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Plain & Valley

June 2026 • Volume 19 Number 6

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Left: The Living Skies Fireworks Competition at Moosomin Regional Park.
Above: There are lots of rodeos around the region this summer.

Lots planned for Southeast Saskatchewan, Southwest Manitoba this summer

There are lots of events coming up across the area this summer, from Canada Day celebrations to rodeos, to fairs, to ball tournaments and much more.

Here are some of the events coming up in the region this summer.

June 26-28 Carlyle Fun Dayz

This year's excitement at Carlyle Fun days will continue! Canuck Amusement Carnival will be returning for the second year. Whether you enjoy the thrill of the rides or the chance to win a teddy bear, they will have it for you. There will be a wide range of adult rides and kids' rides, treats, and games. There will also be a craft and trade show, breakfast by the Carlyle District Lions Club and then off to Main Street for the parade. This year's live bands include REIN and Switch, Winsome Kind, The Leftovers, Wonderland, and Dr. Rocktopus.

The fun goes down at the Carlyle Sports Arena!

July 1 Canada Day celebration, Elkhorn

This is one of the biggest Canada Day celebrations in the area. This year it will feature a pancake breakfast, a parade, kids' activities at the museum, entertainment, a kid zone,

BBQ lunch, museum tours, a threshing display, a catered supper, and beer gardens.

July 11 Bulls and Broncs, Moosomin

The Bulls and Broncs event will be a full day of fun in Moosomin, starting with the Firemen's pancake breakfast. The Chamber of Commerce parade will take place at 10 am. The Bulls and Broncs, consisting of bull riding, saddle bronc, bareback riding, and novice rough stock, takes place at the Rodeo Grounds at 7 pm. Beer gardens will be open all night and there will also be live music.

July 18-19 Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo, Kennedy

The village of Kennedy is home to one of the only pro rodeos in the province, with many of the riders coming fresh from the Calgary Stampede.

This year the weekend will kick off with a parade on the Saturday at 3 pm followed by happy hour in the beer gardens from 4-5 pm. At 6 pm the rodeo gets going with bull riding under the lights, and at 9 pm there is a DJ in the beer gardens. On Sunday there is a pancake breakfast at 9 am followed by cowboy church at 11 am. The rodeo starts at 2 pm Sunday afternoon.

The weekend also includes free camping at the rodeo grounds and food trucks on site as well as other events that will be announced closer to the rodeo date!

July 24-25 Maryfield Agricultural Society Fair

This annual event in the village of Maryfield features an agricultural society fair and horse show. On Friday, July 24 there will be a riding clinic. The fair and horse show is Saturday, July 25. The day usually includes a pancake breakfast, exhibits, kids' events, music, supper and more!

July 31 - August 2 Elkhorn Western Weekend

Every August, Elkhorn, Manitoba comes alive with one of its most anticipated annual traditions, drawing in visitors and community spirit—the Elkhorn Elks Western Weekend. July 31 to August 2 guests can expect two days packed with excitement, featuring chariot racing, chuckwagon racing, barrel racing, a Slo Pitch tournament, plenty of entertainment for all ages, and the classic Saturday night social and live entertainment.

Continued on Page 5



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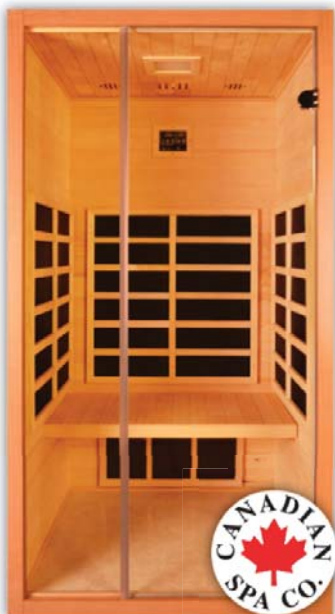
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A rendering of the new rink being built in Moosomin later this year. The new rink will be on Park Avenue on the site of the former Federated Co-op Feed Mill.

Second rink coming to Moosomin

Rink will be paid for by local foundation, not taxpayers

BY ASHLEY BOCHKEK
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Community leaders have come together to plan and break ground this summer on a second rink for Moosomin. The rink will be located at the site of the former Federated Co-op Feed Mill on Park Avenue and will be built without burdening local taxpayers, as a community foundation is being established, with the rink as the first project for the new foundation.

Discussions on a community foundation have been going on for the past year. Dan and Olga McCarthy wanted to start the ball rolling on a second rink. The plan for the rink and the plan for the foundation came together at a meeting of a dozen people in January. Now site work is underway, and construction will begin this summer.

Dan and Olga McCarthy, who had the vision for a rink, were at the meeting, as was Kristjan Hebert, who has been working on the idea of the community foundation for Moosomin.

Mayor Murray Gray and Recreation Director Mike Schwean were there, as were several Community Builders Alliance members, including CBA president Tyler Thorn and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark.

By the end of the meeting a rough plan had come together and Schwean commented at the time that he had thought the meeting would be the start of a years-long process, not that it would lead to immediately building a rink.

Continued on page 50



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A Canadian folk staple, The Fugitives have been nominated for a JUNO, as well as 7 Canadian Folk Music Awards, including Best Vocal Group, Best Ensemble, and Best Songwriter.



THE JOHNER BROTHERS
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Lots planned for SE Sask, SW Man this summer

Continued from front

August 1-2 Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition

Alberta and Nova Scotia will go head to head on the August Long Weekend at Moosomin Regional Park with returning champion Alberta setting off their fireworks on Saturday, August 1, and Nova Scotia setting off theirs on Sunday, August 2.

This will be the second year the competition has been back since 2019, and the park is looking to make it a major event again. There will be bands playing both nights, a market, food trucks, and lots more planned for down at Moosomin Lake. This is an event you do not want to miss, as it will be one of the biggest events of the summer!

August 1 Wawota Heritage Days

Saturday, August 1 will be Wawota's annual Heritage Day, featuring a pancake breakfast, a parade, Saddleridge petting zoo, bouncers, zorb ball, mini golf, a magician, archery, live stage entertainment, and a cabaret with Grid Road Show featuring local family The Kobialko's performing at 8 pm that night. The entire day of fun is capped off with fireworks at dusk.

August 7-8 Manor Motor Madness

Get ready for a weekend full of horsepower, family fun, and excitement at Manor Motor Madness. Featuring modified truck and tractor pulls both nights at 7 pm. Both Friday and Saturday will kick off with beer gardens, concession booths, and food trucks. Saturday's lineup is packed with even more action, including a pancake breakfast, parade, kids activities, competitions, monster truck rides, tours, and a chance to meet the drivers.

August 8-9 Spy Hill Sports Days

August 8 and 9 is a big weekend in Spy Hill that will feature the village's annual Chuckwagon and Chariot Racing both days, a kids' rodeo, slo-pitch, tractor pulls, barrel racing, beer gardens, a car show, roping events, mutton busting, and a chore horse competition. This weekend is always a ton of fun!



August 14-15 Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo

The 26th annual Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo includes CCA rodeo action at 7 pm each night. Friday includes human chuckwagon races during intermission and Saturday includes muttin' bustin' during intermission. There are also beer gardens both nights and a full canteen both days, with a DJ on the Saturday night.

August 22 Wapella Dodge City Days Rodeo

Don't miss this exciting annual rodeo that takes place in Wapella every year featuring roughstock events like bareback, saddle bronc, and bull riding with novice events in each category. The day usually wraps up with a cabaret featuring live music or a DJ.

September 19-20 Carlyle Homespun

This year's Carlyle Homespun event features the annual craft and quilt show.

The craft show and sale runs 10 am to 7 pm Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday and is located at the Carlyle Sports arena.

The quilt show runs 10 am to 4 pm Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm Sunday and is located at the Memorial Town Hall on Main Street.

On Saturday, September 19 there will also be a pancake breakfast at the Legion Hall at 8 am and a draw for \$100 in Vendor Bucks at 5 pm and 6 pm that day.



Above left: Maryfield Fair. Above right: Carlyle Fun Dayz.

Below: Chuckwagon races at Elkhorn Western Weekend.



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Three in Conservative candidacy race for Yorkton-Melville riding

Quinn Haider, Albert Duff, and Nelson Pohl in race to be next federal Conservative candidate; Nomination set for June 13

BY KARA KINNA

Three people have put their name forward to be the next Conservative candidate in the Yorkton-Melville riding after Conservative MP Cathay Wagantall announced she won't be running again in the next federal election.

Yorkton town councillor and school principal Quinn Haider has announced his bid for the candidacy, as has Albert Duff and Nelson Pohl.

The date for the nomination meeting has been set for Saturday, June 13. Voting will take place in both Yorkton and Pocupine Plain. In Pocupine Plain, candidate speeches will take place at 9:30 am, followed by voting from 10 am to noon at the Pocupine Plain Community Hall at 106 McAllister Avenue. In Yorkton, candidate speeches will be at 4:30 pm followed by voting from 5-7 pm at National Bank Convention Place, Gallagher Centre, 455 Broadway St. W.

In order to be eligible to vote for the candidate of their choice, voters must have purchased a federal Conservative Party membership by May 15.

Haider was the first to announce his candidacy. Haider has been a school teacher for 33 years, a school administrator since 2002 and a school principal for 16 years. He has also been a Yorkton City Councillor for 10 years, sitting on council since 2016.

Haider said in an interview with the World-Spectator after announcing his candidacy that affordability and federal debt are two things that he sees as issues for the Conservative party to tackle.

"Cost of living and the debt that our government has incurred would be two of the biggest things that I want to help change," he said.

He also listed crime rates and Canada-U.S. relations as major issues.

Albert Duff is an IT worker who lives on a farm north of Melville. Duff also says affordability is one of the big issues he's been hearing about in the riding.

"We grew up on the farm. We had hogs, and then went into dairy, and then dairy beef and grain, and then I bought my own farm afterwards," he says. "I worked a couple years up in Stony Rapids and then worked for about 12 years at Harvest Meats, and I have worked with the provincial government now for a little over 16 years, and am currently a technical analyst in the IT department."

"I've been involved with politics since the Canadian Alliance. I was a financial agent for (former Yorkton-Melville MP) Gary Breitkreutz on the Canadian Alliance, and then during the merger between the Canadian Alliance and the Conservatives, I was a voting delegate in Montreal for that, and then I was on Gary's board for president, vice-president, and financial agent for the Conservative Party for his term. And then I was on Cathay Wagantall's board too for bit as a board member, and then a few years ago we dropped off just because of conflict of interest with work. So I have basically been involved with the Yorkton-Melville EDA for quite a few years."

Why did he decide to run for the nomination?

"My wife and I have never been able to have kids, but I have quite a few nieces and nephews, so we figured we would see if we could improve the economy for future generations," he says.

Duff says financial accountability and balancing the budgets is a concern of his as a Conservative candidate.

"As we're running the budgets up, if the interest rates go up, the taxes are going to have to go up, and everybody that I've talked to has brought up affordability as their number one issue for the riding," he says.

"I also used to trap and hunt and fish, so I would like to make sure that the hunt-



Quinn Haider



Albert Duff



Nelson Pohl

ing and fishing rights aren't eroded. And I'd like to see a little better prosecution of criminals that are on the streets. There's a number of them that are repeat criminal. I also attend Heritage Baptist Church, so I also do feel that the way MAID is going, it should be probably restricted a bit. Those are some of the main priorities."

"I'd also like to see the agricultural trade get started negotiating with the States to open up more of the trade, because that's a number one export area for Canada."

Duff says he has been out and about in the riding putting up flyers, door knocking, calling, and emailing people as a way to reach out to them about his candidacy.

He says affordability is the top concern of most people he's talked to.

"The number one thing has been affordability. The taxes are getting a little too high with the cost of food and everything. That's the main one that's been coming up. Some have brought up farming issues, because we are in an area with a lot of farmers, and another thing that has come up is the RCMP support."

"I think the main thing is we need somebody in there that will listen to what's going on and focus on supporting the entire riding and community instead of just focusing on one part of it. I have family that lives in throughout Saskatchewan because I have eight siblings—there's one in Manitoba, one in Alberta, and the rest are spread across Saskatchewan. So we see different communities. My wife is actually from the States, and she's a dual citizen so we have constant contact with the U.S. as well, so we see both sides of the border issues. With my current job, I've been all across the province at different times."

Candidate Nelson Pohl, a farmer and small business owner, says the timing was right for him to run for the candidacy.

"I live a little north of Yorkton, on a farm in between Springside and Ebenezer," he says. "I've been a lifelong farmer, and I am also a small business owner. I have owned a furnace and duct cleaning business for over 15 years. I have two teenage daughters and I'm married."

"Having two daughters, growing up watching the condition this country has gone into, and the erosion of our freedoms that is happening, and just listening over the years to hundreds and hundreds of customers at their kitchen tables talking about their issues, whether it's if they're farm families, or the big one is the transferring of farms to families, it's getting very difficult to do that with the capital gains and inheritance taxes."

"Just listening to the affordability problems that people are having, it's very real, and on a personal level, it's just being able to say I tried my best."

"At the end of the day, we have to stand up—somebody has to stand up and be strong on these issues, and there's just a

window of time right now that I'm really able to do this. My girls are older now, my business is okay, and it's just something I can do right now and put my whole heart and soul into it."

Pohl says he has some previous political involvement, and has also been involved on a number of boards.

"I've been involved on the Yorkton-Melville Conservative EDA on the executive, and I've worked on provincial campaigns and also Cathay Wagantall's federal campaign."

Pohl says there are certain issues that are top of mind for constituents as he talks to them around the riding.

"Top of mind is the firearms grab. I hear a lot about that," he says.

"I hear a lot about the hate speech about the freedoms of speech, and that they're taking away the religious freedoms. And I hear a lot about affordability, that people are just having a hard time."

Pohl says he has been doing a good job of getting around the riding.

"We kicked it off with a big meet and greet in Ebenezer, and we have traveled the whole riding from Carrot River and Tobin Lake area right down to the Qu'Appelle Valley doing meet and greets, knocking on doors, visiting customers, existing customers. We've been out there face to face."

Pohl says he wants people to know he's familiar with the riding.

"My work takes me every week to just about every corner of this riding with my furnace and duct cleaning business. I know the people, I know the area, the geography of it, but more importantly, I know the people, and I know them well, and what the issues are. I've been doing this for a long time, meeting people in their homes. I understand what's going on out there. I've been a lifelong farmer. I'm not just talking about it, but I've done it. I've done small business. I've employed people. I understand that, and I'm not just talking about it, I'm doing it, and I more than understand the issues, I'm living them, and that's important."

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UFA cardlock under construction in Moosomin

New development near Celebration Ford and across from Skout Brewing



A rendering of the new UFA fuel and cardlock site being built in Moosomin. Construction recently started at the site west of Celebration Ford.

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Regional Manager of Southern Saskatchewan Operations Glen Bentz of United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) spoke at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting last week after UFA recently broke ground at the new fuel and cardlock site in town, west of Celebration Ford.

Bentz says the site is set to open this November.

"The site should open November of this year. There will be a full product offering. This will include diesel, gas, dyed diesel, as well as a Deselex, it's a patented product of the States. We're the only ones in Canada that offer it from Growmark."

Bentz explains Deselex and its benefits. "There was a 'Million Mile Challenge' on Deselex, which ran a million miles in a Peterbilt, they then pulled it apart after, and you could still read the part numbers on the valves, so it keeps it really clean inside."

