

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

June 2012 • Volume 5, Number 6



Leslie-Ann Kroeker Photo

Workers are busy sinking the new service shaft in Scissors Creek. The shaft is the first one to be built in Saskatchewan in 30 years.

PotashCorp Rocanville continues expansion

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER

Within two years, the massive \$2.8 billion expansion at PotashCorp Rocanville will be complete. The expansion is part of PotashCorp's \$7.7 billion program to increase capacity to meet growing world demand. By 2015, PotashCorp will increase its total operational capability to 17.1 million tonnes. A third of that total capacity—5.7 million tonnes—will be produced at Rocanville.

"We were way past just adding something on," said PotashCorp Rocanville General Manager Steve Fortney. "It wasn't an option to do a small expansion, it was really go big or don't do anything. Economics plays a part in it. It's not practical to build a potash mine at less than two million tonnes (a year), and our expansion (will add) 2.7 million tonnes, and that's probably the rate you want to build."

The current demand for potash is approximately 55 million tonnes a year, and that number is expected to increase. "World demand for potash is increasing at about three percent a year. That represents about 1.5 million tonnes of additional capacity required per year. . . That's what is really dictating (our expansion)," said Fortney. "We'll probably be done first quarter 2014. That's pretty good considering we started in 2007. We came out with the time frame in the first few months of the project and we really didn't have the whole project planned out. It was a pretty good estimate but it wasn't based on a lot of science at that time. To get as close as we could—we did pretty good, we feel," said Fortney.

The upgrades include turning the current service shaft into a production shaft, building a new mill and storage facility, expanding the underground mine and building an entirely new service shaft at Scissors Creek.

The new service shaft at Scissors Creek is 16 km from the current mine site. When completed, it will be 1,100 metres deep and will be the shaft that will take workers down into the mine.

"There hasn't been a shaft sunk in Saskatchewan for over 30 years—so really it's a first for everyone," said mine superintendent Vance Thom.

Thom is responsible for all PotashCorp Rocanville's mining activities along with the Scissors Creek shaft sinking.

"Our mine is getting so big and travel distances are so large. The intention was to put a new shaft somewhere where most of our production is going to be in the next 40 years," said Thom.

"The one production shaft we have right now is the bottleneck for the mine. Whatever we can pull up that shaft is all we can produce."

Building a new shaft is not as simple as drilling into the ground; the crew must first be aware of the different geological regions they are drilling into.

The shaft is currently at 610 metres and working through a water bearing formation. In order to get through the water bearing region, the ground must first be frozen so the water will be sealed off.

"We're just over half way down the shaft. We're in the water bearing zone so

we have to put a sealing called tubbing around the edges," said Thom.

Calcium chloride at minus 30 degrees Celsius was circulated into 32 holes in the ground around the shaft. It took nine months to freeze the surrounding ground so that workers could drill through it.

Right now, workers are placing steel ring tubbing around the diameter of the shaft from the 610 metre level up to the 420 metre level. Each ring has 11 pieces of steel about a metre and a half high. With every three rings, cement will be placed behind it. This method will seal off the water once it thaws.

In the next few months, more obstacles will arise for the crew as they get closer to their 1,100 metre mark.

"The next problem we'll run into is in our lower zones. We do have more water bearing zones but they don't hold a lot of water. So they are low flow but high pressure. The challenge ahead will be controlling that water so we can continue sinking down," said Thom.

While shaft sinking continues below the surface, construction is taking place above the surface as well.

"We have to bring in water, water treatment, power lines," said Thom. The power lines that are feeding into the Scissors Creek site are temporary for construction. A new 138 kilovolt line will be coming from the north.

An office building is also being built on site. It will house offices, board rooms, a function hall, showers and a control center that will link directly underground.

When the shaft does hit its final destination of 1,100 metres, it will meet up with the current underground mine.

"Underground right now, we are cutting entries, making our way over to the Scissors Creek area. The plan is to mine our way over and develop that area that the shaft is going down into," said Thom.

When the mine and the shaft meet, there will be shops and warehouses underground so the miners don't have to travel too far to get supplies. By the time the expansion is complete, the number of mining machines will be 11, up from five before the expansion began.

Like the shaft, expanding the mine underground has come with some challenges.

The mine took a detour around a difficult geological area. Instead of going straight to the site, the mine must loop to avoid the area. This means that even though it's a 16 km drive between the two shafts, underground it will be a 25 km drive.

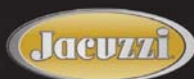
"It's a geological anomaly, otherwise we'd have taken a direct route," said Thom.

Thom said there have been a few issues in the past, but he is confident that the Scissors Creek project is on track.

"It's going okay. We've had some hiccups. We are behind schedule from where we want to be but I think they've got a good handle on what they're doing," said Thom.

In addition to the new Scissors Creek service shaft being built, construction is still underway on turning the existing service shaft into a production shaft at the site.

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Derby time

Rocanville's Gapland Rollers took on Estevan's Hillbilly Hurt on Saturday, June 2, in what was the Gapland Rollers' first home bout of the derby season. After some hard hits and fast skating in the second half, the Gapland Rollers emerged victorious.

Right: A Gapland Rollers player knocks one of the Hillbilly Hury players off the track.

Below: Despite the hard hits on the track, both of the derby teams get together for a picture after the bout, and let out a big cheer.



Kevin Weedmark and Kara Kinna photos



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Mosaic's ninth four-rotor miner left Mosaic's new four-rotor assembly shop recently, clearing the way for the tenth miner that is scheduled to be assembled and in production by October.

Mosaic Esterhazy continues expansion

Synchronizing ore cutting, hoisting with an expanded milling capacity

The expansion project that began in 2008 at The Mosaic Company's Esterhazy K1 and K2 sites is coming to a close. Esterhazy's K2 underground operation will soon be fully-synchronized with the expanded milling capacity on surface.

