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Plain & Valley

July 2024 • Volume 17 Number 7

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

Teagan Littlechief SCMA Female Artist of the Year

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

Teagan Littlechief of White Bear First Nation is ecstatic about winning her first Female Artist of the Year Award at the Saskatchewan Country Music Awards (SCMA).

Littlechief has won previous awards at the SCMA, including Indigenous Artist of the Year, which she also won this year.

The beginning

Littlechief grew up listening to her mom sing and was later inspired to take singing lessons.

"My mom sang a lot when I was very little. My music teacher heard me one day singing in the bathroom and she suggested to my mom that I take voice lessons, so from there I went to Shirley Dahlgren in Moosomin. I did voice lessons with her for years and entered a few competitions, and ever since GX94 Star Search in 2002 I have been on my country road."

Passion for singing

She says singing is a passion that has helped her overcome challenges.

"It is a passion of mine and it has gotten me out of a lot of hard times. My last release I did as a co-write with Jesse Weiman is called 'Need You to Go' and I wrote it based off a relationship that was broken between my son and I. When it came time to choosing, I chose my family and my sobriety over something that I can't control—at least with my family and my music I can establish what I want for myself."

Littlechief is shocked at the number of people who know her name from singing and performing.

"I just always performed. I really didn't know that my name meant anything. I am still in shock over the weekend so it is very cool to know that Teagan Littlechief means something in Saskatchewan and in the association. I actually went into a store for clothes in Regina last month and the lady asked 'what are you getting clothes for' and I answered saying I had a performance and then she says, 'what is your first name?' and I said 'Teagan,' and the another lady in the next changing room said 'Teagan Littlechief?' and continued to talk about my music and how she loved listening to it. It put me in a position of thinking wow people know me."



Teagan Littlechief of White Bear First Nation performing at the Saskatchewan Country Music Association Awards. She was named Female Artist of the Year and Indigenous Artist of the Year.

"I have been getting songs from Sean Hogan, and other writers, and I co-wrote with a few people, but this year my main focus is either a co-write or a straight write for myself," Littlechief said.

Continued on page 7



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MP Robert Kitchen decides against re-election

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Dr. Robert Kitchen has decided not to let his name stand for re-election as MP for Souris-Moose Mountain. Kitchen will serve out his current term.

"I've decided that I'm not going to run in the next federal election," Kitchen told the World-Spectator Monday.

He said he only recently decided not to run for re-election but he is comfortable with his decision. "It's a decision that I've made and a decision that I will live with," he said.

"I've decided that I will stay on as MP until the next election.

"I've been so honored and so privileged to have great constituents supporting me. The people have been so good to me and I'd like to believe I have reciprocated as best I can."

Kitchen was first elected in 2015 and is in his ninth year as a Member of Parliament. In the last federal election he won with the highest percentage of the vote of any MP in Canada.

"I won three elections, each and every one of those is a high point," he said.

Having the highest percentage of vote in the last election and just short of it in the one before that—those are very high points. Every time I've had an opportunity to talk to a constituent and hear their opinion is a high point



Dr. Robert Kitchen.

for me because I like to believe I'm a people person and I love hearing what people have to say and what they can tell me and I've always said from day one that in my days of practice as a chiropractor and as an MP, I need to learn something new and I've continued to do that. I believe it's very important that everyone learns something every day.

"I always enjoyed when I had an opportunity to talk with my constituents because I'm always learning something new."

A nomination date has not yet been set. The Conservative constituency association will set a nomination meeting date within 47 days of the announcement last Monday.

So far two candidates have come forward for the Conservative nomination—Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk and Torquay Mayor Mike Stratton.

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\$10 entry fee per participant
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Mutton Busting: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Working Dog Competition: 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Team Roping: 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

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Tractor Pulls 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Chicken Dinner: 4:00 pm

Chariot Races & Chuckwagons: 4:30 pm
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Slow Pitch: Corbin Barker 306-743-7456

Tractor Pulls: Cameron Duncan, 306- 745-7428

General Information: Jeff Odgers, 306-740-8025





Recipients of 25 year awards from left are, Gary Matthewson (spouse Veronica) and Brad Hutton (spouse Breanne Barber).



A group photo of the Redvers Fire Department.

Redvers Lobsterfest raises funds for new fire truck

BY ANGELA ULRICH

The Redvers Volunteer Fire Department hosted a very special Lobsterfest on June 22 at the Redvers Recreation Centre.

The decadent event is held every two years with proceeds going toward the purchase of a new front-line fire truck.

The freshest lobster was flown in from the Maritimes and prepared by Certified Chef de Cuisine Dave Powel, owner and creator of Lobsterman Catering, Indian Head. The 230 people in attendance were treated to a five-course maritime meal with the chef providing instruction on how to properly crack, split and pull apart the shell to savor every bit of the lobster feast.

Local businesses, as well as monetary donations, sponsored a multitude of live, silent and dutch auction items.

Twenty-five years of service awards were presented to Brad Hutton and Gary Matthewson.



Above: Grady Sutter and Jacob Ulrich enjoying the fresh lobster experience.



Right: Chief Brad Hutton with the special lobster cake created by Aurora Rose Cakes from Carievale, Sask. It was auctioned off with a winning bid of \$800.

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Steven Bonk seeks Conservative nomination in Souris-Moose Mountain

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK AND ASHLEY BOCHKE
With the announcement that Dr. Robert Kitchen will not seek re-election, Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk has announced he will seek the Conservative nomination in Souris-Moose Mountain. Bonk will not seek re-election as Moosomin MLA.

"I am excited to announce that I will be seeking the Conservative Party nomination for the Souris-Moose-Mountain riding," Bonk said Monday. "I was proud to be co-captain of Pierre Poilievre's Saskatchewan team during his leadership race. His vision and commitment to conservative principles resonate deeply with the values we hold here in Saskatchewan. I am thrilled at the opportunity to join his team and help replace Justin Trudeau with a Prime Minister that is a champion for Saskatchewan."

Bonk said his role as Moosomin MLA gave him skills that would be useful as a member of parliament.

"In my role as MLA for the Moosomin constituency, I have established strong relationships with communities throughout southeastern Saskatchewan. My work has given me a deep understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the people of this region. I believe that my personal and political experience have made me the best person to advocate more vigorously for the needs and concerns of Southeast Saskatchewan on the national stage.

