. Scott is still assessing the damages on our property, but on first check we have lost 350 bales of hay, some fencing appears to have been lost. No sheep were lost and our horse survived. We are so happy that we have survived through this ordeal."
 While Lois and the chil-

dren evacuated to the town of Kingscote, it still wasn't safe. "In the middle of the night alerts were sent out for areas around Kingscote, for everyone to go to Kingscote Oval or down by the water as a fire was threatening the airport. Thankfully it didn't get real close to Kingscote. There has been a sense of panic with some people as some of these fires have been more intense than normal. It has been so hard for them to get these fires controlled because of the increased fuel load with dense trees throughout the island and very dry conditions making it harder than a regular bush fire season."
Continued on page 22

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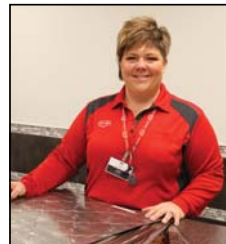
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Keeping Lenox Safe group had hoped to arrange clinic: Canadian Blood Services says it can't arrange Moosomin clinic

The Keeping Lenox Safe Committee had hoped to use funds from the recent online auction for Lenox Nosterud, who is battling Leukemia, to sponsor a blood donor clinic in Moosomin.

Lenox has undergone treatment at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and is immune compromised as a result of the treatment.

A GoFundMe campaign for Lenox raised \$28,500 for the family to help with expenses associated with treatment in Saskatoon, and an online auction raised an additional \$16,000 for community supports such as hand sanitizers for the school, and funds were earmarked for a hoped-for blood donor clinic, as Lenox will need a lot of blood transfusions.

Editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Jennifer Da-



Canadian Blood Services

reichuk, associate director of donor relations for Saskatchewan with Canadian Blood Services, about how it makes its decisions about hosting blood donor clinics outside the major centres.

Canadian Blood Services operates some blood donor clinics in rural communities. How do you determine where and when

to schedule those clinics?

In our decisions around where and when we run our donor centres we look at a few different factors.

It could be based partially on hospital demand for a particular region or area.

We also look at the costs involved to bring our mobile donation centre.

We know that there are higher costs involved with going out to communities versus having donors come in to the fixed sites that we already operate so that's a factor in the decisions as well.

We look at our schedules and when we're going to go out to different communities or different places for a mobile collection event, we want to ensure that our

schedule is very consistent because the demand for blood overall it quite consistent day over day, week over week. It doesn't fluctuate a lot, so when we're building our collection schedules we take a look day by day, and we're trying to have it as consistent as possible day over day, week over week taking that approach. That is a big part of how we build our plan, and we build them far in advance so as in general the locations that we currently have that we're visiting meet those needs for us in terms of having that consistency in a schedule and that predictability that we're looking for. So we don't go out and do one-off mobile collection events in

our area.

There used to be regular blood donor clinics in our area up until a few years ago. Do you know why that changed?

Not specifically. I can't really speak to specifics beyond what I've already mentioned. We would have looked at some of those communities that we're visiting. We need to ensure that we look partially at the distance from where our collection teams are coming from—that is sometimes a factor in it. Overall, our organization nationally, we've been trying to really focus on the donation centres that we lease or we own. We're trying to drive our donors to those collection centres as much as possible and we're trying to slowly minimize the mobile collections centres.

Would Canadian Blood Services ever consider ad-

justing the schedule to accommodate a request like this one?

No we don't. We wouldn't be coming out. We appreciate that you have a local recipient and it's wonderful that the community is rallying around Lenox and doing all these wonderful things for him. That is amazing. Absolutely amazing.

What could local people do if they wanted to help, or show their support?

For people that might be going to a centre, we do operation collection centres in Brandon, Yorkton, Regina and Saskatoon, so depending where people might be travelling for appointments or for whatever personal activities, we encourage them to make a blood donation a part of that trip if they are going to those communities. They can book ahead at blood.ca or find when the next donation opportunity is. That is all online for them.

The other thing we would encourage people if they are not able to do that—Saskatchewan is a small province, we know people in other communities, so they can advocate for blood donations if they know someone who is living in a community that does have a donation centre. We really encourage people having those conversations.

Continued on page 20

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13 Ways to Kill Your Community

Continued from page 3

8. Live in the Past

To have the ultimate goal of destroying your community (albeit unwittingly most of the time), requires just the right attitude. Although the previous 7 ways to kill off a community are mostly about attitude, living in the past and dwelling on past problems, mistakes and failures will infiltrate the entire community.

These type of folks are usually the most vocal in meetings, the coffee shop, the lounge and sitting around the council table.

They are very skilled at sucking the energy out of creative, forward thinkers. They much prefer arguing about failures than seeking out solutions for the future.

If strangling your community is the ultimate goal, negative attitude is essential.

Hold on to it, live by it and share your thoughts with everyone who will give you a moment's attention.

9. Ignore the Seniors

Ensure that this large, dangerous group is kept in the background and not involved in the community in any way except at their own senior drop-in centre. Even though many of them have money, time on their hands, and are capable of contributing to the wellbeing of the community, many community leaders choose to ignore this community asset. However, successful communities capitalize on their senior population. They realize that seniors are consumers that contribute to the overall economy of the community. They want to be involved in building the community in which they live and want to be active, contributing members of the community. Successful communities don't just keep their seniors, they attract others.

If you are bent on destroying your community, you are best to ignore the seniors. Warehouse them in old folks homes and don't let them get too involved in the community. And definitely don't cater to their needs. Out of sight, out of mind is the best approach.

10. Nothing New

If you want to keep your

community down trodden and in its place, ignore anyone who brings up new ideas.

Communities that seek out ideas, explore options, exchange ideas and seek out ways of working with other communities, the private sector and other organizations discover a whole new world of opportunities.

Businesses often learn to be successful by following the practices of other successful businesses and by regularly seeking out suggestions from employees, suppliers and customers.

Imagine the chaos if a community employed similar practices!

No, you must continue using the same leaders, the same leadership styles and the same ideas over and over again while continuing to expect different results.

11. Ignore Immigrants and Newcomers

Don't go out of your way to attract immigrants and newcomers.

They have such strange ideas and ways of doing

things.

Besides, they dress funny and chatter in a language we can't understand.

Now successful communities don't take this approach.

They wholeheartedly welcome newcomers, including immigrants into their community.

They recognize the benefits of diversity, new skills, the newcomers' work ethic, their entrepreneurial drive and their willingness to invest in their new community.

They are most appreciative to have the opportunity to be part of a safe community.

If you don't want newcomers to get a foothold in your community, the best way to deal with these people is to keep them shut out of civic affairs, make little or no effort to integrate them into the social fabric of the community and keep them in the shabbiest of living conditions. After all, they are 'transients.' They don't think like us, they seem to work all the time and they eat such strange foods—they are really weird. Make them feel different

and excluded and, in due time, they will move somewhere else.

12. Take No Risks

By all means don't take any risks...just keep tight purse strings on the budget and cut wherever you can each year.

Don't even think about trying something that's never been done before.

Taking risks and trying something new can lead to failure, so best just stick with what you have always done and let the government figure out what can be done to attract new people and business to rural communities.

Successful communities are not afraid to take risks and embrace change.

By being creative and taking on a 'can do' attitude, they find that one success leads to another and another.

If you like the status quo and have no stomach for risk taking, you'll be in a good leadership position to keep your community away from all chances of being successful.

13. Don't Take Responsibility

Lack of housing and financial resources, declining volunteerism, high taxes, increased vandalism, people moving to larger centres—are always someone else's fault.

Is your cup half empty or half full? Positive thinking people see problems as an opportunity to make changes, develop new skills, make money, meet new people, create new partnerships, etc.