With the additional milling capacity at K2, the Mill can now process every ore ton that the K2 hoist can deliver. The underground expansion project includes the construction of remote storage bins in the K2 Mine, to streamline the flow of ore to the mill, and two new four-rotor miners. One of the new miners 'trammed' its way out of the new K2 four-rotor assembly shop last week and the second one is scheduled to follow mid-October.

The K2 remote storage area will provide a constant ore supply to maximize hoisting time.

The remote storage bins are scheduled to be commissioned in 2012. The new miners will help ensure that there is enough ore in the storage bins to keep the conveyors loaded 24 hours per day.

Previously, all miners were assembled underground at K1. However, the travel time from the K1 assembly shop to the areas that are currently being mined at K2 - an area that is described as "somewhere east of Carlton Trail Regional Park and a bit south" - is prohibitive.

K3: Focus inward, upward

Mosaic Esterhazy, May 15, 2012 -- A year's work excavating, drilling, and pouring concrete is disappearing out-of-sight as contractors gradually backfill the foundations of the two shafts at The Mosaic Company's K3 potash mine site. Attention is now being turned inward



K2 shop gantry crane: The K2 four-rotor miner assembly shop was built beginning in November, 2009, to facilitate the assembly of two new four-rotor miners.

and upward simultaneously.

The K3 project, approximately four kilometres east of Esterhazy, reached a recent milestone when five units of the freeze plant were powered-up, marking the beginning of the slow gradual process of freezing the ground to a depth of 1,600 feet in preparation for the sinking of the service shaft. The full freeze plant will be in operation in the near future to freeze the production shaft and will remain in operation for approximately two years. It will be shutdown when the shaft excavation has been completed through the Blairmore formation.

A second milestone was marked last week when the service shaft foundation reached grade. Motorists passing the K3 site on Highway No. 22 will soon see both the service and the production shafts rising steadily above the horizon.

The service shaft headframe will rise to a height of

374 feet. When completed, it will be the tallest structure between Calgary and Winnipeg.

The slip-form construction will see the service shaft headframe rise above grade at an estimated rate of 11 inches per hour, as concrete will pour continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until completion.

The service shaft headframe will house what is expected to be the world's largest Koepe hoist.

The production shaft will have a temporary steel headframe designed only for shaft-sinking then egress, at this point in time.

The pre-sink phase of shaft sinking is expected to begin in the coming months, making way for a multi-layered work platform called a galloway to be lowered into the shaft.

This galloway will be used to complete the approximate 3,400 feet of shaft sinking.

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South East Integrated Care Centre in Moosomin: Health Care Foundation proposes addition

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation is asking the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority to conduct a needs assessment to see if more beds should be added to the Southeast Integrated Care Centre.

The health care foundation will make a presentation to the health board when the board meets in Moosomin June 27.

Health foundation chair Bill MacPherson said the foundation has recognized the fact that the facility is too small since it was built.

"We've been talking about it since we had the grand opening," he said.

"It was too small to begin with. The thought in the back of everyone's mind was that that sooner or later we would have to expand.

"If they had given us the 110 bed facility instead of the 85 bed facility we would be in better shape, if we had 42 acute beds and 60 long term, that's 10 less seniors who would have to go out of town when they're ready for a nursing home.

"And if we had the 15 extra beds we should have had to begin with on the acute side, it wouldn't be a problem.

"I've always thought we need 40 or 42 acute care beds. Right now there are 27. They have had people out in the hallways, doctors have to send sick people home to bring in sicker people.

"I think the doctors are getting frustrated. They can't do surgeries because there are never any recovery beds available."

The Southeast Integrated Care Centre was built under a 65-35 provincial-local funding split, with the local area raising \$10 million for the facility.

The Wall government changed the funding formula to an 80 per cent provincial share, but refused to apply the formula to the Moosomin project, which was already under way.

MacPherson said he is hoping the province would be willing to pay a larger share of the cost of an expansion at the SEICC, since the Moosomin area paid the entire 35 per cent share.

"A lot of people think the province owes us, because we paid 35 per cent and everyone since then has been paying 20 per cent.

"The town of Moosomin took out a loan to cover their share, and they'll be paying for that hospital for a long time," he said.

He said he hopes a new addition to the integrated facility could be built within five years.

The foundation is also asking for a review of the status of the Moosomin facility, with the goal of upgrading it to regional hospital status.

The status of the Southeast Integrated Care Centre has been an issue for some time. With hospitals in surrounding communities closing or limiting services, the facility is serving a wider and wider area.

"The funding is different, and the doctors feel it would help them recruit more doctors if this was a regional hospital," MacPherson said.

In addition, the foundation will raise the issue of bureaucratic delays in purchasing equipment for the integrated care centre.

"There is equipment that needed to be ordered and we were asked to pay for," says MacPherson.

Continued on page 8

"This was approved a year and a half ago, but it just isn't getting done. The doctors are asking for this equipment because they need it."

MacPherson said necessary equipment is simply not being purchased.

"This was approved a year and a half ago, but it just isn't getting done. The doctors are asking for this equipment because they need it.

"People are giving us money, there is a need, we are willing to pay for it, but the red tape is getting in the way," he said.

MacPherson believes the problem lies in the health care bureaucracy.

"We've had a good working relationship with the RQHR board, and I have no issues with Sask Health," he said. "There are some bureaucrats in the middle who are holding things up."

The Health Care Foundation currently has about \$700,000, but MacPherson believes municipalities would have to kick in if there were an addition to the health facility.

"With \$700,000 we can buy lots of good equipment, but it's not much for a building," he said.

MacPherson said he is optimistic the regional health authority will initiate reviews into both the need for an expansion of the integrated care centre and an upgrade in status.

"Personally, I think if anybody should get more facilities it's Moosomin," he said. "Everyone's coming to us. The doctors had to do something with the walk-in because they have too many people coming.

"And the way things are happening in Moosomin, why can't we have a regional hospital here?"

"Something has to change. The doctors are getting frustrated."

NEED IS CLEAR

Moosomin Mayor Don Bradley, a member of the Health Care Foundation board, said he believes the need for additional beds is clear.