"To pursue this goal, I need to focus singularly on the task ahead. Out of respect for the voters in my provincial constituency, I am also announcing that I will not be seeking re-election in the upcoming provincial election.

"The province is well-represented by Premier Moe and the Saskatchewan Party government, who have been dedicated to addressing the needs and priorities of our residents. Their leadership has ensured that Saskatchewan continues to thrive and grow. However, it's also crucial that we have a strong, consistent voice advocating for our province at the federal level to ensure our interests are effectively represented in Ottawa.

"I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people of the Moosomin constituency for placing their trust in me by electing me in the past two provincial elections. Your support has been the cornerstone of my public service, and I am deeply honored by the confidence you have shown in my leadership. Together, we have accomplished many great things. Now, I humbly ask for the continued trust and support of the people in southeastern Saskatchewan so that I may represent and advocate for you in Ottawa. I am committed to being a strong voice for our region, ensuring that our needs are not only heard but prioritized at the federal level.

"Together, we can continue to build on the successes of our province, ensuring a prosperous and bright future for all Saskatchewan residents. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you in this new



MLA Steven Bonk

capacity."

Bonk thanked Souris-Moose Mountain MP Dr. Robert Kitchen for his service. Kitchen announced earlier he will not seek re-election.

"I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Robert Kitchen for his exemplary service to the constituents of Souris-Moose Mountain," Bonk said. "He has consistently served with honor and integrity, always prioritizing the best interests of our province and nation."

Experience in government

Bonk says he believes his experience as MLA will help if he wins the nomination and becomes the next member of parliament for Souris-Moose Mountain.

"I believe the experience I have gained serving in government over the past two terms will prove invaluable. The most important lesson I have learned is to listen to constituents. They are keenly aware of the issues that need addressing and how government decisions impact their daily lives. I have gained valuable insight by ensuring I take the time to truly listen.

"Regarding policy, I had the privilege of serving as the Minister of Economy and Trade under Premier Brad Wall. During that time, it became evident that our provincial actions in these areas are significantly constrained by federal policy and regulation. I believe some of these policies and regulations need serious revision, particularly concerning environmental policies that negatively impact our agricultural and energy producers, and trade policies that restrict our potash industry.

"By putting my name forward and running federally, I hope to influence these areas and work towards creating more beneficial conditions for businesses and ultimately the people of Saskatchewan."

He said he believes his skillset is well suited to federal politics.

"Being an MLA and Cabinet Minister

has given me a deep understanding of how government works. With over 20 years in private business, both here and abroad, I've worked closely with both industry and government, gaining valuable insights and building strong relationships. My time in the legislature has given me a unique perspective on how policies and decisions impact our communities.

"Many of the issues I care deeply about, and that are vital to our riding, fall under federal jurisdiction. These issues directly affect the financial well-being of Saskatchewan citizens. Whether it's addressing economic challenges, improving infrastructure, or ensuring access to essential services, these matters require attention and action at the federal level.

"I believe my diverse background and experience enable me to bring a practical, informed approach to these issues. By working together, we can create positive change and improve the lives of our constituents. I am committed to advocating for our riding's needs and ensuring that Saskatchewan's voice is heard at the federal level."

What is he most proud of as MLA?

"I feel immense satisfaction in the work I've done, especially when it comes to helping people who find themselves in tough situations through no fault of their own. Government regulations and oversights can sometimes create significant

challenges, and being able to assist those in need is incredibly rewarding. It's been a privilege to help them navigate these complexities and to make a real difference in people's lives.

Continued on Page 15



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Teagan Littlechief SCMA Female Artist of the Year

Continued from front Goals as a singer

Littlechief says she plans to continue to perform and accomplish many goals as a singer.

"Just to perform, meet new people, take in as much knowledge as I can from the industry for the path that I have chosen and be able to bring it back to communities that are unaware or don't understand the industry or are too afraid to step foot into it. That is the one thing that has held me back, is my fear of the unknown.

"I just got signed with Black Mountain Music and Media Management and my manager Pinky Celena Simms is the one who basically holds my hand when I venture into the world of music and it opens my eyes. When I come back home I get kids who ask, 'how do you do it? or where do you go?' and so I offer them to come on the road with me once and check it out."

A feeling unlike any other

Littlechief says there is no feeling like winning the SCMA awards and being recognized in the province for her singing.

"This year, last year, and the year before I have won SCMA awards. The first year ever winning was when Covid hit and everything was still transitioning from on-line to the world. It was three years ago, we had that big snow fall here where you couldn't even get out of the house, I was watching on my iPad and when they announced the winner I yelled 'Oh my God!' my son and his friend came upstairs and were concerned, but then I told them I had won the Indigenous Artist of the Year!

"This year for the Indigenous Artist of the Year, I was up against strong performers who have a bigger following and are signed with labels. I was very shocked and surprised when they called my name. Like it's me who is from the rez—that is what I call it, that is my home at White Bear First Nations. You got me tucked away in the Moose Mountain area and I don't really see a lot of anything unless I am on the road doing music. My following is not as big as everyone else's so when they called my name it was definitely a huge moment of 'Oh my God, and thank you God, thank you Jesus, and like oh Jesus take the wheel!' I literally went up there with no speech prepared for either awards.

"I was scrolling on Facebook and I came across a comment and it said, 'Teagan Littlechief is the first Indigenous to win Female Artist of the Year,' and I thought 'Wow that is cool!' I like that because now I hope that these little girls or little boys that love

music see that it is possible. I think this is my second nomination in the Female Artist of the Year. I was up against Shantaia, Jordyn Pollard, Amy Nelson, and Katelyn Lennar, and I was just sitting there and my son asked if I wanted to move and I said, 'no no that is okay, I kind of have a feeling of who might win' and then when they announced me I sat there for four seconds in shock until my son finally said, 'Go!' I got up there and I was so emotional. I had always had a speech prepared for Female Artist of the Year somewhere in the back of my head and then when I got up there I just got so emotional."

Career Highlights

Littlechief says she has had many special moments throughout her singing career.

"I have signed with Black Mountain Music, Media, and Management, I have performed at TeleMiracle, I won the Queen's Jubilee Medal last year, and I always love performing. My days have picked up and last week I got the notification that I will be performing at the OSAC (Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils) Showcase in October in Saskatoon." (Local arts councils attend the showcase to choose the acts they will host in communities across the province over the next year.)