Negative people are unable to think beyond the problem, they tend to focus on everything that is wrong and have no problem-solving skills.

If you are determined to see your community fail, ensure you and everyone else you know does not take responsibility for any problems in your community...that way, no one will feel compelled to fix anything.

Whatever you do, find someone to blame.

Challenge them to fix the problems but don't take on any responsibility yourself and definitely don't ever offer to work with others to problem solve.

Doug Griffiths will be speaking on 13 Ways to Kill Your Community at the MCC Centre in Moosomin Monday, February 10. Tickets are available at the World-Spectator office (714 Main Street Moosomin, 306-435-2445) and at <http://CFSunrise.eventbrite.com>

There are also tickets for events in Estevan February 11 and Weyburn February 12 available on eventbrite.

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- Shall work well in a team atmosphere, and shall be able to work with minimal supervision
- Shall have a minimum valid Class 5 drivers license

A comprehensive job description and list of responsibilities are available at the Municipal Office by request.

A competitive salary will be offered in accordance with qualifications and experience. The Municipality also offers a comprehensive benefits package and pension plan.

Qualified applicants are asked to submit their resumes stating experience and at least two work related references prior to February 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. local time. Applications can be submitted in person, or forwarded via mail, fax or e-mail to:

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Phone: 306-736-8121
Fax: 306-736-2496
E-mail: rm94@sasktel.net

The Rural Municipality of Hazelwood No. 94 would like to thank all applicants for their interest, however only those under consideration will be contacted.

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Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and his wife Krista visited Kenya on a personal trip with the WE Charity for a week after Christmas.

Moe visits WE College in Kenya

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and his wife Krista travelled to Kenya after Christmas to visit a WE Charity project where they volunteered on construction of a dormitory, interacted with students and learned about the challenges and opportunities that Saskatchewan and Kenya have in common.

We spoke with the Premier on Jan. 9 about the trip.

The interview follows:

How did this trip come about?

It was a personal trip for my wife and I that we went on and why we selected to go with the WE Charity was essentially, my daughter, through her high school years, was involved with the WE Charity

through first raising funds for schools and for health care centers, and then she actually went on a couple of service related missions through her high school years.

The second of those was to Ecuador, where my wife went with her as well.

My wife and I had the conversation about if we were able to get away at some point that this might be something that we want to do as opposed to looking for a sandy beach somewhere, to look for some way we could do a service mission and give a little bit back if you will.

We were able to have the opportunity to go to Kenya.

We left on Boxing Day for about a week and we were happy to go with the WE Charity or the We Organization and spend a couple of days working on a dormitory

for the college, so mixing cement and tying rebar and lugging cinder blocks around and placing those.

We had the opportunity to tour a few communities that are part of the school system there, the WE Charity School System or the Kisaroni Group of Schools as it's known.

We attended a graduation and both my wife and I had the opportunity, myself for two days, and herself for one day, to engage with some of the college kids.

Were you able to interact with the students and share some of your knowledge?

I think it was more of myself sharing some of our experiences, I was with the agricultural students, my wife with the

nursing and nurse practitioner students—she's a pharmacist.

We shared some of our experiences here in the Province. How we produce food and some of the methods we are that we are utilizing in the way of fertility and agronomy.

Obviously at a very different scale as we have a market-based agricultural system. In Kenya, they are very much producing food for essentially what is their family and their extended family.

But also for these students to share some of their experiences with respect to producing food in Kenya and more specifically the goals of producing food when you are producing it for your family as opposed to for export.

Continued on page 12

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Edmonton Oilers snapshots: Expectations raised for defenceman Ethan Bear

Ethan Bear was not expected to play as much or as well for the Edmonton Oilers this season.

Going into the second half of the year following the NHL Christmas break, the rookie defenceman is hoping to build on his first 40 games of the year.

Bear was back in his usual position on the blue line alongside Darnell Nurse when the Oilers hosted the Calgary Flames at Rogers Place on Friday, Dec. 27 in the first game back from the break.

"I felt good right from the start until the break," Bear said prior to the game. "Through the whole season, I was just trying to stay even-keeled. I'm just focusing on the next day. No matter what happened the night before, whether it's good or it's bad, I try to take the good, learn from my mistakes and just try to improve."

"As a young guy, I want to have a long career here in this league and there is a lot of work to do and a lot of consistency that has to happen."

Bear, 22, was pegged to start the season in Bakersfield and gain another year of experience at the AHL level. However, an injury to Adam Larsson in the first game of the year opened the



The Edmonton Oilers' Ethan Bear (74) and Darnell Nurse (25) prepare for a defensive zone face-off against the Florida Panthers during first period NHL action at Rogers Place, in Edmonton Sunday Oct. 27, 2019.

door for Bear to earn himself an everyday role with the Oilers. He's exceeded expectations this season, although the rigors of the NHL may have caught up to him a bit heading into the Christmas break.

"He kicked the door open with the opportunity he got and he ran with it," said Oilers head coach Dave Tippett. "With the injury to Larsson, he came in and played well. Expectations go up when you play so well and he got to a

point where we loved the way he was playing.

"Is that realistic to maintain over 82 games? Probably not. He came back a little bit, but that being said, he still plays important minutes for us. He's had a couple of games where there's been some bumps in the road, but you can say that about a veteran player too."

Bear credits his success this season to proper preparation during the summer. He was selected by the Oilers in the fifth round (124 overall) of the 2015 NHL Entry Draft and afforded the time to develop. He returned to play his final two years of junior with the Seattle Thunderbirds before joining the Condors in 2017.

Last season, Bear had six goals and 31 points in 52 games in Bakersfield. He went into the game Friday with four goals and 12 points for the Oilers this year.

"It starts in the off-season, just working hard and just preparing my body and myself mentally for what can happen for what we can do," Bear said. "I'm happy with the way everything is going and I just want to stay focus on what's gotten me here and keep working hard and just stay on track."

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New decade, new approach to depression

More Joy Regina to be held January 29

A new decade deserves a new attitude toward mental health, according to Saskatchewan author and journalist Christalee Froese from Montmartre.

That new attitude is all about dealing head-on with depression and anxiety and recognizing that none of us is alone in our mental health struggles.

The founder of the More Joy Movement says it's time to take mental health out of the shadows because keeping it hidden has led to an epidemic of social issues.

"My dream is to make mental health an everyday topic that includes what might be causing us problems, but also discussion about coping strategies and how normal it is to struggle with anxiety and depression," she says.

After suffering a nervous breakdown in 2011, Froese embarked on a two-year joy project to restore the happiness she'd lost. In 2018, the book outlining her journey was released, becoming her publisher's bestseller in just three weeks.

While touring with Journey to Joy, Froese was made profoundly aware of how many people across the province struggle

Clint's suicide attempt, an attempt that left a bullet lodged in Clint's skull. The NHL goalie has written a book, *The Crazy Game*, which outlines his life-long struggle with mental-health issues from anxiety and depression to OCD and PTSD.

"Don't suffer in silence. You will be surprised at how many people can relate to your struggles," says Clint, whose neck and carotid artery were slashed by a skate in a 1989 game when he was in net for the Buffalo Sabres.

Clint and Joanie are also part of the brand new More Joy Coping Card project taken on by Froese in partnership with the University of Waterloo's Tina Chan. The cards are a set of 30 hand-sized mental-health reminders on a key ring. The front of each card has quick reminders while the back has researched advice.