"We had a meeting of the foundation and all the mayors and reeves were there," he said. "We agreed to request another needs assessment. I don't know how much of a rocket scientist you need to be to know that we need more beds.

"We need 10 more beds. We need a new wing."

He said he hopes the needs assessment can be done as quickly as possible and planning can move ahead for a new addition.

"I hope it goes quickly—the needs are there," he said. "And we need to be a regional hospital. We are anyway—everybody's coming from 100 miles in every direction."

ASSESSMENT WARRANTED

Moosomin MLA Don Toth said he agrees that a needs assessment is warranted.

"I chatted with the mayor and chatted with the physicians, and one of the challenges the physicians face is losing the opportunity to do some surgeries here because there aren't the beds available.

"I always felt we underbuilt it—it should have been a larger facility—but as the former chair of the (planning) committee said to me recently, they had to get something built, so they agreed to what the government was offering."

Toth said he hopes the regional health authority takes the requests from the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation seriously.

"What the medical team will be able to show them is that the area they cover is growing—they have people coming from a long way. With the area Moosomin is

covering, there may be a very legitimate argument for regional status."

Toth said that, as the process moves forward, he will ensure the health minister and premier are aware of the needs in the local area.

"Any time we look at some options I chat with the minister and the premier and make some suggestions of what we can do to meet the needs in health care," he said.

Toth said that the Saskatchewan Party government has been trying to deal with an infrastructure deficit in health care that means there is a backlog of projects for construction.

"Health care in this province is no different than highways," he said. "When we formed government in 2007 there was such a backlog, it's taking a long time to catch up.

"When it comes to a proposal like this, the the region will do their review and look at all the proposals out there, determine their priorities and bring them to us. So it's very important to meet with the region and explain why this is needed."

FORMAL REQUEST

Moosomin town council is sending the

following letter to the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority. The letter was approved at Wednesday's council meeting.

"Dear Board members: The supporting municipalities of the Southeast Integrated Care Centre-Moosomin request that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region consider undertaking a needs assessment of the current facility.

"The previous assessment for this facility took place a number of years ago, and the demographics of this region have changed considerably since that time. SEICC has been consistently at or over bed capacity since it opened in November 2008.

"Our municipality believes that the existing acute care beds need to be reviewed. We may have reached a time when planning to increase the number of acute care beds is necessary.

"We realize that the needs assessment is the first step in determining the need for expansion to the facility and respectfully request the board's consideration.

Yours truly,
Don Bradley, Mayor
Town of Moosomin"

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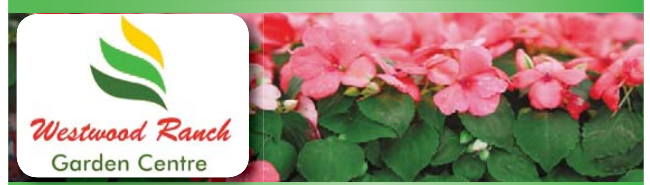
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Meeka - 13 year old collie-lab cross, spayed all vaccinations to date.
Honey & Copper - 6 week old rottweiler lab husky cross, 1 male, 1 female, vaccinations to date.
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Leslie-Ann Kroecker photo
 Elvis impersonator Sylvio Fontaine gets up close and personal with fans Jean Dunsmore, left, and Evelyn Johnston at Rocanville's Community Days celebration on Saturday, June 2.

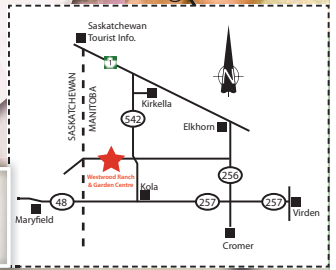


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Elkhorn rallies to help one of their own

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER

For Derek Andert, learning that he had Nasopharyngeal Cancer just days before he finished his first year of heavy mechanics was a shock to both him and his family.

"It's so hard because he just got his own independence, just graduated, just on his own two feet and then he got his feet knocked out," said Andert's foster mother, Tawna McLean.

What makes the situation more difficult is that this isn't the first time Derek has run into medical complications. He was born with a cleft palate and had multiple surgeries growing up. He was constantly in and out of hospitals getting cosmetic correction and a full reconstructive surgery to the roof of his mouth.

Despite the hardships, Derek graduated in 2011 from Elkhorn high school as class Valedictorian. He went to Assiniboine Community College for heavy duty mechanics after high school. The future looked bright for the young foster child.

"He said that, 'being a foster child I could've gone down the wrong path', but he didn't," said McLean.

It was around Christmas time during his first year of college that Andert noticed a lump on the side of his neck.

"He came home at Christmas time and said 'My friends say I have a lump on my neck.' He turned and looked at me and it was right there. It wasn't even a lump, it was a mass on the side of his neck," said McLean.

At first the family thought it was swollen lymph nodes and decided to wait until after Christmas to bring Derek to a Moosomin doctor. But after he endured massive headaches throughout the week, the family took Derek in Boxing Day morning. He was given antibiotics and headed back to Brandon for school.

In Brandon, Derek was conscious of the

"It's so hard because he just got his own independence, just graduated, just on his own two feet and then he got his feet knocked out," —Tawna McLean



Derek Andert was diagnosed with Nasopharyngeal Cancer at the beginning of March. His community of Elkhorn held a social and auction to raise money for medical expenses April 28th

lump and kept an eye on it. He spoke with his foster mother at the beginning of February and told her he'd be home during the February break to go to his doctor again.

"He called me the next morning and said

he was in Brandon hospital and they're operating the next morning. The headaches woke him up and it was all he could do to get to the hospital," said McLean.

"The surgeon in Brandon referred him without waiting for the reports. He knew

he had to get going."

In the first week of March, Derek was diagnosed with Nasopharyngeal Cancer, a very rare form of inoperable cancer. Treatments began in Winnipeg that month.