Moosomin site

Bentz says the Moosomin UFA site will have many different amenities.

"As far as the site goes, it will be paved, it's going to have an office, a warehouse, full offering lubricants, oils, mostly Shell, but we'll move away to a branded UFA product as well, gloves, etc. There will be a shower and a bathroom inside the office. There will be a cardlock, as well as fuel link cards you can use.

"The fuel link will work by plugging it in, use your own method of payment, with the cardlock you can get UFA credit pre-approved, and you pay your bill at the end

of the month.

"There will be truck parking, five lanes, three satellites, so the truckers should love it with wide lanes, and they can fill both tanks at the same time on the same pump."

He says premium gas will also be available at the site.

"Premium gas is a big one as well. A lot of bikers and high-performance sports units such as skidoos, use premium, so that's a big offering for us."

UFA sites in Saskatchewan

Bentz explains UFA's goals toward building sites further east.

"It's really nice to see the new sites around the province. We have two 25-year-old sites in Saskatchewan, in Kindersley and Swift Current. We're redoing them this year, Kindersley totally, but it's just nice to see that we're moving forward. It's such a nice offering, and we see the quality of the site that comes together. In Saskatchewan, we've been here 25 years and you wouldn't know it—that's those two sites I just mentioned—so we're working toward moving east. This year we'll probably have six sites in Saskatchewan, and one in Manitoba. So we're going further east. Portage opens this year about the same time as Moosomin, and we are really excited for that.

"I think it's a nice deal to come here and be part of a progressive community like Moosomin."

He says UFA is focused on building east along the Number 1 Highway.

"The Number 1 highway was a big part of our decision in coming to Moosomin. Highway 1 and Highway 11 is what we

are focused on. You'll see that in the coming years.

"Until 2030, we'll probably build five or six sites a year. Next year, probably the majority will be in Manitoba, but we have a big one coming to Prince Albert, which will be a triple, so it'll be ag, fuel and retail store."

"It's amazing the amount of business we're getting at the store because of the

fuel cards, people coming in and using their membership."

He says UFA may be interested in building a retail store in Moosomin in the future.

"We talked about that down the road, but we definitely do have desire to build more retail in the future. We have a strong selection and supply."



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The Town of Melita is seeking a motivated, dependable, and safety-conscious individual to join our Public Works team as a full-time permanent Public Works Labourer.

This position offers a consistent Monday to Friday schedule from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, providing excellent work-life balance.

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- Physically capable of performing all work tasks;
- Mechanical and electrical aptitude;
- Willingness to participate in training and professional development;
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with a courteous and respectful approach when dealing with Council, supervisors, co-workers, and the public;
- Ability to participate in standby and overtime work when required.

Preferred Qualifications

Preference will be given to candidates who possess:

- A valid Class 3A license or higher;
- Class I Water Treatment & Distribution Certification and Class II Wastewater Treatment & Collection Certification. ****The town strongly encourages applications from individuals who are working toward these certifications or are willing to obtain them. Candidates who demonstrate a commitment to achieving these certifications will be given consideration.**

What We Offer

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- Qualified applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume marked "Public Works Labourer", including salary expectations, as soon as possible.

This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

Town of Melita

Attention: Celia Gray, CAO
Box 364, Melita, MB R0M 1L0
Email: celia@melitamb.ca

The Town of Melita thanks all who apply, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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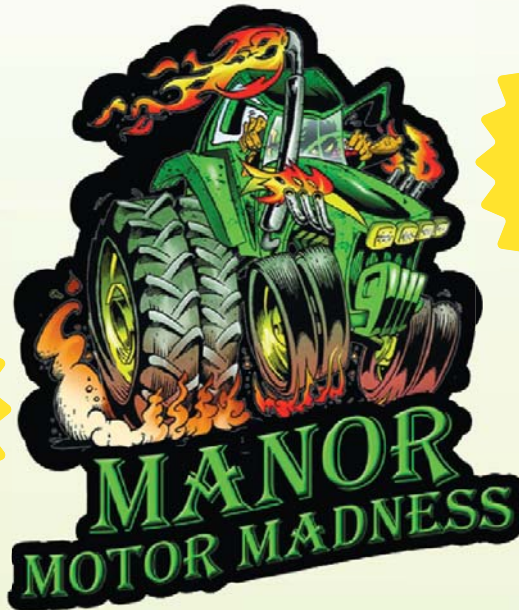


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FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH

**4:30 PM TO CLOSE -
BEER GARDENS
4:30 PM TO 10:30 PM -
CONCESSION BOOTH
& FOOD TRUCKS
7 PM - MODIFIED TRUCK
AND TRACTOR PULLS**

**NEW EVENT:
KING OF THE
TRIMMERS
LAWNMOWER
COMPETITION**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH

**8 AM TO 10 AM - PANCAKE BREAKFAST: MANOR RINK
11 AM - PARADE: MAIN STREET
NOON TO 10:30 PM - CONCESSION BOOTH
& FOOD TRUCKS
1 PM TO 6 PM - KIDS ACTIVITIES: BOUNCERS,
FACE PAINTING
2 PM - KING OF THE TRIMMERS COMPETITION
2 PM TO CLOSE - BEER GARDENS
RABID RABBIT MONSTER TRUCK RIDES
TOUR THE PITS AND MEET DRIVERS
7 PM - MODIFIED TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS**



ELKHORN
ELKS NO. 381

**ELKHORN ELKS 12TH
ANNIVERSARY**
**WESTERN
WEEKEND**

ADMISSION

\$15

PER DAY

\$20

WEEKEND PASS

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& SUNDAY**
JULY 31, AUGUST 1 & 2

**ELKHORN,
MB**

**Manitoba Pro Chariot
& Chuckwagon Races**

Friday, July 31
7:00 PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, August 1
4:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday, August 2
1:00 PM & 4:00 PM

Beer Gardens - Friday Travis Barre
Saturday Clubbing Fraggles "80s
Pop & Party Rock" live all day
Sunday Lyle Baldwin
"Country Classic Sunday"

Children's Entertainment
Saturday & Sunday

Cornhole Entries
\$20/team 30 team limit

Cash Prizes & Trophy for
the winners. Entries to
Kevin 204-851-2152
or Cassidy 204-748-5135

**Slo-Pitch
Tourney**

Sponsored by EDCC
Entries to
Devrin
204-441-4111
Cash prizes

Barrel Racing
1:00 PM

Entries to Cynthia
204-851-2910
Minimum \$500 add-
ed money

**LIVE Calcutta SATURDAY 2:30 PM in Beer Gardens,
Silent Calcutta (sold same as other years)**

\$1,500 Dash for Cash
Sponsored by Third Dimension Industries



Home Made cooking Concession
Booth open all weekend

Wallace District Fire Dept
breakfasts Saturday & Sunday

Mady Kennedy biking coast to coast for cancer

What A Privilege raising money for Canadian Cancer Society



BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
 Mady Kennedy of Manitoba is biking across Canada to fundraise for the Canadian Cancer Society and raise awareness for families and individuals who have struggled with cancer.
 Kennedy started biking across the country by plunging into the Atlantic Ocean April 27 at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia and plans to end early June when she reaches the Pacific Ocean at Vancouver.
 She is following a family tradition. Her uncle, Sheldon Kennedy, rollerbladed across Canada in 1998 raising awareness and fundraising for a charity. Kennedy attributes the idea to her uncle and wants to

continue the legacy.

"I am an endurance athlete. I just started biking 10 months ago, and I am biking across the country to raise a million dollars for the Canadian Cancer Society."
 Kennedy stopped in Elkhorn last Wednesday evening and was greeted with a large crowd of family and friends during a community barbecue held for her journey and cause.
 "I currently live in Winnipeg, and I grew up in Beausejour. My family is from Elkhorn, Virden, and Brandon. We own the water park in Brandon, so I grew up in Manitoba, this is home."

Continued on Page 21



CELEBRATE CANADA DAY IN ELKHORN, MB

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

- 🍁 Entertainment
- 🍁 Saw Mill Demo
- 🍁 Parade down Richhill Ave
- 🍁 Kid Zone
- 🍁 Pancake Breakfast behind Elkhorn RM Office
- 🍁 BBQ Lunch at the Museum grounds
- 🍁 Kids Activities, Threshing Displays, Museum Tours etc. at the Museum grounds
- 🍁 Beer Gardens
- 🍁 Catered Supper

**Please call to reserve a spot for the supper.
 For more information please contact the
 Elkhorn LUD Office at 204-845-2161**



CARLYLE FUN DAYZ

JUNE 26, 27, 28
CARLYLE SPORTS ARENA

Free entertainment • Free admission • 50-booth trade show
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MIDWAY DAY PASS: \$35
FRIDAY - SUNDAY
Great carnival games

SOUTHERN PLAINS
CO-OP FAMILY FUN ZONE
ON SATURDAY
*Free bouncers, foam party,
bouncers for young & old*

BEER GARDENS
OPEN FRIDAY
AND SATURDAY

FRIDAY FUN DAYZ MAIN STAGE

6 PM start • Local Rein • Switch to close the night out

SATURDAY FUN DAYZ MAIN STAGE

3 PM - Midnight • Winsome Kind • The Leftovers

WONDERLAND

*One of Sask's premier party bands!
A favourite at Craven! Hits of the
'80s and '90s*

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*Winners of top party band in Manitoba.
Will be doing one set of Big Shiny Tunes 2 followed
by a set of hits and covers of current hits.*

This high energy act will get you dancing!



Moosomin's Walk for Alzheimer's draws over 100 walkers

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER

Moosomin's third annual Walk for Alzheimer's was on Saturday, May 30. Over 100 walkers joined this year as well as five teams organized by families and businesses in the area.

Walkers from all over the area walked on the Saturday as well as local health-related businesses participated in this year's first Wellness Expo at the Legion during the walk.

Organizer Rene Whelpton says this year's walk went really well with lots of walkers and volunteers showing their support for the cause.

"The day was windy, it was cloudy, but the rain held off until after the walk, so that was very good. The walk went well. We got a lot of positive comments. We had over 100 walkers, which is starting to be our average now. So that was excellent."

"We had 38 pre-registered on the list, and five teams—that was different this year. You can make a team, and then have people sign up under your teams."

Whelpton says the Wellness Expo offered lots of helpful resources.

It was a fairly good turnout. We had 10 vendors, plus IG Wealth Management had a booth there, so I was very impressed with that because we asked probably about 20 businesses if they wanted to come. I think it was a good idea because we don't have a central hub or place where we have all that information. We need to get a lot of information out



Roman Cherykh, Lidia Serdiuk, Maryna Cherykh, and Lyla Smart before the walk.

on how to age well, the supports and services that we have here, like the hearing, CPAP, and physiotherapy can offer courses for seniors, so that you maintain your balance so there is less chance of a fall, or other different things."

Enjoyed seeing community members

Whelpton says she most enjoyed seeing everyone participate in the walk and coming out that day.

"Seeing everybody there was my favourite part of the day. We had walkers from Rocanville, Elkhorn, and Virden. I would say a good half hour radius around Moosomin. We also had a family from Indian Head."

"I wish I could have visited more with people, but just seeing people, seeing the smiles on their faces, hearing 'thank you for doing this,' it makes all the work that you put into it worthwhile when people appreciate it."

Continued on Page 25



Above: The Thorn family who were walking in memory of Phyllis Thorn at the Alzheimer Walk.

Below: Volunteers and organizers, from left, Maureen Harrison with the Alzheimer's Society, Sonia Sangaard, Rene Whelpton and Kelsey Nagy.



UNIVERSE SATELLITE AQUATIC CENTRE
Home of the Rocanville Tiger Sharks

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- Builds strength safely
- Boosts cardiovascular health
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JOIN US TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
11 AM - 12 PM

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- Light cardio at a comfortable pace
- Focus on mobility and balance
- Gentle strength training to support everyday life

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JOIN US
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
9 AM - 10 AM
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
7 PM - 8 PM

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Looking for a focused, self-paced workout in the water? Lane swim is your time to dive in and swim your way!

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A designated time slot for swimmers who want to swim laps continuously - no classes, no distractions.

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UNIVERSE SATELLITE AQUATIC CENTRE
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New owners of Moosomin Sports Excellence

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Moosomin Sports Excellence has new owners—Kate Thompson and Mike Schoonbaert.

Moosomin Sports Excellence opened in 2023 on South Front Street, full of sporting goods for all sports and age groups within the community.

Thompson and Schoonbaert took possession of the fairly new business two weeks ago and are excited to run the busi-

ness as new entrepreneurs in Moosomin. Thompson says the sports store combines their two favourite things. “For the both of us, this would probably be our number one choice in running a business. We’re very excited to get going. We officially took possession last Wednesday, May 13.”

Schoonbaert adds, “Kate will be at the store full-time, six days a week, at least. We’re really excited.”

Continued on page 19



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Hazy Days

2026

June 19th-21st

FRIDAY

- **8:45am:** Esterhazy Community Market (All day)
- **5pm-2am:** Tailgate Party & Beer Gardens (19+).
@ Outdoor Rink
 - Opening Act: Distant Howls @ 7:30pm
 - Main Performance: Hit N Run @ 9pm-1am
- **6pm:** Ball Diamond Dedication Ceremony @ Diamond #4 followed by U11 exhibition game
- **7pm:** Esterhazy Warrior Football Alumni Game

SATURDAY

- **8am-11am:** Pancake Breakfast @ Little Miner's Daycare
- **9am:** Hazy Trail Race 5km/10km
- **10am-2pm:** Esterhazy Ford Car Show @ Dana Antal Parking Lot
- **12-4pm:** Hazy Days Kids Zone @ Ball Diamonds
 - Bouncers & Interactive Games
 - Face Paint, Vendors & Treats
 - 1pm: "DUNK THE MAYOR" Mayor & Councillor Dunk Tank
- **All day:** Hazy Days Slo-pitch Tournament @ Ball Diamonds
 - Concession & Beer Gardens
- **All day:** Food, Drink & Golf Specials @ Esterhazy Golf Course
- **8pm:** Name that Tune & Karaoke @ Esterhazy Chicken Chef

SUNDAY

- **9am:** Summer Solstice Hike & Yoga with Luna Yoga & Healing
- **2pm:** Movie Matinee @ Maple Leaf Theatre



HAZY DAYS-ESTERHAZY COMMUNITY DAYS

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**HAAS
NISSAN**

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



THANKS FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY

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FINANCING ON A KICKS S MONTHS O.A.C. CASH PURCHASE BONUS*

*CASH PURCHASE BONUS AVAILABLE ON OTHER KICKS TRIMS ONLY



2026 KICKS S

DOMINATING THE FIELD
FOR FIVE YEARS IN A ROW



\$50,000 for playground at Kahkewistahaw First Nation

Kahkewistahaw First Nation was presented with a cheque for \$50,000 on May 28 for Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School for playground improvements. The day also included a feast with students and the community. The \$50,000 for the playground is part of the provincial government's new School Playground Equipment Matching Grant.

National
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Day

JUNE 21

Celebrating
the unique heritage,
diverse cultures and outstanding
achievements of Indigenous
Peoples in Canada.

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NATIONAL Indigenous Peoples DAY

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diversity, and
achievements of First
Nations, Inuit, and Métis
peoples in Canada.