Writing Music

Littlechief is working on new songs right now.

"I am working on a project with Aaron Goodwin and I am working on a Christmas album, but we don't know if it is going to come out in 2024 or if it is going to be completed for 2025.

"Life experience influences me to write, and a lot of people are going through the same thing. I love how Jelly Roll does his thing—he has been an inspiration in the song-writing aspect in the sense of being able to talk about sobriety, talk about struggles, and that pain and make it so it is a powerful meaningful song."

Realizing dreams

Littlechief says winning Female Artist of the Year is one of her biggest achievements and most memorable moments. "It

ranks at the top. It was one of my dreams for a long time ever since joining SCMA, and I even started picking out a shelf. I like to put things out into the universe and pray about things. So I thought, I am going to be prepared for one day that I do win Female Artist of the Year. I want to have somewhere special to put my awards and my accomplishments. Female Artist of the Year has got to be in the top five for sure," Littlechief said.

Next Steps

Littlechief says she hopes to perform for International crowds. "I just hope my

career takes me on the road. I want to go to Italy," she said. "I want to go where my music is played the most and go check it out. Mexico and Italy were in my top streams. I have had more plays on Spotify in Mexico, Italy, and Australia.

"I have always said I would love to perform outside of Canada and my dream place would be Italy. Then, I had an interview with a gentleman in the radio station in Italy a few months back and he said, 'your music is played so much here,' it is very cool and my dream would be to play there someday."

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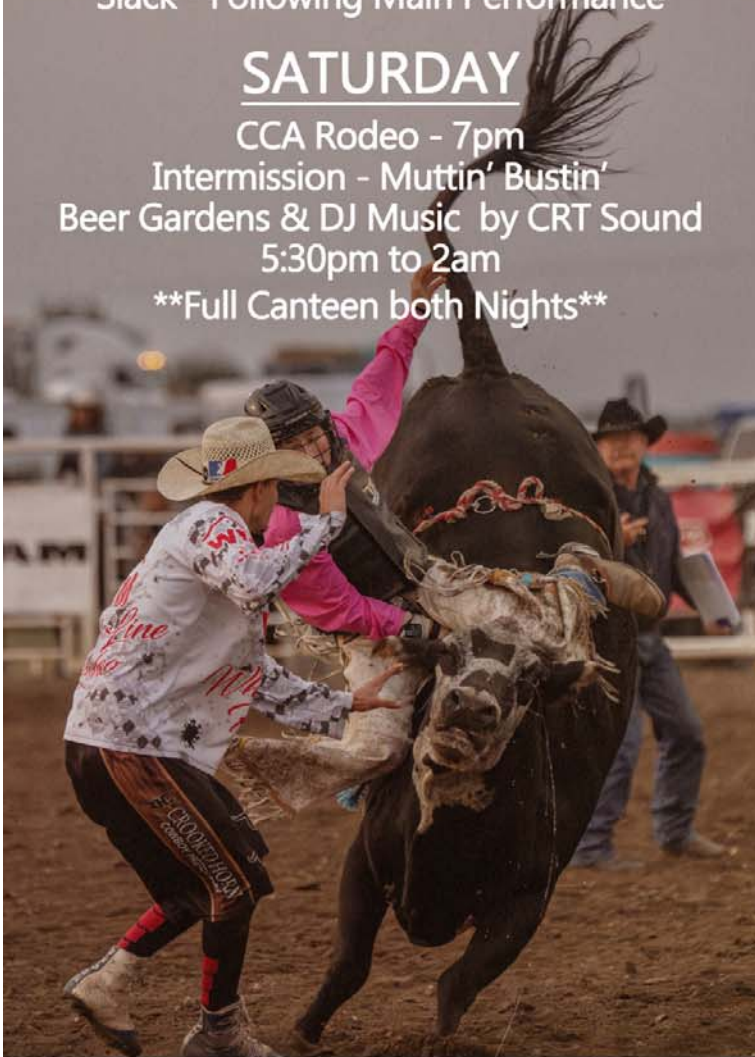
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Co-op donates \$130,000 to Whitewood playground

Borderland Co-op presented a cheque for \$130,000 to Whitewood School June 27 to help with the cost of a new "Treetop Adventure" play structure at the school.

"On behalf of the playground committee and the whole school I want to express how excited and grateful we truly are. Being able to have a play structure that is new with the added feature of being accessible to everyone regardless of their age or abilities is just such an asset not just for our school, but for our whole community," said principal Connie Maier.

"It seems like we've been fundraising for years and years and we've appreciated all of the parent and community support. Unfortunately as you know, everything—ground work, foundation, labor, apparatus equipment—is so expensive it takes a long time to gather enough money to start. But we have been so lucky to have a diligent and committed playground committee that just kept persevering. But having been awarded such a huge grant has been so fantastic that it has truly transformed Whitewood's Treetop Connection from a distant vision to a very exciting reality that we are so excited to be able to put into motion right away. So thank you so much for your generosity and for choosing our school's project to support. It really did turn our dream to reality, which our children can benefit from and enjoy."

"I would like to thank Macey (Raiwet) for spearheading the team and for all their hard work and dedication," said Jeff Cole of Borderland Co-op. These projects don't just happen without a lot of hard work. I'd also like to thank the Borderland Co-op team. To make this happen it takes a team. The \$130,000 is the biggest contribution Borderland Co-op and FCL have made through this program.

"We help out with about 300 projects annually. This was our biggest financially. We are a different kind of business. We return our profits to the community. No one owns the Co-op so we try to give back."

The total cost of the project will be \$250,000, and the Co-op donation brings the school up to its fundraising total.

The playground committee will be looking for volunteers to help with construction this fall—6-8 volunteers a day for five days. Principal Connie Meier and Macey



Co-op donates to Whitewood Playground

Borderland Co-op presented \$130,000 to the Whitewood Playground Committee. The new apparatus will break ground soon, with hopes of being ready for early September.

Ashley Bocek Photo

Raiwet said the project will be completed this fall, and the kids are already excited about it.

2024 marks the 10th year of Community Spaces. Since it was launched, \$13.5 million has been invested in 189 projects across Western Canada. This year a total of \$1 million of capital support was provided to 14 projects.