"It's in behind his nose. It's really rare in North America and it's really rare for someone his age. They say this is something they see in someone 60 or 70 years old who has smoked all their life," said McLean.

"This worked in Derek's favor because the doctors in Winnipeg were excited to treat it because it's such a rare cancer and he's such a young guy to be able to beat it. He ended up going in for an auditorium appointment. He was on the stage surrounded by surgeons, oncologists, nurses and radiologists. We know he's getting the best treatment plan because everyone is getting their two cents in."

Derek has been diagnosed with stage three cancer, something that his foster mom is thankful for.

"The prognosis is good, it's just going to be a hard time getting there."

So far, Derek has had two chemotherapy treatments and 33 radiation treatment along with surgery to insert a feeding tube in his throat because he was having difficulty swallowing water.

His foster dad, Fred, travelled with him to Winnipeg in March and April to be with him for the treatments.

Tawna and Fred have three foster kids and three kids of their own. Having Fred gone has been difficult the past two months.

"Derek had already moved out so the kids were used to him not being around. But their dad has been with him so that's been tough. My kids are used to him being here all the time. . . so that has definitely affected them, but they understand," said McLean.

Continued on page 22

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Viterra shareholders vote for takeover

Viterra shareholders have voted overwhelmingly in favor of a \$6.1-billion takeover of the Canadian agribusiness by a European commodities giant, the company announced Tuesday.

It said 99.8 per cent of votes cast by Viterra shareholders were in favour of accepting \$16.25 per share in cash from Glencore PLC, a Swiss commodities giant.

The federal Competition Bureau has already indicated it doesn't plan to intervene and the vote is one of the final steps before the deal is completed. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is expected to rule after a hearing on Thursday.

"We welcome the response of Viterra's shareholders to the deal," said Chris Mahoney, Glencore's director of agricultural products, in a statement from Baar, Switzerland.

"We look forward to becoming part of the agriculture industry in Western Canada and to contributing to the expansion of the grains and oilseeds sector in those communities now served by Viterra, in Canada, Australia and elsewhere."

The Glencore deal included a side agreement that will see a large chunk of Viterra's business sold to two other Canadian companies.

Viterra was formed several years ago after Saskatchewan Wheat Pool bought Agricore United. The company has since expanded beyond Canada.

Glencore approached Viterra in March as it was preparing to benefit from the end of the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly on the marketing of wheat and barley in Western Canada.

However, a significant chunk of Viterra's business will be sold to two other Canadian companies.

Calgary-based Agrium Inc. will pay \$1.8 billion for the majority of Viterra's retail business.

Richardson International of Winnipeg will also acquire a 23 per cent share of Viterra's grain handling assets in Canada, plus other North Ameri-

can assets.

Glencore has also agreed to keep Viterra's North American head office in Regina.

A report by Informa Economics, commissioned by the Saskatchewan government, said the transaction is likely to improve Saskatchewan farmers'

ability to export their crops worldwide and cement the province's reputation as being open for business.

But it says the deal raises some concerns about competition for crop nutrients such as nitrogen.

The effect on employment in the province is

expected to be mixed and the impact on provincial coffers is expected to be modest.

On Tuesday, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said he expected shareholders would approve the deal but added he was "shocked" by the 99.8 per cent.

"It's pretty one-sided and I guess it shows that

it's a good deal for shareholders at least," he said.

The province gave the Informa report to the federal government earlier this month. It's up to Ottawa to make the decision as to whether or not the transaction represents a net benefit to Canada.

"We're optimistic that it'll be good in the long run," Stewart added.

"It'll certainly be good if

the feds ensure that Glencore establishes Regina as its North American headquarters and maintains at least, or maybe enhances employment in the field and increases capital by \$100 million, like we're asking, over five years in western Canada."

Viterra shares closed Tuesday at \$16, down three cents, on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

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There was lots to do at the Rocanville Community day on Saturday, June 2, including a petting zoo that was popular with the kids. Here Ryder Kingdon meets a donkey at the petting zoo.

Leslie-Ann Kroeker photo



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Demand for Potash around the world keeps rising

Continued from front
Workers are building a new headframe overtop of the old one at the top of the shaft that is being converted at the current minestie.

The new headframe will be 347 feet high. It will be the tallest free-standing building in Saskatchewan when completed. By comparison, the Delta Hotel in Regina, the tallest building in the province, stands at 275 feet.

The head frame was constructed in order to hold the weight of the new 13,000 horsepower motor being built in. It was also needed because of the increased weight it will hoist out of the mine in skips. The skips will be hauling 50 tonnes of ore on each trip, so a solid headframe is needed to support that weight.

"You can't make (skips) bigger around because the hole is only so big underground. You have to make them longer. To hoist the weight and hold the weight of the motor you need a very good structural steel. You also need the extra height to handle the long skips," said Fortney.

Along with the shaft projects, the new mill and the new storage facilities are well underway.

The two massive steel storage buildings are just finishing up construction. The smaller of the two is 311 feet wide and 1000 feet long. It is currently being used for potash storage. The larger of the two is 311 feet wide and stands 1,225 feet long. It will start being used in the upcoming months. The building is one of the largest in North America and will be able to store 526,000 tonnes of potash.

The new mill's structure is being finalized and the next step in that project is to install the equipment. Along with the old mill, the new one will be used to separate minerals. 1500 pieces of equipment will be used when both mills are up and running—this includes pumps, agitators, compactors, force feeder and belts. 17,000 tonnes of finished potash will be produced in 24 hours when the two mills are up and running.

The expansion is having a major impact on employment in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba. PotashCorp has 900 contracted workers and Fortney foresees that number hitting 1,100 in the next two to three months. There is a need for every position, from supervisors to pipe

fitters and administration to cleaners. A new camp was built two kilometres from the site to house the workers and bus them into work everyday.

"We knew that we had to build a camp because we knew that there was no way to keep workers in the community. There was just no place to stay," said Fortney.

Not only does PotashCorp require new contractors to work on the expansion, they also continue to hire permanent workers. The need for workers will increase in the upcoming year because of the increased production.