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Happy National
Indigenous
Peoples Day



Ochapowace hosts National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

This year, Regina was the host city for the 23rd National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) from May 3-9, with Ochapowace First Nation serving as the main organizer for the event.

"The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships always bring a powerful energy with them," said Vanessa McGregor, ASC Executive Director.

Ochapowace Nation proudly served as the Indigenous host, working in close partnership with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and the Regina Hotel Association to celebrate the talent, spirit, and cultural pride of Indigenous youth athletes. This meaningful collaboration not only showcased athletic excellence but also strengthened community bonds and highlighted the

lasting impact of coming together in a spirit of unity and celebration.

Preston Henry of Ochapowace Nation recalls the traditional importance of sport among First Nations in Treaty 4. "The Championships recalls this long tradition of our peoples," he says, "and we've got a large home crowd for hockey. We're honored that Regina was chosen as the host venue."

The NAHC was established by the Aboriginal Sport

Circle in 2002. The six-day tournament displays the incredible talent of elite U18 Indigenous men's and women's hockey from First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities across the country.

2026 marked the first time the championships have returned to Saskatchewan since 2012. The event is held in a different city each year, offering hosts an opportunity to foster cultural pride, reconciliation, and unity among Indigenous peoples.



Ochapowace Chief Shelley Bear, dignitaries and hockey players during the opening ceremonies of the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

Happy National Indigenous People's Day!

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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

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Together, we recognize and celebrate the rich history, traditions, and languages of the Métis, First Nations, and Inuit peoples across Canada. We are proud to honor Métis culture and are committed to educating, promoting, and preserving the heritage of Indigenous communities through all our programs.

National **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY** JUNE 21 2026




Chief Shelley Bear signs her oath of office at the ceremony on May 20.

On May 20, Kiskisiwew-Ochapowace First Nation held their swearing-in ceremony for their newly elected chief and council. There was a pipe ceremony in the morning, followed by a community lunch and official swearing ceremony of Chief Shelley Bear and the six councillors.

National Indigenous Peoples Day
 June 21, 2026 | 30th Anniversary

On the summer solstice, we recognize and celebrate the cultures, traditions and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. This day holds deep cultural significance as many Indigenous communities gather to honour traditions, languages and cultural practices. As we mark 30 years of *National Indigenous Peoples Day*, we honour the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Saskatchewan and thank them for sharing their rich history, heritage and cultural teachings with all.



The Kiskisiwew Boys drumming during the official swearing-in ceremony at Kiskisiwew-Ochapowace First Nation.

Chief Shelley Bear received a gift of an Eagle Feather after she was sworn-in.



Daryl Harrison
 MLA for Cannington
 canningtonconstituency@sasktel.net
 (306) 443-4400

Kevin Weedmark
 MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre
 office@kevinweedmark.ca
 (306) 435-4005

Hon. Warren Kaeding
 MLA for Melville-Saltcoats
 warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net
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New owners of Moosomin Sports Excellence

Continued from Page 14

Thompson says they have had lots of support these past few months with taking over the business.

"It's very overwhelming. There is a lot to learn, a lot to do, but Khyra Ingram, who has been here for the last nine months, she is amazing. She knows almost everything, so she's able to show me the ropes, and Tyler Thorn has been great with helping us through the transition."

"I think we were pleasantly surprised with Khyra because we knew she had a good grip on things, but even more than we thought," said Schoonbaert.

Thompson says Celebration Ford Owner Tyler Thorn has been a huge help. "Part of our purchase agreement was that Tyler would help us get things sorted, and I really don't think he will stop helping if we ask questions after. He has been such a huge help for us."

Interest in owning business

Thompson explains owning a business in Moosomin has been a conversation they've had over the years.

"We started looking at owning our own business a bit ago when there was another business in town that came up for sale and we thought about it, then realized it wouldn't have worked for us, but it got the thought process started."

Schoonbaert says they noticed an ad earlier this year explaining Sports Excellence was looking for new ownership. "We started talking about owning our own business and having those conversations, but then all of a sudden Kate saw this ad one day."

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Schoonbaert says they noticed an ad earlier this year explaining Sports Excellence was looking for new ownership. "We started talking about owning our own business and having those conversations, but then all of a sudden Kate saw this ad one day."

"We didn't really think too seriously about it right off the bat, but we booked an appointment with Community Futures anyway because we had no idea what all it would entail," he said.

"Before our meeting with Community Futures, I went to show a family member the listing, and it was gone, and I thought it must have sold which wasn't a big deal, but we decided to keep the appointment because we had discussed it before," Thompson said. "Then when we met with Community Futures and Leanne said she'd just call Tyler to see what was going on, and it was still for sale. It was a three-month posting, and he just hadn't re-listed it yet. So we jumped in with two feet at that point and it was a whirlwind couple of months, but it also felt like it took forever."

They say Moosomin Sports Excellence was the right fit for them.

"It wasn't necessarily something we knew we always wanted to do, but when a couple of businesses came up for sale in town we realized we would like to run a business, but it had to be the right one," explained Thompson.

Schoonbaert adds, "It had to work for the both us, and you can't get much better than this for us."

Dream business

Thompson says Sports Excellence encompasses their

love for sports and running a business.

"I would say it is our dream of owning a business and our passion for sports colliding. It's exactly what we would have chosen, if we could have picked this."

Sports driven

Thompson and Schoonbaert say they are both very involved in sports.

"Sports are my passion," said Thompson. "I love it. All of our kids have been involved in sports, we, ourselves, have been involved in sports, and I think the need for this in Moosomin is so huge, and the potential for it is huge."

"I also love sports," says Schoonbaert. "I am home every night watching the Jays game, and playing golf. We go golfing as much as we can together as well. Kate's still playing ladies fastball, so it's what we love."

Thompson adds, "It's what our lives revolve around."

Sporting goods, footwear and much more

Thompson says the sports store holds all sporting goods ranging from kids to adults.

"You get a little bit of everything here. It's actually mind-boggling, the amount of stuff that is in here."

"The main draw is the footwear, men's, ladies, kids, mostly active footwear as well as Red Wing work boots for the mine workers."

"Then, the apparel, and the sporting goods, ranging from your main sports, baseball, hockey, football, and soccer to curling, pickleball, badminton rackets, golf—we sold a set of golf clubs the other day—it ranges from everything. We are also excited to learn if there's anything else we need, or if there is stuff that we have that doesn't seem there is a need for. We are very excited to start running the business and meeting our customers. We are ready!"

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From business cards and brochures to hockey programs and event programs, to vinyl banners, coroplast signs and ACM signs, we can print it all!

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**ROCANVILLE TIGERS
 MINOR HOCKEY**



Mady Kennedy biking coast to coast for cancer

What A Privilege raising money for Canadian Cancer Society

Continued from Page 11

Halfway through journey

Kennedy explains stopping in Elkhorn and travelling through Manitoba last week was the halfway point in her journey.

"We started in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, we jumped in the ocean there at the beginning. This is the halfway point, which is kind of poetic—the halfway point being the hometown stretch, it is definitely the motivation I needed. Then, we're going to end in Vancouver on June 14, my 30th birthday."

Family affected by cancer

Kennedy says cancer has closely affected her family and sees her journey as a way to embrace the privilege of a healthy body.

"My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, and I seen firsthand how quickly and easily our health can be ripped away from us, and it just made me never want to take that for granted again. So I've been on a mission to really take advantage of my healthy, able body and inspire other people to move and appreciate life more while we have it."

Inspiration from family

Kennedy says her uncle, Sheldon Kennedy, was a huge inspiration to bike coast to coast.

"My uncle rollerbladed across Canada 30 years ago when he was also 29, and so now I want to continue on that legacy, and I just thought, let's go big and try to raise money and do this experience with my dad. So, I came up with the idea and when I commit to something, I go all in. So then I told my dad, 'Dad, we're doing this,' so I kind of forced him into it, but it has been fun being on the road together and having him by my side."

Kennedy says she is motivated to bike for cancer survivors.

"It's about being able to move and having the privilege of a healthy, able body. I want to be able to do that for the people that can't, and show people what's possible."

"I think people assume because I'm biking across Canada, I know what I'm doing, and I have all this experience, and I don't. I literally have no idea what I'm doing. I'm figuring it out as I go. I just started biking. I biked on a trainer for hours a day. I had no experience with elevation or wind or being outside. I got my bike a week before I left. I have almost no training outside, so it's been a learning curve the entire journey, but I think I'm a huge advocate for starting before you're ready and figuring it out as you go, and just trying. I believe in starting as a beginner, failing, and learning the lessons as we go, and I don't think we do that enough in life."

Donate online at Canadian Cancer Society What A Privilege

Kennedy says anyone can donate online through What a Privilege on the Cancer Society website.

"People can donate to What a Privilege and the Cancer Society. I am documenting the entire journey on my social media and there is a link on there to donate. What a Privilege Canadian Cancer Society is our cause and place to donate."

"I am unsure how much we have raised so far. We will have to go through all of the numbers after the hometown stretch because we had a lot of support over the last week, so we have to do a new tally, but we do have a long way to go, but I'm confident that we can get there with the momentum from these past few days through home."

Mental challenge

Kennedy says she bikes up to 200 kilometres every day. "We're biking anywhere from 140 to 200 kilometres a day. Our most was 200 kilometres so far, and it's about seven hours on the bike every single day. So, it's like a job, like a shift. I get up and have breakfast, and then get out there for a couple hours, take a little break, go out there for more, and then finish the day, recover, go to bed, and start again the next day."

"It's a lot of time, but it's more about being fit mentally than physically. Being able to occupy your mind for that long, and making sure that it's a really good place to be in your mind because when you're in your thoughts for that long, it can be hard to steer it in the right direction."

She says connections, stories, and people she has met on her journey motivate her each day.

"Every single day, I've wondered, 'why am I doing this?' In the tough moments I have, that goes through my mind, and I think it's honestly an opportunity to look at my why, and come back to the reason that I'm doing it. I think every time that comes up, within half an hour, something happens, and it's like that's my why. It's the connections or people telling their story, and I come to a realization, and think that this is exactly why I'm doing it."

"It doesn't feel like you're doing anything big and monumental in the moment, but when you look at the bigger picture of the lives you're impacting, and having those conversations with people, it's so amazing."

Stories shared on journey

Kennedy says many people across Canada have shared their cancer stories with her along her journey.

"The number of people that have shared their cancer

stories, whether that's themselves going through it, being a survivor, their wife, or they lost somebody close to them, it's so heartwarming, it breaks your heart, but at the same time it's the motivation that keeps me going. That is my mission and my why, so hearing those stories gives me both sides of it, and it's so cool to have those connections with people."

"One guy that we met on the tour, was going through cancer treatment during his bike ride across Canada, which was so crazy. A little boy that we met in Deep River, he was casually biking on Mother's Day to his grandpa's house, and we ended up biking with him for maybe three minutes, and he loved what we were doing, and I thought I would never see him again. The next day, I ended up getting an email, he somehow found my email, and he wrote, 'My grandma just passed away of cancer. I'll remember this day for the rest of my life. I want to bike across Canada when I'm older, just like you.' Stuff like that means the world to me. It is so heartwarming to know that you're making an impact on someone's life, and that they might remember it for the rest of their life and inspire them to do something crazy too."

Kennedy says she is biking across the country to encourage and motivate everyone to challenge themselves.

"I'm doing it for everybody. There are two pieces to it, there's the piece that is for the people that can't, and then there's the piece that if you are able, it's to encourage people to take advantage of that and take care of their healthy bodies while they have it. I just deeply believe that we can do anything that we set our mind to, and if you have the privilege of having a healthy able body, take care of it, and if you don't, that is who I'm riding for."

Donate to Maddy Kennedy's cause, What A Privilege, online at: <https://fundraisemyway.cancer.ca/campaigns/WhatAPrivilege> or use the QR code:



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It was great to meet up with Christalee Froese of the More Joy Movement in Saskatoon.



I was happy to speak at the 60th anniversary of the Wapella Library Thursday night and join the community for a barbecue!



Construction progress on the new 33-bed long term care facility in Grenfell!



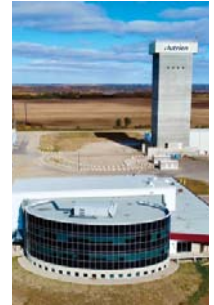
I was happy to speak at the 60th anniversary of the Wapella Library Thursday night and join the community for a barbecue!



Above left: Speaking at a Health Forum.



Above right: Speaking at Southeast College Graduation in Whitewood.



The Scissors Creek site at Nutrien Rocanville, the largest potash mine in the world.

From Saskatoon to Regina to Moosomin to Wapella

Moosomin's Third Annual Walk for Alzheimers

There was an amazing crowd out on the morning of May 30 for Moosomin's third annual Walk for Alzheimer's. There were people out from across the area to show their support and raise money for the Alzheimer Society.

The fundraising total is not in yet, but with one anonymous donor matching donations to the Moosomin walk up to \$50,000, it'll be interesting to see what the total raised will be this year!

Thanks for the organizers and thanks to everyone who came out to show their support!

Southeast College Grad, Whitewood

I was honored to speak at the Southeast College grad in Whitewood!

It was wonderful to see all these bright young students reach this important milestone in their lives! Congratulations to all the grads! I can't wait to see all that you will accomplish!

Forum Sante, Saskatoon

It was an honor to speak at the Forum Sante in Saskatoon on May 30! The Forum Sante was hosted by the Réseau Sante En Français de la Saskatchewan. I was happy to share that a new patient program in Saskatchewan offers a Health Accompagnateur Service, which helps ensure accessible and comprehensive care to patients. It was great to meet so many wonderful people and brush up on my high school French!

Moosomin Pinoy Basketball

Congratulations to Moosomin Team 1 on winning the Moosomin Pinoy Basketball tournament, which attracted teams from Brandon, Yorkton, Carlyle, Virden, Russell, and Moosomin.

There was some great basketball over the weekend and the excitement level in the final game is like being court-side at an NBA game!

Mining Week 2026

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed May 31 to June 6, 2026, as Saskatchewan Mining Week, recognizing the vital contributions of the province's mining sector and the people who support it. In our region we know how important the mining industry is, with the two largest potash mines in the world at Rocanville and Esterhazy.

Mining Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the people, partnerships and innovation that continue to drive the sector forward. It also highlights career opportunities in mining, as the industry works to attract the next generation of skilled workers in areas such as trades, engineering, environmental sciences and technology.

Saskatchewan's mining sector continues to show strong momentum, generating more than \$12.8 billion in mineral sales in 2025, up 19 per cent from 2024, driven by gains in potash (\$9.3 billion) and record uranium sales (\$3.2 billion). The industry is a major economic driver, supporting



thousands of jobs and leading Canada in mineral development investment at \$6.7 billion, while exceeding exploration targets under the Critical Minerals Strategy.

With continued growth in exploration and emerging resources such as helium, lithium, copper, zinc and gold, Saskatchewan is strengthening its position as a top mining destination and a reliable global supplier of critical minerals.

Mining Week highlights the strength of Saskatchewan's mining sector and its importance to the province's future. With continued growth and opportunity, the industry will play a key role in supporting Saskatchewan's economy for years to come.

Construction continues on new 33-bed long-term care facility in Grenfell

It's great to see construction progressing on the new 33-bed long term care facility in Grenfell! This new facility will ensure that people can get the care they need close to the people and communities they love.