A schematic of how the new Whitewood playground will look.

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Lladones family looking ahead after fire

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK AND KEVIN WEEDMARK

Rommel Lladones, owner of Moosomin Pizza and Chinese, says his family are all okay and are beyond thankful for the help they received when their home and business caught fire on June 21.

Rommel says he is still in shock from the tragic fire that day. "It still doesn't feel real. We are still in shock, but we are looking to get some support from counselling. We're coping, I guess. Right now we're trying to look on the brighter side of what's happened to my family."

Rommel says town workers were outside the building early Friday morning and helped the family.

"It was between 7:45-8 am when my sister woke me up and said, 'There's lots of smoke coming from downstairs.' I was still sleeping so I woke up and saw that there was a big cloud of smoke coming up from downstairs. The instinct that I had was to grab my phone and call 911 and then gather all of the kids up. Luckily we were all upstairs at that time. So I grabbed the kids but because I was in such a hurry, I wasn't able to dial 911. There was a lot of smoke going up and I could feel my throat was starting to feel bad. We have a deck in the back of our place so we tried to open it but, I had put a lock on it because I had been fixing the railings and took them off so I had put a lock on it so the kids couldn't go out. During that day, I was struggling with it, pulling it back and forth. We managed to open it just enough that we could get out. There was already a town worker that was downstairs. (Quinn Glasser and Mike Lowe were driving by when they saw the family on the balcony, and ran to the nearby carwash to get a ladder).

"Then the next thing I know, my sister tells me that my daughter was still in her room. I had to grab her. It was my fatherly instinct. I had to go get her but I couldn't see anything inside. It was too dark—I couldn't see anything. Luckily when I opened the door I saw that my sister had opened the window of my daughter's room for fresh air the night before, so I could see a small glimpse of light and my daughter was standing behind the door and she yelled, 'Daddy, daddy!'

"That is really haunting me right now—the question of 'What if?' I can't imagine if I wasn't able to get my daughter out. I grabbed her but I couldn't see anything so what I did was guide myself along the wall with my hand. Even the deck outside and the door, I couldn't see it. In those few moments I couldn't even hear my daughter breathing because she was coughing and couldn't breathe. We managed to get out and there were people helping us get out. The guy that was helping us had a ladder but it was a little short so it wasn't able to reach the deck.

"There were a lot of people who instantly, didn't hesitate to help, so we managed to get down. There was a guy who came yesterday to our hotel. He's not from here, he said that he was just passing through, but he saw the smoke and stopped by. That guy brought my sister and kids inside the gym next to us. Then a lot of people helped us get them to the hospital."

Family hospitalized

The family members were taken to different hospitals for treatment.

"When I went to the hospital here in town, the doctors decided it would be better for me to go to the city because of how much carbon monoxide I had breathed in because of the smoke," says Rommel. "They said it would be safer if I was in the city. They took me to Yorkton ICU but my son went to Regina because he also had a high level of carbon monoxide. Luckily my sister and my daughter didn't have to stay overnight at the hospital in town—just for a few hours. I stayed in Yorkton for a day because they had to observe me, but luckily all of the blood tests, the x-ray, and other tests that they did were okay. They wanted me to stay for two days but I said, 'No, I have to see my family.' So they let me go on Saturday afternoon and Mrs. Flaman from Wapella, who's also a teacher here at the school, offered to drive me back to town. She is one of my son's teachers. She was so helpful, and she drove my kids and my sister to the hospital in town that day.

"We're just happy and fortunate that in



The Lladones family lost both their home and their business in a fire on June 21.

a small town, a lot of people are willing to help, especially the teachers."

He said he was in shock and couldn't process what was happening at the time of the fire.

"I couldn't even recognize anyone. When Mrs. Flaman talked to me, I was looking at her but I wasn't able to recognize her. She asked, 'Do you want me to take you to the hospital?' but I just looked at her and realized I couldn't recognize her. I asked her, 'Who are you?' Then she asked, 'Can I take your kids to the hospital?' I said yes. She took my kids to the hospital, her and—Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. McCormac, they all took them to the hospital and gave us comfort."

Thankful family got out safely

Rommel says he is thankful his family got out safely and are well. "I have my son Juan Fausto and my daughter Marciana, she's four and my oldest is seven. During this, luckily, my wife was not in the house because she was working at Canalta. She went to work at 4 am. When we got out I called her, she was crying. She was so shocked. My sister is here visiting us right now. We're just lucky that we also had my sister while that happened because she's really been a big help."

Rommel said he had to go back into the burning building to rescue his daughter.

"It was the fatherly instinct," he said. "I knew it was dangerous but if my daughter had died, I would be dead. The picture of that in my mind, even today, I'm not able to sleep. When I close my eyes I can still see the smoke. There's a lot of things on my mind like, 'What's going to happen to your family?' The place doesn't really matter, it's family that matters."

"We're just lucky the fire department came so fast—as fast as they could. The dining area is where it's badly damaged. In the kitchen all of the equipment is still in good shape but we need to get professional people to look at it. We're just lucky I think and hopefully we can rebuild the place."

Proud to be part of Filipino community

Rommel says he is thankful for the support of the local Filipino community.

"We're just so thankful that we have a Filipino community in town that are also willing to help. All of this help will give us a little bit of comfort and assurance that everything will be okay. It makes me proud to be a Filipino and part of the Filipino community."

"The Filipino community mentioned a lunch and I said that anything that would help, I'd appreciate it. That will help us get back on our feet. So maybe that's the beauty of it. Giving back whatever you have to for someone in need. Right now, we're just putting together plans that would be the best for us. If we can't re-

build as soon as people we'll probably look for housing in town if they have a unit available for us—which they said they had.

"That business is our bread and butter, so we can't give up on it. My wife told me that maybe there's another opportunity behind this thing and we have to come back stronger."

Stronger than ever

Rommel says he is looking forward to getting the family back on their feet.

"That's the motivation that we have—to get back on our feet stronger than before. I'm from the Philippines and there's

a lot of struggle in life back in the Philippines, so I'm used to it.

"We came here in 2010 and since then I've tried to survive and I think we can survive this. We have a lot of friends, we have a Filipino community to help us and family back in the Philippines.

"We're very fortunate that we have this community in town, and not just the Filipino community, but other people as well. The school teachers are organizing a fundraising activity, as well, to help. A lot of people are reaching out to us to give whatever they can. We have a lot of clothes right now."