"We're doubling production, so roughly we need twice as many people to make twice the production. We're part way through adding people but we've still got a ways to go yet," said Fortney.

"Today we have 520 workers on the mine. We're on our way to 670 employees. We started with 370 before we started the expansion."

When all these projects are on the go, the environment is not forgotten. The workers at PotashCorp make sure they clean up their space and the land is one of the highest priorities. Once construction is completed at Scissors Creek, the company plans on cleaning up the site and restoring it to its natural state.

"When we're done we're going to re-tree everything. We're going to clean it up a lot. It will be green again when we're finished here," said Fortney.

Because of the current infrastructure, the expansion can build off of the existing mine that is still producing potash every day. Building a mine from the ground up would have

taken \$4-5 billion. Fortney is confident the startup will run smoothly.

"We're expecting to come in pretty good shape in terms of schedule and cost. We won't know for sure until it's all done. We're using a lot of testing on what we're doing for expansion and we feel pretty comfortable that we'll go through a fairly normal startup. A startup of any plant is a difficult time. We aren't expecting any major issues. To get it to 80 percent production doesn't take too long. To get it 100 percent takes two years," said Fortney.

DEMAND KEEPS RISING
Potash is one of the most sought after resources in the world. Fortney credits this rising demand to the economies of developing countries.

"As developing countries increase their wealth, one of the biggest changes they make is in their diets. The eat more calories and they eat better."

More and more cereal crops are being grown in order to feed the proteins that people are increasingly eating. As more people step away from eating rice, more crops need to be produced to feed chicken, beef and pork. More crops means a higher demand for potash.

"We don't see this stopping in the near future. China and India's GDP is increasing 8-10 percent a year, which is basically driving the economy," said Fortney.

As for the future of the Rocanville Potash mine, Fortney sees no stopping anytime soon.

"We see a pretty stable environment for the next 30-40 years. I'm not foreseeing another expansion but we didn't foresee this one either."

Towering over the Prairie

Work continues on the headframe over the current service shaft, which will be converted to a second production shaft at PotashCorp Rocanville. This photo was taken from atop the mill expansion.

Leslie-Ann Kroeker photo



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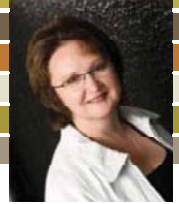
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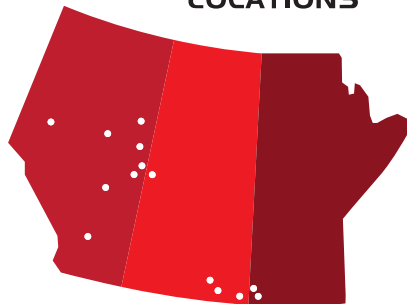
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Scenes from the PotashCorp expansion

The \$2.8 billion expansion at PotashCorp Rocanville is ongoing, and should be finished by late in 2014. Shown here are some photos from the expansion at the existing site and the Scissors Creek site.



This is what it's all about: PotashCorp employee Joel Huberdeu, shows off the final product of PotashCorp Rocanville—granular potash. Producing more of this little pink rock is what the 2.7 billion dollar expansion is all about.



PotashCorp employees check out the new service shaft. From left Noel Morin, Dave Renneberg, Steve Fortney and Vance Thom.

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CP Rail workers sent back to job

Commodity producers are relieved that products such as grain, oil and minerals will be moving again now that operations by Canadian Pacific Railway have resumed after Parliament ordered striking workers back on the job.

The Mining Association of Canada said last Friday its member companies will have a backlog as they rely on rail to get supplies to work sites and products to market.

"So a stoppage for a number of days like we've seen certainly has an impact," said Paul Hebert, the mining association's vice-president of government relations.

"There's no question there has been a cost but we haven't quantified it," Hebert said from Ottawa.

"We're very pleased that we're going to see a full resumption of service."

Hebert said he expects it will take about three days or so to get service fully

restored. The mining association's members include Cameco Corp., Barrick Gold Corp. and Teck Resources Ltd.

CP Rail resumed operations across its entire Canadian freight network at about 7 a.m. ET last Friday.

"Our railway successfully started up operations Friday morning and we are back moving customer shipments across Canada and into the United States," spokesman Ed Greenberg said.

But Greenberg said it will take some time to safely return to full service and catch up on the backlog.

"Throughout this process, our railway will be working closely with customers," he said.

The union representing the 4,800 strikers, the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, asked its members to end their walkout after federal back-to-work legislation became law last Thursday night.

The workers, including locomotive engineers, conductors, yard workers and others, walked out May 23, forcing Canada's second-biggest railway to shut down freight operations.

The Agricultural Producers of Saskatchewan said CP rail moves everything from wheat and barley to canola and flax.

"We depend on them for our living," association president Norm Hall said from Regina.

"We do export so much of our crop and it has to get to export position and that so rarely happens by truck. It happens by rail."

Enovus Energy Inc. said the resumption of rail service will benefit the oil company.

Enovus moves about 2,000 barrels of oil per day by rail from its Bakken fields in Saskatchewan. That's not a lot for a company that produced 156,850 barrels a day in its

most recent quarter, but the Calgary-based Enovus did feel a pinch from the strike.

"We're pleased that this has come to a resolution and we look forward to working with CP," said spokeswoman Jessica Wilkinson.

Federal Labour Minister Lisa Raitt has said it will take weeks to clear the backlog.

As an example, Raitt said there were half a dozen ships waiting in Vancouver to be loaded with Canadian grain bound for foreign markets and that eight more ships were on their way to the port.

The back-to-work law sends the labor dispute to a government-appointed arbitrator, who has 90 days to impose a deal.

The union said that while it disagreed with the law it was advising members to obey it and report for work last Friday morning.

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Above, John Brace, President and CEO of Northland Power, and Guy Bruce, Vice-President of SaskPower cut the ribbon to officially open the Spy Hill Power Station. The peaking station consists of two natural gas turbines that generate electricity when needed.