"I'm so thankful to so many professionals and regular anxiety/depression sufferers who worked with us to create a very practical set of tools that can be used anywhere, at any time to help people get through tough days, panic attacks or feelings of inadequacy and being over-



More Joy Coping Cards go on sale at More Joy Regina:

Contributors include Clint & Joanie Malarchuk; Olympian Silken Laumann; Humboldt bus crash survivor Tyler Smith and Steeped Tea founder Tonia Jahshan.



The Saskatchewan Science Centre will be providing this photo booth and two others for More Joy Regina on Jan. 29.



with mental health issues. Her response was to start 'The More Joy Movement' which hosts mental-health events and gathers joy-seekers together for a More Joy Challenge on Facebook.

The second annual 'More Joy Regina' event will be held at the Conexus Arts Centre on Bell Let's Day, Jan. 29. It will bring together provincial mental health professionals, depression/anxiety speakers and mental health organizations to offer the public real-life experiences and treatment options. The four-hour evening is a fundraiser for the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Regina Branch.

Keynote speakers Clint and Joanie Malarchuk will tell their story of surviving

whelmed," says Froese.

While More Joy Regina is on Bell Let's Talk Day, Froese said the event is about so much more than simply talking. It's about getting real solutions and doing it in a joyful atmosphere. Joy will come in the form of a Steeped Tea Bar, a Serenity Lounge, a Cookie Bar and JoyLab photo booths provided by the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

Tickets to More Joy Regina are \$55 for adults and \$25 for university and high school students. They are available online at morejoy.ca or at these locations: Montmartre Pharmasave; Canadian Mental Health Association, Regina, 1810 Albert St; and Prairie Psychology, Regina, 2230 Lorne St.

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Moe visits WE College in Kenya

Continued from page 9

It was an interesting dialogue—I would call it more back and forth and then also at the same time we had the nursing students and nurse practitioner students in the same room to talk about some of the other challenges that we have in communities on both sides of the world. In educating and recruiting health care professionals, for example, into rural areas of Kenya is somewhat at a very different level but a similar challenge that we have experienced here in Saskatchewan.

We're having that challenge in Moosomin right at the moment.

Absolutely. As different as we are in culture and way of life, some of our challenges aren't that far apart and it was an interesting dialogue and it was a real rewarding mission or time for both my wife and I and much of that was due to the generosity and just how kind the people were.

Whether they were the students or just the general people in the community that we had the opportunity to meet it was a great time for Krista and I, a great time with a successful and impactful Canadian charity, in the WE Charity and it was a great time for us to meet a number of new people.

Did you have a particular interest in Africa or Kenya or did you talk to WE and say we would like to see one of your projects somewhere and they came up with the idea or how did it work?

My wife and daughter had been to Ecuador. And then the other areas the WE Charity is doing significant amounts of work—they are doing it in many areas—but in Kenya is and in India they have a very mature footprint. It worked out that we were able to go to Kenya and we were thrilled to do so.

It was great. I really looked forward to it. I had talked with the organization previous to this and talked to them about the importance of agriculture in Kenya and what WE College was doing there and could I have an opportunity to interact with those students, and for me that was a lot of fun and a highlight.

How big of an institution is the WE College?

It's an institution that was built by the WE Charity. The pillars that the WE Organization has are education, health, food security, water security and opportunity.

All of those are necessary to have. Education, first of all, K-12 education. Being a mature footprint that the WE Charity has in this Kenya area, they have also built a hospital, a fully functional and operational hospital and they have also built a college.

In that college they are offering a number of different programs. Tourism is one of those, given the safaris that

happen in that area, tourism is big.

They have an agricultural college as well and a nursing college and what is essentially the equivalent of our nurse practitioners. So that is the extent of the college that we were able to see and it was time really well spent from our perspective.

Did you have a lot of time to interact one and if so what did you learn?

Yes we did. Myself, I had the opportunity to interact with the agricultural students for two days. One day out at the actual agricultural college where they have some greenhouses and such and the second day at the main campus where we had also some of the nursing and nurse practitioner students available as well and my wife was part of that interaction.

It was great to talk about different agronomic practices that we are using here, and the scale obviously is very different in Saskatchewan than the scale of agriculture in Kenya, but at the end of the day you're both trying to grow a healthy plant and the difference is how many plants you are actually trying to grow.

It was a great interactions. For example, to visit an actual farm where they're incorporating some of the work that the WE College and the agricultural portion of the WE College has been working on where they will have a little bit of production of maize, for example, in one field they will have a few cows, two of them might be dairy cows where they can sell a little bit of the milk but provide milk for their family and then they have a kitchen garden, that is very close to the home, where they will take a little bit of produce out every day or two to actually eat but replanting it on an ongoing basis.

Where we have a grocery store and a fridge, in the rural areas of Kenya they have a kitchen garden where they retrieve their vegetables from. It was a learning experience on both sides, I hope the agricultural students were able to learn a little bit from myself on how we pay attention to research and crop varieties and fertility in general agronomics to increase and expand our production, but it was also a learning experience for me to discuss with people a culture and an area of the world that is very much closer to that farm to plate scenario.

What's your take away from the trip? Did it give you any insight or change your perspective at all?

For sure it does.

I think one of the things that it just reminds me of is that it's incumbent on us to share information around this world.

To share information to enhance food security in other areas of the world.

To share information on what's working and educating



our next generation.

We have very different cultures and very different circumstances but often our challenges are very similar.

We have water security challenges here in rural areas of this province that we work on through building new water treatment facilities for example where they are doing very similar work, at a much smaller scale in the rural areas of Kenya.

We talked about the access to medical professionals in our community isn't that different. Although the scope and scale of what is expected of our medical community is different, from rural Kenya to rural Saskatchewan, we both are challenged with access to medical professionals.

But for sure the largest take away that I will take from last week of Krista and I serving on this service mission is the proportional generosity and kindness of the people.

It was incredible. It was absolutely incredible how kind each and every person was that we bumped into, whether they were students or families, and just the generosity that they provided us in our time there was great.

The only other mention I would have would be the thirst for and the appreciation for access to primary and secondary education.

It was incredible.

It was a great trip, very rewarding for my wife and I and I'll definitely consider it again through a wonderful Canadian charity like the WE Foundation.

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AMM taking Energy East resolution forward



AMM President
Ralph Groening

The RM of Ellice-Archie brought forward a resolution of support for Energy East to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities at the 2019 convention, which was passed with overwhelming support. Editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Association of Manitoba Municipalities president Ralph Groening about the next steps now that the resolution has been passed.

How did the debate go on this resolution?

There was somewhat of a discussion. The vote results ended with 94 percent support of the delegates.

We were, I would say, surprised but there was good support for the resolution from the delegate group.

What does the AMM do with that resolution at this point? Where does it go from here?

Well what we typically do with the resolution is that we direct that to the government department that covers that area and we would be asking for comments from the government.

We do know is there will be a lot of interest, and I have talked to the president of SARM, Ray Orb, about this.

He was following that resolution with interest because it is very important to Saskatchewan.

We will advocate to support this resolution through the Western Economic Solutions Task force, WEST.

I would want to roll the successful Energy East resolution into the WEST initiative that was taken up by FCM, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

They struck a task force and I sit on that, as is Ray Orb from SARM and Gordon Barnhart from SUMA.

The role of WEST is to identify solutions to the economic uncertainty facing communities in the Prairie provinces. That was the central directive of this task force that was struck.

I think the two are related—the energy and pipeline situation and economic uncertainty—and SUMA and SARM are both very interested in Manitoba's position, and so we will as an organization be more supportive of the challenges, whether it's Energy East or something else.

Continued on page 19

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After meeting with Minister Warren Kaeding: Moosomin physician shortage solved

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
A temporary physician shortage in Moosomin has been solved after community representatives and Dr. Wessell Roets of the Moosomin Family Practice Centre met with Minister of Rural and Remote Health Warren Kaeding in December.