Continued on page 19

<p>\$425,000 1 Lorne Street 3 Beds, 2 Baths, 1362 Sq. Ft. MLS'SK976471 - Peebles</p>	<p>\$789,000 456 Abel Dr. 3 Beds, 4 Baths, 2280 Sq. Ft. MLS'SK970537 - Crooked Lake</p>	<p>\$635,000 56 Elk Road 3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2180 Sq. Ft. MLS'SK969002 - Crooked Lake</p>	<p>\$449,000 103 Elk Road 4 Beds, 2 Baths, 988 Sq. Ft. MLS'SK965979 - Crooked Lake</p>
<p>\$380,000 236-8th Street Broadview Business Car Wash MLS'SK972924 - Broadview</p>	<p>\$195,000 514 Main St. Office Full Kitchen 3 Beds 3 Bath MLS'SK959256 - Broadview</p>	<p>\$475,000 717 Desmond St. Retail MLS'SK968193 - Grenfell</p>	<p>\$225,000 Acreage - Residential 2 Beds, 1 Bath, 1482 Sq. Ft., 6+ Acres MLS'SK971790 - RM Grayson 184</p>

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Jessica Campbell first female assistant coach in NHL

Jessica Campbell, who grew up in Rocanville, has made history by becoming the first female assistant coach in NHL history.

On July 3, the Seattle Kraken announced that the 32-year-old—who spent time growing up in Rocanville and Melville—has been named to Dan Bylsma's coaching staff for the 2024-25 season.

For the past two seasons, Campbell was an assistant coach with Seattle's American Hockey League affiliate, Coachella Valley Firebirds, where she worked alongside Bylsma, who was promoted to head coach of the Kraken earlier this off-season.

"During our tenure in Coachella Valley, I saw firsthand Jessica's commitment to player development," Bylsma said in a release. "Her ability to establish relationships with her players, specifically Tye Kartye, Shane Wright and Ryker Evans, was an important factor in this hire."

"I'm looking forward to continuing to work with her at the NHL level."

"She has the ability to relate to players about their games and what they bring to a team."

When Campbell joined the Firebirds during their inaugural season in 2022-23, she became the first female to be behind the bench in AHL history.

Prior to that, she spent time as an assistant coach and skills coach in Germany with the Nurnberg Ice Tigers, while also serving as an assistant for Germany's national men's team at the 2022 world championships, where she became the first female to be behind the bench at men's worlds.

Campbell got her start in coaching as an assistant with the Pursuit of Excellence's women's under-18 team in Kelowna for two seasons from 2017 to 2019.



Jessica Campbell

She was an assistant coach with the Okanagan Hockey Academy's under-18 women's team for one season in 2019-20 before the pandemic hit.

During the pandemic, Campbell served as a power skating and skills coach for several NHL players who sought out her training, JC Powerskating, in Kelowna. She was also the skating coach for the Malmo Redhawks in Sweden's professional league in 2020-21.

Before getting into coaching, Campbell suit-

ed up for the Rocanville Jr. Tigers in minor hockey before playing for the Melville Prairie Fire in the Saskatchewan Female AAA Hockey League.

She went on to play two seasons with the Pursuit of Excellence squad, while also suiting up for Team Canada's under-18 women's team, captaining the team to a gold medal at worlds in 2010.

Campbell attended Cornell University from 2010 to 2014, captaining the women's hockey team in her final season, finishing

off with 100 points in 131 career NCAA games.

She played three seasons for the Calgary Inferno in the Canadian Women's Hockey League from 2014 to 2017, while also suiting up for the Canadian women's national team in 2014 for the 4 Nations Cup before winning a silver medal at the 2015 IIHF World Women's Championship.

The Kraken also hired

veteran assistant coach Bob Woods, originally from Leroy, Sask. product who played with the SJHL's Nipawin Hawks and WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings prior to a lengthy minor pro career.

The 56-year-old, who also had a stint coaching the Saskatoon Blades from 2014 to 2016, has been an assistant coach with the Minnesota Wild for the last seven years.

"This is an important day for our organization," Kraken general manager Ron Francis said in a release. "We're bringing in valuable coaching experience to our staff and are confident that both Bob and Jessica will make an immediate impact for our team."

Rounding out Seattle's coaching staff is returning assistant Dave Lowry and goalie coach Steve Briere.



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Steven Bonk seeks Conservative nomination in Souris-Moose Mountain

Continued from Page 6

"On the political and policy front, one of my proudest achievements is to have brought forward the idea for the establishment of Saskatchewan trade offices around the world. This initiative has allowed our province to have a significant presence in numerous countries, greatly enhancing our trade and export capabilities. Seeing the tangible results in our trade statistics is immensely satisfying and knowing that this accomplishment has brought substantial benefits to Saskatchewan is a source of great pride for me.

"In addition to this, I'm pleased to have played a role in several key projects that have made a real difference in our communities. Facilitating provincial funding for the Moosomin airport project is one such example. This project will enhance connectivity and economic opportunities for the region, which is something I'm very passionate about. Similarly, working on the reopening of the Broadview and Wolsley hospitals has been a significant achievement. These healthcare facilities are crucial for the well-being of our communities, and their reopening will ensure that residents have access to essential medical services.

"Another project that stands out is the construction of a new long-term care home in Grenfell. The people of Grenfell had been working towards this for a long time, and I'm very pleased to have helped them achieve this important milestone. This facility will provide much-needed support and care for our seniors, which is something that I care deeply about.

"However, what I value most are the relationships I've built with the people of the Moosomin constituency and throughout Saskatchewan. There are so many genuine, thoughtful, and caring individuals I've had the privilege to meet and work with. These relationships mean the world to me.

"Serving the Moosomin constituency has been a deeply fulfilling experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve with dedication and compassion in a new role. The trust and support I have received means the world to me, and I'm committed to continue working on their behalf. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure that Southeast Saskatchewan continues to be a wonderful place to live and thrive."

Bonk says he believes politicians can make a difference.

"Policy matters, and it's clear what happens when people get complacent—maybe we're seeing that now with our federal government. Politics and policy both matter a lot; it's crucial for everyone to get involved. Instead of just complaining, I decided to jump in and try to make things better. That's why I got into politics in the first place. As Premier Brad Wall said, 'It's important that we leave things a little better than we found them.'