\$60 million power plant opens at Spy Hill

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
If you drive down a few gravel roads north of the Qu'Appelle Valley around the Tantalton-Spy Hill area, you might find something unexpected nestled among the farms and ranches—a power plant.

Northland Power has built a new 86 MW gas-fired power plant between Spy Hill and Tantalton.

The new plant, built at a cost of \$60 million, is a natural-gas-fired peaking facility consisting of two GE turbines.

The power plant is fired up when demand peaks and SaskPower needs the additional power.

Northland Power owns the plant, and has a 25-year power purchase agreement with SaskPower.

"I'm always amazed by the physical reality of the kind of projects that we put together and build and create," Northland Power CEO John Brace said at the official opening of the plant Wednesday.

"I'm constantly reminded

of the borderlessness of the power industry. There are companies from all over the world pursuing opportunities like this, and construction companies from all around the world who look at opportunities and chase them, and competition, believe me, is very fierce.

"I'm proud of the fact that we're a Canadian company doing a project in Canada, and we intend to do more. We started to look for opportunities in Saskatchewan in 2008. Spy Hill is the first result of that.

"We're also working on construction of a larger gas-fired facility at North Battleford."

SaskPower had issued a call for proposals for the Spy Hill project in 2008. Northland Power was selected for the project and signed a power purchase agreement with SaskPower in 2009.

Brace said Northland found SaskPower and the provincial government easy to work with. "We have power projects in many ju-

risdictions and I can confidently say you've got a great thing going on here in Saskatchewan," he said. He said Northland is in the power business for the long term. "At Northland Power we develop, finance, build, own and operate power projects for the long term. We like to contribute to the communities we're in and we look forward to a long-term future here in Spy Hill."

SaskPower Vice-President Guy Bruce said the Spy Hill generating plant will fill a real need.

"From filling the gaps in times of peak demand, to helping balance the risks associated with renewable power generation, the additional power generated at this facility is crucial to SaskPower's overall electricity supply plan.

"Renewable power like wind is reliant on backup generation. Potential problems like a day with no wind will be mitigated by having more power available at peaking stations just like Spy

Hill.

"The facility will also help fill the gap left when a base load facility needs maintenance or needs to be shut down for any reason."

Bruce said SaskPower was looking for additional generating capacity because of

increases in peak demand.

"This came about as a request for proposals and the reason we issued the request for proposals is because we saw our peak demand for power growing at a fairly rapid rate," he said.

Continued on page 21

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The Spy Hill plant.

Power plant opens

Continued from page 20

"We see our power demand expected to rise from about 3200 megawatts today to 4200 megawatts in five years' time. By 2022 we expect that to be in the order of 4400 mw. so we're in a period of rapid growth here in Saskatchewan.

"While we're adding capacity to our system to keep up with the growth, we're also looking at infrastructure renewal. We've got some aging generating assets and transmission assets that we're also looking at renewing.

"We have a short-term plan that looks at all our requirements in the short term and we're even looking as far as 40 years into the future.

"We have a period of unprecedented capital investment. By 2022 SaskPower

will have committed approximately \$15 billion on capital projects and modernizing and expanding the infrastructure for generating and delivering infrastructure in Saskatchewan.

"Natural gas will play a major role. In addition to the two Northland Power projects—Spy Hill here and North Battleford energy centre coming on-line next year—we've also committed to expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Power Station owned by SaskPower in the Saskatoon area. We're looking at doubling the amount of generation produced by wind, and we're also working on the world's first integrated carbon capture project at Boundary Dam power station."

The Spy Hill power sta-

tion came on line in October, and employs three people.

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Foster family, friends rally around Andert

Continued from page 9
As for Tawna, she says she's taking it one day at a time and is getting by with the support of family and friends.

"Just go with it. Everybody is still kicking. It's stressful but it's okay," said McLean.

"People say that, I don't know how you have all those kids and manage, but you just do. One day at a time."

There has been much local support for Derek since he got diagnosed in March. Jolene Toder of Elkhorn knows first-hand why community is important in times like these.

"My son had a heart surgery in 2004 and suffered a stroke on the table. We were gone for months and months in Edmonton and the community did an enormous amount of stuff for us," said Toder.

"The money we received (from the community) gave us a lot of time with our family. You don't see much while writing the cheque but they add up to something huge and significant. A lot of people have similar stories, but every person is exactly the same—what can we do?"

When Toder heard about Derek's condition her first instinct was to pay it forward.

"I know that it's so hard and those medical costs just keep adding up and you're not prepared for that. You don't put money away thinking that this

will be a year out of my life trying to keep your child alive. Nobody puts money away for that," said Toder.

What started as a small initiative to raise money for Derek quickly grew into a huge auction and social, as people in the community started hearing about Toder's efforts.

It started with Derek's grad class wanted to hold a social and then Toder thought of the idea to have a live auction to raise additional money. The donations began pouring in with little to no advertising.

"It was amazing, but there was everything from patio furniture to ten hours of combining. I was so impressed with Elkhorn, the minute you say someone's in need everyone jumps and helps. People were always calling us, my phone rang for weeks," said Toder.

Items were even being donated the night of the auction. Toder

was amazed with the response.

A few of the bigger items were Millers in Moosomin donated ten hours of combining—it sold for \$2,900. Ted Hill construction donated any piece of equipment—it sold for \$3,000. 3DI donated \$2,500 worth of service and that sold for \$3,000.

"It was a huge success, far better than what we expected. My kitchen table was full when we were organizing. We started with the grad class with the social, prizes for that and people wanted to donate big prizes so we decided to do an auction that could bring in a lot more," said Toder.

Although Toder couldn't attend the auction, she was getting updates all night about its success.

"I was getting texts and updates and pictures and I was just blown away. It was just wall-to-wall people," said Toder.

"It was unbelievable. In huge numbers the com-

munity was there and those that couldn't went straight to the bank (to donate)."