The lack of an adequate number of physicians led to the closure of the emergency room at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre in December. Among the new measures:

- A locum physician, Dr. Wemi Jayeoba, is already in place and will be in Moosomin for three months.

- Two physicians under the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment program are expected to arrive in Moosomin by mid-January.

- The provincial government will fast-track the arrival of a South African physician recruited by the Moosomin Family Practice Centre, who is expected to arrive this summer.

- A nurse practitioner, Jenna McBryan, is working with the Moosomin Family Practice Centre. A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is a Registered Nurse who works in a primary health setting, has additional education and training, writes a national qualifying exam or has passed stringent requirements for licensure, and is licensed by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association as an independent practitioner. A Nurse Practitioner can diagnose and treat common medical illnesses and chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and

COPD, can order tests such as laboratory tests, x-rays and ultrasounds, can perform common procedures such as removal of moles, excision and drainage of abscesses and suturing of simple wounds (cuts), and after assessment, can prescribe medications.

Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson says he is happy with the response after the local group met with provincial representatives.

"The Deputy Minister got back to me to let me know that the two SIPPA doctors can start in mid-January if they pass their final test, we have the locum working now, the nurse practitioner is working—she is in the clinic now," he says.

"The doctor from South Africa we have been working on bringing here, it was looking like it could be up to a two year process, but the Deputy Minister said it looks like they could get him here by the end of July, and the only thing that would hold him up was immigration. He has a wife and a child so hopefully we can help them become part of the community."

Tomlinson said he was impressed by the response from the provincial government.

"They are doing everything they can for us. They listened to us, they heard what we are saying, and they are working with us."

Tomlinson said the community needs to keep working hard to keep ahead of the physician situation. "The community engagement group has to keep working on it. It has to be something we keep working on."



A shortage of physicians led to the closure of the emergency room at the SEICC in Moosomin for three days in December.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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2019 YouthBiz Winners Announced



Assiniboia Park Elementary – Teresa LaFoy of Community Futures Sunrise presents Mr. Kevin Butz’s grade six class with an Achievement Award for their Detailed Sales Calculations



St. Michael School – Verna O’Neill presents Ms. Kennedy Loreth’s grade six class with an Achievement Award for Eye-Catching Logos



Macoun – Achievement Award for Product Quality Standards. From left, Verna O’Neill, Alyssa Schweigert, Ashley Neb, Aisha Block, teacher Ms. Nicole Rogalski



Spruce Ridge – Achievement Award for Innovative Business Idea. From left, teacher Mr. Graeme Summers, Hope Bod, Mhio Tallayo, Verna O’Neill of CF Sunrise



Carievale – Achievement Award for Community & Market Description. From left, Christina Birch of Community Futures Sunrise, Hannah Adams, Jersey Barber, teacher Ms. Stephanie Galloway



Midale, Second Place in the Grade 9-12 category. From left are Verna O’Neill, Rhea Sturgeon and Jaylyn Prawdzik. First Place in the Grade 9-12 category: Rebecca Bleasdale and Jennifer Wiebe, teacher Ms. Jacinda Drew

Winners for the 2019 YouthBiz competition have been announced! \$2,200 in prize money was awarded to students in southeast Saskatchewan for their efforts in describing their business ideas and developing business plans. This year, 212 students from 12 schools registered to compete in the youth contest. YouthBiz is a program offered by Community Futures (CF) Sunrise.

In the Grade 6-8 category, first place and \$500 in prize money was awarded to Brynn Fettes and Ashlyn Becker of Radville for their horse riding and training business, Broken Spur. Second place and \$300 went to Sadie McFadden and Harper Stewart of Radville for their marine education centre, Biology Bay. Third place and \$150 was awarded to Vianne Marquart of White City for her sports store, Sticks ‘N Rings Ringette Shop.

In the Grade 9-12 category, first place and \$500 went to the Entrepreneurship 30 class at Weyburn Comprehensive School for their business Soup ‘R Snacks. Jennifer Wiebe and Rebecca Bleasdale of Midale earned second place and a prize of \$300 for their business Infinite Designs. Third place and \$150 was awarded to Rhea Sturgeon and Jaylyn Prawdzik for their company Bunnyhop Cafe.

“This is the 13th year for YouthBiz and over the years we’ve seen approximately 2,600 young people in southeast Saskatchewan discover the world of small business. YouthBiz allows students to explore the business world by developing skills needed to be an entrepreneur. They write about a business idea that they’ve dreamed up and evaluate the potential profitability of their venture. Students work hard to develop their business plans, and they connect with the small business community as they research their ideas. Teachers and students agree that they learn so much from their participation in YouthBiz,” comments Verna O’Neill of CF Sunrise.

Achievement Awards were given to students whose entries displayed outstanding qualities, worthy of special recognition. Students from Assiniboia Park Elementary School in Weyburn earned a group award for the Detailed Sales Calculations they performed on their Income Sheets. Hannah Adams and Jersey Barber from Carievale won an award due to the excellent Community and Market Description in their business plan. Aisha Block, Alyssa Schweigert and Ashley Neb from Macoun described the high Product Quality Standards of their market garden products, earning an award for their efforts. An award for Product Prototypes went to Elora Holman and Hallee Shaver from Estevan for the doghouse prototypes they built in preparation for their YouthBiz contest entry. The award for Innovative Business Idea was won by Mhio Tallayo and Hope Bod of Estevan for their compost business, Fertile Acres. The grade six class at St. Michael School in Weyburn won an award for the Eye-Catching Logos they submitted with their YouthBiz entries.

YouthBiz winners and samples of their entry materials are featured on the CF Sunrise website: www.cfsask.ca/sunrise. Special thanks to the mentorship provided by schools in the region, and the generous support of sponsors: Information Services Corp., Weyburn Credit Union, Affinity Credit Union and SaskTel.



Ecole White City School – Third Place in the Grade 6 – 8 category. From left, Verna O’Neill of Community Futures Sunrise, Vianne Marquart, teacher Mr. Paul Massier.



Pleasantdale – Achievement Award for Product Prototypes. From left, teacher Mr. Kyle Vibe, Hallee Shaver, Elora Holman, Verna O’Neill of CF Sunrise



St. Olivier – Second Place in the Grade 6-8 category. From left are Verna O’Neill, Harper Stewart and Sadie McFadden. First Place in the Grade 6-8 category: Ashlyn Becker and Brynn Fettes, teacher Mrs. Lisa Fisher



Weyburn Comp School – Verna O’Neill presents Mrs. Margot Arnold’s Entrepreneurship 30 class at WCS with First Place in the Gr 9-12 category.



Southwest Business & Entrepreneur Expo coming up Feb. 12

The Municipality of Souris-Glenwood, RM of Pipestone, Town of Virden, RM of Wallace-Woodworth, Town of Melita, Municipality of Grassland, RM of Sifton, and Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester have come together to organize and facilitate the Southwest Business & Entrepreneur Expo.

The goal of this expo is to attract and support new and existing entrepreneurs in the region. An exhibition area will be available to registrants. "The expo is geared to showcase numerous services available for entrepreneurs in different stages of their business life cycle," says chairperson, Iris Vercaigne, Economic Development Officer, Town of Melita. There will be learning sessions from industry experts throughout the day. These sessions will

provide innovative ideas and tools to succeed in the competitive business environment.

Another unique feature of this event is the Business Pitch Competition. This is open to start-up entrepreneurs and existing ones looking to expand. Aside from receiving feedback from the expert panel of judges, they will also get a chance to win cash prizes.