"I want to be a strong voice for South-

east Saskatchewan, especially for our agriculture, mining, and energy sectors. These industries are the backbone of Southeast Saskatchewan, and I want to make sure they're front and center in the next federal government."

He said federal regulation is a big issue for Souris-Moose Mountain.

"In Souris-Moose Mountain, federal regulation and overreach in the agriculture, energy, and mining sectors are a major concern. While it's crucial to have regulations that protect producers, consumers, and public safety, I believe the current approach often hinders our world-class agriculture, energy, and mining industries. The cancellation of the Energy East Pipeline project is one such example. That was a direct result of the current federal government policies.

"I'm committed to cutting through red tape and easing unnecessary regulations to create an environment where our producers can thrive."

Bonk plans to get around the riding leading up to the nomination meeting.

"I'll be reaching out to all the current members to introduce myself and build personal connections. Getting to know them better will help me understand the issues they're facing and how I can support them. For me, personal relationships are very important."

What does he enjoy about politics?

"It's incredibly fulfilling to achieve something that positively contributes to the greater good. Knowing that your efforts truly matter to people's lives and being able to lend a helping hand can make a world of difference. On a broader scale, influencing policies that enhance living standards and quality of life for our constituents is also exceptionally rewarding."

"If successful, I eagerly anticipate serving the wonderful people of Souris-Moose Mountain riding. I extend heartfelt thanks to the constituents of Moosomin provincial constituency for their unwavering support. Their encouragement means the world to me, and I am deeply grateful. I'm eager to bring the same energy and dedication to serving them at the federal level."

First elected in 2016

Bonk was elected as the MLA for Moosomin in 2016 and was re-elected on October 26, 2020.

Bonk has extensive experience in the domestic and international agribusiness fields. He has worked on four continents as a consultant in agricultural management and policy development. He has also worked as an advisor on international trade and market access.

He lived in Europe for nearly a decade where he was the managing director of livestock-based enterprises and worked as a management consultant to help companies grow and solve strategic challenges with the transition to a free market economy, particularly in post-Soviet countries in

Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

He communicates in several languages, facilitating his participation on international roundtable discussion panels, and he is a recognized speaker at agribusiness-related events. Steven is also actively involved in his family's custom grazing and livestock business in the Glenavon-Wolsley area.

Steven, his wife Candace, and their daughter, Emma, have strong ties to the Souris-Moose Mountain riding. They are the fifth generation of his family to actively farm there.

Bonk has served on the Southeast Sas-

katchewan Social Services Appeal Board, and has served on the international committees of both the Canadian Western Agribition and Canada's Farm Progress Show.

Bonk is currently the Co-chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee for MLC (Midwestern Legislative Council). He has served Saskatchewan as Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and most notably in cabinet as Minister of Economy under Premier Brad Wall. In this role, he was also the Minister responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan, Innovation, and Trade.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENT

Having a diversified investment portfolio is crucial for retirees who want to ensure their financial stability and minimize risk. A well-diversified portfolio can provide a balance between growth and stability, and help retirees weather the ups and downs of the market. Here are some reasons why having a diversified investment portfolio is important in retirement:

Minimizing risk: Diversification can help minimize risk by spreading your investments across different asset classes, industries, and sectors. This means that if one area experiences a downturn, your portfolio won't be completely wiped out.

Providing consistent returns: A diversified portfolio can provide consistent returns over the long term, even in a volatile market. This can help ensure that retirees have a stable source of income throughout their retirement years.

Accommodating different goals: A diversified portfolio can be tailored to suit different goals, such as generating income, preserving capital, or achieving long-term growth.

Reducing taxes: A well-diversified portfolio can also help reduce taxes. By investing in tax-efficient assets and spreading investments across different accounts, retirees can minimize their tax liability.

Providing peace of mind: A diversified portfolio can help retirees feel more secure about their financial future, knowing that their investments are spread out and not dependent on any single holding.

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By spreading investments across various asset classes, industries, and sectors, retirees can minimize risk and maintain a balance between growth and stability. This approach not only helps in weathering market fluctuations but also provides consistent returns over the long term, ensuring a stable income throughout retirement.

Moreover, a diversified portfolio can be customized to meet specific goals such as income generation, capital preservation, or long-term growth. By investing in tax-efficient assets and utilizing different accounts, retirees can also minimize their tax liability, enhancing their overall returns. Prioritizing diversification, retirees can safeguard their financial well-being and navigate the complexities of the market with confidence. Embracing a diversified investment strategy offers peace of mind by spreading out investments and avoiding reliance on any single holding.

Overall, having a diversified investment portfolio is essential for retirees who want to ensure their financial stability and minimize risk. Working with a financial advisor to develop a diversified portfolio that is tailored to your individual needs and goals can help ensure a comfortable retirement.

Mutual funds and other securities are offered through Aviso Wealth, a division of Aviso Financial Inc.



Two doctors coming to Kipling

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Kipling said goodbye to all three of their doctors this summer, with a plan in place until the next two arrive.

Town Council received correspondence from the Saskatchewan Health Authority regarding the current state of healthcare services in the community, learning what the immediate future holds in store. The three doctors that were based out of the Kipling Integrated Health Centre have completed their contracts, bringing forth some creative solutions to ensure healthcare coverage is sustained until more physicians arrive.

"We will have some locum this week, and the last week of July," Mayor Jackson told council during their regular meeting on July 8. "The nurse practitioner is working most of the time, we're going to have them

from the 15th to the 29th; I have not received an update that we will have clinic coverage."

That locum coverage will come courtesy of physicians based in Moosomin.

Doctors Farshad Nokam and Shiden Faghhi have been in Kipling for more than six years, with their contracts ending in June, and Dr. Ladan Ansari's last day was July 11. The community was made aware of their impending departure months ago, with one new

physician expected to arrive August 1 and another some time in October.

"Both are currently working their way through mandatory training and immigration requirements," James Winkel, an SHA communications lead Winkel said. "The SHA continues to work with the community to help prepare for their arrival."

To help fill the gap, Kipling will also see 24-hour coverage via the virtual physician program.



