

# Plain & Valley

July 2022 • Volume 15 Number 7

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

## Summer full of events across the region

It has already been an event-filled summer in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, and many more events are on the way.

**July 16**

### **Bulls and Broncs event Moosomin**

There is a full day of events coming up this Saturday in Moosomin during the Bulls and Broncs weekend. The second section of this week's newspaper includes details on events that day.

The Moosomin Fire Department will kick things off Saturday with their pancake breakfast from 7 to 9:30 am at the fire hall.

That will be followed by the Chamber of Commerce Parade at 10 am. Marshaling for the parade will begin at 9 am behind McNaughton High School. The parade will run north on Birtle Street, east on south Front Street, south on Main Street, and east on Henry Street to the Southeast Integrated Care Centre. Anyone who wants to enter a parade float can contact [parade@moosomin.com](mailto:parade@moosomin.com).

Right after the parade, a barbecue, beer gardens, and community market will start up in front of Cork and Bone Bistro on Broadway Avenue.

The barbecue, beer gardens and market will run through the afternoon.

There will be a kids rodeo through the afternoon.

The action begins at the rodeo arena at 7 pm, when the Bulls and Broncs gets underway.

The three events included in the Bulls and Broncs are bareback, saddle bronc, and bull riding, the three most fast-paced and exciting rodeo events.

The Bulls and Broncs should run about three hours, with wild pony races at intermission.

The fun will continue in the beer gardens following the rodeo events.

**July 22 Maryfield Fair**

The Maryfield Fair is a great old-fashioned fair featuring a horse show, games, entertainment, and so much more!

The day will include a pancake breakfast, horse show, Big Daddy's Pie and Cookie booth, a pet show, face painting, a petting zoo, Scottish dancing, musical entertainment, bouncers, mini-golf, and a mini ferris wheel, kids' carnival games, and a pork supper.

See all the details in the July 18 issue of the World-Spectator.

**July 22-24 Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo Kennedy**

The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo takes place over three days in Kennedy. Friday features slack and beer gardens. Saturday features a parade, demolition derby, and rodeo performance at 4 pm.

The event is unique as it is one of very few professional rodeos in Western Canada.



There was a great crowd out for the Kin Canada D'Eh event in Moosomin on July 1. Many more events are coming up across the area this summer.

See details on page 4 in this issue of Plain and Valley.

**July 29-31 Food Truck Wars at Moosomin Regional Park**

The August long weekend was long known at Moosomin Regional Park as the fireworks weekend, with an international fireworks competition taking place over the lake, and this year it will be a competition of a different sort, the Battle of the Prairies Food Truck Wars. It will feature food trucks Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, bounce tents, a market, a DJ Friday night and the Blu Beach Band Saturday night, scavenger hunts and much more!

"We're going to have an area where the food trucks will be set up and they will be closer to the stage," says Karen Hebert of the organizing committee. "And then we will have all of the vendors across from the store. We're going to have some of that cordoned off so that they can put their tables out. So it's going to have a little bit of a fair feel, and then the bounce tents will be on the tennis courts on Saturday."

"We're just trying to make it more like a fair feel. People can just come down and we are going to have them park out in the ball diamonds. There will be some people with golf carts and other forms of transportation to move people from the ball diamonds to the main area. If they are concerned about making the walk there will be some transportation from up there to down below."

There will be 14 food trucks and 21 vendors set up at Food Truck Wars.

"We will have the same bounce tents as we had previously, but they have a new

bounce tent, and it's a 25-foot slide with a pool at the bottom, so that's a new addition to what they had to offer before," says Hebert.

There will also be some cartoon characters on site Saturday, and there will be a tennis tournament Sunday, along with two scavenger hunts—one for children and one for adults.

All three days the food trucks will be there, and Friday and Saturday the DJ and beer gardens will be open and Saturday night will feature a concert by the Blu Beach Band.

"We just wanted to do something different," says Hebert. "Even last year what we did with the bounce tents, we were just trying to create a fair-like atmosphere, so we are going with that type of mood again"

**July 30-31**

### **Elkhorn Western Weekend**

Pony chuckwagon and chariot races are the centrepiece of Elkhorn's Western weekend Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31. The event also includes live music with Lyle Baldwin both days, beer gardens, Slo-Pitch, a \$1,000 Dash for Cash and so much more!

See details on Page 12 in this issue of Plain and Valley.

**August 5-6**

### **McAuley Hoedown**

The McAuley Hoedown is slated for August 5-7. There will be ranch rodeo events both Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 pm.

The weekend will include a social on the Friday night, with the Mexican King Food

Truck on location. Saturday includes a pancake breakfast, infalatable waterslides, McAuley Fire Department barbecue lunch, a stick horse rodeo, and a supper by Porky Junior's Barbecue and McAuley Country Cafe. Sunday will feature open 4D barrel racing.

**August 5-7 Fleming Reunion**

Fleming will hold a town-wide reunion August 5-7. Friday will feature a historical town tour, beer gardens, entertainment by Merv Easton, and a Fleming Jets ball game. Saturday will include a pancake breakfast, parade, dance, and fireworks. Sunday will feature a community church service.

**August 6**

### **Bow Valley Jamboree Oxbow**

The Bow Valley Jamboree goes Saturday, August 6 in Bow Valley Park in Oxbow.

The music festival will include some great acts including Pipes and Drums, Downwind, White Bear's Teagan Littlechief, Chris Henderson, the Bromantics, Tilted Kilts, Langenburg rock group the Blu Beach Band, and Dusty Rain. See details on page 13.

**August 12-13**

### **Rock Your Socks Off, Spy Hill**

Rock Your Socks Off is a summer market and family event featuring Smoke and Mirrors, set for Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13. There will be a local market, live music, food, and drinks. The event goes 6-10 pm Friday and 10 am to 2 pm Saturday. See details on page 13 in this issue of Plain and Valley.

*Continued on page 13*

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## Bird's Point Grand reopening held for Millennium Park



Millennium Park before and after the project.



It turned out to be a beautiful day for the Bird's Point Rec Committee's Millennium Park Completion Ceremony!

The Committee appreciates everyone who came to celebrate with us, and also those who assisted in many various ways with this project. Besides acknowledging the many volunteers who helped with this project, other contributors recognized were: Ken Aldous, Brian Hill, Big Lou's Lumber, Bonnie and Victor Grimeau, Go See My Guy and Raiwet Farms.

Thanks as well to Darlene Paquin for her words on behalf of the Village.

As well, Jim Stevenson, Senior Manager of Operations Mosaic Esterhazy provided a special message on behalf of Mosaic Canada.

Final thanks to Ken Miller (AKME Ventures sponsor), Kerry-Lyn Geddes (on behalf of Sheldon Geddes Triple G Enterprises sponsor), as well as Jim Stevenson (Mosaic Major Sponsor) for assisting Bev Pangracs (Rec Committee Chair) in cutting of the ribbon to officially declare the new and improved Millennium Park open.

Following the opening, coffee, juice and donuts (donuts provided by Tim Horton's Esterhazy) were enjoyed by all.

### Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency



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# 89TH ANNUAL MOOSE MOUNTAIN PRO RODEO

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## JULY 22 - 24, 2022

### Friday, July 22

Slack 5 p.m. and Beer Gardens

### Saturday, July 23

Parade: 1 p.m.

Demo Derby to follow parade

Rodeo Performance: 5 p.m.

Beer Gardens with

DJ Saturday night

## FREE CAMPING!

ATM & Food Booth on location

### Sunday, July 24

9 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at

Kennedy Friendship Centre

11 a.m. Cowboy Church Service at  
Rodeo Grounds

2 p.m. Rodeo Performance

Demo Derby Finals to follow

(GUARANTEED PRIZE OF \$2,000 FOR FIRST PLACE!)

Rodeo Performance



## ADMISSION

Weekend

Family Pass: \$85

Adults: \$20

Kids 6 - 17: \$10

5 & Under: Free

SATURDAY & SUNDAY PERFORMANCES

## TRICK RIDING BY DARING DIVAS

Mutton Busting & Wild Pony Races during rodeo intermission

For more information contact Jill Lowe: 306-736-8967



Emergency Response/Mine Rescue Skills Competition

# Provincial competition back after two years



## Mine Rescue Competition

Nutrien Rocanville's mine rescue competition team at the recent provincial competition.

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, the 52nd Saskatchewan Mining Association Emergency Response/Mine Rescue Skills Competition resumed this spring. Teams of dedicated and highly trained emergency response/mine rescue personnel from fifteen mine sites around the province tested their skills at the World Trade Centre at PrairieLand Park on Saturday June 4, 2022.

Underground and Surface Rescue teams displayed their highly qualified and proficient skills in five separate events, including Fire Fighting, First Aid, Proficiency Skills, Practical Skills,

and Simulated Surface and Underground Mine Problems. Surface teams also competed in a new Rope Rescue Event.

Saskatchewan Mining Association was pleased to be joined by the Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety who assisted in presenting the awards for the Overall Winners of the 52nd Emergency Response / Mine Rescue Skills Competition.

**OVERALL**

Surface Winner - Mosaic Belle Plaine Runner Up - Nutrien Patience Lake  
Underground Winner - Nutrien Allan Runner Up -

**Mosaic Esterhazy K3**

The Individual Event winners of the 52nd Annual Emergency Response Competition are:

**FIRST AID**

Surface Winner - Mosaic Belle Plaine Runner Up - Nutrien Patience Lake  
Underground Winner - Mosaic Esterhazy K3 Runner Up - Mosaic Colonsay

**FIREFIGHTING**

Surface Winner - Nutrien Patience Lake Runner Up - Mosaic Belle Plaine  
Underground Winner - Mosaic Colonsay Runner Up - Nutrien Cory

**PROFICIENCY**

Surface Winner - Orano McClean Lake Runner Up - Mosaic Belle Plaine  
Underground Winner - Nutrien Lanigan Runner Up - Nutrien Cory

lion hours worked meaning that they had no lost time injuries, or modified work injuries at their operations in 2021. K+S Potash Canada Bethune Mine also received

the John T. Ryan Regional Safety Trophy in the Select Mine Category. Congratulations on these great achievements! *more photos on page 16*

**PRACTICAL SKILLS**

Surface Winner - Mosaic Belle Plaine Runner Up - Nutrien Patience Lake  
Underground Winner - Nutrien Allan Runner Up - Nutrien Cory

**SURFACE ROPE RESCUE SKILLS**

Winner - K+S Potash Canada Runner Up - Mosaic Belle Plaine

**SURFACE FIELD PROBLEM**

Surface Winner - Nutrien Patience Lake Runner Up - Westmoreland Poplar River

**UNDERGROUND MINE PROBLEM**

Underground Winner - Nutrien Allan Runner Up - Nutrien Lanigan

The Saskatchewan Mining Association salutes these safety professionals who are a tremendous resource, both to the mines where they work and their home communities. Thank you to our sponsors Applied Industrial Technologies and Thyssen Mining.