Our government has reduced the community share of the cost of new health care construction from 20 per cent to 10 per cent, and increased the government share from 80 per cent to 90 per cent to make new capital projects more affordable for communities.

Mining Week luncheon

I was happy to be there for the Saskatchewan Mining Week luncheon sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and the Saskatchewan Mining Association in Regina.

In 2025, Saskatchewan's mining sector generated over \$12.8 billion in mineral sales—a 19 per cent increase over 2024. Potash sales rose by more than 18 per cent to \$9.3 billion. Uranium sales climbed 24 per cent to \$3.2 billion—a new industry record, and the second consecutive year uranium sales surpassed the Saskatchewan Growth Plan's 2030 target by more than 50 per cent.

That's what happens when world-class geology meets a competitive investment climate and an industry full of people who know what they're doing.

Saskatchewan posted the second-highest real GDP growth of any Canadian province in 2024, with mining,

quarrying, and oil and gas extraction rising 5.6 per cent—well above the national average growth rate of 1.6 per cent.

The sector employs over 20,000 people through direct jobs and contractors, and generates over \$3 billion in annual procurement from Saskatchewan businesses. These are good jobs—stable, well-paying jobs that support families in communities across this province, including communities in Moosomin-Montmartre.

And the future looks even brighter. Saskatchewan accounted for over 16 per cent of national spending on mineral exploration in 2025, surpassing the Critical Minerals Strategy goal, and exploration spending is projected to grow to \$483 million in 2026—a 23 per cent increase.

Saskatchewan is home to 27 of Canada's 34 critical minerals—including uranium, lithium, and potash—positioning this province as a cornerstone of domestic and international supply chains. As the global economy transitions and nations scramble to secure critical mineral supply chains, Saskatchewan isn't just a participant in that story. We are one of the most important chapters in it.

New playground at MacLeod School

It was great to see the kids playing on the new playground at MacLeod School last week! Our government provided a \$50,000 playground grant to MacLeod School. Grants were also provided for playgrounds in Rocanville, Wapella, Kahkewistahaw and Montmartre!

60 years for Wapella Library

I was happy to speak at the 60th anniversary of the Wapella Library Thursday night and join the community for a barbecue! Wapella is a wonderful community, and the library is at the heart of the community. While enjoying a barbecued burger in the sun, I mentioned that it was the most relaxing time of my week, and two young couples immediately said "that's why we live in Wapella!"

Libraries are more than places to borrow books. They are centres of learning, connection and opportunity.

Whether it's early literacy for children, support for students, resources for lifelong learning, or a 3D printer for community use, libraries play a vital role in strengthening literacy and supporting people at every stage of life.

Our government supports the Library system, including the Southeast Regional Library, which is receiving more than \$1 million to help deliver library services to communities across the region, including Wapella.

This funding helps ensure libraries across the province can continue to provide essential services, programs and access to information.

Thanks to the board members, staff, and community supporters who have made Wapella Library a vital part of the community for 60 years!

Reach out

It is great to spend more time in the riding after spring session, and I'm always willing to listen to you. Feel free to call me at 306-435-4005 or email office@kevinweedmark.ca

Envision Counselling Services available in Moosomin, Rocanville

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Cam Brown of Envision Counselling, recently moved to Moosomin and offers counselling services to the community at their office at Broadway Commons on Main Street.

Envision Counselling and Support Centre is a safe space open to anyone in the public in need of support. It is a free counselling service available now in Moosomin and Rocanville.

Brown is originally from Estevan and moved to Moosomin to offer counselling services to the area. She worked previously at St. Joseph's Treatment Centre in Estevan.

"I'm from Estevan, I was born and raised there. I moved to the United States after high school to play volleyball, so I spent two years down in Williston, North Dakota, and then I went to school for two years down in Florida to play volleyball. That is where I got my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

"Then, I moved back home with the idea of still going back to Florida eventually, but then plans changed, and I ended up staying at home where I got a job at the treatment center in Estevan. I started off as a support worker there where I would serve the clients food, and hang out with them, not doing any kind of counselling, but I knew I was interested in doing it."

Brown completed her Masters of Psychology last August while working at the treatment centre.

"Then I got asked to be a counsellor, and I was really hesitant at first because I thought it was too fast, and they told me, 'We wouldn't have asked you if we didn't feel like you were ready or not capable of doing it,' so then I became a counsellor and stayed at the treatment centre for three years, and in the middle of that I decided to do my master's. I have a Masters of Psychology. I finished it last August."

She says working at the treatment center while taking her masters aligned a lot of concepts in psychology and counselling.

"In school we focused on different types of therapy. We'd have a week or so where we would just do Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) or Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), all these different types. It was cool because I'd learn about it at school, and then would see it implemented at work. So, that was really cool to see



Cam Brown of Envision Counselling. Located at Broadway Commons on Main Street Moosomin and at the Medical Centre in Rocanville.

that first-hand. Not a lot of people have that opportunity, so that was really neat to see. I was coached a lot by my supervisors at the treatment centre as well. They helped me a lot."

Envision Counselling

Brown is a Rapid Access Counsellor with Envision Counselling. She has an office in the Broadway Commons building on Main Street and is in Rocanville at the Medical Centre on Tuesdays.

"I got into Envision Counselling because I knew I wanted to move to Moosomin, and there's not a whole lot of mental health resources here, and I knew I wanted to do something with mental health, and luckily Envision had an opportunity for

me, and they have been so supportive. "I am a rapid access counsellor. We take away the crisis, it's for people who are in need of counselling immediately, and it could be for anything. I only do 12 years and older. I haven't started with the chil-

dren quite yet. "It's not a long-term counselling program because of limited resources here and it is free to the public"

Continued on page 54



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Moosomin's Walk for Alzheimer's draws over 100 walkers

Continued from Page 13

Raised over \$68,000 in Moosomin

Whelpton says the walk raised over \$34,000 before the anonymous donor matched up to \$50,000.

"We raised \$24,000 online, and \$10,600 on the day of. I am still waiting to hear from Regina because we had the matching donor up to \$50,000 so they still have to confirm the amount of that.

"Moosomin raised \$36,014 and the only two places that beat us were Regina and Saskatoon. We raised more than Prince Albert and Swift Current. Regina raised \$56,670 and Saskatoon raised \$70,313. So we were right in the middle of four big cities."

She adds, "We had \$24,000 donated online before the walk started, which is way more than last year, and then when we counted the money that was donated during the walk, around \$10,000 that seemed like a lot to me. It's really encouraging that people care, and want to donate."

Important to walk

Whelpton explains walking for Alzheimer's is an important initiative.

"I know it's an important cause. I truly believe we'll all be touched by dementia in some form, maybe not very closely, but we'll be touched so I think it is really important for us to learn about it, to learn what supports there are, and donate to research. So, hopefully, there will be some kind of a cure or medicine that will mitigate some of the symptoms, so that we would be able to function a lot better."

Huge community support

Whelpton says she was thankful for all the support and promotion of the Walk for Alzheimer's event.

"It is heartwarming to be in this community with all the support, with the Spectator's support, MLA support, the chamber's support, and always being able to speak there and being warmly welcomed at the chamber meetings. Talking to the businesses, there was a lot more businesses that just rose to the challenge of making a team, going into the wellness fair, talking to me about it. So that was really neat to see the businesses step up and support."

She says there was a great group of many volunteers who helped with this year's walk.

"I really love that we had over 30 volunteers to make this



Some of the walkers at this year's Walk for Alzheimer's in Moosomin.

work. The youngest was eight and the oldest would have been in their 70s. We were really excited that everybody of all ages wanted to help. I had people stop me and ask if we needed help organizing, and helped. It's usually been just our little group that organizes everything so that was great this year to have so many volunteers from the community."

Care about one another

Whelpton says she enjoys seeing the community rally together to accomplish goals.

"It's an amazing, unique, small town community. We care about our neighbors. We get to know our neighbors and our friends and our coworkers, and we care about them when something bad happens, or when there's a challenge, we want to make it better. This seems to be the type of people that are drawn here."

She says many families joined this year's walk.

"There was one team that had a family member that had just been diagnosed this past year, so they were new to the walk, and that team had amazing family support. I think there was 10 or 15 of them and they raised a good amount of money. That was really exciting to see them rally around their family member and come out to the walk."

She says the Moosomin Alzheimer's Support Group is being missed by community members.

"I've been encouraged to start our support group again because that has been quiet for a while. Some have said, 'I'm

definitely going to come to that, or I need to come to that, or my husband and I, or my wife and I, so there is still the need for it."

Inspired for next year

Whelpton says the work of organizing the walk each year is rewarding.

"It was very rewarding to do the work. I feel very satisfied. I feel inspired to do better next year. You always want to fine tune things and make it more efficient, get the word out to more people, get more people involved, and supporting, more businesses joining as teams. I am very satisfied. It was well worth the effort."

She says the walk has grown over the past three years.

"Three years ago, I had never even heard of the walk, until Bill Thorn brought it up. Our support group was small. I would tell people I was going to it, and they would look a little confused saying, 'We have a sup-

port group for that?' We have a whole nursing home full of people and families that could use support. So it's changed a lot in three years, the walk and our support group. People know now there is a group of us and who to reach out to. You always hope that what you say encourages someone else and gives them hope.

"We've not only raised money, but also raised awareness in a huge way and that is our goal. The awareness and building the relationships with people who might need our support was priority of the group, and we've educated walkers, and we've educated the Regina office in that. We've always said you can't just throw money at something, you have to have the people involved and the relationships."

"I am proud. Proud of our efforts and of our town."



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JULY 4

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Direct to Smelter – Precious Metals Roadshow comes to Moosomin

Voyager Gold will be coming to Moosomin during a roadshow making its way through Saskatchewan. You can bring your gold, silver & coins to the Nutrien Sportsplex between 9 am and 4 pm each day. No appointment is required.

The President of Voyager Gold is Ethan Semple, a precious metals buyer. Semple's family roots grow deep in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Semple comes from several generations of gold, with his first taste coming during a Boy Scouts gold panning trip at the Hope Recreational Panning Area in BC.

“Gold buying and testing was happening on my kitchen table all throughout my life,” Semple chuckles. “My father was an avid gold panner and precious metals buyer, so it comes second nature to me.”



After getting a formal education and spending a few years in the rat race and the birth of his first child, Semple decided to

follow in his father's footsteps and become a precious metals buyer as well with the hope that one day he might provide her with a yard to run around in.

Recent increases in gold prices have led to many people becoming “gold buyers.” “Voyager Gold provides a service that is personal and informative, making sure the client understands everything that is going on from testing to quoting,” Semple says. “Voyager Gold deals directly with the smelter, cutting out the middle man. This enables us to pass those savings on to the client, unlike other gold buyers offering pennies on the dollar.”

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“We use a variety of tools and tests to analyze your items including magnetic sweeps, hallmark identification, as well as various purity tests,” Semple explains. “We even have experience with some collectible coins and bills where we look at numismatic value. In any event we're always happy to take a look and offer some insight.”

“Over half the world's annual gold harvest comes from recycled gold. Energy costs are about \$500 to mine a new ounce of gold, where recycled gold is about \$10 per ounce. That prevents a lot of diesel from being burned.” Gold and silver purchased at the show

and later melted goes back into the market without incurring that environmental cost.

“People bring in all sorts of items, but most often it's broken or forgotten jewellery from the back of the jewellery box or even dental gold. Often times folks are surprised by how much value was just sitting there,” Semple says. “Voyager Gold provides a quick and low pressure environment. We do everything right in front of your eyes and provide an offer with absolutely no pressure, no obligation, and no appointment necessary.”

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<p>MLS®# SK033361</p>  <p>414 Lake Street, Esterhazy, SK 3 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1121 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$235,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK015710</p>  <p>DOWN \$5,000</p> <p>219 4th Avenue Whitewood, SK 5 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 1092 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$179,999</p>	<p>MLS®# SK032693</p>  <p>CONDITIONALLY SOLD</p> <p>504 11th Street NE, Weyburn, SK 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1208 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$375,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK008779</p>  <p>DOWN \$16,000</p> <p>540 Stanley Street, Esterhazy, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1067 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$299,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK032386</p>  <p>Brewer Road Acreage, Cana RM No. 214, SK 3 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 2240 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$625,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK028737</p>  <p>809 Lalonde St, Whitewood, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 6250 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$140,000</p>
<p>MLS®# SK031592</p>  <p>DOWN \$10,000</p> <p>737 Sumner Street, Esterhazy, SK 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 936 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$215,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK030472</p>  <p>206 Pitt Street, Rocanville, SK 4 Bedrooms 3 Bathrooms 1260 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$275,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK032686</p>  <p>Weyburn Durum Quarter, Weyburn Rm No. 67 159.66 acres</p> <p>NOW \$600,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK012055</p>  <p>Holars Haven Acreage, Spy Hill RM No. 152, SK 5 Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms 15.09 acres</p> <p>NOW \$758,888</p>	<p>MLS®# SK026043</p>  <p>DOWN \$10,000</p> <p>217 Ellice Street, Rocanville, SK 2 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1034 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$64,900</p>	<p>MLS®# SK017859</p>  <p>Atwater 40 Acreage Fertile Belt RM No.183, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 40 acres WAS \$245,000</p> <p>NOW \$230,000</p>
<p>MLS®# SK027192</p>  <p>Prairie View Acreage, Brock RM No. 64, SK 4 Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms 10 acres</p> <p>NOW \$1,595,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK026599</p>  <p>Grenfell Acres, Elcapo RM No. 154, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 50.53 acres</p> <p>NOW \$345,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK026404</p>  <p>Marla's Place, Fertile Belt RM No. 183 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 159.99 acres</p> <p>NOW \$615,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK027938</p>  <p>CONDITIONALLY SOLD</p> <p>Moose Bay Rd Acreage, Grayson RM No. 184, SK 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 9.93 acres</p> <p>NOW \$399,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK034538</p>  <p>604 Sussex Avenue, Esterhazy, SK 2 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 1102 sq ft</p> <p>NOW \$175,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK014548</p>  <p>BACK ON THE MARKET</p> <p>Envy Dog House Acreage Silverwood RM No. 123, SK 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 2100 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$410,000</p>
<p>MLS®# SK022472</p>  <p>509 5th Avenue, Whitewood, SK 4 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 864 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$159,000</p>	<p>NEW TO THE MARKET</p> <p>3 Lots Tantallon, SK</p> <p>NOW \$25,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK008723</p>  <p>Elizabeth St South Acreage, Fertile Belt RM No. 183 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 10 acres</p> <p>NOW \$499,900</p>	<p>MLS®# SK012801</p>  <p>Lomenda Acreage, Langenburg RM No. 181, SK 3 Bedrooms 1 Bathroom 40.1 acres</p> <p>NOW \$428,000</p>	<p>MLS®# SK014661</p>  <p>300 Isobel Ave, Tantallon, SK 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1280 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$249,500</p>	<p>MLS®# SK013089</p>  <p>DOWN \$25,000</p> <p>204 Allan Avenue, Saltcoats, SK 4 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms 1520 sqft</p> <p>NOW \$120,000</p>



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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

June 2026 • Page 29

Saskatchewan mining sector delivering strong results and a bright future

Saskatchewan's world class mining sector continues to drive economic growth, generating over \$12.8 billion in mineral sales in 2025, a 19 per cent increase compared to 2024.