The Annual Southwest Business and Entrepreneur Expo is scheduled on February 12, 2020 at the Enns Brothers Place, Melita, MB. Sponsorships are a key element to the success of this event. "We are fortunate to have a very supportive business resource sector and so far have been successful in arranging funds from various sources, such as financial institutions and govern-

ment agencies," says Vercaigne. The committee will continue to pursue sponsorships for the event including tradeshow booths in the next coming weeks. "We would like to encourage business to business interactions as well as business resources that are available," says Vercaigne. Anyone interested in the expo as an exhibitor or sponsor is asked to notify the committee at their earliest convenience.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Iris Vercaigne 204-522-3413 or Echo Finlay at 204-741-0631. You may also visit their website swbusinessexpo.com or find them on Facebook @SWentrepreneurexpo. All updated information about the event and sponsors will be posted there as it becomes available.



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AMM taking Energy East resolution forward

Continued from page 13

The two are linked and we will certainly have the discussion with the provincial government on this resolution.

As a matter of fact, we have already met. I did meet with the premier last Monday. We had an opportunity to talk about the task force.

He is very frustrated about the barriers to interprovincial trade and this falls into that category as well.

He wants to nudge the provinces into facilitating more movement of goods and services and oil and other resources.

We will be presenting this resolution to the WEST strategic task force chaired by Randy Goulden and we will ask to have the resolution put on the agenda or at least have a discussion about it and how we can collectively try to move resources across this country, and that of course connects to Energy East.

You said in response to my first question that you were surprised by the level of support for the Energy East resolution. Why were you surprised?

I was surprised and I was encouraged. We had discussions with the proponents of Energy East and we met with them as an executive a number of times. We've always been ready to provide quiet support but never before have we had a resolution that directly focused on supporting Energy East, so when we saw that we weren't sure what to expect, but the delegates spoke and there we are. We have a successful resolution to carry forward.

Getting certain resources to market is a huge issue in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Does Manitoba have some of those same issues in terms of getting products to market?

Well we do have a resource sector in the western part of Manitoba, with the oil, and the resolution came out of some of those municipalities, so there has been an impact and we've heard about the impact of the slowdown in the resource

industry and the need for the ability to move resources.

We hear complaints about rail movement, as opposed to a safer way to move product, which is by pipeline, and interestingly enough we also had discussions with groups that are in support of the Energy East resolutions because of the service sector. Manitoba provides, as do other provinces, a lot of the services industry that is needed to support the resource industry. So all of this is good. We are impacted and are rolled into the problems that Saskatchewan and Alberta have, but not to the same degree.

Are you optimistic that this resolution will make a difference in some way?

Well it will allow AMM, myself and our executive, to add our voice at the task force table with the leaders from the rest of the country.

It does give us the authority on behalf of our membership to speak out in support of not only oil and gas—this economic solutions task force deals with all resources. That is why B.C. is a part of it.

To your question about how are we going to respond to this resolution, we can now confidently advocate more aggressively in support of the challenges that Alberta and Saskatchewan have had.

We meet with the leaders of Alberta and Saskatchewan annually, with the presidents of their municipal organizations.

We now have extra incentive to speak in support of, and to work for, some of the work that Saskatchewan and Alberta are doing together with this task force.

We are very hopeful and somewhat confident that together with our voice and this resolution, it just adds to the message coming from Western Canada.

I know this task force did meet with the prime minister and the deputy prime minister—they did meet with both Freeland and Trudeau—so that gives some sense of at least the beginning of a willingness to talk.



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by Lauren Gunderson



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Keeping Lenox Safe group had hoped to arrange clinic: Canadian Blood Services says it can't arrange Moosomin clinic

Continued from page 7

Most people say blood donation is great, but when asked why people don't donate, it's because they haven't been asked or they might not have that personal connection.

You guys have a really great example of the unfortunate circumstance in your community. You're seeing the need. If people can share that with their friends and family in other communities, and encourage them to go down to our donation centres that exist we appreciate that, and it goes such a long way in trying to educate the public and help us get more new donors to those places where we already operate.

We also have our stem cell program. Primarily we're looking for males between the ages of 17 and 35, so if there are people that fit that criteria all they have to do is go online at blood.ca and there is a stem cell section. A kit can be mailed out to them. They swab their mouth and they get registered, so that is another way to help.

Lastly, people can make financial donations through that program if they want to raise funds to support something specific—there is that opportunity as well.

Generally is the amount of donations that come in enough to meet your needs or is there a time of year or circumstances when there is a greater need?

Yes. Right now, our inventory is very strong nationally.

Christmas, the holiday season, is a very difficult time for us specifically because of platelets. Platelets have the shortest shelf life. They have a seven-day shelf life.

We tend to see around the holiday season our appointments drop off so we don't have as many appointments booked as what we normally would and we really need to get the message out around the holiday season that we need donors to continue to

come.

Our hours change very slightly over the holiday season but in general we're open most days because we need to continue to collect to make those platelets to ensure they stay on the shelves.

That is often our biggest focus around that holiday season.

In general we've got a strong inventory, we're meeting the hospital inpatients' needs but we need to make sure that people

understand that it is that consistency that we need.

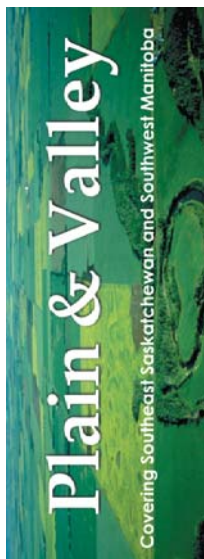
Sometimes life's events change little bit for us and we need to continue to remind people about that.

The other thing that we're really looking for is new donors overall, so we're looking to expand our donor base so we have more people that are donating as a lot of our really dedicated donors tend to be a bit older.

As they get older sometimes different medical

conditions or life situations might prevent them from being able to donate anymore. We need to ensure that we have enough people that continue to come in to take their spots but also we would like to have a bigger base overall to ensure that we continue to meet the needs.

It's amazing what your community is doing for that little boy, and those are some of the ways people can help through Canadian Blood Services.



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Some taxes increasing, some decreasing

Most taxpayers will see little change in 2020

By KEVIN WEEDMARK
With an increase in the basic personal amount which should lower taxes, but an increase in the carbon tax and CPP deductions, most Manitoba and Saskatchewan residents should see total

taxes for 2020 similar to last year.
We spoke with Todd MacKay, Prairie Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation about tax changes in this new year.

For the typical person in Manitoba and Saskatchewan with the small increase in the personal amount but then the increases in CPP and carbon tax, does it end up evening out or is there a slight tax advantage in the New Year?

It is always going to vary a little bit depending who you are and your personal circumstances, so on one hand the federal government deserves a little bit of a thumbs up for increasing the basic personal amount, basically the amount of money that you can earn tax free before taxes kick in. That is going to save people money and that's really important.

It's particularly helpful for people at the low end of the scale. That money could be pretty meaningful, so good for them.

This was an important promise, it came out in the campaign and they moved on it almost immediately, which is really good to see, and actually when we are looking back at the campaign, there were a lot of shenanigans obviously in that campaign—I think everyone was pretty happy to see it over—but the two major parties came forward with important income tax cuts in their platforms. Obviously the Liberals won and they implemented their tax cut almost immediately.

We always talk about the issues that divide and the negative things, but it is good to see across the political spectrum a commitment to cutting income taxes for

ordinary Canadians and it's good to see some of that coming through.

I understand the plan is to keep increasing the basic personal amount until it reaches \$15,000?