At the Awards ceremony, two member companies were recognized for receiving the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum's prestigious John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy. Mosaic Potash Belle Plaine received the National Award in the Select Mines Category with a rate of zero representing over 1.25 mil-

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Carlyle RV Price: \$43,400  
**\$174**  
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**2022 Winnebago Micro Minnie 2108FBS**

The compact camper without compromise. Micro Minnie is big on features and ready to go. NXG engineered frame, Aluminum wheel assemblies, 12" off-road tire/axle lift, Torflex Dexter axle(s), One-piece TPO roof membrane, Exterior ladder, Gel-coat fiberglass front cap, Power stabilizing jacks, TPMS prep, Camp side spray port, 2" Accessory hitch receiver, 7-way plug holder



All taxes included, \$0 down, OAC  
MSRP: \$59,353  
Carlyle RV Price: **\$43,900**  
**\$167** BI-WEEKLY

**2022 Winnebago Voyage V3033BH**

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Carlyle RV Price: **\$64,850**  
**\$245** BI-WEEKLY

**2022 Forest River Cardinal Limited 383BHLE**

Two full bathrooms! 383BHLE offers a truly spectacular floorplan, with a huge rear bunk room that features a tri-fold sofa with flip-down bunk, loft bed, large full bathroom, and separate entrance! The living area combines a residential island kitchen with theater seating and entertainment, while the front master bedroom and second full bathroom offer the very best in comfort and style.



MSRP: \$126,265  
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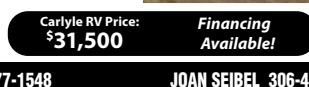
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Moosomin Regional Park

## JULY 29 - JULY, 31, 2022

Featuring the top Food Trucks in Saskatchewan & Manitoba, plus lots of retail vendors!

### FRIDAY, JULY 29

- Beer Gardens
- DJ: 4 p.m. - Midnight
- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 30

- Beer Gardens
- DJ: 4 p.m. - Midnight
- Live Performance:  
Blu Beach Band
- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Bouncy Tents  
Noon - 7 p.m.  
(COST FOR USE)

### SUNDAY, JULY 31

- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Scavenger Hunt  
11 a.m.
- Tennis Tournament

### FOOD TRUCKS

- Beaver Tails Regina
- Booster Juice Regina
- Pink Ladies Concessions Melville
- Chow Queen American Carnival Food Saskatoon
- Pinoy Fiesta Roasted Chicken
- Weenie Wagon Broadview
- Lizzies Eatery Pizza & BBQ
- The Poutine Joint Yorkton
- Sugar Rush Hudson Bay
- Grub Hub Brandon BBQ
- Smoke and Sauced Brandon BBQ
- The Poutine King Brandon
- Custom Shaved Ice Saskatoon
- Benny's Bistro Breakfast Truck

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Have a terrific time at the  
Battle of the Prairies  
Food Truck Wars  
at Moosomin Regional Park!



Scenes from previous August long weekend events at Moosomin Regional Park. This year the park is planning Food Truck Wars on the August Long Weekend, along with bounce tents, musical entertainment, and much more!

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE FOOD TRUCK WARS AT MOOSOMIN REGIONAL PARK AS WELL AS CANADIAN FARMERS

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Weekend for the  
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Some scenes from the August long weekend event at Moosomin Regional Park last year, including Shifty Morgan performing, bounce tents and market vendors. This year the park is holding a Food Truck Warz event, live music, a market, kids activities, and much more on the August Long weekend. See page 6 for full details.



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Make sure to stop in at Moosomin Lake this August Long Weekend and enjoy a weekend filled with food, fun and excitement!

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Come down to Moosomin Lake this August Long Weekend and enjoy a weekend filled with fun!

**FOOD TRUCK WARS**

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE BATTLE OF THE PRAIRIES FOOD TRUCK WARS THIS AUGUST LONG WEEKEND!

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**DENRAY TIRE**

Get ready to have a great weekend at the Food Truck Wars at Moosomin Regional Park!

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Take time to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the Food Truck Wars Weekend possible!

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# Cutler opens new business in Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

Shauna Cutler has opened a new store selling work wear, pet food and accessories on Ellice Street in Moosomin. Cutler will also continue to offer dog grooming out of that location as well.

The new business is called Hutt'n Doggie Do's Work Wear and More.

"I have Berne Apparel and we also just got in with Wrangler, so we will be able to supply jeans, shirts, and some dress wear," says Cutler. I've also just started with STS Ranchwear so that was exciting too."

Cutler says she will be offering work wear for all ages, from children to adults, and for both men and women.

She adds that she will also be able to get in fire hazard clothing.

Cutler says she felt there was a need for a work wear store in Moosomin that needed to be filled.

"I've thought about it for over a year and I think our town needs it. I've been told by a lot of people that I should do it, so I thought I'll take the opportunity, purchased a building, and thought maybe we'll try it out.

"I think that there's going to be a high demand because otherwise you end up going to the city to get things like your

coveralls or even men's jeans for that matter. I'm hoping there's going to be a high demand. We're in an agricultural community, so I'm hoping it's going to go over well."

Cutler purchased and renovated the former 2,400-square-foot Taylor Trucking building on Ellice Street, where her new store will be located. She says the building is ideal for what she is doing, and has lot of space.

Cutler says she's doing a soft opening right now, as she is still waiting for some of her inventory to come in, but she's hoping to be fully stocked by the fall.

One side of the building will be dedicated to her dog grooming, accessories, and pet food business as well.

"I do the dog grooming on the other side and we now sell dog treats, dog accessories, dry and raw dog food," she says. "We will also be carrying some basic horse tack."

Cutler says people seem excited about the new business.

"They're asking when I'm going to be open," she says. "I plan on opening this Tuesday, just softly, and I was thinking that we could do the grand opening during the rodeo week."



Shauna Cutler in her new store, Hutt'n Doggie Do's Work Wear and More, along with Charlie.

She says no one in the local area is selling brand like Wrangler and Berne, so she hopes the store is also a draw for Moosomin.

"For Berne and Wrangler, there's nobody in the surrounding area that's close besides the city. Regina, Brandon, Estevan—those are your closest to get all of these items. I feel we are going to draw from a lot of out of town people. We're sort of in the middle, and my dog people bring a lot of people in to town too. I've been 12 years now in the dog business and I feel like they bring a lot of business to town. Because when they drop the dog off, they go eat, they go shopping."

Cutler says she's excited to be opening

the doors of the new business.

"We're pretty excited. The whole family is excited. They've all helped a lot to get this far this quickly. We think it's a demand in town for sure."

Cutler says that there is room to grow at the location on Ellice Street, and she's open to adding on to the building if it's needed in the future.

"We will stick with this, and then if it grows we will definitely add onto the building if we need more space," she says.

"I enjoy pleasing the customers and meeting new customers and being able to socialize with them, and hopefully they will tell me what they'd like to see in the store."



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# Kurtis Fafard joins Manitoba Storm Chasers team

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
As lead driver for the 2022 Tornado Alley Tour, Kurtis Fafard of Broadview recently joined the Manitoba Storm Chasers.

"It's awesome to be able to join, I'm really quite honored. It's something that I didn't think was going to be real, in being a part of a team like this," Fafard said.

"It's been a blast, so far it's just Jordan Carruthers and I on the team, his dad used to be a part of it but has recently retired."

After several years of chasing storms, Fafard has taken over 700 photos of storms and tornadoes.

He described what it is like to be a storm chaser. "I do most of the driving, that leaves Jordan to look at the radar, the models, try to find a road that's actually in existence and that is not a goat trail that Google told you is a road when it actually isn't," he said.

"But it's been really helpful working together because chasing a storm is quite tough, you're constantly trying to keep up ahead of the weather, you're trying to look at radars and you can't do that while you're driving. It just really makes everything a lot less stressful for both of us being there."

Fafard was asked why he chose to be a storm chaser. "Because it's a pile of fun, I can give the altruistic version and say it's to help people, but at the end of the day because it's fun," Fafard said.

"I love storms, there is a side benefit of being able to alert Environment Canada or emergency services that things are going on and we need to get those weather warnings out, but I do it because it's fun."

He described what a day looks like on the road when chasing storms and tornadoes.

"Depending on where your target is for the day you get up in the morning to eat a terrible continental breakfast at your hotel, then you wash it down with some equally terrible coffee," he laughed.

"You figure out where your target is going to be for the day, we look at models to see where it looks like the storms are going to initiate. Once we have a general location in mind, we start driving towards it and watching the radar, continuing to look at the new models as they continue to come out every couple of hours, or every hour.

"Just as we get to the target we'll stop and get fuel, then sit there for an hour or two while we wait for storms to initiate. Once they start going up, it's usually around 3 p.m. in the afternoon until nightfall, you just keep adjusting your positions and checking your radar to see which storm you should be on, making sure you're at the right place."

In order to get the best photos of storms and tornadoes safely, Fafard said they must always have an escape route when on site.

"One of my biggest responsibilities out there is making sure we always have an escape route. When we're at a storm or at a tornado, it's always making sure that we have the road network to get away if we need to, or if we run into trouble, or just being aware of where we come from, and what we need to do to get back," Fafard said.

He said often they are more excited than scared when waiting for the storms or tornadoes to approach.

"We're excited not scared, yet. I've been in a couple uncomfortable situations, but it's still fine because we have the plan and we know what we're going to do if things do go sideways," Fafard said.

"Having that plan kind of takes the fear out of it, and



Finney Texas, May 4, 2022. Photo by Kurtis Fafard.

Recently Fafard had the opportunity to go storm chasing with his youngest son in South Dakota and nearby states.

"Levi was down with me, we didn't catch a tornado but we caught a bunch of storms," Fafard said.

"We ended up doing 4,500 kilometers that weekend, we were in Bratland, Nebraska, and all over the place. We caught a lot of funnels and some really cool storms. We met up with the Tornado Hunters, Levi got to learn how to shoot go-pro videos from Ricky Forbes, that was neat.

"It was awesome having Levi out there with me, being away from home for an extended period of time makes it a lot easier when you have someone with you.

"Every chance we get that he wants to go, he's welcomed to come. He chased quite a bit with me last year around Saskatchewan and Manitoba, but this was his first real chase down in the States."