This growth was primarily due to substantial gains in the value of potash and uranium sales. Potash sales rose by over 18 per cent to a total of \$9.3 billion, while uranium sales increased by 24 per cent to \$3.2 billion, setting a new industry record. Notably, 2025 marked the second consecutive year that uranium sales exceeded the Saskatchewan Growth Plan's 2030 target, surpassing it by more than 50 per cent.

"Potash continues to be a core pillar of our strong economy, while our world-class uranium industry continues to create opportunities for people in the north and all of Saskatchewan," Energy and Resources Minister Chris Beaudry said. "Along with the continued growth of potash and uranium, other Saskatchewan mineral projects are advancing including in helium, lithium, gold, copper and zinc. The diversity of our natural resources sector is our strength and one of the reasons Saskatchewan is a true critical minerals powerhouse."

"In a time of global uncertainty, mineral producers in Saskatchewan offer a secure and reliable source of critical minerals that provide food and clean energy security to our global trading partners, while creating economic and social benefits here



at home," Saskatchewan Mining Association President Pam Schwann said.

In 2025, Saskatchewan once again led Canada in mineral resource development spending with annual investment totaling \$6.7 billion, contributing 25 per cent of the national total. Saskatchewan also accounted for over 16 per cent of national spending on mineral exploration, surpassing the Critical Minerals Strategy goal of reaching 15 per cent of national exploration spending. In 2026, Saskatchewan exploration spending is expected to grow to \$483 million, an increase of 23 per cent compared

to 2025.

In the 2026-2027 provincial budget, the Government of Saskatchewan extended the Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive (TMEI) to encourage more exploration and new mineral discoveries. Last year, this key program supported 34 exploration projects, with companies investing an estimated \$70 million in those projects. Since the program was launched in 2018, the TMEI has supported 131 exploration projects, resulting in an estimated \$245 million in project expenditures.

The Government of Saskatchewan's Targeted Mineral Explo-

ration Incentive program has been instrumental in advancing Trident's exploration activities in the La Ronge Gold Belt, helping accelerate discovery and unlock the region's significant mineral potential," Trident Resources Corp. CEO Jon Weisblatt said. "With our 30,000 to 40,000 metre drill program now well underway, this support is contributing meaningfully to both our current progress and long-term growth strategy. Saskatchewan continues to build strong momentum as a destination of choice for resource development and investment, and we are encouraged by the growing excitement across

the province around both critical and precious metals."

By the end of 2026, Saskatchewan is expected to see new commercial production of three critical minerals that have never been produced in the province before - copper, zinc and lithium. This would fulfill another goal in the province's Critical Minerals Strategy, to double the number of critical minerals produced in the province by 2030.

Eldorado Gold Corp.'s (formerly Foran Mining Corp.) new copper-zinc-gold-silver project at McIlvenna Bay is expected to launch commercial operations by the middle of this year, and Prairie Lithium Ltd. is on target to enter production before the end of 2026. Saskatchewan is currently the largest producer of helium in Canada, with helium operations in the southwest area of the province supplying roughly three per cent of the global market.

The province's competitive incentives and clear, predictable regulatory framework make it a top global destination for mining development. The Fraser Institute recently ranked Saskatchewan as one of the top three jurisdictions in the world for mining investment attractiveness.

The sector also ensures long-term economic stability for families in the province, employing over 20,000 people through direct jobs and contractors serving the sector, in addition to over \$3 billion of annual procurement from Saskatchewan businesses.

Mining Sector Delivers Strong Results

Saskatchewan's world-class mining sector continues to drive economic growth, generating over \$12.8 billion in mineral sales in 2025, a 19% increase from 2024. This growth was driven mainly by potash and uranium sales.

Potash sales rose to \$9.3 billion, while uranium sales increased to \$3.2 billion, setting a new industry record.

Notably, 2025 marked the second consecutive year uranium sales exceeded the *Saskatchewan Growth Plan* 2030 goals, surpassing it by more than 50%. Our province is a true critical minerals powerhouse — one of our key strengths driving growth and creating opportunities for people across Saskatchewan.



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Mining, Energy and Manufacturing

The Thor Project

Minister Beaudry says prospect of new resource 'extremely exciting' for Saskatchewan

BY KARA KINNA

The World-Spectator spoke to Chris Beaudry, the Saskatchewan Minister of Energy and Resources, about the Thor Project.

In January, Canadian Energy Metals Corp. announced the results of its Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA), which outlines the scale, quality, and potential economic viability of Canada's first major domestic alumina resource. The PEA was prepared by two leading engineering firms and supports CEM's Thor Project as a discovery of possible global significance.

The Thor Project has the potential to position Canada as a secure North American source of alumina, providing a long-term alternative to imported bauxite and strengthening critical supply chains.

Thor is located within CEM's holdings of 2,557 square kilometres (987 square miles) in East Central Saskatchewan.

CEM's PEA financial model contemplates a surface mining and processing operation with an average throughput of 16.5 million tonnes per year of ore feed, supporting alumina production of 1.8 million tonnes per year over a 25-year project life.

The Thor Project has the potential to create an entirely new processing and value-added industry for Saskatchewan and North America.

Following are the comments from Minister Beaudry:

Tell me a little bit about the history behind the Thor Project.

Canadian Energy Metals was founded back in 2021 and since the discovery of the Thor Project in 2022, they've made quite

a bit of progress in defining the resource. Also, the government of Saskatchewan has supported the development of the project through the Targeted Minerals Exploration Incentive, which is a program that supports early-stage hard rock mineral exploration.

The Thor Project is extremely exciting, but also has a long way to go. The prospect of this new, significant resource, though, is extremely exciting for the province.

Why is the Thor Project such a significant find for Saskatchewan and also for Canada and North America?

One thing that's great about our province is that we're already Canada's largest primary producer of critical minerals. And in 2026 we're going to see commercial production of six critical minerals, including potash, uranium, helium, lithium, copper and zinc. And with CEM's discovery of alumina, this helps show the potential for the further diversification of our mining sector.

What are the next steps in order to actually develop this industry, what needs to happen?

Currently, they're developing a plan for economic production, which is essential. They delve deep into feasibility, project engineering and a few other things that are undertaken by the company.

What would the long-term implications be for our province, if the industry was developed?

The potential for a large critical minerals project is exciting for the province on the



Minister of Energy and Resources, Chris Beaudry.

whole. It's extremely exciting for the east central area of Saskatchewan, but it's still in the very early stages, and mining projects can take many years to develop. There's still a lot of benchmarks and milestones that the Thor Project needs to reach before it can be considered commercially viable, and I think it's just a little early to contemplate the impacts of what it could do for Saskatchewan and the east central region.

How would this new industry position Saskatchewan in terms of resource richness on a global scale if it were developed?

Already on a global scale Saskatchewan is positioned as one of the strongest places to look for and develop critical minerals.

We have 27 of Canada's 34 critical minerals. We have an abundance of resources, along with our strong regulatory framework and attractive incentives. This makes our province one of the top jurisdictions for resource development.

I was just currently in Vancouver and Calgary, and when I would ask industry what needs to be done in Saskatchewan, they said nothing. You guys are at the forefront. You are the benchmark for a government that brings in industry.

The preliminary economic assessment has been completed. What would CEM and the government's next steps be?

Well, CEM did announce that they're doing the pre-feasibility study in 2026, and as for the government, there are no steps for us currently. CEM needs to finish their feasibility study. They have a lot of work with the ball in their court before the ball gets put back into the government's court—not even put back, but before we even see the ball for the first time.

What kind of timeline would we be looking at here? Do we have a rough idea how long it could take to develop something like this?

I think it's still very early to determine that, and because of the nature of the project, that's almost impossible to answer right now, but CEM is very committed to their project, and I think they're going to move with as much haste as they can as a company.

Continued on page 37 ^{ESP}



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Canada may finally be ready to stop underselling its oil

A second West Coast pipeline will finally give Canadian crude the global market access it deserves

After a decade of political paralysis, Canada may finally be moving toward a new West Coast oil pipeline.

Canada currently has only one major oil pipeline route to the Pacific coast through the Trans Mountain expansion. Another pipeline would give Canadian crude greater access to overseas markets at a time when diversifying exports away from the United States is becoming increasingly important.

The proposed new pipeline is no longer an "if" but a "when," Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said confidently after a meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney in Ottawa last Friday.

Disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz have exposed how fragile global energy markets can become, reinforcing why governments and industry are once again prioritizing energy security, energy executives told CNBC. The world is now looking for reliable producers to fill the gap, and Canada has the oil and gas reserves to help fill the gap.

Currently, Canada still exports most of its oil and gas to the U.S. Because Canada lacks enough infrastructure to export energy overseas, Canadian producers often sell at discounted prices into the U.S. market. Major pipeline projects have faced years of political opposition, regulatory delays and cancellations. In recent years, though, the energy industry has pushed for expanded exports, and the federal government has recently begun supporting that push.

Olivier Le Peuch, CEO of the oil-field services company SLB, and Baker Hughes CEO Lorenzo Simonelli told CNBC the Hormuz disruptions had exposed the fragility of the global energy system and would force governments and industry to prioritize energy security.

But "it's not just about increasing energy supply," Simonelli said. "It's about building robust and resilient energy infrastructure and greater redundancy, diversifying infrastructure, and reducing reliance on any single large-scale asset."

Canada has a "golden opportunity" to become a major global oil player as the war in the Middle East limits sources of crude and natural gas, Fatih Birol, head of the International Energy Agency, told Bloomberg. "The cost of missing this train will be incredible."



Rashid Husain Sued

Birol said the war had removed millions of barrels per day from global supply, and reliability has gained even more prominence for importers of energy commodities. After the war ends, Birol said there would be an "energy security risk premium," and that "the most important resource, or card, that Canada has today is trust."

"Canada doesn't have the luxury to be slow," Birol added. "I wish there were a few more Canadas in the world, so that we can have a much more reliable and sustainable global energy system."

But Canada will have to change course if it wants to seize that opportunity, industry leaders are warning. Jon McKenzie, Cenovus's CEO, told analysts on Wednesday that Canada's national conversation around oil sands development has become "myopically focused on the climate agenda" and that the consequences are already playing out in the investment numbers. The country, he argued, has spent over a decade making itself one of the least attractive places on Earth to build new oil production.

Numbers back him up, writes Charles Kennedy of Oilprice.com. Only one new greenfield oil sands project has been approved and built in Canada since 2013, even though global oil demand has continued to grow.

Our carbon tax policy is largely to blame, McKenzie said. "The industrial carbon tax is unique to Canada," he said, adding that it gives companies a stronger incentive to invest abroad. Canada is one of the few oil-producing nations to levy such a charge on its energy industry, one reason, he said, that capital has been steadily migrating toward the U.S. and parts of the Middle East, where approval processes are shorter and operating costs are lower.

The unresolved carbon pricing talks aren't the only thing creating headaches for the sector. Earlier this year, Canadian Natural Resources deferred its US\$6-billion

Jackpine carbon capture expansion at its Albian oil sands site, citing "lack of finalization of government regulatory policies" around carbon pricing and methane. The project is on hold until the rules are clear.

The crisis in the Middle East has created an opening for Canadian energy

exports. Building new export pipelines beyond the U.S. would strengthen Canada's economy while helping provide greater energy security to global markets.

We must grab the opportunity, and with both hands.

Toronto-based Rashid Husain Syed, a highly regarded analyst specializing in energy and politics, particularly in the Middle East. In addition to his contributions to local and international newspapers, Rashid frequently lends his expertise as a speaker at global conferences. Organizations such as the Department of Energy in Washington and the International Energy Agency in Paris have sought his insights on global energy matters.

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New uranium mines will power economic growth in Saskatchewan

With two new mines advancing toward construction after receiving federal approval, Saskatchewan's growing uranium sector is creating new jobs and economic opportunities for northern Saskatchewan.

On February 19, 2026, Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) was approved to construct its Wheeler River Project by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). On March 5, 2026, NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen) received CNSC approval to build its Rook I Project. These are the first Canadian uranium mines to be approved for construction since 2004.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to see Denison and NexGen reach this significant stage with their projects," Energy and Resources Minister Chris Beaudry said. "At each step of the approval process, these companies have advanced their projects responsibly by building relationships with local communities and through their commitment to environmental stewardship. Wheeler River and Rook I will provide generational economic opportunities for Saskatchewan people, particularly the Indigenous and Métis communities in the north, and strengthen our position in becoming the world leader in uranium production."

"Well over a decade ago, we made a strategic decision to exit our international operations and to make significant long-term investments in the uranium mining sector in northern Saskatchewan," Denison President and CEO David Cates said. "Today, we have a diverse portfolio of projects including our flagship Wheeler River project—which consists of the Phoenix In-Situ Recovery (ISR) uranium mine, and a potential future underground mine at the nearby Gryphon deposit. Phoenix will be the first ISR uranium mine to be built in Canada and reflects the best of Canadian mining ingenuity and determination."

"Further to this, I am pleased to announce that site preparation and initial construction activities have already commenced at Phoenix, and that we are preparing



to transition into full-scale construction. The support and encouragement of the Saskatchewan government have meaningfully contributed to the successful advancement of the project—providing us with a rigorous and stable regulatory environment that results in the predictability and confidence needed for a large-scale investment like a new mine."

"Our final approval of the Rook I Project on March 5, 2026, represents the beginning of construction of this generational project, which the NexGen team have been preparing for since the Arrow discovery 12 years ago," NexGen Founder and CEO Leigh Curyer said. "As a world-class project in a leading mining jurisdiction, Rook I will create opportunities in employment, local procure-

ment, and community infrastructure, while generating an initial estimated \$32.5 billion in total economic impact for Saskatchewan over its construction and initial operations phases. This will mean generational careers and investments available for infrastructure in the North and across the province.

In collaboration with our Indigenous Nation partners and with the support of Premier Scott Moe and the Government of Saskatchewan, together we are transitioning mining into a new era. Backed by our team's proven capability and focus, NexGen is ready to successfully deliver this project for the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents. We thank Premier Moe and this Saskatchewan Government for its steadfast support of the project and commend its vision for a strong, prosperous future for Saskatchewan."

Both Wheeler River and Rook I are located in northern Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin, which holds the world's largest high grade uranium reserves. Combined, the projects will create over 1,600 jobs during construction, employ over 700 people during operation, and represent a total estimated investment of \$2.8 billion.

Demand for Saskatchewan's responsibly produced uranium continues to increase as Canada and its allies around the world look for stable and reliable sources of low-emissions energy. With a strong regulatory framework, the world's richest uranium reserves, and strong exploration incentive programs, Saskatchewan can meet this demand now and into the future.

Saskatchewan's existing uranium sector is responsible for over 3,300 jobs including direct employees and contractors. The uranium industry is a major employer of northern and Indigenous workers, with 43 per cent of mine site workers being residents of Saskatchewan's north.