That is correct, so we've got some more income tax cuts scheduled for the future. Promises and politicians don't always go together for the long term so the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation will have our work cut out to make sure those promises actually happen, but it is good to see the promises.

How much is saved for the average person with the increase in the basic personal amount and how would that compare to the increase in the carbon tax and the increase in CPP that people will be paying as well?

The CPP contribution is going up—they are raising them every year. This is year two out of five, and so for a lot of people the lower income tax is offset with higher CPP contributions and that is really frustrating.

Instead of looking internally for CPP reforms and finding ways to make it more stable for the future, the government is just taking more money from the taxpayers. You get some savings in one pocket and some increased costs in another pocket, and that is pretty frustrating when it's the same taxpayers either way, and then as you note with the carbon tax,

that is going to cost families a lot of money too. When they are heating their homes or taking their kids to school, that can cost a lot of money as well.

Do you know how much that cost the average family? Has anyone done any studies to figure out what the actual cost of the carbon tax is for the average family between heating their homes, driving and everything else that requires power?

That is a good and interesting question and obviously it depends a lot on your circumstances, but the federal government ball parks it as somewhere in the neighborhood of \$400 for the average family. Obviously they want to increase that dramatically over the next few years, but it really depends on your personal circumstances.

For me, for example, I often go days without starting my car because I work from my laptop from home, so it is not necessarily that I am a better person, it's just the nature of my work that I use less carbon, whereas my buddy makes a living pouring concrete, building foundations for people's homes. When he starts his day, he fills the Bobcat full of diesel and he gets hammered with the carbon tax, so that is one of the things that is fundamentally not fair—it is hitting people differently depending on who you are, not because of anything good or bad they are doing in their lives, but rather how they make a living.

Continued on page 23

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FARM LAND NEAR WOODNORTH, MB FOR SALE BY TENDER

The current owners are tendering 2 (two) quarters of farm land South of Woodnorth, Manitoba and North of Reston, Manitoba for sale. Bids will be considered on both quarters as a whole. The land is currently utilized as pasture land. There is not a residence, buildings, granaries, bins or sheds on the property. No mineral rights are included in the sale.

LAND DESCRIPTION:
NE ¼ 15-8-27 and NW ¼ 15-8-27

The ½ section as above has improvements namely:

- A remote watering system consisting of pumps in a dugout servicing 2 (two) remote watering troughs
- Serviced by hydro
- Municipal water curb stop and not on debenture
- 4 strand barbed wire perimeter fence

A package of information is available from the law office by email request to glen@mhmlaw.ca. Persons tendering are advised to conduct their own due diligence and verify all information and title status.

Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the law office of McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell, Box 520, 243 Raglan Street W., Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0, Attn: Glen Harasymchuk; accompanied by a cheque for 5% of tender payable in trust to the law firm to form the deposit on any successful tenders. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Cheques for unsuccessful tenders will be returned. Please include name, mailing address and phone number. The successful bidder(s) will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.

Tenders close Thursday, January 30th, 2020 at 12:00 noon. Closing to be on or before Friday, March 31st, 2020. Purchasers will be responsible for municipal taxes after December 31st, 2019. Purchasers will be responsible for hydro after March 31st, 2020.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba
R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:
NE 1/4 3-5-26 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFERS NOS. 44114BO AND 92685BO.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on February 5th, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be March 16, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until March 16, 2020 and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

Inquiries should be directed to
Henry Dickinson at 204-522-2408.

MH Meighen Haddad LLP
LAW FIRM

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba
R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:
THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 5-5-26 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: ROAD PLAN 301 BLTO (BO DIV) AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be March 5, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until March 5, 2020, and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

Inquiries should be directed to
Mike Elliott at 204-522-8162 or 204-522-0082.

MH Meighen Haddad LLP
LAW FIRM

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba
R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

NW 1/4 21-5-27 WPM
EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS WHICH MAY BE FOUND WITHIN, UPON OR UNDER SAID LAND TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO ENTER THEREON TO WORK AND REMOVE SAID MINES AND MINERALS
Land is fenced with spring fed dugout

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on February 10th, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be March 12, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until March 12, 2020 and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

For further information contact
Ken Voth at 204-665-2427 or 204-264-0082

 **Meighen Haddad**
LAW FIRM

1.1c

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
P.O. Box 397, Melita Manitoba R0M 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

- THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 32-2-29 WPM EXC MINES AND MINERALS**
 - Cultivated
 - Water bowl and fence can be removed
 - Tender to state if the price includes or excludes the water bowl and fence
- SECTION 31-2-29 WPM EXC MINES AND MINERALS**
 - Previously cultivated and currently 3 of 4 quarters in tame grass
 - Fenced around the outside of the section and cross fenced for rotational grazing
 - Shed, 4 hopper bottom bins, 6 watering bowls, portable corral and panels on land
 - Tender to state if the price includes or excludes the bins, bowls, and corral/panels and fences
 - Three surface leases, will assign to purchaser
 - Tenders can be for individual quarters or the full section
- THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 36-2-30 WPM EXC MINES AND MINERALS (SASKATCHEWAN LAND)**
 - Previously cultivated and currently in tame grass.
 - Water trough serviced by water on Section 31-2-29 WPM
 - One surface lease, will assign to purchaser
 - Individual tenders are required on this quarter

LANDS 1, 2, AND 3 AND THEIR SET UP ARE A GOOD OPERATIONAL PACKAGE FOR LIVESTOCK.

4. THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 5-1-27 WPM EXC MINES AND MINERALS

- Cultivated
- Individual tenders are required on this quarter

There are no conservation agreements on any of the land.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on February 28, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be April 2, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until April 2, 2020 and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

 **Meighen Haddad**
LAW FIRM

Potential bidders are advised to call the land owner,
Brooks White at 204-649-2389 or 204-576-3600, for greater detail before tendering.

1.1c

Australian bush fires threatened family's home

Continued from page 5

"It was a huge relief to have everyone safe and our house still standing. There has been an extra challenge as well, we have been without power since Jan. 3 and phone towers have been down most of the time.

"Kangaroo Island is a rural community but it also has a lot of tourism and so when the fire started on January 3 it damaged a very big national park it's called Flinders Chase National Park.

"My husband helped build the visitor centre that they had there 17 years ago and that was totally destroyed in the January 3 fire, as well as boardwalks and three houses for rangers from the January 3 fire. So this is really going to impact Kangaroo Island as far as the economy because then about 20 km from there, a five star resort, Southern Ocean Lodge—and my husband built the stone work there as well 11 years ago—that was completely destroyed as well."

The family lives on a sheep farm adjoining Lois' in-laws' property in a rural area of Kangaroo Island. "We have a property of about 640 acres and my in-laws their property joins us and they have about 1,500 acres.

"This is the driest they've seen for an extremely long time and Scott's parents are in their seventies and they've never seen a bush fire like this ever before. The conditions have changed. It's a really natural habitat for kan-

garoos and koalas. We have a lot of scrub which is road side vegetation and that just adds to the fuel for the fire to get going."

Lois said a lot of firefighters have been descending on the island from the mainland, and water bombers are also being used to battle the wildfires.

"They've got water bombers and there are lots of firefighters. More have come from the mainland last night. So we really have been getting resources from the mainland, but because there are so many spots battling fires it's making it a bit difficult to have enough even with having extra from the mainland, and the mainland has been having fires as well, so it is limited to what we can get.

"They do have water bombers, but until January 3 I believe some of the water bombers had to be grounded because of the visibility. So there are a few things that have made it harder for them to fight the fire as well."

So far all of the family's neighbors appear to be safe.