Fafard said he is looking forward to being part of the Manitoba Storm Chaser team now.

"Just having the ability to chase with someone all the time, having the chance to learn, we can learn from each other," said Fafard.

"It's opened up a world of whole other new chasers, and the wealth of experiences out there that a person can draw from, or bounce ideas off of people, even talk about their own experiences with one another."

The Manitoba Storm Chasers have a Facebook and Youtube page where individuals can watch videos of their past and current journeys. Individuals can find them on either platform at: Manitoba Storm Chasers - Jordan Carruthers.

more photos on Page 15

gives you that direction to go because you know what's going to happen when and if things do go bad.

"It's exciting to me though because it's something about the storms, the power mother nature has, it's incredible to watch that. It's just water vapor, but to be able to see what it does and see it moving, just the beauty of it, it's unbelievable.

"There's only a handful of people in the world that get to see this type of stuff and actually catch it, to be one of those people is pretty humbling."

Compared to how the storms look in person to the pictures taken, it almost never looks the same, said Fafard.

"It never translates the same," he laughed. "I started taking the photos because I have a terrible memory, this way at least I have something to remind myself of where I've been and what I've seen."



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An exhibit for the all Black Indian Head baseball team—The Rockets—was opened at the Indian Head Museum in Saskatchewan on June 25. The 1950s baseball team brought a lot of publicity and attraction to the town of Indian Head around that time.

## Indian Head Museum presents grand opening of The Rockets Exhibit

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
On June 25, the Indian Head Museum held a grand opening for a new exhibit in honor of the 1950s all black baseball team—The Rockets.

The Rockets brought a lot of attention to the community of Indian Head and contributed to Saskatchewan's rich baseball heritage.

"When Covid hit two years ago, board member Janine Moses-Randle and I saw it as a glass half-full of opportunities to revision, and renovate the main floor of the museum. We wanted the exhibits to tell a story and not just a place for people to revisit the past," said Robyn Jensen, president of the Indian Head Museum.

"One of the reasons I joined the board was because I wanted to learn more about The Rockets and I knew this piece of history had to be included in the re-design. The Rockets story is a multi-layered narrative.

"With the support from the community and the area, Jimmy Robinson couldn't have made it happen. The tournaments, which were the biggest in the late 1940s, the players, some who were 'Negro Leagues' alumni, and some who were unrecognized for their talent by the major leagues.

"These players came from the U.S., where racial segregation was a daily reality for them. Combining this era and Indian Head, it was some of the best baseball that Saskatchewan had ever seen," said Jensen.

"Max Weder was approached to write an article on The Rockets for an upcoming book by the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR). Combining forces we worked together to uncover their story. There would be days where we would get so excited about what we found and would be shooting emails back and forth

to each other. His dedication and commitment to the stories is what you'll see in the exhibit."

Max Weder, a lawyer from Vancouver helped contribute to researching the history of The Rockets for the museum's exhibit.

"I've been a collector of Canadian baseball memorabilia for probably the last 20 years, anything that isn't major league I like," said Max Weder.

"I grew up in Saskatchewan and fled to Vancouver 40 years ago. For me with the whole history of baseball, the disappearance of small town ball and the characters who played, a lot of them didn't get recognition."

One of Weder's passions is the history of pre-1900s Western Canadian baseball.

"As today shows, it's important to remember and preserve that history. For me it was really fulfilling, not only flushing out the baseball history, but seeing the interaction of players of the community."

From the 1950s baseball team The Rockets, there are two players who are still alive today—Nat Bates and Willie Reed.

"There are two surviving Rockets, Carol and I did a Zoom interview with both of them. We hoped to get them up here today, but they're in their 90s," he said.

After two years of research, Weder said he is happy to see the project of the exhibit come to fruition.

"It's amazing, Robyn has done so much work and we both have learned a lot when going through the newspapers and pulling things out," Weder said.

At the grand opening, Jensen also thanked the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM) for their contribution towards The Rockets exhibit.

"The other very special person in my

journey is Carol LaFayette-Boyd from SACHM, she was integral in making connections with Nat Bates and Willie Reed who are some of the last surviving Rocket players," Jensen said.

"Their stories are an important addition to their virtual museum and Black history in Saskatchewan. The legacy of The Rockets is an inspiring piece of history and is here to remind everyone to dream big, to work hard, be kind, and play ball."

For a while now, the museum had been collaborating with Weder, SACHM and other historians to collect research and stories for the exhibit.

"We are a virtual museum, our website is: [www.sachm.org](http://www.sachm.org), we also did some research on the Indian Head Rockets," said Carol LaFayette-Boyd, Executive Director of SACHM.

"I've never been at the museum before and I'm so glad I finally did come to see it. Robyn contacted me and connected me with Max, it was really precious to me, so thank you for that, and thank you for inviting me to be here.

"We have a little fact sheet on Saskatchewan baseball teams in the 50s, I wouldn't have known about Nat or Willie if it wasn't for Max and Robyn, it was really neat to hook up with them on Zoom."

### MLA for Indian Head was pleased to see exhibit

MLA Don McMorris for Indian Head shared a few words at the event.

"What a privilege it is to be here, it's amazing all the work that was done especially during the Covid period," McMorris said.

"I can't think of a better way to kick-off the next couple decades of visitors than with this display that we are all excited to

see. My first introduction to the baseball history of Indian Head was when I first ran, which was a long time ago.

"When I first met Ken at the sports hall of fame, I was there originally for the paper, a budding politician trying to get a story, but I was automatically drawn to his passion which was all of the artifacts he had, but especially the pieces he had around The Rockets.

"I'm really looking forward to it being displayed here, but more importantly that it is going to be kept here and displayed into the future. We all sort of wondered when all those artifacts were closed down after Ken passed away, we kind of wondered what would happen with that, but it's really great to see that it's going to be displayed for everyone to see. Congratulations and thank you again."

### Baseball fans ecstatic to see history of The Rockets

Residents from all of Saskatchewan were at The Rockets exhibit grand opening, including a few baseball fans.

"I'm a huge baseball fan and I love going to museums, history is important to me and the fact that I thought a lot of this history was lost, I really appreciate when I can find a place that celebrates it," said Kelly Salmon of Aberdeen.

"I love the old uniforms, I love the players and their lives in history, a lot of it has been lost in time, but to be able to recognize their journey and document it in the museum, that's a huge draw for me.

"I only know the history of The Rockets that was put out there, but the more that comes out the more it just draws me in."

Indian Head Museum is open seven days a week from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.



Carol LaFayette-Boyd, Executive Director of Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM) helped contribute to the exhibit.



Left: Max Weder and Kelly Salmon of Aberdeen shared what having an exhibit dedicated to The Rockets, mean to them.



MLA Don McMorris for Indian Head said he is happy the project came together.



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## Summer full of events across the region

Continued from front

### August 13-14 Spy Hill Sports Days

August 13 and 14 will be the most exciting weekend of the summer in Spy Hill, featuring Chuckwagon and Chariot Racing, a kids' rodeo, slo-pitch, tractor pull, barrel racing, beer gardens, a car show, roping events, an outdoor market and a street dance. See details on Page 14.

### August 19-20 Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo

The 21st annual Whitewood/Chacachas CCA Rodeo will be held August 19 and 20, featuring CCA rodeo action, mutton bustin, a pancake breakfast, wild pony races, a steak supper, kids' activities and more! This has become a big annual event in Whitewood.

### August 18-21 Virden Indoor Rodeo

The Virden Indoor Rodeo is a major event with four days of fun and rodeo action, including high school rodeo, 3D barrel racing, a demolition derby, and three days of rodeo competition.

### August 20 Carlyle Fun Days

This day includes a pancake breakfast, parade, trade show, high tea, entertainment by Morgan Robertson, Brody Siebert, Dangerous Cheese, Vinyl Society and Switch, and a kids zone with magician Chester McBain

### August 20 Wawota Heritage Day

Saturday, August 20 will be Wawota's annual Heritage Day, featuring a pancake breakfast, a parade at 11 am, kids gymkhana, petting zoo, fireworks, and a cabaret with the Back 40 Drifters.

### August 27

**Rockin' The Park, Esterhazy**  
 Classic Canadian rockers Prism will headline Rockin' The Park in Esterhazy Saturday, August 27.

The event will also feature up-and-coming local band the Blu Beach Band, amazing party band Rock Candy, and '80s hair metal tribute band Snake Oil. It should be a great event.

### August 27 Museum Market Day Moosomin

Moosomin's Community Market will be held at the Moosomin and District Museum. The market will feature food and retail vendors and will be a community gathering.

### August 27 Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Racing, Spy Hill

This will be the second annual Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Racing Event at Spy Hill. The event is being held in memory and in honor Jacey Lee, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in March of 2021. The event includes Open 5D, Youth 3D and pee-wee categories.

Watch for more information as the date for this event nears.

### September 10 Rockin' the Block Redvers

The second annual Rockin' the Block includes kids' activities, sidewalk sales and events sponsored by local businesses, for a fun-filled day capped off with music from the live band FogDog.

### September 17 Harvest Market Day, Moosomin

Downtown Moosomin will come alive for the Harvest Market Day September 17. The Community Market will be set up on Broadway Avenue, and watch for specials and sidewalk sales in local businesses.

### September 17 Rocanville Museum Day

Rocanville's Museum Day is always a big event, with a market at the museum, a barbecue, live music, hay rides, and a threshing demonstration.

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# Spy Hill Sports Days

## August 13 & 14, 2022

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Roping

Barrel Racing

Outdoor Market

— Street Dance —

Watch the Plain & Valley, World-Spectator newspapers  
or our Facebook page at Spy Hill and District Community Club  
for more details!





Continued from Page 10



Kurtis Fafard in Fort Stockton Texas, May 1, 2022. Photo by Jordan Carruthers.



Andrews Texas, May 1, 2022. Photo by Kurtis Fafard.



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Continued from page 5



**Nutrien Rocanville team**

The Nutrien Rocanville team at the provincial Emergency Response/ Mine Rescue Skills Competition.



**Mosaic Esterhazy team**

The Mosaic Esterhazy team at the provincial Emergency Response/ Mine Rescue Skills Competition.