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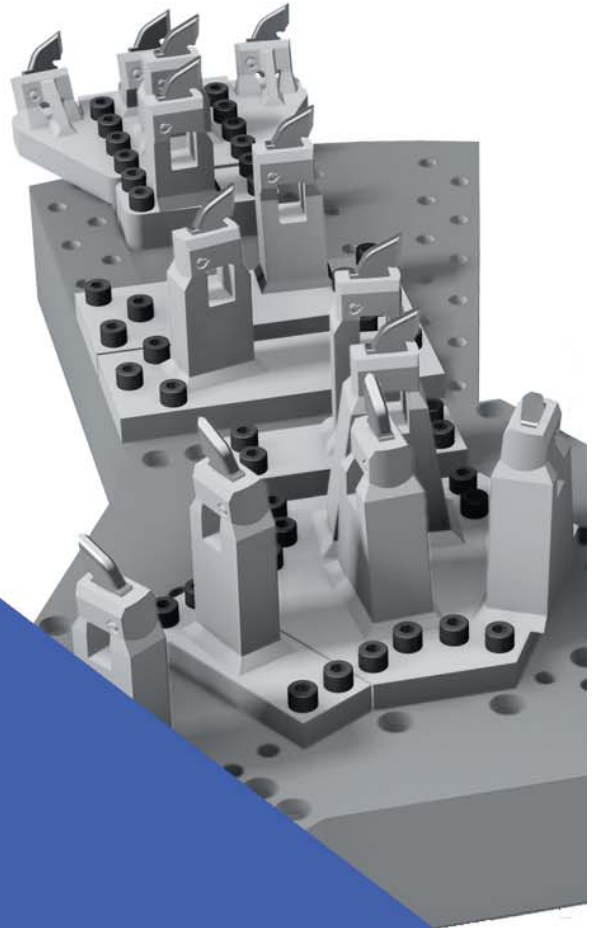
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Keisig talks about Sask's plans to evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies

BY KARA KINNA

The Government of Saskatchewan and SaskPower have announced plans to formally evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies for use in Saskatchewan. The technology selection process will take place alongside SaskPower's existing nuclear small modular reactor (SMR) project.

The World-Spectator spoke with Travis Keisig, Legislative Secretary for SaskPower, recently, about that announcement. Following is the interview:

What does a technology selection process entail for evaluating large nuclear reactors?

There's a myriad of technology globally, because you're going to be looking at a global context for these technologies. There's the tested and proven can-do reactors in Ontario. There's the AP 1000s in Westinghouse, the United Kingdom has several reactor designs. So we're going to take a broad look at all of those and go through the criteria of fuel availability, technology, deployment, and a lot of steps and processes.

That's the start of it is kind of looking at the big picture. And then we start whittling it down to what technology would best fit Saskatchewan's electrical generation needs.

Is this SaskPower and the government saying that they are indeed actually going to go ahead with large nuclear power generation in Saskatchewan?

You have to start the process of looking at what reactor design would work best in Saskatchewan's environment, what provider can actually provide you with the technology and the unit to build it. So you have to look at a lot of things and we also have to really pay attention to potential costs and what those would be.

Why are these steps being taken now?

We are kind of at an interesting point in time. I mean, the Prime Minister of Canada said repeatedly that he wants Canada to be an energy superpower, and electrical generation is a huge cornerstone of being an energy superpower. And Saskatchewan has a long history of uranium mining, doing it in an environmentally sustainable way, having some of the highest First Nations employment in Saskatchewan.

It's a great industry. It does so much to help northern residents and all Saskatchewan residents. And so, is this the time that we should be looking at adding nuclear electrical generation to our electrical fleet.

Why do you think Saskatchewan is well positioned to support nuclear power generation?

The fuel source is readily available in Saskatchewan, and if you look at a map, we are in the center of the North American continent, so we can provide electrons down a power line heading south, north, east or west and help sell electricity to all of our neighboring jurisdictions.

If the industry was developed like, what kind of timeline are we looking at?

There hasn't been a new nuclear jurisdiction in North America in over 40 years. We are breaking ground in Saskatchewan, any place that has built new nuclear reactors had a facility already. Any place that had a facility has been able to add on to their facilities or add another reactor. Like at Darlington (Ontario), the Bruce Power Station has always been there, and they're adding on a small modular reactor. In Georgia they built two new nuclear reactors there, but there were two reactors already there. They added two more.

To have a brand new, unique jurisdiction, there hasn't been one started in North America in over 40 years. So, there is a lot of environmental planning that has to go into it. There are a lot of processes that you have to follow, so it's important that we start the process now, because it takes a long time to get nuclear approval.

When you say a long time, approximately how long?

Between 10 and 20 years.

Where in Saskatchewan would be the best place to develop something like this?

We haven't really started the site selection process yet. We have to pick a technology and then tailor the site location to the technology's needs. You first you got to pick which one you want to build, then you have to find a place to build it, and, you have to make sure that you're doing excellent public engagement throughout the entire process, and keep everyone informed on what's happening.

How much energy could be created from large nuclear reactors?

A large reactor typically generates 1,000 megawatts. So that's a very substantial portion of our electricity. Typically in Saskatchewan we use between 4,000 and 4,500 megawatts a day. So a large reactor would be 1,000 megawatts, so it would be a substantial addition to our electrical generation fleet.

How many jobs do you think could be created if something like this were developed in Saskatchewan?

There would be thousands during construction, and then there would be very good jobs in the operation of



Minister responsible for SaskPower Jeremy Harrison, above, and SaskPower President and CEO Rupen Pandya, at right, during the announcement of plans to evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies in Saskatchewan.



the plant. It's typically a very high end career in the nuclear industry.

If you've chose a site, what kind of infrastructure needs to be developed in order to support large scale nuclear?

There's a lot of different processes involved and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, CNSC, is very astute in setting out the guidelines and everything else. So that process will happen after technology selection is made, because every technology is a little bit different. So there's a lot of processes to follow, because safety is always top of mind with nuclear energy.

Does the SaskPower grid currently have the capacity to handle this kind of power?

Yes, absolutely it does. Whether you're creating your electrons from natural gas or from solar or wind or coal fired power stations, it's still an electron. Is an electron running down the line. It's a little bit challenging for SaskPower, because most of our units are in that typical 300 megawatt range. Our current plants always have to have what are called turnarounds or shutdowns. You turn the facility off to do maintenance and repairs on it. And a nuclear generating station is exactly the same. So typically it's a window of every 24 months, it has to be turned off and serviced and refueled. And so you have to have your shutdowns planned accordingly to your power output and everything else, and that is going to be one of the engineering things to work through, is when, if you take a 300 megawatt facility off line in a 4,300 megawatt daily use, it's very workable in our system. But taking 1,000 megawatts off, you'd have to pay attention to it.

But you wouldn't have to build extra infrastructure?

No we wouldn't. But we are adding inter-ties to the southwest power pool—those are currently under construction. And we are also looking at inter-ties to sell more electricity to Alberta, so we have inter-ties with Manitoba, Alberta and the southwest power pool. So we'll have an opportunity to market any extra electricity that we would produce as a province.

So if large-scale nuclear came online in Saskatchewan, what would the effect be on our Saskatchewan power customers, and also on Saskatchewan's economy?

We're kind of laser focused as a government on reliability and affordability—those are our two North Stars. It's beautiful weather out today, but January 27 at 7 pm at night is typically, historically, the largest draw in Saskatchewan—it can be minus 40, it's dark, it's cold. And so you kind of build your entire electrical grid around that standard. You have to make sure that you're providing

reliable base load electricity to all of the Saskatchewan residents. And that is one thing, that nuclear power is—100 per cent reliable base load electricity.

Would it have any effect on people's power costs?

Costs are kind of undetermined. As you are able to mass produce and build more of something, typically the prices come down. And when we're doing selection of technologies, cost is going to be something we're definitely looking at very hard.

Is there anything else that you think people should know about this?

A lot of people are super excited about the future of the nuclear industry in Saskatchewan, and it's important for people to understand that there hasn't been a new jurisdiction in North America in 40 years, so there's a lot of processes to go through and we're going to follow all of the steps and do our public engagement or Indigenous engagement as we move through the process.

But we're excited as a government to see this brought forward. And it's something that should have been done a long time ago. In Saskatchewan, we've been a proud producer of uranium out of this province for generations, and it's a viable energy source, and it's critical in today's day and age.

Because we produce our own uranium, is there a cost savings in that?

The uranium is mined in Saskatchewan, and then it's refined in Ontario. But you would have reliability of your source of energy.

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Mining, Energy and Manufacturing



Money in Sask budget for strategic investment in energy and mining sectors

The 2026-27 Provincial Budget strengthens Saskatchewan's position as one of the top jurisdictions in the world for resource development.

"This budget makes strategic investments in our energy and mining sectors so they can continue to grow their industries, create good jobs and power economic growth in our province," Energy and Resources Minister Chris Beaudry said. "Our government will continue to be a strong supporter of our world class resource sectors, which are key to our province's future and our commitment to protecting Saskatchewan."

This year's budget includes \$2.3 million for the third year of the Saskatchewan Geological Survey's (SGS) Public Geoscience Initiative. This investment will improve access to new, high-quality geoscience information to encourage mineral exploration and promote new critical mineral discoveries. The Public Geoscience Initiative is a \$10 million commitment by the Government of Saskatchewan that spans over 10 years.

The budget also provides \$3.5 million for the continuation of the Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive (TMEI), a key program designed to grow and diversify Saskatchewan's mining sector and drive mineral exploration activity. In 2025, Saskatch-

ewan exploration expenditures are estimated to have reached 17 per cent of the Canadian total, which would surpass the Critical Mineral Strategy goal of reaching 15 per cent of national exploration expenditures by 2030.

The High Water-Cut Oil Well Program is extended in this budget to support oil production and contribute to reaching Saskatchewan's goal of 600,000 barrels per day by 2030. In alignment with the Saskatchewan Growth Plan, this program encourages capital investment and extends the life of existing oil wells.

With budget 2026-27, the modernization of Saskatchewan's timber royalty system will come into effect. These changes will align the timber royalty system with other resource royalty structures in Saskatchewan and ensure the industry remains competitive with other jurisdictions. The modernized timber royalty system will support the forestry industry in meeting Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goal to double the

size of the forestry sector by 2030.

Saskatchewan's world-leading natural resource sectors, competitive exploration incentives and clear regulatory framework make it Canada's premier destination for investment. The Fraser Institute recently ranked Saskatchewan as the third-best jurisdiction in the world for mining investment attraction. The 2026-27 Budget will enable the Saskatchewan Government to continue to provide health, safety and social services to residents, while ensuring the continued strength of our economy and the sustainability of our energy and resource industries.



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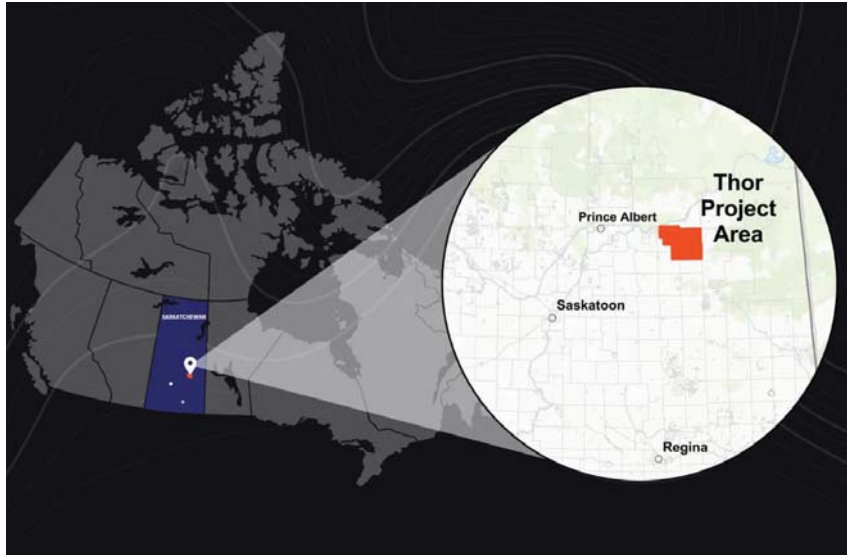
Saskatchewan is the world's largest potash producer, a global leader in uranium production, and home to 27 critical minerals.

With an abundance of resources, competitive incentives and predictable regulatory system, Saskatchewan is one of the best places in the world for mining investment.

Explore all that Saskatchewan has to offer:



Minister Beaudry says prospect of new resource 'extremely exciting' for Saskatchewan



The Thor Project area is located in East Central Saskatchewan, and would be Canada's first major domestic alumina resource.

Continued from page 30

What kind of infrastructure would need to be put in place to develop this industry, and how many people could it potentially employ?

I think we're really early to be answering those kinds of questions, but the Saskatchewan government will work with the company and the surrounding communities to determine what's needed when it comes to infrastructure and job creation.

What are some of the things the government can do to make it easier to pave the way for the development of this industry?

I think we touched on that earlier with our incentives, and what industry has said, that we've built a framework already that drives industry. Industry is looking at us, saying 'this is a place we want to be.'

How excited were you when you heard about this?

It's always exciting to see new projects, especially in an area close to my home. But I also would say, there are a lot of projects that show up in this industry, and many come to fruition and some don't. And I really hope that this is one of the ones that comes to fruition and can really help East Central Saskatchewan and the entire province and nation.

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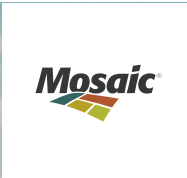
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Mosaic's Economic Impact in Saskatchewan

*Independent Economic Impact Study by Economic Development Regina, covering period from 2020-2024

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invested in community initiatives, supporting 250+ local organizations



Mining, Energy and Manufacturing



Nutrien Rocanville the world's largest potash mine

The aerial photo of Nutrien Rocanville potash mine were taken by Ashley Bocek and Kevin Weedmark last week during a flight with local pilot Rob Austin.

Nutrien Rocanville is the largest potash mine in the world. The mine's underground footprint is about the size of the city of Calgary, and the two headframes at the Rocanville mine site and Scissors Creek mine site are about 13 miles apart.

The Scissors Creek headframe, along with the K3 headframe at Mo-

saic Esterhazy site, are two of the tallest structures in Saskatchewan.

The Nutrien Rocanville mine employs around 900 people from around the region

The mine ships large amounts of potash by train every day—on average 20,000 tonnes a day. Seven to 80 per cent of the mine's product is domestic, some is shipped by rail to the U.S., and some goes to the port of Vancouver to be shipped to other countries.



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June oil and gas public offering raises nearly \$18 million in revenue

The Government of Saskatchewan's second Crown oil and natural gas public offering of the fiscal year, held on June 2, 2026, generated \$17,747,731.98 in revenue, with bids in the Estevan area earning the highest amount.

Companies bid on 61 parcels across the Estevan, Lloydminster, Kindersley and Swift Current areas, which covers a total area of 28,833,446 hectares.

The Estevan area generated \$10,464,283.57 covering 21,190 hectares, with the highest bid of \$2,453,205.92 awarded to Millennium Land (222) Ltd. for a 968.896 hectare exploration licence south of Estevan. This was the highest bid for an exploration licence.

The highest bid received on a lease in this offering was from Prairie Land & Investment Services Ltd. in the Lloydminster Area for \$876,340.25 for a 258.053 hectare lease.

Meanwhile, the Kindersley area received \$3,910,411.63 worth of bids, while the Swift Current area brought in \$117,213.05.

In addition, 17 oil shale leases were awarded to Burgess Canadian Resources ULC posted south of Hudson Bay for a combined total of \$3,000,003.65.