"Everyone is being evacuated and there are a few neighbors that have water tanks on the back of their pickup trucks and they are staying to help defend against the fires," she said.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to help Kangaroo Island recover. It raised \$39,000 by Friday. It can be found at <https://au.gofundme.com/t/mayors-bushfire-appeal-fund>

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property situate in the MUNICIPALITY of GRASSLAND and described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP
110-11th Street
Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 4J4

Attention: Warren G. Barber, Q.C.

- NE 1/4 11-6-20 WPM
- NW 1/4 11-6-20 WPM
- SE 1/4 10-6-20 WPM
- SW 1/4 10-6-20 WPM
- SE 1/4 9-6-20 WPM
- NE 1/4 3-6-20 WPM
- SE 1/4 3-6-20 WPM

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on any representations made by or on behalf of the Vendor.
- Tenders must be received on or before 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12th, 2020.
- Tenders must be accompanied by a \$5,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
- Tenders may be submitted for the purchase of one or more parcels.
- The land will be sold subject to an existing Lease which expires December 31, 2021. The landlords' rights will be assigned to the purchaser on closing.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be 30 days following notice of acceptance of tender on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender or provide evidence that the balance will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendors. If the balance is not paid in accordance with these conditions, the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- The purchasers will not be entitled to possession of the property until the expiry of the current Lease but will be entitled to the rental under that Lease for the balance of its term.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
- The successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1st, 2020.

For further information or to obtain particulars of the lease,
contact: Tom Moffat @ (250) 465-1365.

 **Meighen Haddad**
LAW FIRM

1.1c



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Some taxes increasing, some decreasing **Most taxpayers will see little change in 2020**

Continued from page 21
 For the average family it might be \$300 or \$400 but for some folks they are really going to take it on the chin and it's really unfortunate.

You get a lot of those folks, people who are building our houses and putting food on our tables and that kind of thing, who are being hit hard with the carbon tax.

And for small businesses there is no refund of the carbon tax.

That's right, and even when you look at the federal government talking about rebates, I think if you are putting your faith in rebates in the long term—you may have a lot more faith in the government than I do—but in any case it's something the federal government likes to talk about a lot, but really what that masks, though, is where this burden is being placed.

Small business takes a huge hit in terms of the

carbon tax. In essence it becomes a small business tax and that is a really inefficient way to raise taxes because you're making it harder for those folks to create jobs in our communities and making it harder to provide services we all need, and that is a not a good way of doing that, and some of the heaviest part of the carbon tax burden is hitting small businesses right on Main Street.

Overall when you look at income taxes, sales taxes, carbon tax, property taxes, is the tax burden going up or down if you look back five or 10 years?

When you look at a five or 10 year horizon, we haven't calculated that, but if you look at the new year perspective it's a bit of a wash because you have that income tax reduction but you got the CPP hitting you on the other side, but then you've got the carbon tax piling that on top, so we're making progress on some fronts but we've got

lots more to fight with reducing taxes.

What is the Taxpayers Federation's biggest priority? Are there certain taxes that you are trying to get the government to bring in line?

Carbon tax is a big one. We are the only non-government group at the Supreme Court fighting the carbon tax in court. We're actually feeling increasingly optimistic about it. I think we've got a legitimate shot at making progress at the Supreme Court.

There are also issues that nobody else is talking about. Deficits continue to run up government debts and when you do that you rack up billions of dollars of interest charges and ultimately deficits are just taxes that are delayed and we are going to end up paying for that. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has been fighting government debt for years. You make progress and then somebody else gets in and they run it up again and then you fight it again, but we will continue to fight it and hopefully we'll make a difference for our future generation.

It looks like the Taxpayers Federation has its work cut out for it in the next few years.

We've had some important victories but I'm never worried about running out of work, that's for sure.

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—Dave Hansen, President & CEO, CANTERRA SEEDS



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Last wooden grain elevator in Indian Head demolished



The last wooden grain elevator in Indian Head was demolished on November 24, 2019. The elevator was owned by Paterson Grain. At one time there were 12 elevators and a flour mill beside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks.

photos by Dan Loran



We built it for Saskatchewan.

Improved wireless services are now available in Glen Ewen!

Thanks to new small cell site solutions launched by SaskTel and the Government of Saskatchewan, the province's largest LTE network will be improved in approximately 100 rural communities by the end of 2020.

A perfect storm for Saskatchewan farmers

If ever there was a time when we needed a strong voice to stand up for our industry, it was this past year. 2019 was a difficult year for farmers and ranchers in this province, and APAS worked hard at being Saskatchewan's agricultural voice at many venues and tables across Canada.

In 2020 we'll dig deep to keep learning about the issues raised by our membership, have productive discussions, and offer constructive solutions to problems facing Saskatchewan producers.

Sask farmers faced weather problems in 2019, and many other issues besides. China closed its borders to Canadian canola, pork, and beef imports. The carbon tax began to affect producers' bottom lines, especially those drying grain.

Crop pricing and grading has become unpredictable. We had yet another rail service disruption.

Farm income is down 45 percent from two years ago and we are seeing the results in the economy. Just talk to the farm machinery dealers; sales have collapsed on many types of equipment.



Todd Lewis
APAS President

Producers using grain dryers were particularly hard hit in 2019 by the added cost of the carbon tax.

It is both frustrating and ironic that one of the most easily recognizable adaptations to climate change—grain drying—has been targeted by the carbon tax.

Without this valuable tool and innovation, many more millions of acres would be left out in Sask fields this winter and tens of millions of bushels of harvestable crops would be at risk of spoilage or prove unsellable due to tough and damp conditions.

In 2020 APAS will continue to work towards car-

bon tax exemptions for essential farm activities such as grain drying and transportation.

Business risk management programming is ineffective to mitigate the current problems. We are experiencing an almost perfect storm of problems in our international trade environment.

The well-documented trade disruptions between Canada and our major trading partners in India, China, Italy, and Saudi Arabia have had a negative impact on the price we receive for our products.

At the same time, our input prices are being artificially supported upwards by U.S. farm policy that is transferring billions of dollars to the American farm sector to mitigate income issues caused by U.S. trade wars.

Saskatchewan producers require a better backstop from both the provincial and federal governments to address the current income shortfalls being experienced by many Sask producers.

APAS will continue to offer up ideas to make current programs more relevant as well as designing new programs to help producers get past our current trade problems.

The results of the federal election make for an interesting lobbying environment at the federal level. We will continue to talk to all political parties at all levels of government.

It is our job to talk about farm policies to the people that form government as well as the opposition. APAS is well situated to lobby a minority government.

We are recognized and trusted as being nonpartisan and look forward to working with Sask MPs as well as all federal parties to improve policies for Saskatchewan producers.

In 2019, APAS retained 98 percent of participating RMs and welcomed nine more transitional members, for a total of 137 RMs.

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years as Saskatchewan's general farm organization in July 2020, these numbers mark an all-time membership high.

We have never been a stronger voice for Saskatchewan producers, and there is no better time to join us.

Todd Lewis farms near Gray, SK.

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GameSense

Instigating community success

Many rural communities are in serious trouble. You may be confident your community is doing fine, but appearances can be deceiving.

It may look viable and well, but most of our rural communities are suffering from population decline and a reduction in the number of businesses.

That trend leads to shrinking tax bases in many communities, which in turn means reduced services levels and no new infrastructure investments, which drives more people and businesses to move out of town . . . and it becomes a vicious circle that spells the end of your community.

If you want a future, you must work on building one, instead of holding onto the past.

You need to realize the world is changing dramatically and your community must prepare for it, and prepare to capitalize on it.

The problem is, most people spend most of their energy lamenting that things aren't the way they used to be, claiming that the future is not going to get any better, and arguing that even if it could be better, it's impossible to achieve anyway.