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# Jessica Campbell is first woman in history of Original Six franchise to coach

## Campbell never doubted herself

BY KARA KINNA  
Hockey player Jessica Campbell has broken new ground as the first woman in the history of the Original Six franchises to serve as a coach, but growing up as a little girl in Kocanville, and moving through the ranks of the professional hockey world as an adult, Campbell says she never

doubted herself. On June 14, the New York Rangers announced that Campbell will join the Rangers' 2022 Development Camp as a coach, becoming the first woman in the history of the Original Six franchises to serve in such a role. Campbell's resume as a player is lengthy. She

skated for four years at Cornell, captaining the Big Red during her senior season, before playing professionally for the Calgary Inferno of the CWHL from 2014 to 2017. Prior to Cornell, Campbell represented Canada at two U-18 World Junior Championships, and in 2010, she captained Team Canada, scored

the golden goal and was named tournament MVP. This past year, Campbell made the transition to coaching, first with the Windy City Storm Girl's Hockey Program in Chicago, then with the Nurnberg Ice Tigers in the Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL), where she served as an assistant coach and skills coach. This spring, Campbell joined Germany's coaching staff at the Men's World Championship, becoming the first woman to join the coaching staff of a national team participating in Worlds. Following is an interview with Campbell about her road to coaching for the New York Rangers, and how she got there.



Jessica Campbell says she's always been confident when it comes to chasing her goals.

Continued on Page 23



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# \$80,000 distributed by Whitewood Farmers and Friends Bonspiel

The Whitewood Farmers and Friends Bonspiel distributed \$80,000 in donations to various community groups in June. The donations were made to community groups throughout the area.

The Whitewood Recreation/Community Centre received a lump sum of \$17,800 for eight different applications including possible replacement of the arena flooring and installing removable bleachers, as well as other small capital purchases for the rink and pool.

The Whitewood Fire Department received \$5,000 for engineering plans for a new fire hall.

The Whitewood Wiggles and Giggles Daycare received \$5,000 to construct an outdoor play space for the new daycare centre.

The Moosomin Playfair Daycare received \$4,000 to update their backyard play space by replacing the grass and dirt.

The Welwyn Community Recreation received \$4,000 to recondition curling rocks.

Whitewood Minor Ball received \$4,000 to buy new jerseys and a portable pitching machine.

Whitewood School received \$4,000 to pave their basketball court. They received an additional \$1,000 for the education of vulnerable caregivers on food skills, making a total of \$5,000.

The Whitewood Figure Skating Club received \$3,000 to cover their operating costs.

The Whitewood Legion received \$3,000 to paint and update the exterior of their building.

The Broadview Curling Club received \$3,000 to cover their operating costs.

The Broadview Bandits received \$2,500 to replace the stadium lights.

The Bobby Vargo Memorial Slo Pitch from Kipling received \$2,500 to build an open air, covered shed for their ball diamonds.

The Whitewood Falcons received \$2,500 to update and finish various ball diamonds.

The McAuley Community Playground received \$2,500 to purchase additional playground equipment.

The World's Largest Curling Broom Project in Whitewood received \$2,500 to help fund the completion of the project.

The Whitewood Junior Curling received \$2,500 to help with costs.

The Melville Curling Club received \$2,000 to cover operating costs and a monitor system.

The Whitewood Library received \$1,500 to help cover the cost of updating their furniture.



Pictured are the Farmers and Friends' President and Co-President presenting cheques to the various community organizations.

Back row, from left: Chad Kelly, President of the Farmers & Friends; Warren Delmage, Co-President; Tanya Raffey, Bird's Point Recreation; Bernard Brule, Chief, Whitewood Fire Dept.; Kyle Mackin, Broadview Bandits Football Team; Spencer Mack, Bandits; Braeden Arnason, Whitewood Falcons Ball Team; Derek Tait, Whitewood Recreation; Jennalee Beutler, Farmers & Friends Secretary.

Front row, from left: Kaelyn Looney, Whitewood Skating Club; Ardean Maki, Whitewood Wiggles & Giggles Daycare; Bonnie Grimeau, Bird's Point Recreation; Lenore Bryant, Broadview Curling Club; Connie Maier, Whitewood School; Randy Miller, Whitewood Ministerial Assoc.

Birds Point Recreation received \$1,000 to purchase a mobility mat for crossing the beach.

Carberry Recreation received \$1,000 to help develop more recreational opportunities.

The Langenburg Curling Club received \$1,000 to help renovate their downstairs viewing area with new seating.

The Moosomin Food Share received \$1,000 to purchase their monthly food hampers.

Wapella Recreation received \$1,000 to build a new utility shed to house sports equipment.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Whitewood received \$900 to replace the weeping tile around the church.

The Whitewood Ministerial Association received \$800 to help provide for their Christmas Food Hampers.

The Esterhazy Curling Club received \$500 to fund their Junior Curling Bonspiel.

The Ituna Curling Club received \$500 to upgrade their TV and on-ice cameras and scoreboards.

Of the 36 applications, a successful 35 applicants met the Whitewood Farmers and Friends grant criteria and received funding.



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# Fontaine wins 'Heart of the King' award at Elvis Festival in B.C.

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Sylvio Fontaine of Whitewood won the "Heart of the King" award at the 25th Annual Penticton Elvis Festival in B.C. this year.

The festival is Canada's largest and longest-running Elvis Festival, where different Elvis Tribute Artist (ETA) across the country compete against one another to qualify for the Memphis "Ultimate Elvis Finals."

The competitors at the Penticton festival included both professional and non-professional ETAs.

"It felt fantastic to win the 'Heart of the King' award, it's compromised by the other Elvises that are there, then they vote on the person that has the best attitude, who helps other people out, and who does a good performance," said Fontaine.

Out of the 27 performers there, Fontaine won the award for having the most compassion.

This was the second time Fontaine won the award, as he won it the first time at the 2019 Penticton Elvis Festival.

"To me it's worth everything, it's more than winning the number one award of the competition. I'm the first non-pro in the Penticton Elvis Festival to ever win it, it's usually a professional that wins it, but I'm the first non-pro to win it twice in a row," he said.

"I love singing you can ask anyone, I always sing and I love Elvis's music. I just want to keep the memory of him alive by singing a few songs. I've been performing for about 35 years."

Fontaine spoke about what first sparked his interest to become an Elvis performer.

"Someone dared me to enter a competition, the first one was a lip sync competition and I got second place. Then they asked me why don't I start singing, so I started singing," he said.

"It's nice to be on stage and seeing the smiles on fans faces, it's basically one big family of the Elvis community. At the Penticton event this year, there was about 3,500 people and the gospel show that happens at the end of the weekend there was about 4,000 people. It's a big event."

## Fontaine is booked throughout the year for performances

Although being an Elvis Tribute Artist is not his full time job, Fontaine said he does performances on a monthly basis.

"I like to keep it on the low, I performed in Moosomin at the community centre about three weeks ago. It's really whenever people call me and I see if I can squeeze a performance in, I have a full time job too so I try to balance things out," he said.

"It's quite fun, I usually cover a lot of Elvis songs. I like to sing a lot of the obscure Elvis songs, the ones that a lot of people didn't know he sang."

"At the competitions though, you pick your songs on stage and those are the songs you have to perform. You submit your songs and they pick which ones you have to perform, the competition is stressful because everyone wants to win, but this year I just wanted to have fun."

Fontaine talked about what his most memorable experiences have been throughout his career as an Elvis Tribute Artist.

"I've met personal friends of Elvis, I've met his back up singers and I still keep in touch with his best friend who lives in L.A. right now," he said.

"I still keep in touch with him, he starred in six Elvis movies and was Elvis's personal friend. I also met his body guard and tour manager."

"This past weekend I met a back up singer for the Stamps Quartet which was Larry Strickland. I talked to him he is a very nice guy, he was also the husband of Naomi Judd who recently just passed away."

Fontaine said getting the chance to meet different types



Sylvio Fontaine of Whitewood has been an Elvis Tribute Artist since 1987. He recently won the "Heart of the King" June 2022 award at the Penticton Elvis Festival in B.C. for having the most compassion as a performer.

of people who share the same passion he has for Elvis' music has been a great experience.

"I'm still in awe, every time I go to the competition I just grin from ear to ear, it's such a great feeling," Fontaine said.

"Everyone who is backstage is helpful, there are fellow ETAs and they are always there to help you out. If you are missing something they're there, and we're always just cheering each other on. It's such a great family unit."

Forty-five years after his passing, Fontaine said the fan base for Elvis is still going strong.

"There's fans from one year old to 80 years old. In the last couple of years too I've been noticing a lot of younger fans, like pre-teens who come out which is awesome," he said.

"It's been great, people can contact me if they want me to do a show. I don't really do the big shows, but the smaller shows I'm al-

ways open to do."

Fontaine has two upcoming performances, the Canadian Bluemoon Festival in Merritt, and the Blue Suede Music Festival in Alberta.

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Shawn Steil has worked for the Canadian Foreign Service for 20 years and became the Ambassador of Canada to Vietnam last month. Steil spoke about how he got into the foreign service.

On May 26, authorities welcomed Shawn Steil to Vietnam's Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam, where he presented his credentials for becoming Canada's ambassador to Vietnam.

# Former Kipling resident is new Ambassador of Canada to Vietnam

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
A former resident of Kipling, Shawn Steil officially became the Ambassador of Canada to Vietnam on May 26.

Prior to being appointed, Steil worked for the Canadian Foreign Service for about 20 years, where he served as the former ambassador for Canada to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan and worked as the Canadian Consulate General.

He recently settled in the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi. His role as ambassador includes building and strengthening partnerships between Canada and Vietnam.

"It feels great, personally. This is a combination of my experience in diplomacy and international affairs. After two hard years of the pandemic, Vietnam is quickly finding its feet, and there's an enormous opportunity for Canada here," Steil said.

"It's great, it's a great opportunity for me to be working here now."  
He described what his role is as a Canadian ambassador.

"It's a difficult question to answer because it's a whole bunch of things, but in a nutshell I seek to influence Vietnamese partners and advance Canadians interests," he said.

"That might mean encouraging them to buy more Canadian stuff, it might be in the current circumstances to persuade the Vietnamese to see the situation in Ukraine from our point of view and from the point of view of international law, it might be advancing our defense relationships.

"There's a whole series of things, but if you put it in a nutshell, it's really about putting in the legwork so that Canada can have an influence in Vietnam."

He said what first sparked his interest in working in the foreign service was wanting to make a difference internally.

"After high school in Kipling, I went to Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific in Victoria. It was a scholarship program. I was one of two Saskatchewan students that year to go," Steil said.

"All of a sudden I was thrown into a community of 200 students from about 70 countries studying the International Baccalaureate, and figuring out what I wanted to do. At the time I was thinking journalism, and I studied Mandarin as part of my curriculum, right before Tiananmen. China was starting to open up and I thought it was a great opportunity for me to be a foreign correspondent or something like that.