Leases are offered with five-year terms and are issued to drill for and produce oil or natural gas. Exploration licences have terms of two to five years and are issued in less developed areas for exploration and production. Several factors affect public offering activity, including oil and gas prices, land availability, geological and technological constraints and various market conditions.

The next offering is scheduled for August 11, 2026.





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Mining, Energy and Manufacturing



Sask enhances legislation to support development of resource projects

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced new legislation to support mining projects and to help maximize the value of mineral resources for the provincial economy and the people of Saskatchewan.

The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2025, tabled in the Saskatchewan Legislature today, provides stability and certainty for resource companies and enhances Saskatchewan's position as one of the world's top-rated jurisdictions for mining investment.

The new legislation allows for the establishment of designated subsurface development areas. This tool enables companies to apply for access to mineral resources that would otherwise remain underground.

"These changes will unlock significantly more value for our potash resources in the province," Potash at The Mosaic Company Vice President of Operations Lawrence Berthelet said. "By enabling companies to tap into stranded assets—that will otherwise never be mined - we are



able to produce more potash which means creating millions of dollars in more value for Saskatchewan people, the government and enhancing our ability to mine effectively. This forward-thinking approach will help secure

continued growth for the provincial economy."

"These changes enable a win for all parties—while responsibly developing Saskatchewan's mineral resources," Saskatchewan Mining Association President Pam Schwann said.

"The ability to openly communicate issues with the Government of Saskatchewan and collaboratively develop solutions is a key reason why Saskatchewan is a globally competitive mining jurisdiction."

"Nutrien welcomes the

amendments to the Mineral Resources Act," Potash and Phosphate Senior Vice President, Upstream Trevor Berg said. "Developed through strong collaboration between industry and government, this legislation provides great

er certainty for producers accessing Saskatchewan's potash resources. By maximizing opportunities for safe and efficient mining, it ensures the province can fully benefit from its world-class mineral assets while delivering lasting value to our communities and economy."

Companies will be able to apply to the Minister of Energy and Resources for a designated subsurface development area in cases where private mineral owners cannot be located or reasonable efforts have been exhausted to negotiate an agreement. A fair and transparent process has been designed to ensure affected mineral owners' interests are protected while advancing resource development for the benefit of all residents.

Saskatchewan continues to rank as Canada's top jurisdiction for mining investment, according to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies. In 2025, the province is projected to attract over \$7 billion in overall mining investment, which would once again lead the country.

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Stoughton Bull Rider wins big at Vold Pro Rodeo in Alberta

BY STEPHANIE ZOER
Kaden Piper is a 20-year-old from Stoughton who has a passion for riding bulls. Standing at 5'8" and weighing 150 pounds, he is not afraid to climb on a 1,200-pound bull for eight seconds.

His love for bull riding began when he was eight years old. His two older brothers, Kiene and Cale, found a rodeo called Little Spurs in Weyburn hosted by Blade and Becky Young. At an early age they ride cows and when they reach a certain age, they graduate onto riding bulls.

Piper's brothers only rode for a short time, but Piper was hooked and now 12 years later he is riding to win. He knew that this was what his future was going to hold and he has not looked back. He loves what he

does and will continue as long as he is able. Bull riding is hard on the body and injuries can happen at any time.

For a short time, Piper went to Texas. Here he improved his riding skills through a coach to get him stronger and better at staying on the bulls. He returned to Canada and is in Alberta riding.

He has attended several rodeos in the past months in Alberta with PBR. He started in Ponoka finishing third place. He then moved to Forestburg, finishing in seventh place. During this time Piper collects points. It did not end there for the young rider.

He went on to Byemore where he came in a respective fourth place, continuing on to Thorhild to place fifth. From there he went to Eckville and took fourth

place.

His next stop was in Lamont where he double entered. This is the Vold Pro Rodeo. He drew a bull named Misery Business giving him a score of 79. The second bull he rode was Keep it Simple. This bull gave him a score of 84.5 for the win in the long round. In the short round he rode Black Suga giving him a score of 83 and winning the short round as well.

"I felt good riding them and I just tell myself to have fun and keep it simple," said Piper.

His next places to ride are Cold Lake, and Penhold, both in Alberta. His goals are to win the BRC and work to get his pro card in the coming year. With a pro card he is able to ride at the Calgary Stampede.



Kaden Piper is congratulated by one of the chute organizers at the Vold Pro Rodeo.

Submitted by Kaden Piper



Kaden Piper wins the Vold Pro Rodeo riding the bull named "Keep it Simple" with a score of 84.

Submitted by Kaden Piper



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Training available to producers planning to participate in Strychnine Stewardship Program

Online training is now available for producers planning to participate in Saskatchewan's Strychnine Stewardship Program. The training is a required step for producers in eligible rural municipalities (RMs) seeking access to two per cent liquid strychnine for targeted control of Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) infestations.

"Those planning to use strychnine are encouraged to complete training as early as possible to access supplies once they are available," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

Training is one component of the Strychnine Stewardship Program, which is available in 208 RMs through an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) outlined by Health Canada's Pesticides Regulatory Directorate. The EUR is in effect until November 2027.

The 90-minute online training course, available through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, addresses responsible strychnine use, environmental protection, integrated pest management and pesticide safety. A mandatory Treatment Plan and Declaration Form is also required to



become a certified strychnine user.

Training can be accessed at sarm.ca/strychnine-stewardship-training

Participating RM offices will distribute strychnine to certified users later this spring. An initial, limited supply of strychnine is expected in early June, followed by additional monthly shipments. Strychnine will be distributed evenly among participating RMs with a per-producer cap to manage supply.

As the spring application window closes on June 15, producers are encouraged to use alternative registered rodenticides, as well as biological and cultural controls, for RGS control in the next month.

Strychnine inventories are expected to increase during the July 15 to September 1 application window.

For full details on the Strychnine Stewardship Program, including a complete list of participating RM offices and information on integrated pest management for RGS control, visit Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control.

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Meeting in Indian Head focuses on research farm

A meeting was held at Indian Head May 21 to discuss the future of the Indian Head Research Farm.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark visited Indian Head and met with Mayor Steven Cole and local officials.

The federal government announced closure of the research farm in January.

Since then, provincial officials and the community of Indian Head have been working on ways to continue agriculture research at Indian Head.

"We are working toward a solution," said Weedmark.

"In the meantime, seeding is taking place as normal at the research farm and summer staff have been hired. Thank you to Minister Marit for all his work on this file and thank you to Mayor Cole for tirelessly advocating for Indian Head."

The planned closure of the federal agricultural research farm could slow the development of higher-yielding crops, weaken long-standing research partnerships and cost the province tens of millions of dollars in future agricultural gains, agricultural economists say.



Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark at the Indian Head Research Farm.

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The farming way of life offers children a chance to grow up around nature and build responsibility – and it can also place emotional demands on young shoulders. You can help your kids navigate wellness in healthy, supported ways.

“There’s an incredible stoicism in farm culture – getting chores done even when you’re ill, ensuring things are looked after,” says counsellor Tammy Thielman, MSW.

That same determination that keeps operations running through long hours and financial pressure can also lead families to absorb stress or handle it poorly – shaping how children learn to manage pressure.

Working from Salmon Arm, B.C., where she and her family raise sheep, horses and chickens, Thielman supports children, youth, parents and families.

She’s seen children who love the farm and those who don’t, adding that mental

health challenges can stem from events such as family conflict, divorce or changes in farm ownership.

Farm kids often witness the ups and downs of weather, markets or production. Those uncertainties can ripple through a household, affecting how secure they feel.

“It’s sometimes the ripple effect. Children are observant and deeply connected to what’s happening around them. Giving them tools to process those experiences builds coping skills. They’re incredibly thinking and feeling little beings, and these are big things for a young nervous system,” Thielman says.

Observe the kids

As adults, we’re logical, but children’s thoughts often show through behaviour more than words.

Continued on page 53

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CONTINUOUS METAL ROOFING

Ty Cutler of Moosomin named Man/Sask Auctioneer

Ty Cutler of Moosomin was recently named Man/Sask Auctioneer of the Year at the Canadian Livestock Auctioneer Championship. The competition was held from May 7-10 in Medicine Hat and Maple Creek. The Man/Sask Auctioneer Championship is the highest award at the competition. Cutler previously won the Man/Sask Rookie of the Year Award in 2024. Cutler's dad, Ward, is also an auctioneer and is a former Man/Sask Champion Auctioneer.

Forty-one auctioneers competed this year. Johnny Startuliak of Ethelbert, Manitoba, who sells at Killarny Auction Mart was awarded Rookie of the Year. Rhett Parks of Whitewood Livestock Sales finished in the top 10.



Above, 2026 Auctioneer Champion belt buckle awarded to Ty Cutler.



Man/Sask Champion Auctioneer Ty Cutler receives his award presented by Boehringer Ingelheim rep Bria Benty and LMAC President Allan Munroe.

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Oh the sights and sounds of spring!

I have to say it's really hard to sit down and write a spring ag column when outside my kitchen window, all I see is more and more snow building up on the lawn. We are into the last couple of weeks of May and I feel somewhat resentful that I needed to wear a winter coat thick mitts during my morning walk. On the other hand, how beautiful the morning sunshine against the beautiful blue skies were—Saskatchewan at its best!

By the time I finish this column in the next day or two, chances are, the white stuff will be gone and the guys will be itching to get back into the field and finish what they started doing on May 1st—if it doesn't rain, that is.

Our "move" from town to our 'tiny home' on the farm more or less coincided with our seeding start date. It's only a five-mile trek out of town but it sure is handy to be close to the land and the machinery when 'start day' arrives. You know how it goes, one day you are merrily doing this, that and the other thing around the farm yard and suddenly there's not a soul in sight—all the men are out in the field except for the odd trip into the yard for seed or fertilizer. Ahhh, the sights and sounds of the spring seeding season—the roar of the tractor; the semi slowing down on the highway as it approaches the yard; the half ton trekking across the north 40. Oh, and the green, green grass along the roads (isn't that the most beautiful sight?) and the hint of green leaves the trees are displaying, which by the time you read this will be out in full display (hopefully).

Oh how I love Spring! I am positively sure I was born to live outdoors—cutting the lawn, whipping those blades of grass along the flower beds and outbuildings, planting a few potatoes in my raised garden bed, and building something totally unnecessary are the highlights of my day, at least until I need to be baking snacks, making meals and hauling them to the field.

Fortunately, there have been a couple of nice enough days to tackle adding a little four-foot square

of decking to my RV deck, something that's been on the backburner of my mind for a few years now. That poor little deck has had little additions built onto it every couple of years to the point where it has ended up as an "L" shape with a rolling/sliding piece that can be snugged right up against the camper or easily pulled away for the times we take the camper on an actual camping trip. Last week, after some years of procrastination shall we say, I "filled in" the "L" so it is finally the "rectangle" it was meant to be. It's not the prettiest RV deck by a long stretch but considering it was constructed at different times with different wood of different colors (ie green treated 2x6, brown treated 2x6 and brown treated deck board), it's practical and functional. And the farm dogs seem to like having a secondary deck to stretch out on as well.

Our usual evening campfires haven't been as plentiful as usual so far this year which likely speaks to the fact that we prefer the warmth of the furnace inside the RV to the one-sided heat we get around the firepit. I'm pretty sure the older I get, the colder I get but I am optimistic enough to believe we'll catch a few nights in a row around that old campfire ring.

No one can be happier than the 'farm kids' for the arrival of spring and the opportunity to ATV out in the creek and surrounding area. On the flip side, their dad is likely tired of the interruptions to his meals/evenings (if he happens to get in from the field at a reasonable hour) when he gets word that one of the kids' adventures has landed them stuck or broken down out in the back country somewhere, perhaps even in the bottom of the wet, muddy creek.

We, of course, quite love it. Been there, done that, as the saying goes, and we totally understand the groan that escapes their father's lips when word of an adventure requiring intervention comes across his phone. The twins, now 15, are outdoorsmen to say the very least and oh, the stories they could tell, many of which most likely, I am



sure, involve mud and water. It leads me to think I maybe should have gotten them blue jeans for their birthday because I am sure their many pairs are more often in the washing machine than anywhere else. Even their friends who were over for cake on their birthday a couple of weeks ago seemed in dire need of clean, dry jeans by the time they left the farm.

On the flip side of teen adventures are the day-to-day chores both the twins and their older sister tackle. One early morning as I walked around the farm with my camera, I was able to snap a few shots of one of the boys out with the herd, quietly standing and scratching the cows behind the ears and watching the calves as they bounced around the corrals. There was no hurry on his part as he made his way through the pens with a watchful eye. The school bus wasn't due for a good two hours yet and the morning sun was warm though the air was a tad on the cool side. Every morning for this young cattleman is a perfect morning to just "be" with the cattle.

The farm kids are, at this time of year, prepping for 4-H shows and sales which are not much more than a month away. It's a busy time as they halter break and groom and lead their animals around as they prepare them for the annual Whitewood Local and Regional shows and sales. To think of the years of efforts these kids and all the 4-H'ers out there put into this work makes me so proud of all that they are learning but also of the great work ethics they are building. Ahhh, there's no life like it!

This seeding season has been met with what seems

like cooler-than-usual days for this time of year but the men keep on doing what needs to be done. I love having the 'Find My' app on my phone for at least a couple of the guys so I don't always have to call to see where they are when I run out with their meals. Of course, the sweetest is when those "dots" on the app happen to be in the same field. Now there's cause for a happy dance!

My biggest struggle when it's time to feed men is coming up with "the plan" for the day (keeping in mind I actually have a six-week menu/grocery plan nearby). The menu idea was great in some ways, but restrictive in other ways and so it's back to what comes most naturally—wing it. I always start my day, once I get back home from my overnight stay in the RV, with bun dough. If I play it just right, the buns I make will be cool enough by 11 a.m. to make sandwiches for the guys in the field plus will be a great addition to the lunch table for the "Lunch Bunch" kids that make their way over from the school at noon.

By the time mid-afternoon arrives, supper is usually underway and with any luck at all, I can get all three guys fed and be back at the camper by 7 p.m. to await hubby's eventual arrival in from the

field. There's something extra special about being "on the farm" with the farm-grands during the busy times of year. Plus, come morning, if I crawl out of bed early enough, hubby will have my breakfast on the table for me! It doesn't get much better than that!

Sometimes, bear from the creek a couple of miles away make their way up into the barnyard and such was the case during the twins' birthday cake event. Fortunately we were able to watch its antics on camera as it climbed up the trees and eventually back down, giving us a bird's eye view of where it was. It certainly helped explain what the cattle in the corral had their eyes on and why they were a bit riled up.

While farming takes up the better part of our days at this time of year, I have been able to sneak in some vehicle detailing moments, amongst other things. When hubby brought the side-by-side to town for washing, I tackled it with gusto, which essentially meant going over it three times with the pressure washer. I am certain I was simply moving mud and straw around and around until finally I got to the place where it looked quite acceptable. That's when I realized I should have moved the half-ton off the pad and down the street because it now needed washing too. Once I finished the half-ton, I thought I better wash down the inch of mud that covered the pad only to realize that once the pad was clean, the side-by-side and the half-ton need to be washed yet again. Talk about feeling defeated. Three point five hours later, drenched, muddy beyond recognition, and not entirely satisfied with the finished look, I called it quits for the day. Enough

was enough!