Toder is happy to help but understands the realities of cancer. She said even though the fundraiser was a success, it is still a long road for Derek.

"There are so many things that are left unsaid. Sometimes it looks like a big number but there are always medical treatments. And although it's a big number at first it just keeps going down."

"There's so many things that people don't see. They think cancer treatments are covered by medicare but that's not the case. Fred has been off his job and will continue to be for awhile. Hidden numbers come into play and six weeks of treatment isn't the end," said Toder.

But for the time being, Derek's foster family couldn't be happier with the help Derek will receive

because of the donations.

"Derek's initial reaction was no, because he didn't want attention. But coming from foster care he doesn't conventionally have parents to pay for him. . . We do what we can but the money will help a lot," said McLean. "In case this ever comes back we want him to put a nest egg away."

"We're so appreciative to the community but not surprised. The community has always been very good. We're appreciative because they didn't have to," said McLean.

As for the outcome, McLean is hopeful for the future but things remain uncertain.

"We're stuck, I want to start looking for an apartment for him but we don't know if we're done with cancer yet. . . you can't pretend the future's not coming. He had said when he first got diagnosed and everyone was applying

for summer jobs he didn't know what to do and I told him he couldn't stop living life."

It turns out that Derek did get a job offer and has something to look forward to for the summer if his treatments work.

"Overall he's very optimistic. But it gets to you. He's sick as a dog. He's had his rough life already. It was a real blow to him. He says, I just was starting," said McLean.

Derek returned home to Elkhorn last week after an eight-week therapy treatment in Winnipeg. The family currently doesn't know if Derek will have to go in for a second round of treatments or not. There will be follow up appointments and cat scans in the next month to determine whether the treatment took.

"Like I said, the prognosis is good, but it's hard getting there," said McLean.

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Boissevain Border Queens inducted into hall of fame

By LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
Every living original member of the 1963-1968 Boissevain Border Queens softball team was on hand May 5th in Brandon to watch as their historical team was inducted to the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.

Rocanville's Leonie Hooper played first base and outfield for the team from 1960-66. She says being inducted is an honor. "Realizing after all those years, somebody has recognized what we did, it's marvellous," said Hooper in an interview Tuesday.

In the program that evening, the team was cited as "dominating women's softball in south western Manitoba from 1963-68." Some highlights from the team's career are recording only one league loss in the 1967 season as well as being the first women's team from south-western Manitoba to win a provincial championship.

"It was just part of us I guess. None of us just wanted to sit idle and do nothing. This was our way of having fun. ... We never really dreamt of winning provincials or being in the hall of fame," says Hooper.

The team consisted of 27 dedicated women throughout its time. Hooper says all the players on the team had a passion for the game, and many overcame adversity just so they could play.

"We were all moms, a lot of us were juggling babies and a career and helping husbands out in the field. It was tough for a lot of the women. I remember my sister walking three miles to just get a ride to that ball," laughs Hooper.

Hooper also credits the long time coach, the late Bus Kiddell, for keeping the team on track and taking them to legendary status.

"We had a very good coach. He made us work and didn't take any guff.

We wanted to be there for him," says Hooper. "We just wanted to do

well for him. We didn't come in with a hangover, we didn't come in not

wanting to play. We played in the rain if we had to, it's just what you did. Every-

body loved him, he was a big part of it."

Continued on page 25



26 members of the original Border Queens came to Brandon May 4 to see their team get inducted into the Manitoba softball hall of fame.



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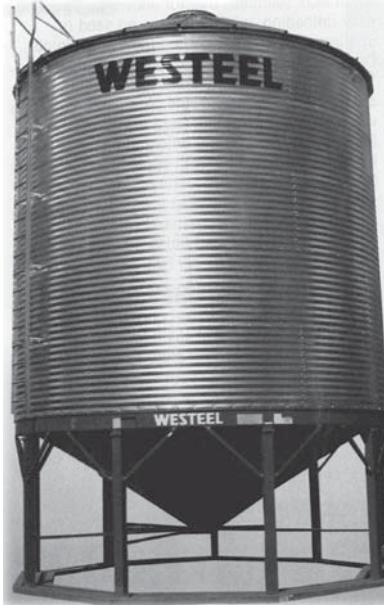
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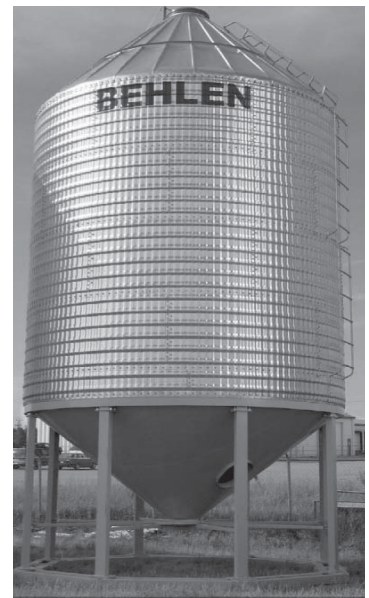
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Border Queens' contributions recognized

+ Continued from page 23

The team played every summer in the southwest Manitoba league and would travel on the weekends to play in tournaments. The schedule to play on the team was pretty rigorous and required full dedication.

"We'd have league games during the week along with practices and then tournaments on the weekends. I don't really know why the drive was there in us all. We just all loved sports," says Hooper.

Most of the women who played on the team were

from surrounding farms, which meant a lot of travelling for the bunch. They played other teams in the league from Deloraine, Killarney, Elgin, Cartwright and Melita.

"There were enough people within a 50-mile radius for us to carry on a good league," says Hooper.

During that time, Hooper was a teller at the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Killarney, but she always found time in her schedule to play ball. Her sister and aunt were both members on the team.

"I was at a good age.

"We'd have league games during the week along with practices and then tournaments on the weekends. I don't really know why the drive was there in us all. We just all loved sports."

—Leonie Hooper

You could work all day and play ball all night," laughs Hooper. I was from a sports-loving family. It was nice to be able to go and do something that not every other girl in town could do."