"As time went on I sort of thought, speaking of influence, maybe I'd try and have more of a direct influence

on policy making from the inside, rather than the outside and when I was working on my masters degree at the University of Calgary, I decided several years later I was going to sit the foreign service exam, what do you know I got in, and that was 20 years ago."

Throughout his career, Steil said he has had experience working with other countries across the world.

"With this job I was posted very quickly to China because I knew the language before I joined the department, and I worked two back-to-back postings, the first one in Beijing, where I was executive assistant to the ambassador," he said.

"Then I was cross-posted as head of mission in Congqing in Southwest China. You might recall in 2008 the big earthquake in China, that was in my territory. I was actively engaged with the Canadian effort and the relief effort from the Canadian side there.

"I went back to headquarters after that, but then I was the lead for the Canadian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, then I was the ambassador to Kazakhstan after that."

He was asked when growing up in Kipling if joining the foreign service ever crossed his mind.

"Probably not, I was pretty grounded and rooted in my surroundings so I was thinking things like environmental consultant or something like that. I'm not sure it really crossed my mind until I went to B.C. to Lester B. Pearson," he said.

"I had a great social studies teacher in Kipling, who was always trying to link history to current events, I had a pretty good awareness of things, but I'm not sure I would've seen this as an opportunity.

He said one of the challenges of being an ambassador he faces is being away with his family.

Continued on page 24

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# New potash mine planned for Manitoba

The Manitoba government has approved Manitoba's first potash development, allowing the Potash and Agri-Development Corporation of Manitoba (PADCOM) to start extraction and production in western Manitoba near Harrowby, two miles from the Saskatchewan border, south of the Yellowhead Highway.

Premier Heather Stefanson announced the provincial approval at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference.

"This is a significant step forward in our commitment to establish Manitoban a global leader in sustainable mineral development," said Stefanson.

"Our government is proud to announce PADCOM has received all required approvals to move Manitoba's first potash mining operation into production. We are working with Indigenous leadership and communities to promote participation in the mineral resource sectors and to ensure communities share in the benefits that result from growth in these sectors."

Gambler First Nation and PADCOM have developed a partnership, with Gambler First Nation participating as a 20 per cent equity owner.

"We are pleased to partner with PADCOM on this landmark project, which will create jobs and help spark further economic development opportunities in our community," said Chief David LeDoux, Gambler First Nation.

Additionally, PADCOM will present community benefit agreements to several Indigenous communities in the area, the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Municipality of Russell-Binscarth.

PADCOM has completed the first part of the project in which two wells were drilled near the community of Harrowby to explore the local potash resource and determine feasibility.

Following the recent Environment Act licence approval and signing of a mineral lease agreement with the province, PADCOM is authorized to move the development to the next phase of production.

"This operation will use a more environmentally friendly mining process. The physical footprint is small and the process will be using green Manitoba electricity, not fossil fuels," said Daymon Guillas, president, PADCOM.

"We are excited to partner with Gambler First Nation to develop Manitoba's first potash operation. This initiative will help support Manitoba's economic recovery and plays a major role in making Manitoba a global leader in mining and mineral development."

## Small scale mine

The Manitoba mine is on a much smaller scale than other potash mines in the area.

Nutrien Rocanville has a nameplate capacity of 6.5 million tonnes, Mosaic Esterhazy K3 has a capacity of 6.7 million tonnes for a combined 13.2 million tonnes—more production capacity between those two mines than any country in the world outside Canada.

Initial production at the new Manitoba mine will be a tiny fraction of that—initial production at the new Manitoba mine will be 1/132 of the production between Ester-

hazy and Rocanville, and at peak production would still be two per cent of current production from Esterhazy and Rocanville.

Initial projections for production at the Manitoba mine start at 100,000 tonnes, and call for that to ramp up to 250,000 tonnes over the next 18 months to two years.

Production is scalable and PADCOM will be looking at further expansion.

Initial extraction is expected to take place in mid to late August 2022.

Drilling has recently continued to complete the underground wells and surface work has commenced to construct the facility and install the equipment.

The investment in the Manitoba mine is also a tiny fraction of the Rocanville and Esterhazy mines

This project involves significant investment, including \$6 million by PADCOM to date with a further \$10 million expected in the next 24 months. That compares to more than \$3 billion spent on each of the Esterhazy and Rocanville mines.

There are 24 direct jobs at the Manitoba mine to start, with employment increasing to more than 100 to meet increased production.

There will also be spin off jobs in the storage, handling, transportation and agriculture input sector.

Revenue to the province (production/royalty rate) is estimated at \$5 to \$6 million at 250,000 t of production and is based on amount sold and the current market price of the potash.

## \$10 million for mining industry

The Manitoba government is dedicating \$10 million to the mining industry through a renewed partnership with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC) and the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF), Premier Heather Stefanson announced here Monday evening during the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference.

"As we continue to recover from the pandemic and build our economy, our government is focused on attracting new investment into Manitoba's mining sector and increasing Indigenous participation in mineral development activities," said Stefanson. "The MMDF supports strategic projects that capitalize on our vast mineral potential within the province and helps accelerate Manitoba's position as a world leader for responsible mineral development."

The renewed agreement with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, which administers the MMDF, will provide \$10 million to support the mineral sector supply chain over three years. This investment will enable Manitoba to capitalize on emerging opportunities among its diverse and untapped minerals and position itself as a leading destination for mining, noted Stefanson, who added the renewed agreement represents an increase in funding to support mining and mineral development initiatives by 66 per cent.

"The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce is pleased to support the Manitoba government in growing the mineral supply chain

in the province through the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund," said Chuck Davidson, board chair, MMDF, and president and CEO, MCC. "We look forward to continuing our work with the mining sector, communities and local businesses to support economic development in Manitoba."

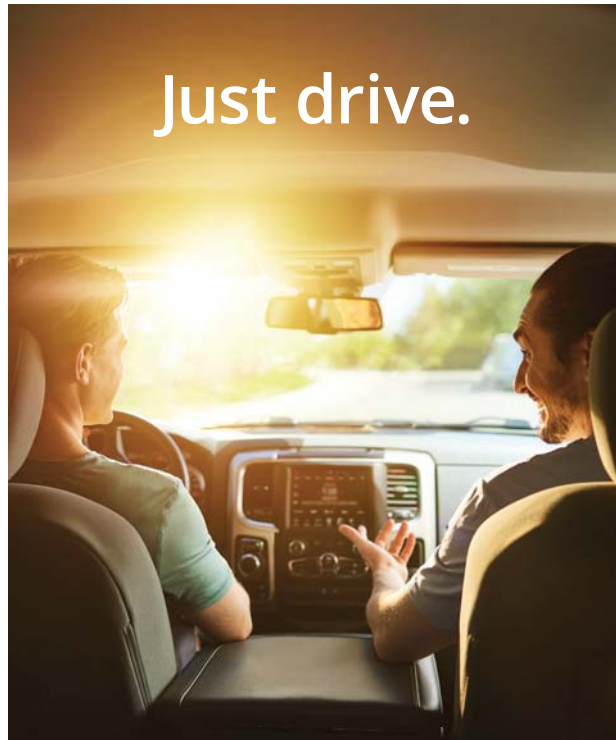
In 2019, the Manitoba government established the MMDF to provide funding for mining and mineral development-related projects throughout the province. Through the fund, communities and businesses, including Indigenous groups, municipalities and the not-for-profit sector, are eligible to apply for funding. Financial assistance from the fund could include one-time grants for activities that help advance new mining opportunities and provide support to Indigenous communities for collabora-

tive resource development.

To date, MMDF has allocated more than \$5.4 million to 41 projects.

This investment builds on the Manitoba government's commitment to grow the mining industry, including the establishment of the Manitoba Permit Office to focus permit modernization efforts, in response to industry recommendations to eliminate red tape to help grow and develop this important sector, noted the premier.

"We are looking forward to our continued partnership with MCC to support responsible mineral exploration and mining activities that benefit our economy and local communities, while fostering partnerships with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation," said Stefanson.



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# Campbell never doubted herself

Continued from page 17

**Tell me a little bit about how the road to working with the Rangers began for you?**

It was kind of a unique path. Things in my coaching career kind of took a quicker trajectory than I anticipated this year. I have been coaching for the last four years since I retired playing. I specialized pretty early on after playing in skating and skills development as a skills coach and skating coach. That was kind of my area that was my niche and I think I had a different approach that I was maybe delivering. Over the past few years I have been working with quite a few NHL players in the off-season and I think that over the course of this past season, it led me to make a move to Chicago where I am working with a USHL team on the junior guys side. Ultimately, I got an opportunity and was asked to go to Germany and coach and do some skill development with the DEL team which is that top league in Germany on the men's side.

From there, the coach who was a former NHL coach, he put me on the bench and he saw that he needed my eye on the bench for some special teams work and we started talking a lot more about the game, and it was kind of that moment where I went from more player development to the trenches in the bench behind the guys and involved with the game, especially coming from a little bit more of my playing background.

That then led to a conversation with the German National team coach, Toni Söderholm, who through a cou-

ple of changes decided to add me to his staff to go to the world championships, and I think it was from world championships that it kind of catapulted me to being the first female coach behind the bench.

Ultimately I think the players are my advocates and from the world championships it led to more conversations with the Rangers and obviously at world championships and coaching NHL players. Those guys they are the ones speaking about my work and I think that was the connection. There was a lot of media coverage and people knew my goal was to be coaching in the NHL. So it was very fortunate that the Rangers picked me up and

decided to add me to their staff.

**You have a bit of a soft spot for the Rangers, is that correct?**

Yes, I have always loved the Rangers, I went to school in New York through college. For me New York City, the Garden, and just the scale of an original six team—if I could start anywhere, to start with New York is very special to me. I grew up loving Mark Messier and it's just a special spot for me, for sure.

Continued on page 27



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# Former Kipling resident becomes Ambassador of Canada to Vietnam

Continued from page 20

The first thing is family, it's one thing to be picking up or heading out to be an ambassador or diplomat, and it's another thing to be a family member," he said.

"Your family is picking up on their own lives too, your kids, your wife and everything like that, it's harder because they don't have that ready made anchor in the new country. They've got to reinvent everything from scratch when they move, and I think it's the same for the military as it is for foreign service, our families and our spouses in particular are the unsung heroes of everything we do.

"They don't get enough credit or compensation, or anything like that. That's another challenge for ambassadors you're always in the spotlight, you're never not the ambassador.