Those folks declare defeat before they even try. That is the attitude that sabotages our success. Those are the attitudes that kill our communities.

If you want success, you need to be creative and bold in your endeavours.

Frankly, your community needs to discover a little of that risk-taking frontier attitude that made our forebears cross oceans and continents to start a new life, and build a community, in a place they had never even seen before.

You have all the tools and resources you need, and far more than they had when they arrived.

You just need to get up, dust yourself off, and realize that your community is the most important thing worth saving.

If you have a strong community, then your families



Doug Griffiths

can take care of themselves and each other, and that is the foundation on which we build a strong nation.

Often, we think it will all be okay if we can just get the mine or the mill to re-open.

If we can just get some industry to come to town that employs 250 people, it will all be okay . . . at least until they close . . . again.

Your community is not dead because that mill closed, or the mine closed, or because of any business closing.

It's not dead because the chamber of commerce closed its doors, or because a volunteer organization folded, or because the playground equipment is old.

It means you need to get to work on new opportunities, and stop wasting time lamenting the past.

Your community is not even beyond saving when it loses its school. Although losing the school can certainly make your work an uphill battle in the short-term, it is not a death knell for your community.

The world is changing, and it won't be long before the school building itself becomes the old model for educating people.

None of these challenges is insurmountable if you are willing to work, be open-minded and optimistic, and to talk about new opportunities.

And yes, there are always new opportunities.

The real death knell of a community comes when the community newspaper is no longer concerned about the community, when the community and the newspaper no longer support each other, or if the community

newspaper shuts down.

The coffee shop is no substitute; it's the place where truth is rarely spread, and a kind word is rarely said.

It is not the clearing house for wise, informed, and respectful discussions.

Your community newspaper is that place.

Your newspaper instigates and facilitates community wide discussion about the community's future, and in that regard, it can play a crucial role in the work you are about to undertake in making your community better.

You are reading this column because your community newspaper, Plain and Valley, is one of those that has decided it wants to be part of a successful community.

It is ready to instigate and facilitate discussion about the future of your community.

As part of that effort, it will be printing this column every week.

In this column, we will be discussing new ideas and strategies for community success, as well as the attitudes and efforts that lead to failure.

We will be giving you material to help instigate discussion within your community.

We can't do it for you, and this newspaper can't do it for you.

But we can help you, if you are willing to step up and be a part of making your community successful.

This syndicated content is provided by Doug Griffiths, best-selling author and chief community builder at 13 Ways, a company with a mission to push communities to face their challenges to find their unique path to success. For more information visit www.13ways.ca, or we can start the conversation at info@13ways.ca.

Doug Griffiths will be speaking in Moosomin on February 10, Estevan on February 11, and Weyburn on February 12. Tickets are \$20 each and are available online at eventbrite.ca



Photo by Laura Kish

McMillan Motors donates over \$92,000

BY LAURA KISH

McMillan Motor Products has always been involved with the community and donated to many local organizations over the years. In July of 2017 they decided to switch things up. They started a donation program to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

"We thought it would be a fun idea to donate \$150 from every vehicle sold to a local organization," explains Erinn Lemieux. "The donation recipient was chosen by the customer. From July 2017 to October 2019 we have donated \$92,100!"

Forty different communities

were donated to since the program started, including, but not limited to: Kipling, Kennedy, Windthorst, Wawota, Kenosee, Montmartre, Vibank, Grenfell, Moosomin, Whitewood, Carlyle, and Redvers.

"We wrote 111 cheques this year (2019)," explains Lemieux.

"The program has ended but our donations will not. We plan to continue donating to local communities in many ways.

"We are proud to be a local business employing local people and giving back to our local communities," comments Lemieux on behalf of everyone at McMillan Motor Products.

Left: The McMillan Motor Products staff.

Back row, from left: Eric Arthur, Martin Frazer, Tim Dew, Dave Jones.

Middle row, from left: Peter Ludick, Chris Dash, Mark Olson, Erinn Lemieux, Trevor Hack, Adrian Potgieter, Chad Campbell, Paul Ficken.

Front row, from left: Maria Mangalus, Donna Tolentino, Cindy Hoffmann, Sweet Deala, Dominique Sauve, Ward Cummins.

Missing from photo: Andy Cowan, Junel Deala, Brent Olson, and Dennis Cacho.

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Accused in Kin-Ability theft released

Riley Lamontagne-Castillo of LaSalle, Ont. a 28-year-old male released on \$1,000 bail
 Shayden McMinn of Windsor, Ont. a 23-year-old female, released on \$500 bail

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The two accused in the cyberattack on Moosomin's Pipestone Kin-Ability Centre have been released on a total of \$1,500 bail, after having been arrested on a Canada-wide warrant November 27, and brought to Saskatchewan to face charges.

Riley Lamontagne-Castillo, 28, of LaSalle, Ontario, and Shayden McMinn, 23, of Windsor, Ontario were arrested November 27 in relation to a cyberattack in which close to \$500,000 was stolen from the Moosomin Kin-Ability Centre through the agency's payroll system.

A couple of people connected with the Moosomin Kin-Ability Centre travelled to Yorkton to see the court appearance.

Saskatchewan Legal Aid staff solicitor Sunny Cohen, acting for both of the accused, told the court that Lamontagne-Castillo wanted to apologize to the Kin-Ability Centre.

"I know there are people from the Kin-Ability Centre here today," Cohen told the court.

"My client wants to profoundly apologize."

"My client is taking responsibility for what has been done, and he wants to make it abundantly clear that he had no idea that a non-profit organization such as the Kin-Ability Centre was going to be af-



Shayden McMinn, 23, is one of two people charged in connection with cybertheft from Moosomin's Kin-Ability Centre.

ected by this, which would have changed the course of events that have transpired

in the last few months," Cohen continued. "He did want me to express those words of apology and regret." No pleas have been entered yet for the charges.

After Cohen apologized on behalf of his client, Judge Donna Taylor clarified "As I understand it, he is not dealing with the charges today, he is simply dealing with the release."

Judge Taylor imposed several conditions on both the accused with their release.

Lamontagne was released on a \$1,000 cash recognizance, was ordered to keep the peace and be of good behavior, appear before the court when required to do so, report to a probation officer within two working days of his release from jail, and continue reporting as required to do so by the probation officer or his or her designate, to report directly to the John Howard Society when he arrives back in Windsor (which will supervise his bail), to not change his residence, to remain at his home from 11 pm to 5 am each evening, to have no contact with co-accused Shayden McMinn, and to not access a specific bank account without permission of the RCMP. The bank account specified is where the stolen funds were allegedly deposited.

McMinn was released on a \$500 cash recognizance, was ordered to keep the

peace and be of good behavior, appear before the court when required to do so, report to a probation officer within two working days of her release from jail, and continue reporting as required to do so by the probation officer or his or her designate, report to the John Howard Society when she returns to Windsor, to remain at her home from 11 pm to 5 am each evening, to participate in any assessments and programming for mental health or learning challenges as instructed, and to have no contact with co-accused Riley Lamontagne-Castillo.

The matters were adjourned to Moosomin provincial court on Tuesday, February 4. The accused or lawyers working on their behalf will have to appear in court in Moosomin that day.

The Pipestone Kin-Ability Centre discovered a breach of their payroll system on October 1. A Canada-wide warrant was issued for the two suspects on October 3 after extensive investigation by Cst Jonathan Berkshire of the Moosomin RCMP.

The attackers allegedly gained unauthorized access to acquire hundreds of thousands of dollars, used for general operations and employee wages. The amount taken was between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

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