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31 Oak Bay	Round Lake				\$25,000	SK971369
28 Oak Bay	Round Lake	671 sq ft	2	1	\$115,000	SK971266
303 Main Street	Spy Hill	2256 sq ft	3	3	\$249,088	SK971153
Railway Ave Lot	Manor				\$25,000	SK971060
SOLD 411 Qu'Appelle Street	Tantallon	882 sq ft	3	1	\$68,000	SK970612
29 Oakley Lane - West End	Round Lake				\$135,000	SK970522
28 Oakley Lane - West End	Round Lake				\$135,000	SK970524
27 Oakley Lane - West End	Round Lake				\$135,000	SK970528
26 Oakley Lane - West End	Round Lake				\$135,000	SK970529
731 Sumner Street	Esterhazy	1439 sq ft	2	2	\$149,900	SK969696
Abernethy Valley Acreage	Abernethy Rm No.186		4	2	\$324,000	SK969472
5-201 Ruckle Road	Carlyle	1180 sq ft	2	2	\$243,000	SK969639
311 Main Street	Tantallon	960 sq ft	1	2	\$269,000	SK968165
1000 Carlton Drive	Esterhazy	1360 sq ft	4	3	\$365,000	SK968747
23 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$35,000	SK968617
22 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$35,000	SK968616
21 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$35,000	SK968615
5 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968604
9 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968608
8 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968607
7 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968606
6 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968605
18 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968611
17 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968613
16 Lakeshore Drive	Saltcoats RM No.213				\$30,000	SK968610
412 Park Ave	Esterhazy	1168 sq ft	2	2	\$350,000	SK968166
SOLD 402 Ellice Street	Rocanville	1408 sq ft	4	2	\$190,000	SK967321
Qu'Appelle River Fairy Hill Acreage	Longlaketon RM No. 219	1380 sq ft	4	3	\$560,000	SK966457
638 Acreage	Grayson RM No. 184	1163 sq ft	2	2	\$370,000	SK965919
Blue Acreage	Willowdale RM No. 153	2600 sq ft	5	4	\$575,000	SK966230
307 B Currie Avenue	Round Lake	2188 sq ft	4	2	\$625,000	SK965497
SOLD The Moose Mountain Farm	Moose Mountain RM No. 63	1056 sq ft	2	2	\$850,000	SK962842
24 Acre Acreage - West End	Round Lake				\$160,000	SK962714
CONDITIONAL 907 Maple Drive	Esterhazy	1152 sq ft	4	2	\$270,000	SK961812
205 Taylor Avenue	Springside	1380 sq ft	4	2	\$343,000	SK958776
314 Railway Avenue	Carnduff	1296 sq ft	5	3	\$329,500	SK958771
The View at Pelican Landing	Calder RM No. 241				\$60,000	SK958245
Log Lake View	Round Lake	1382 sq ft	5	3	\$375,000	SK956952
Ford Acreage	Fertile Belt RM No.183	1288 sq ft	5	3	\$355,700	SK955045
4 Whispering Valley Estates	Round Lake	1940 sq ft	3	3	\$999,988	SK953064
CONDITIONAL 26 Nicholas Street	Dubuc	908 sq ft	2	1	\$50,000	SK952320
311 Person Street	Stockholm	800 sq ft	3	1	\$175,000	SK951913
Tantallon Hideaway	Spy Hill RM No.152				\$16,500	SK951475
202 Main Street	Kipling	840 sq ft	2	1	\$29,088	SK951476
707 Elsinore Street	Whitewood	1368 sq ft	3	2	\$280,000	SK951474
13 Whispering Valley Estate	Round Lake	1352 sq ft	3	3	\$815,000	SK949440
810 Lalonde Street	Whitewood	894 sq ft	2	1	\$79,888	SK949421
406 Southesk Street	Whitewood	864 sq ft	3	1	\$90,000	SK948998
3 on 3 Acreage	Abernethy RM No.186	784 sq ft	2	1	\$260,000	SK948435
807 Elsinore Street	Whitewood	1440 sq ft	3	2	\$245,888	SK945790
Red Barn 22	McLeod Rm No. 185				\$90,000	SK945001
125-2nd Avenue	Bangor	1216 sq ft	3	2	\$144,088	SK941732
804 Thompson Street	Whitewood	1076 sq ft	3	2	\$145,088	SK941158
139 Acre Acreage	Rocanville RM No. 151	1260 sq ft	5	3	\$660,000	SK940957
Holars Haven Acreage	Spy Hill RM No.152	2087 sq ft	5	4	\$788,000	SK938546
701 Sumner Street	Esterhazy	1603 sq ft	4	2	\$477,000	SK976256
713 Sumner Street	Esterhazy	1439 sq ft	2	2	\$149,900	SK969696



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Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



On the final day of Canada's Farm Show in Regina, Cherylyn Jolly-Nagel and Brad Wall shared coffee, delving into two topics that cause very long conversations—politics and farming.

Brad Wall says agriculture needs to find its voice

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the province's 14th premier took the stage at a speaking event on the final day of Canada's Farm Show in Regina, his son's famous deep and gruff baritone voice echoed throughout the venue.

"Did you guys catch who that was?" Brad Wall said with a proud father grin.

"Do you want to give a formal plug?" asked host Cherylyn Jolly-Nagel, with a knowing smile.

"That was a young fellow by the name of Colter Wall playing—thanks for the chance to give him a plug—because if you stream his stuff or buy a shirt or buy a mug, there's a reasonable chance you're supporting his cow habit, which helps our yearling operation," joked the elder Wall.

Eschewing a traditional introduction—and this being an informal coffee chat anyhow—Jolly-Nagel prompted Wall to introduce himself instead of pouring over facts and figures about his career.

"I would introduce myself as Tami's husband, and Megan, Colter and Faith's dad," he began. "But I would also say this—with a full heart and very sincere heart: I

am the luckiest guy you know; I'm blessed. Starting with family obviously first, but then I got to do my dream job for about 10 years.

"If somebody would have told me then that whatever you do after this job in politics, you are going to enjoy it as much or more, I would not have believed them, as it was my dream job. And that has, in fact, been exactly the case. So I'm very, very fortunate."

Currently, Wall is a silent partner in son Colter's yearling operation, plus remains active in the consulting business he began right after his political career.

"No banjo playing?" Jolly-Nagel ribbed.