"There was this one time where I was the ambassador Kazakhstan and I was a credited to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, we did some business meetings in Kyrgyzstan's capital, then we decided to do this community based tourism, and we signed up to do this tour, staying with families and travelling around the rural parts of the country. Well I made the mistake of travelling with government officials of the capital for sightseeing, because they called the tourist agency, the tourist agents started to freak out knowing that I'm the ambassador."

"They wanted to change the itinerary and I just wanted a vacation, to be anonymous for a bit, it never works out that way."

He spoke about the rewarding parts of being an ambassador.

"You open doors with the people you get to meet, sometimes you do want to be anonymous, but it really is a privilege. The role and title of ambassador in a lot of places is still highly respected, so it gives you access to people, maybe they might be a little intimidated at first, but it gives you access to people and places that you wouldn't otherwise get. It really is a privilege, that being said."

## Future and current relations for Canada and Vietnam

Although he is still new to Vietnam, Steil said once he becomes more settled in he will start working on current projects with government officials.

"I'm pretty new here, just a month on the job, and I just presented my credentials to the president last week, which means I'm official and I can go out for my duties," said Steil.

"My priority right now is to start building my networks as much as possible. If you're going to influence people you have to know them, look them into the eye and be able to do that. I started meeting ministers, I met the minister of public security here.

"I'll be visiting the south of the country to look at where Canada has done some development projects. We have a development program with Vietnam focused on supporting women in business, combatting climate change, addressing some governance issues just to make sure they're more inclusive and transparent, we've got a long-standing co-ordination with the southern provinces that's coming to a 22 year conclusion.

"Next year in 2023, will be the 50th year of diplomatic relations between Canada and Vietnam. We've been collecting anecdotes and stories to make a bit of a booklet about Canada's engagement with Vietnam over the last 50 years. We actually have a former CIDA employee that we contracted out to start gathering all this information to put into it."

Steil said knowing Mandarin has helped him in his position as ambassador. The other two languages he knows is English and French.

"I actually learned Mandarin before joining the department, that has been helpful for speaking Vietnamese," he said.

"I've been studying Vietnamese, I struggle a bit in Vietnamese, but everywhere I've gone I've picked up conversational language at least. I speak a bit of Turkish, I speak

a bit of Russian and Kazakh, but the three languages I'm solid in are Mandarin, English and French."

Steil was asked what he enjoys about being an ambassador.

"It's always new, you learn a tremendous deal everywhere you go everyday. You know, experience matters and I can feel the experience growing as I add the years on, but it's still new, everything is new," he said.

"Every three years or so we move to a totally different country. I feel like my experience has been kind of the minimum, in that third year you've really learned the job, you know enough people, you know what you're doing that could really get things done, and then as soon as you think you got it, you're gone so you learn all over again. I think that's what I like about it."

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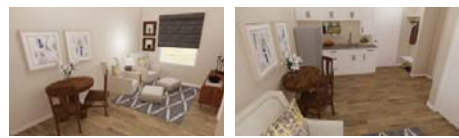
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# PDAP eligibility expanded

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
The Government of Saskatchewan recently announced lifting the requirements for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) allowing farmers who make more than \$2 million in gross revenues to be eligible for the program.

The new program will assist those with more than \$2 million in gross revenues who otherwise meet the definition of a small business, and will be available to producers who were affected by disasters that occurred during the month of April 2022.

This will help agricultural operations impacted by extreme weather events this spring, but who did not qualify under the original PDAP revenue restrictions.

"It was nice to see the government come through, we ran into the same situation in 2011 and there were no changes made then," said Trevor Green, RM of Moosomin and APAS representative.

"Whether they came around thinking the changes would help some beef producers or it was a little pressure from APAS, I know the guys at APAS worked really hard on it, Ian and Steven, also the employees we hired for APAS, Donovan and Duane.

"It will help people get through until we can get some production insurance for the beef side of things."

Green was asked what role APAS played in having the provincial government expand the eligibility requirements for the program.

"APAS is basically a lobbying group that takes farmers' voices to the government, so that we have one group sitting at the table to talk about the main issues in



Farmers in Southeast Saskatchewan are happy to see the provincial government adjust the eligibility requirements for PDAP, now allowing farmers who make more than \$2 million in gross revenues, to apply for the program.

farming," he said.

"They do have a seat at the table with the provincial government, as long as we can keep the lines of communication open between APAS and the Ag Minister, it shows that we can come to a solution when there are issues in agriculture.

"We have to work together with the provincial government as APAS, and have a good working relationship to bring the farmers' voice to the government, sometimes hear the government's outlook on

the farm too."

Now that the eligibility for PDAP has expanded, Green said he knows it will help southeast producers in need.

"I definitely know a few producers that will be applying for it now that it has changed," he said.

"It will help with the disasters that farmers faced in April for the dead calves. For these producers, it's definitely going to be a huge help to large beef producers because some of them had well over \$100,000 in losses, which is pretty significant."

He explained why he thinks the Government of Saskatchewan made changes to the program.

"I think they saw a need in the southeast to maybe help out in the industry, to help some calf and cow farmers who had significant losses," Green said.

"It's a very important industry to the province and we have to do everything to keep it going. The end goal is we need a production insurance for cows, you can't insure every acre for farmland, but I can't insure a cow."

Ultimately, Green said he hopes the provincial government can come up with an insurance program that helps livestock producers.

"That's our end goal for where we have to get to, we have to have some type of production insurance for livestock, whether it be sheep, beef, or whatever," he shared.

He spoke about his reaction when he saw the provincial government's adjustments to the program.

"It made me feel that the government is listening, and that there's an open line of communication between producers and the government," he said.

"It's good that it happened, we have a lot of work ahead of us to get a production insurance program ahead of us, it's a step in the right direction though."

## Happy to see PDAP open its eligibility requirements

Mark McCorriston, a grain and cattle farmer who farms west of Moosomin shared his thoughts on the new PDAP requirements.

"It's good news. After the storm happened I originally read in the newspaper that they were bringing back PDAP. My wife and I looked into the program and after a little bit of reading, we learned that we were exempt from it because we also fall into the circumstances where we gross more than \$2 million," said McCorriston.

"I felt a little singled out, just because we chose to take on a little more workload than some other people, I just didn't feel like we should be exempt from the program. If there's one thing I can say about farming, it's pretty easy to gross quite a bit of money, but netting it is a lot more difficult."

Continued on page 28

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Mosaic to increase production by 1.5 million tonnes between Esterhazy and Colonsay

# Mosaic to ramp up production at Esterhazy



**BY KEVIN WEEDMARK**  
To respond to the global demand for potash, Mosaic is ramping up production in Esterhazy by adding three additional mining machines underground.

One is already underway, the second will be added later this year, and the third miner will be added in the first half of 2023.

This, along with the recently announced second mill that we will be restarting in Colonsay, will allow Mosaic to produce an additional 1.5 million tonnes of potash a year by the second half of 2023.

"The K3 project is largely complete, as production is ramping up," said Bernie Boutin, Director, Strategic Capital. "The assembly of the three four-rotor machines remain, and these will be going into production within the next year.

"The corresponding mine conveyors and electrical infrastructure will also be constructed over that time." Looking back on the K3 project, Boutin says the biggest hurdle was the actual sinking of the two mine shafts.

"Over the course of the project, shaft sinking would be one of the larger challenges as safely excavating two 20 ft diameter holes 3,500 ft deep isn't an everyday task," he said.

"Other challenging moments were encountered during our efforts to safely perform mine development and south headframe construction during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"One worth noting is, we had to mobilize and orientate over 200 contractors within two days to commence the concrete slip-forming back in August of 2020.

"We followed all the required precautions for Covid-19 and we're able to safely complete the slip-forming of the 310 ft tall concrete structure over 21 days.

Dustin Maksymchuk, General Manager at Mosaic Esterhazy, says work is ongoing on decommissioning the K1 and K2 mines.

"We are actively plugging the mine shafts at K1 and K2 as well as decommissioning some of the assets required for inflow management," he said.

He said that K3 will ramp up production over the next two years. "K3 is now producing at comparable rates to K1 and K2 and we will continue to bring on new

capacity over the next two years," he said.

Maksymchuk says Mosaic continues to look at further investment at Esterhazy.

"As we finish up investment in the K3 project, we continue to evaluate opportunities to increase productivity even further," he said.

Maksymchuk said there are both challenges and advantages for potash production in Saskatchewan, compared with other jurisdictions around the world.

"Saskatchewan is home to our many employees, and producing it here benefits our communities and province," he said. "The Canadian potash industry contributes \$5.52 billion to Canada's GDP, and \$516 million in federal, provincial and local taxes. For every one of the 5,100 direct jobs in the mining industry, there are at least two jobs in the mining supply and service sector.

"Companies producing potash in Canada have the highest business costs in the world, but we won't compromise on many of the higher costs we pay.

"We pay well above minimum wage, offer good benefits, and invest back in our people, communities and business.

"We are dedicated to hiring inclusivity and help attract and keep the best talent in Canada.

"We're also continuously working to reduce our environmental impact. Canadian potash is the most sustainable in the world - it's made with 50% fewer greenhouse emissions."

### All potash producers ramping up

In response to the growing demand and escalating concern around global food security, Saskatchewan's entire potash sector is ramping up production. Saskatchewan is positioning itself to fill the market gaps left as a result of the sanctions placed on Russia and Belarus.

"Global interest in Saskatchewan is at an all-time high as countries look to us as an ethical and reliable producer for their resource needs," Energy and Resources Minister Jim Reter said. "We are proud of our world-class potash sector for stepping up to meet growing global demand for

decades to come."

The Mosaic Company, K+S Potash Canada and Nutrien Ltd. have all announced planned potash production increases at their Saskatchewan facilities in response to global supply uncertainty.

Nutrien announced they will be ramping-up annual potash production capability to 18 million tonnes by 2025. This represents an increase of more than 5.0 million tonnes, or 40 per cent, compared to 2020, and will lead to approximately 350 new jobs in the province.

Saskatchewan's potash sector accounts for approximately 11 per cent of provincial GDP and supports roughly 6,000 direct and indirect jobs. Saskatchewan's potash production and the value of sales both set new records in 2021, reaching 14.2 million tonnes K2O and \$7.6 billion respectively.

Given the province's substantial potash reserves, the sector will continue to drive investment, create new jobs and bring opportunity to the people of Saskatchewan.