Hooper says the team was always humble in their accomplishments, but they were very well

known in the area. They had a tradition of winning and a legacy in the town.

"We were pretty big, that's for sure. A lot of people knew who we were."

But above all, she remembers the relationships she made with her fellow teammates.

"The best memories from those years is the

wonderful people we played with and the friendships we made, lasting friendships and a lot of fun," said Hooper.

Hooper was able to meet up with her old teammates May 5. The group had their first reunion after getting inducted into the hall of fame.

"I saw people there I haven't seen for 45 years. Everybody had changed, we weren't playing ball anymore, that's for sure," laughed Hooper.

The softball hall of fame is in Portage la Prairie Manitoba and that is where the Border Queens

will permanently hold a piece of history by having their banner hang from the wall.

For Hooper, being inducted means pioneering the game for the next generation. She wants young girls like her granddaughter, Emma, to continue playing the sport.

"It's nice knowing that over the years, she has the opportunity to carry on the tradition and the format is there for her to play.

"My husband says when he watches Emma now, she throws like I did. And that's special."

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Warranty
172008

WAS: \$19,900 **NOW: \$17,900 • \$80/WEEK**

2010 Ford F-150 4x4



Sync,
82,000 kms
1P290

WAS: \$28,900 **NOW: \$24,900 • \$109/WEEK**

2010 Ford F-150



41,000 kms
PST Paid
2T027A

WAS: \$29,900 **NOW: \$25,900 • \$110/WEEK**

FRESH ARRIVALS

2010 Ford
F-150 Platinum
\$35,900 \$150/Week

2008 Ford F-350
Lariat 6.4 L
\$29,900 \$125/Week

2010 Ford F-150 Lariat



5.4 L
Sask Tax
Paid
2T041A

WAS: \$29,900 **NOW: \$26,900 • \$113/WEEK**

2007 Ford F-150 XTR



Warranty to
150,000 kms
2T074A

WAS: \$19,900 **NOW: \$16,900 • \$85/WEEK**

2011 Ford Explorer XLT



4WD,
Awesome!
2P063

WAS: \$36,900 **NOW: \$33,900 • \$141/WEEK**

2008 Chev
Silverado 4x4
\$18,900 \$80/Week

2010 Ford
F-150 XTR
\$27,900 \$117/Week

2011 Ford F-150
EcoBoost
\$33,900 \$141/Week

2005 Ford
F-250 Diesel
\$19,900 \$99/Week

2011 Ford F-150
EcoBoost
\$32,900 \$137/Week

2012 Ford Raptor
Super Crew
\$64,900

2005 Ford F-150
Lariat 4x4
\$14,900

2011 Ford E-350
15-Pass. Van
\$29,900 \$131/Week

2011 Ford F-350
Lariat 6.7 L
\$49,900 \$218/Week

2009 Ford F-550
4x4 6.4 L
\$39,900 \$175/Week

2005 Dodge Durango 4x4



Fully
Loaded
2T077A

WAS: \$13,900 **NOW: \$10,900 • \$54/WEEK**

2010 Ford Flex Limited



AWD,
7 Passenger
2P089

WAS: \$28,900 **NOW: \$25,900 • \$114/WEEK**

2010 Ford F-350



Powerstroke,
76,000 kms
1T268

WAS: \$36,900 **NOW: \$33,900 • \$148/WEEK**

MORE GREAT INVENTORY

ON A BUDGET?

2002 Pontiac
Montana
\$1,900

2007 Ford Focus
\$5,900

2006 Ford
F-150 4x4
\$10,900

1994 Ford Topaz
\$900

2000 Chrysler
Intrepid
\$3,900



2009 Ford F-150 4x4
16,000 kms

\$24,900 • \$104/WEEK



2009 Ford F-150 XTR
33,000 kms

\$25,900 • \$100/WEEK



2010 Ford Edge AWD
33,000 kms

\$27,900 • \$118/WEEK



2007 Lincoln Navigator
Drive in the lap of luxury

\$34,900 • \$146/WEEK



2011 Ford Fiesta
50+ MPG • Sport

\$12,900 • \$85/WEEK



2009 Ford F-150
Great on gas • 72,000 kms

\$15,900 • \$87/WEEK



2008 Ford F-350 4x4
35,000 kms

\$39,900 • \$166/WEEK



2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SE
39,000 kms

\$24,900 • \$104/WEEK



2011 Ford Edge
Fully Loaded

\$35,900 • \$157/WEEK



2010 Ford F-150 4x4
37,000 kms

\$29,900 • \$121/WEEK



2010 Ford F-150 XTR
63,000 kms

\$27,900 • \$121/WEEK



2010 Ford Edge Limited
AWD • PST Paid

\$28,900 • \$121/WEEK



2009 Ford F-150 XTR
Local Trade

\$24,900 • \$105/WEEK



2007 Ford Edge
Fantastic Color

\$22,900 • \$96/WEEK



2008 Ford Edge Limited
Local Trade

\$24,900 • \$105/WEEK



2011 Chev Impala
Great on gas

\$16,900 • \$71/WEEK



2009 Ford F-150
Lots of warranty

\$25,900 • \$108/WEEK



2011 Ford Explorer
4WD • 40,000 kms

\$29,900 • \$131/WEEK



2008 Pontiac Torrent
Lots of warranty

\$15,900 • \$70/WEEK

ON A BUDGET?

1999 Ford
Windstar
\$1,900

2004 Chev Venture
\$3,900

2006 Chrysler
Sebring
\$7,900

1995 Dodge
Dakota 4x4
\$3,900

2000 Ford
Windstar
\$2,900

1995 Dodge Neon
\$1,200

1992 Ford
F-150 4x4
\$2,500



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PHONE: (306) 435-3313
Moosomin, SK.
www.celebrationford.com

BRENT WILSON: (306) 434-7125
RYAN THORN: (306) 435-9508
LORNE LANGFORD: (306) 435-6046
TYLER THORN: (306) 435-7808