So many times, as I sit down to write this column, I wonder if it's really worth it, especially as the grand-kids get older and don't say all the "cute" things they used to say when they were little. What they used to say always gave me great ' fodder' for these columns. Over the last few months especially though, I have gotten notes and texts and have met people in-person (some who I know and some who I don't) who have shared with me how they can relate to these "Life on the Farm" columns and for that, I just have to tell you how much that means to me. And as disjointed as some of this rambling can sometimes get, it's really all about life that Saskatchewan folk, for the most part, can 'feel.' Life on the farm has lots of challenges and setbacks but boy, it's a life that's filled with rewards (and I don't mean monetarily) and fulfillment in ways that many people who have no connection to agriculture could ever understand.

To all of you whose heart, or at least a part of it, have a strong connection to agriculture in one way or another, this one's for you! See you on the other side of seeding season!!

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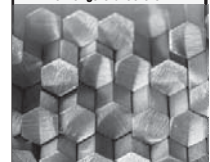
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Second rink coming to Moosomin

Rink will be paid for by local foundation, not taxpayers



Another rendering of the new rink being built in Moosomin later this year.

Continued from Page 5

Airport project led to endowment fund idea

Kristjan Hebert of the CBA says the Moosomin airport project was an inspiration for the foundation.

"The foundation discussions started about a year ago at a CBA meeting. We were trying to figure out how we could have a rural renaissance for community infrastructure, after the airport expansion was completed. The discussion led into what some American universities do, and how their endowment funds help with a lot of their success. We began to think about instead of just raising money and putting it into the next asset, how do we start this fund for boosting the area.

"Then the new rink idea came up with a group of local entrepreneurs and lit the fire under getting the endowment fund started."

Hebert explains the foundation will be an avenue for the community to donate toward the new arena.

"We plan on launching the foundation to the community probably toward the end of June. The paperwork part is just getting done so that anybody in the community will be able to donate to it.

"Those funds will then be invested, and the earnings off that will pay for projects in the future, the first of which is the rink. The endowment fund will lease the rink to the town for \$1 and the town will operate it. We're probably going to have to take a mortgage out on the rink in order to pay for it before the foundation is fully up and running. But the goal is that if we raise this money in the foundation, we have some fairly big targets of what we want to do through private and public partnerships. That way we won't spend the whole budget on the rink. The earnings of the investments will pay for the rink, and then the next project, and then the next project."

"For now, the CBA will be in charge of getting the community foundation started. Then after it's all up and going, there will be an appointed board. This board won't be limited to CBA members.

"The current estimate for the cost of the rink is around \$10 million. So the goal of the foundation will be a minimum of \$10 million. The town is 100% paying all operating costs. But the foundation will save the town all of the capital investment initially."

Vision for new rink

Hebert explains the new rink will look similar to West Edmonton Mall's indoor ice surface.

"I think an easy way to envision what the new rink will be like would be to think of the rink inside the West Edmonton Mall. We're leaning toward a sunken ice surface with standing room all the way around the top and bottom, and a walking track on the top. It's going to be similar in size to the Communiskate facility in White City."

Hebert says the foundation is to help fundraise for the new rink and the start toward future community projects.

"As a group of entrepreneurs we have a goal, and we hope everybody in the community supports that goal. If we can use the money made from the foundation to build local infrastructure, we can keep municipal and local budgets strictly for the operation of those facilities. I think we'll be able to show that we as a community can solve our own problems with not as much government assistance.

"We're going to work with the Saskatchewan Community Foundation. They'll be the ones that will manage our foundation's assets. They're a not-for-profit organization, and they have really low fees. They already manage and invest the funds from many other foundations, and that number has got to be close to \$100 million."

Foundation to take donations soon

Hebert says donations to the foundation should be able to be made by the end of June.

"We plan on launching it end of June, that's when people can start writing cheques and donating. The rink project has gained significantly more steam than we had originally thought. We're going to try our best to get the foundation up and running, raise money, and build the rink all simultaneously. That might be a bit of a juggling act, but I'm confident we can do it. We could wait until the fund is fully running, but at the same time we don't want to lose the momentum that we have on those projects. I think you're going to see a lot of construction on the rink this year, and hopefully we can get to completion as early as mid 2027."

He explains the new rink will allow winter sports to start earlier in the fall. "I think the new rink would be extremely beneficial to the town. In the new rink, the ice

would go in earlier in the year and stay in later, because with the newer facility it's much more efficient and better for the environment. I believe it's estimated to hold around 650 fans. So, besides a Rangers playoff or provincial game, it could host any game that the Mike Schween Arena hosts without seating issues."

Hebert hopes a new rink along the old highway will spur new development.

"As a group of entrepreneurs, we would also really like to see more development along the old Number One Highway. Hopefully with a new rink right on that street, more businesses will move into the area."

He said he hopes to be able to raise \$10 million locally through the foundation to build the rink.

"I was very involved in fundraising for the airport. So I got thinking about this community, as the Spectator has written many times, Moosomin and area, can raise money and support projects as good or better than any community.

"We raised \$10 million for the hospital and \$10 million for the airport. If we just started the foundation when we did the hospital and put the \$10 million raised for the airport in it, I truly believe we'd have a hospital, we'd have an airport and we'd still have \$20 million. I want to raise money that will keep supporting projects, because this area and this community has huge potential between the people, and anchor companies such as Nutrien, all the agriculture, all the oil and all our small businesses."

Hebert said he believes Moosomin is unique.

"I've been to a lot of different communities, and I think we have a very unique group of entrepreneurs in this community that are willing to write pretty big cheques to a lot of projects, we have a number of community members that jump right in and put a lot of sweat equity into the same projects. I, as every other entrepreneur in the area, want our kids and our grandkids to come back here, and if we don't have the right services when it comes to health care, education, sports and rec, they're not going to and so how do we come up with a way that we're not always just phoning the government for the next 100 years and walking into town council for the next 100 years saying 'we need this,' with our hands out and not having a plan. So we thought, if we can get this foundation—we're looking for local, provincial and federal government support to get it off and running. But the goal is that we can have our destiny in our hands and create our own little rural renaissance that other communities can then replicate."

He adds, "It's exciting! If everything goes as planned, and we can start off the foundation with the rink it'll be something that our community should be extremely proud of."

He says the foundation and rink ideas were formed after talking with McCarthys.

"Dan and Olga have always been part of the discussions when I first came up with the foundation idea, they had already loved and supported that and obviously they are huge part of the community. So we got together and combined the two ideas.

"The one pushback on a foundation from the government is if we do this foundation, there's no quick return. We can't show jobs, we can't show assets because everyone wants to put it away for two or three years first. So it was to combine the two ideas together.

"We're going to put a shovel in the ground on an asset right away to prove that our idea is going to work and that we're behind it.

"We think our timing is pretty good to get support on the foundation. But we also feel that the rink project is a critical piece to get support for the foundation, so that we can show all levels of government and all levels of private companies—we're not just raising this money to let it sit there. We're raising money for action, and we believe a foundation that's guided by entrepreneurs can create a lot of action for the community—for what the community needs."



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Financial modelling: A crystal ball for smarter risk decisions

By Trevor Bacque, AGRISUCCESS

Farmers face a multitude of decisions throughout a growing season, and with the proper business tools, you can be well-prepared to roll through the production year. A robust business includes planning to identify the essential tools and tactics needed to be prepared for the years ahead.

J.P. Barnabé, a partner at BDO Canada in its financial advisory services group, says two of those tactics are careful and regular financial modelling, coupled with regular reviews and mid-season budget adjustments. Both are designed to reduce worry and costly missteps.

The importance of financial modelling

In any industry, including agriculture, a proper financial modelling system allows owners to take a high-level look at a situation and truly understand the overall picture of their business. Simply put, financial modelling uses historical data and assumptions to forecast a company's future performance. It covers revenues, expenses, cash flow, debt servicing and capital expenditures. Models are usually built in spreadsheets or software, like FCC AgExpert, to organize data and guide strategic decisions. Without this, it can be difficult to grasp a farm's financial health.

"It's important to understand that from a debt and cash flow perspective, but also to plan what that might look like going forward," Barnabé says. "If you're looking to expand or if there's some significant cash outlays that are

occurring, what does that look like? How are you going to be able to make those payments?"

Many factors impact a farm's finances, so knowing cash flow and financial modelling is imperative. For example, in seasonal or production cash flow cycles, agriculture tends to have high costs and little income in the spring, with lower costs and more income in the autumn.

Poor financial planning results in anxiety, potentially costly missteps

Barnabé encourages farmers to break the norm and first look at their financials before the end of the growing season.

"There are too many farmers out there that are still doing their books on a paper ledger," he says. "Depending on how often they're updating that, they might not have any idea what position they're in at the end of the day."

A feeling of dread may hang over you all season, not knowing if you're over budget, or should have any sense of security – all because your financial position is unknown.

Lack of a clear financial picture hampers your ability to plan. Barnabé uses the example of fertilizer, suggesting that if there's never a review on how much was purchased versus how much was used, it becomes impossible to fine-tune future purchases and possibly save money.

Similarly, perhaps a farmer should defer certain purchases for a year but didn't because of an unclear financial picture. This can lead to unnecessary fees on a line

of credit that could have been avoided with a regularly monitored financial model.

"If there's a tightness in the cash flow, if the line of credit is high and it's creeping up there to the max, they can start selling crops off. They won't know that unless they're really paying attention and monitoring their financials."

Continued on page 52

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Financial modelling: A crystal ball for smarter risk decisions

Continued from page 51

Check in on financials multiple times per growing season

The most prepared and stress-free clients Barnabé works with realize that more information is a net positive.

He suggests you sit down with your accountant or financial advisor to review and adjust budgets at least twice during the growing season.

There are only benefits as it provides direct insight to business health and compares actual spending against the spring outlook. With a clear plan, surprises should be minimal, especially given the costly nature of capital expenditures, input costs and external fees.

"Rather than being reactive at a year-end meeting with their accountant, farmers can update and understand where they sit financially, and maybe plan for cash outflows."

Farmers often make sizeable purchases in December to defer taxes. However, this should only be done if you're making an informed decision based on your farm data.

While using financial modelling to plan for the future of the farm operation, it's important to take business, and life, highs and lows into account. Ensure you have sufficient and strategic insurance to manage unfortunate events such as a death of a family member or worker, divorce or workplace accidents. Have insurance on everything from your own home to each piece of machinery.

Overall, it comes down to understanding your debt service ratio to avoid re-borrowing but not actually paying down debt.

Up-to-date financials make stronger farms

"Financial models that are regularly reviewed and adjusted can really reduce that anxiety and stress and also allow farmers to understand how they're doing from a financial perspective," Barnabé says. "In farming there are so many variables. A farmer can take charge of the variables through proper budgeting and help reduce financial stress and ensure financial security over the operation."







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Supporting our kids' well-being

Continued from page 47

"Kids live in their hearts. I've treated children who are really sad, angry or overly cheerful, trying to mask feelings," Thielman says.

Warning signs include aggression, worry, sadness, disinterest in activities, poor school performance, clinginess, isolation, sleep or appetite changes, fatigue, or headaches.

"I've had five-year-olds say, 'My back hurts,'" Thielman says. Such symptoms may be stress-related and should be evaluated by a medical professional.

In adolescence, kids may push you away or act mean, but Thielman says parents and caregivers remain the best barometers.

"Listen to your instincts. If you sense something, check it out. Ethical providers will tell you if they see a need for intervention," she says.

Being attentive isn't just good parenting – it's part of strong leadership on the farm. Families who communicate openly make clearer business and succession decisions because they operate from trust and emotional safety.

Small, consistent actions make a big difference

Even during the busiest seasons, moments of connection and honesty help kids feel safe and supported. One of the best preventive measures is teaching emotional language.

Help your child build emotional strength and stability

- **Name your feelings.** "I'm frustrated right now, but it'll pass." Kids learn emotional language from safe adults.
- **Read children books about emotions.** It opens the door for discussion, even with little ones.
- **Keep routines steady.** Predictability helps kids feel safe.
- **Connect regularly.** A quick check-in, shared activity or an extra hug goes a long way.
- **Talk about mental health like physical health.** It's all connected.
- **Avoid unregulated social media or "pop psychology" trends.** There's no quick fix.
- **Normalize asking for help.** Let kids see you reaching out – it shows strength, not weakness.

"Let them know some feelings you have – frustration, sadness or confusion. Naming emotions models that we are thinking and feeling people."

Farming is full of teachable moments: disappointment after a poor yield, relief when equipment works or gratitude after a good day. Sharing these reflections helps kids understand emotions as part of managing both people and production.

It's also helpful to read with them about emotions. "Even short picture books open the door for discussion. We don't always nail it as parents or clinicians, but they know we're trying. They know we care."

Thielman cautions that asking too many questions can make kids shut down. Encourage young children to express their feelings through drawing. She often uses emoji pictures to start conversations.

Routine and stability at home provide a sense of security. Social interaction with peers is important too.

"We all have moments when we need a little extra support," Thielman says. "When we model caring for our mental health, like we would a sprained ankle, kids learn that looking after mental health is just part of staying well."

That mindset also builds resilience into the business – healthy leaders make steadier decisions and create workplaces, even family ones, where others can thrive.

Intervene early

Early support leads to better outcomes. Finding the right provider takes time, so start early. Look for a qualified counsellor, psychiatrist or psychologist with recognized credentials and membership in a professional regulatory college.

"Be the squeaky wheel," Thielman says. "Advocate for yourself and your child. That's also part of some providers' role – helping with system navigation."

Parents are a child's biggest support, but they can't be therapists.

"Within confidentiality limits, caregivers have the right to know how sessions are going," she says. "Parents are often the first to notice a problem – and to see progress."

On farms, where family and business overlap, early support isn't just personal – it's practical. Wellness strengthens communication and teamwork, helping ensure the next generation is emotionally ready to thrive.

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Envision Counselling Services available in Moosomin, Rocanville

Continued from page 23

Reach out for free counselling

Envision Counselling is open to everyone and is a free public service. An increase in provincial government funding allowed Envision to expand to Moosomin.

"There are a few different ways to reach out. Anyone can call me at 306-453-2405 and there are posters around town," said Brown. "They can call that number and request a counsellor for this area, so in Moosomin and in Rocanville, and then the intake lady will help them with booking.

"There's a website called Counselling Connect Saskatchewan. I find that's the easiest way to book an appointment. You just follow the steps that are on there make sure the service area is Moosomin and Rocanville."

Brown began working in Moosomin last month. "The first week I started with two clients, and I thought it wasn't enough to keep me busy. This past week I'm finally at four, and I feel that's a good spot for me. I know some people who are in school aren't done until four, and I think if someone is willing to come see me consistently, then I can adapt my schedule to help people with their schedules."



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SATURDAY

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- 4^{pm} to 5^{pm} Happy Hour in Rodeo Beer Gardens
- 6^{pm} Rodeo with Bull riding under the lights
- Intermission Noemy Coeurjoly, Roman Riding Act followed by Sheep Scramble
- Wild ponies following rodeo performance
- 9^{pm} Saturday night - DJ Platinum Music in the Beer Gardens

SUNDAY

- 9^{am} Pancake Breakfast at Kennedy Friendship Centre
- 11^{am} Cowboy Church Service at the Rodeo Grounds
- 2^{pm} Rodeo
- Intermission Noemy Coeurjoly, Roman Riding Act followed by Sheep Scramble
- Wild ponies following rodeo performance



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