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Jessica Campbell is first woman in history of Original Six franchise to coach

# Campbell never doubted herself

Continued from page 23

**How did it feel when you were told they were going to have you join them as a coach? Did it take a bit to sink in?**

I wouldn't say I was caught off guard. I feel like I prepared myself and I am deserving of the opportunity and I am ready to go in and do a really good job. So, it wasn't so much shock or surprise, but I was definitely super excited and grateful for the fact that they acknowledged my work and that I could be something different for them and bring a new mindset and perspective.

It was kind of a "pinch-me" moment, but the last few months there have been a lot of moments like those for me. Really realizing after four years of hard work and staying focused that some of my dreams are starting to be realized and the work isn't done yet, it is just the beginning, but it's the start of something that is a big step closer to my goal.

It was kind of a "pinch-me" moment, but the last few months there have been a lot of moments like those for me. Really realizing after four years of hard work and staying focused that some of my dreams are starting to be realized and the work isn't done yet, it is just the beginning, but it's the start of something that is a big step closer to my goal.

**How significant is this for your career?**

It is definitely massive. For me it is probably the highest moment of my coaching career by far and I don't take it lightly. It is definitely a privilege to have the opportunity. Like every coach, I am expected to do a really good job and that level of pressure and expectation at the National Hockey League is the highest. It is the highest level of the game. I definitely feel equipped and ready the last three years working with NHL players and guiding them through their game and their development, so I am excited to bring that now to an organization. I have developed my voice, I have developed my confidence and I have a strong conviction in what I believe I can bring. I am excited to do that. It is definitely a huge moment for the next step in my career and I am hoping that ultimately it leads to something full time at the professional level someday.

**You are the first woman to hold this position. How significant is that?**

A lot of people have been throwing around the word trailblazer, and just breaking down ceilings and barriers. I guess for me I definitely see that there is a role for me to be playing in this space as being the first female, but for me my focus right now is my work, and my duty is to fulfill of what they're expecting me to do and to come in and do a really good job. I also know that my work and the product of what I put forward is going to reap

benefits for other people and open more doors. I am excited to carry that torch for others, I look up to a lot of great mentors and other females in the game who are GMs and who are also involved in the National Hockey League, and for me to be kind of hands on on the bench and right in the trenches with the guys, it is a newer space for sure, but it is something actually that is my most familiar space and where I am most in empowered. I am very excited to hit the ice, because that's where I have a platform to bring something to the table and allow the players to take advantage of it. So I am most excited about the opportunity and knowing that it is going to open up more doors for others.

**Are things changing for women in sport at the professional level? Are more doors opening and is this a signifier of that?**

I think there have been a lot more women in the last few years. More women are being put in positions of leadership and non-traditional roles in what was an old boys' club.

But for me, I have never seen the NHL as creating barriers for women. I have just always seen myself as a coach and capable just like everyone else, and that applies towards everything in life. I think right now there is a time in our world where diversity is important, but also for the right reasons. Everybody has a different perspective and I think women bring a different idea and creativity and communication that maybe men don't have.

And that has been the one thing that I have been told the last three months—that

it is my communication and the way that I deliver my ideas and the message that resonates differently with the guys.

And so I know that there is definitely going to be more and more women. I wouldn't use the word stigma, but I think there is a fear of perhaps putting anybody in a position that has never been done before, and they have never done that before. Now that we are having that, and you are seeing more and more women in these positions, there is more trust. And that trust is definitely something we have to build over time and I am very excited for that opportunity to do that.

**What unique talents do you think that you bring when coaching these players?**

My background is a skating and skills coach, and that is definitely going to be the separating factor. I have an unique approach to skating development and skills where it is all game transfer, game application, there is nothing that I teach or bring that isn't applicable to the game or position specific. It is relative to the way the NHL is played right now.

That is ultimately my goal, to never teach something that is not going to be done in the game and to study the game and understand why the best players are the best players, and why the best teams are successful, and to teach skills within that system, to make it repeatable to others.

I think when I get to camp, it will be my unique blend of skills development, being able to teach skills on an individual ba-

sis, but also on a team basis and blend that into coaching. Because there is a difference between just working on an individual level and working on the team side of it and making sure all of those things transfer to the game.

So that has been the biggest change for me in the last year is that I have been a lot more on the front of the team level, on the bench and coaching. I have grown a lot as a coach, and making sure my methods and what I am teaching, that I can actually mold into a team level concept and run team practices, but also incorporating my skill development knowledge into that approach.

**Growing up as a little girl in Rocanville, if someone told you that you'd be coaching with the New York Rangers one day, what would you have thought of that?**

I would have said, I wish it was the Montreal Canadiens, but that is only because as a young kid, I was a pretty naive dreamer. I say this a lot, but I had high aspirations in the game as a player, and back when I was growing up, in small towns there was no female professional league, and so what we saw is what we believed in. So I grew up wearing Montreal Canadiens gear or New York Rangers gear. That's the dream of any kid, and for all hockey players, to play at the highest level.

Until the Olympic team and the Olympics came on, I didn't even realize that was the path for me.

At a young age, probably most people who knew me, if you asked the same question to them, they probably would have said that I be-

lieved I could do it because I was that kind of kid that was always aspiring to the highest goal and almost the unbelievable in many ways. It was just how I was raised.

I do think that the level of it all and the scope of it all, many people would never have believed that that could come to fruition, but the naive part of me definitely would have chased after it regardless, and I probably wouldn't be here today doing what I am doing or in the position I am in if I didn't have that sense of belief. Really, anything is possible if you are good at what you do. And if you are passionate about it and you stay committed and are resilient through that whole journey, then I do think anything is possible, regardless of whether it has been done before or not.

**What has the reaction been from people back home in Rocanville?**

It has been just overwhelming, the support from everybody. I feel a total sense of gratitude. It is hard to put a word to it because all throughout my playing career and now even as a coach, and through the Battle of the Blades, it has been such a journey coming out of Saskatchewan and the travelling and doing all these things, but knowing that I am carrying a torch and representing communities and all the people who have shaped me. Ultimately, I am doing it for them because I wouldn't be here if it weren't for them.

And so there is a little piece of everybody back home in everything that I do—the teachers and the community. Every time I go home or fly into Saskatchewan or touch down in Re-

gina, it is that same sense of home, and peace and security knowing that these are the people that gifted me with these opportunities and helped start my career. And now as a coach I appreciate that even more than ever before because you come across so many people in life—in sport or not—and they have their impact on you and they make you into the person that you are.

So, as a coach now, I keep myself grounded and stay that small town minded person who is humble and grateful and instill those qualities in others—be hard working and be confident, but also be true to who you are and don't forget where you come from. To see everyone celebrating this success right now and knowing there could be a future for me in the NHL is something I am very proud to represent Saskatchewan for.

**What are your future plans, your long-term goals right now in your career? Where do you hope to see yourself in a few years?**

My hope is after this year to be working towards coaching in the NHL full time, and regardless of where my home is, I hope to be one of the coaches there and to find my place and to bring something different. But what role that will look like, I am not too sure. I am open-minded with what the journey looks like.

I know it is going to take a lot of work, but I am going to stay patient and keep working. I am optimistic and hopeful now that this is the start of something where I could find myself in the future being a full time NHL coach.

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Jacqui Harrison

# PDAP eligibility expanded

Continued from page 25

"My wife and I definitely lost some calves and we had some long days during the storm, when you lose your little baby calves it's pretty emotional. It's hard on everyone, you kind of lose momentum on the ones you gain because you feel sorry for the ones you lost, then you're not focused on the ones that you should be caring for."

"It was a tough go during those couple of storms, my wife and I will definitely be applying for that program now that we're eligible."

McCorriston said losing the calves he did on the farm not only impacted his production income, but also increased his expenses.

"Not only did we lose income, we had far greater expenses. We were bedding three or four times a day, there was the extra diesel fuel, there was the straw you're putting down which gives them something dry to lay on to cope with the storm," he said.

"It was not only a huge loss of potential income, it was also a huge creation of way more expense," said McCorriston.

"Any kind of help that we get would be greatly appreciated, the whole livestock industry is definitely a struggling industry right now, with inflation, changes in prices of fuel, and high feed cost because of the drought last year."

"There's not much left in the commercial livestock industry for the bottom line right at these times. My wife and I talked about cutting back, we've talked about selling the cattle, but we both love our animals."

McCorriston said he will be applying for PDAP now that he is eligible.

"Anything from the government would be appreciated, I'm just not sure what to expect. I haven't heard from anyone else who received anything, but anything would be appreciated," he said.

"The cost of trying to keep the cattle dry, the added expenses, the extra time, the disheartening events of losing calves, and we're still struggling from the backlash of the storms."

"Our corral system, I've never seen it so muddy in my life. I was talking with a gentleman closer to the Manitoba border, he lived in his yard for 33 years and had cattle the whole time, he said he's never seen his corral so sloppy. It's like even when we want to work with the few cattle that are in the yard now, it's not easy because the corral are just slop."

Aside from equipment issues because of the weather, McCorriston said he is still dealing with sick calves from the snowstorms in April.

"It's been hard all around and we still have some calves who got pneumonia, we gave them basic medication and some of the expensive stuff. Some did live, but they're not 100 per cent and they're not going to bring in the top dollar that you hope to get in the fall," he said.

"Not only was there that initial shock of losing a percentage of your calves, it's an ongoing situation that will probably last for the rest of the year. Mother Nature, at least I feel, has been relentless to us in the southeast corner."

He was asked why he thinks the Government of Saskatchewan made the changes in PDAP, to accommodate farmers who make more than \$2 million in gross revenues a year.

"I would say on average that most of the farms in the area probably gross over \$2 million now, and a lot of them if they don't, there will probably be a gentleman or a lady in that family farm that maybe works in town or has a job somewhere else," he said.

"They might take care of the family farm after hours, or on the weekend, but I would think that most farms on average especially a mixed operation, to gross \$2 million, it's just not that much money anymore."

"If you think about it, if you want to go buy a new pickup truck it's \$100,000. I'm glad that they made the change, and I think they made the right choice to do that."

McCorriston commented on APAS working with the provincial government to make this change in PDAP happen.

"APAS seems like they're wanting to do something for the people right away, and they were lobbying the government that's above them to do something and it looks like the change has been made," McCorriston said.

"I feel that they put their nose to the grindstones and lobbied the right people, and got the change that should be made, made. I think they did excellent and did their job, and I appreciate the people that were with APAS who were digging their heels and rallying for us farmers."

"Farming is a labour of love, a lot of people do it for the rewarding aspect of a new calf, when people talk about losing calves and they maybe say it nonchalant, I myself can personally say it's pretty tough."

"When you're loading the dead calf into the loader and you have to take them out to the orchard, it's an emotional thing for everyone, myself included."

"When people talk about losing calves it's more of an emotional thing than they let on, and they're just being gentlemen by not getting too in-depth, but it's definitely hard on everyone."

## Appreciative for APAS working with the provincial government

Kevin Woods, who has a grain and cattle farm and a feed lot near Moosomin said he was happy to see agriculture organizations put pressure on the provincial

government.

"I'm happy they finally made the changes, I feel they're (government) playing catch up, but no complaints," said Woods.

He explained why he thinks the provincial government made the changes to the program.

"I think because it made sense, also because Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, APAS and a few other producer organizations put a lot of pressure on them. That's what helped make the change, there's no question on that," Woods said.

"No one individual went about it themselves, it was done throughout a co-ordinated effort from several associations. I also think the program is kind of outdated, that was put in place 10 or 15 years ago, and obviously a lot has changed since then."

"I think they're just trying to catch up, it's definitely welcomed, I'm happy about it."

Kevin Hruska, who farms in the north of Esterhazy, Bredenburg and Langenburg areas, shared his thoughts on the adjustments made towards PDAP as well.

"It's nice they're being fair about it and not ostracizing the large successful farms," he said.

Although his farm was impacted by the storm, Hruska said he managed to finish seeding on time.

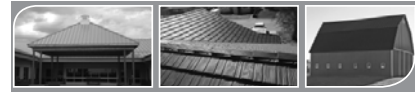
"We did get everything seeded, we don't have unseeded acre so I'm not sure if we'll be eligible, but our seeding was delayed because of the storm," said Hruska.

"We just finished seeding on June 5 which is unusual. In all honesty the crops are in good condition in our area, we're not worried for this year."

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# Building strategies to counter inflation and interest rates

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN

Inflation and interest rates can be touchy points for farmers, especially those who lived through the 1980s.

Land prices dropped in the 1980s and in the early 1990s, driven lower by record-high interest rates, poor commodity prices and drought.

Concerns about inflation and rising interest rates returned in 2021, and although both are out of farmers' control, producers can use an understanding of these risks to mute their effects.

### STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS

Inflation has a direct impact on farmers' costs of production, as well as interest rates, as the Bank of Canada (BOC) will adjust its policy rate until inflation is around 2%, explains J.P. Gervais, FCC vice-president and chief economist.

What farmers can do with in-depth knowledge of inflation and interest rates is develop a strategy, one that starts with understanding their debt repayment capacity and



how higher interest rates would influence it:

- determine the net income your business generates
- calculate debt obligations
- work out how much room you have to phase in higher interest rates

## Start with understanding debt repayment capacity and how higher interest rates would influence it

"The idea is to understand what kind of risk you're exposed to and establish a financial strategy in line with your risk exposure, as well as your aversion or ability to take on some risk," Gervais says.

He believes one strategy may be to lock in interest rates to avoid paying higher rates down the road.

"When you lock in rates, usually you pay a higher interest rate, but you have this assurance that you're going to be okay from a financial standpoint paying that debt down."

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If computing financial ratios seems overwhelming, there's nothing that says these steps need to be taken alone. Consult your banker, accountant, farm manager and anyone else who can help run relevant economic scenarios and simulations and devise a sound strategy for your operation.

"You just need to be able to surround yourself with the right people to lean on," Gervais says. "You lean on the know-how and technical expertise, but you also lean on the market assessment of the business environment that you're in."

Be your own CEO, he advises. CEOs aren't experts in everything, but they can be the architects who put together a knowledgeable team and lead strategic direction.

"Being a CEO is to surround yourself with the expertise that you need and pick the right business relationships to get your farm to that next level."

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# USask project aims to give Ag producers easier access to data

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Government of Canada is investing \$400,000 over the next two years to help the University of Saskatchewan lead a project that focuses on creating a user-friendly data analytics platform, that will be developed to support commercializing new ag-tech solutions.

With the complexity of agriculture technology increasing, the project aims to give Ag producers better access to data that will be useful, and improve productivity and efficiency for their operations.

"Currently smart farming is a pan-Prairie smart farm network where our focus is on cropping systems," said Scott Wright, Director of Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) at USask.

"We see a gap, if you will, for the livestock and forage industry where the opportunities to see technologies coming into the livestock and forage industry, as a targeted outcome.

"For us the LFCE represents an opportunity for us to put those smart farm technologies to test, where we are emulating what would happen in southern Saskatchewan where communications is a bit of a challenge.

"We're going to be coming up with a specific type of band, to be able to read those answers and transmit the data. At this point, the partnership really starts with reading those sensors and transmitting that information for evaluation and interpretation. Then finally, we'll be having a dashboard that will use the records of useful information, that producers will be working with."

The project is part of the "smart farming" research and innovation for the agriculture sector at USask, which involves collecting and analyzing Big Data to help producers make informed and sustainable farm management decisions to improve productivity and efficiency.

Wright was asked what type of data will be collected during the project.

"The things that we're looking to start with range from soil temperature monitors, we're looking at GPS air tags for the livestock so that we can look at not only where they are, but how they're moving," he said.

"There's accelerometers in these tags that allow us to flag if the animal has stopped moving, or how it's moving.

"We believe the AI is going to lead us to know if the animals are well or sick, to identify heat cycles for example, to

identify breedings when animals are in the same sight, we'll be tracking that type of information."

The "living lab" the project will be working in will bring together producers, established tech companies, and ag-tech start-ups, to create an environment and a platform that reduced current barriers to adoption of smart farming practices, while enhancing the probability of success for all.

"It's a step forward, and the other thing that comes with this project is we're doing a 'day in the life' of a livestock farm for technologies that have

ideas and have applications that can understand what is really needed in the livestock and forage world," Wright said.

"To be able to assist farmers in replacing labour, in replacing effort elsewhere, really for time saving and increased information that's available to them.

"In that two year period of the project, we look to have a number of different types of sensors of the data that we're asking about. That's operating and moving into a data collection process, so that we can begin to work through that dashboard.

"By the end of two years, we expect to have a dashboard certainly of the data we have in place right now. If you think about a red, green, yellow kind of tagging, where all things are good within the parameters that we want would be in green, in yellow here's something we might want to pay attention to more, and red for example would be an animal that hasn't moved in four hours."

The project primarily focuses on the livestock industry, however it will slightly incorporate the forage industry as well.

Wright spoke about

why it is important to develop agriculture-related technology.

"Labour is one of the key and critical issues on the farm, this project has some opportunities for replacing labour, replacing hands-on challenges," he said.

"The second piece is, the more useful information that's being available and assessed, the more we can create efficiencies, economic, social, and environmental efficiencies within that livestock and forage industry."

The project is led by the College of Engineering and College of Agricul-

ture and Bioresources, in partnership with USask's Livestock Forage Centre of Excellence.

"I hope this is the first announcement of many, and I believe we will see industry becoming more involved in this space, and working with us to look for those opportunities," Wright said.

The partner organizations that are contributing their expertise or investments for the project are: SaskTel, Mera Group Companies, North Star Systems, Smart Paddock, Wood River Controls, and Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association.

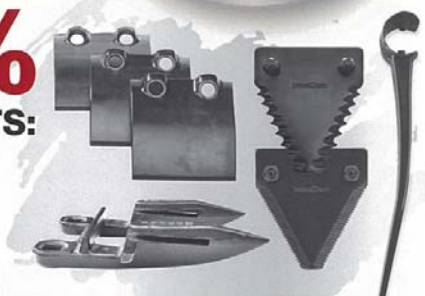


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In Whitewood, within Treaty 4 territory, the Fleming Jets, Kahkewistahaw Jays, Whitewood Falcons, Round Lake Braves, Grenfell Gems and Cowessess Royals of the South East Men's Fastball League, played games against one another to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. All of the teams wore orange shirts with each of their team's logos on it that day.

# Reconciliation games hosted by South East Men's Fastball League

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On June 11, the South East Men's Fastball League hosted a day of reconciliation games where all six teams in the league played against each other to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The three Indigenous teams played against the three non-Indigenous teams that day.

The Fleming Jets won against Kahkewistahaw Jays with a score of 5-0, Grenfell Gems won over Cowessess Royals with a score of 18-2, and Round Lake Braves won against Whitewood Falcons by 16-5.

"To the town of Whitewood, Cole McPherson and people of Whitewood thank you for hosting. As well as Brenda for doing the shirts, thank you to Nutrien for sponsoring the shirts," said Ian Glasser, president of the South East Men's Fastball League.

"It's great to have all the teams here and everyone out on the ball field, it's great to see everyone come out. Today is just about putting yourself in other people's shoes, you

never know what other people are going through and with what happened in the past with our dark Canadian history, we need to talk about it."

Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahaw also said a few words at the event.

"I want to welcome everyone today to the reconciliation games, we have this beautiful weather today, we have families, some fans, we have food and drinks here," said Taypotat.

"I want to make it clear that today only happened because of the non-Indigenous guys who run our league, it wasn't because of me or the chief of Round Lake, it was guys like Ian Glasser, Tyler of Grenfell, our non-Indigenous fastball brothers who said we have to do something.

"We have to honor what today means, of what wearing the orange shirt means. Many times around this diamond, even many times at the hockey rink, when we're there skin color doesn't matter and skin color doesn't matter today. It's just our best versus their best, and that's what we have to practice tomorrow in our day-to-day life.

"We have to make sure we take what we know here, and apply that in the outside world because these towns need the First Nation dollars to live, and the First Nations need these towns to live."

Taypotat said he hopes events like these can help lead by example to bring all communities closer together.

"We're going to live here the rest of our lives, in Grenfell, in Kahkewistahaw, in Cowessess, in Fleming, in Moosomin, Esterhazy," he said.

"We're going to grow old here, our kids are going to grow old here, we should get to know each other a little bit better, and understand each other better aside from just being on the ball diamond, aside from the hockey rinks.

"Now, we can do that. I look around and a few years back, we all won the provincial title together because we put our ethnicities aside, we put our religious beliefs aside, and we got lots accomplished.

"In Canada, we've got to make sure we work towards that. Today is a small step, today is a good step, but today is the right step and I think the South East Men's Fastball Association for taking this next step."



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• Diesel  
• 69,000 kms

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STOCK# 1T251B

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• 135,000 kms

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STOCK# 2P077

• Lariat Sport  
• Ecoboost  
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• SEL AWD  
• One Owner  
• 72,000 kms

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• 7-Passenger

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• Moonroof

**\$52,900** **\$209 PER WEEK**



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STOCK# 2T090C

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• 112,000 kms  
• 6.5 Ft. Box

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