"I only ever knew the one lick—that 'Deliverance' lick," Wall replied, reminiscing about the 2013 Riders' Banjo Bowl loss (despite the Green Machine dominating the Labour Day Classic that year, and going on to win a much bigger prize), which somehow was blamed solely on a silly, yet cocky jibe at the Bombers via video. "At the end of the season, I was still getting hate for playing the banjo and ruining their chances at the Banjo Bowl. I would remind them, 'well, we won the Grey Cup that year, 2013'. Doesn't seem to matter. They were all still mad. I had people giving me very creative instructions as

to what I should do with my banjo!"

Within short order, both Jolly-Nagel and Wall got down to business, tackling the tough questions of the day, such as where government actually sits in the ag industry spectrum.

"The role of government in agriculture, I think, is twofold," Wall said. "I think it's both defensive and it's offensive."

He referenced agriculture programs funded by all levels of government, protecting the industry, and levelling the playing field on a global scale. Flipping to the offensive approach, Wall also pointed out the need for governments to do things other than advocate for the industry.

"They should be defending against those NGOs and other forces externally—and sometimes it's other countries—who like to spread misinformation, or tell pretty important and detrimental fibs about our sector," explained Wall. "But then they should also be about promoting the opening of new markets."

Another interesting exploration sought to define the role of federal and provincial governments when speaking on behalf of agriculture.

Continued on page 23 ^{FR}

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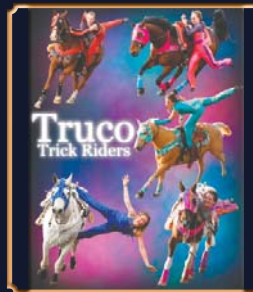




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Lladones family looking ahead after fire

Continued from page 11

Amazing feeling seeing support

Rommel says he is surprised to see the support from all over.

"That's the consolation because of what happened—knowing that some of these people that I don't even know personally, but they're willing to lend a hand a little bit with whatever they can. People are messaging and some stop by at the hotel to say, 'How are you guys doing? Are you guys okay?'"

"I'm really, really glad that a lot of people are helping—actually there's still a lot of clothes in the lobby area of the hotel and I don't know where to put all of it. We have a lot of food. Every single day we have Filipinos bring us food. That's a relief right now, there's a lot of people that are helping us right now."

"I saw Mike and he works at the town. He's the one that called 911. He stopped by today and talked to us and asked, 'Hey, are you guys okay?' So I spoke to him and I shook his hand and told him how grateful we are that they were there when we needed help. I'm so thankful to those people who helped that day—Mrs. Flaman as well as all of the teachers at MacLeod Elementary School and McNaughton."

"We also have friends that are part of the Filipino community in Toronto and some from Vancouver who are reaching out. We're fortunate and we're happy and we're lucky. Some of my customers called me yesterday. I think they don't know what happened because they're asking for takeout and I said, 'No, I can't right now. Our place caught on fire.'"

Future plans

Rommel is moving on from the fire and looking to the future.

"One of my plans is to get a small food truck, just to help us a little bit, start getting back on our feet. Like I said, it's the better part of what's happened to us—it's seeing how many people are willing to help."

"We were so fortunate to have the chance to come here to Canada. This place changed our lives and I've worked hard since 2010—I've worked hard to get what we have now and then what happened is really breaking my heart. We're going to get back on our feet and be even stronger. That's my motivator right now, and of course my family and my kids."

"Unfortunately my insur-

ance wasn't renewed and sadly we don't have it insured. So that's something as well that's pressuring us—how are we going to rebuild the place?"

"All of my papers—my passport, my kids' passports, other legal papers that I have for my restaurant are all gone and burnt."

Learning from the experience

Rommel said he has learned his family's safety is the most important thing.

"Whatever you have in your life, whatever you possess, it could be gone instantly. Whatever you possess can be gone just like that—for us, in 30 minutes it was gone. I think right now the lesson is that you have to love your family every day because when my daughter was in that situation and what if I wasn't able to save her and she was gone? Then what's the purpose of my life here. I can rebuild my building, but my kids I can't and it's for them that I'm working."

"I have to invest more on the spiritual things, I think, more on valuing my spiritual life than on material things."

"I worked more than eight hours a day—woke up sometimes at 8 and I'd go to sleep sometimes around 2 am. So sometimes I'd forget to reflect and think that in my life I have to value my spiritual life. The lesson I got was whatever material things that I worked for, for so long, it doesn't matter."

"I think that the thing is acceptance right now. Accept whatever I have and whatever happens in my life and accept that maybe this is just a process to thinking more on the brighter side of what happened. It's something that I have to reflect on and I have to think of what is the most important thing—the material things that I have or the family that I'm working for? Possessions are important but if something happens and your possessions are gone, it's gone, but your family and your life are the most important thing. I'm just going to continue working for my family. Those things that I've been working for since 2010 and whatever I have, it's not important as long as my family is well."

A GoFundMe has been set up for the family at the link to the right



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Navigating the post seeding season

Okay, enough already! I have always hated the wind. Right from day one when I moved to this province after living amongst the wind-breaking forests of Ontario. I mean, really—does it have to blow all the time? And are these truly the kind of June days we expect? Yeah, I hear you ... not a thing we can do about it.

My poor veggies in the raised garden bed, even though protected by some plastic barriers, just can't seem to get a break. And the ferns hanging from my gazebo? What is the point, I ask myself. By some small miracle, I got the flowers planted but not on a beautiful, sunny, warm and wind-less day. Oh no, hoodie on, gloves on—get those things planted so I could tick that off my to-do list. I love my flower pots but this year, it seemed there would be no break to the wind all spring long and as I write (part of) this on June 5, it has to be one of the worst windy days there has been.

Post-seeding time is the most stressful time of the farming season for me. Well sort of. We have moved back into town where yard work consumes my time. Which is interesting. We have a very tiny yard. But I am somewhat OCD about my little outdoor world. This however is not what stresses me. It's the crops. No, not that exactly. I don't exactly get all worried but I do hear from the man in my world who carries the worry load on his shoulders. In his mind. On his heart. And via his lips, I hear a certain percentage of the worry.

Yes, it is crop-checking season. I have been a slow learner but now when I hear, "Wanna go for a drive?" I tend to say things like, "Maybe tomorrow," "Sorry, I need to finish this project I'm working on," "I have grass to cut," because I have learned that crop-checking "drives" are painfully long. And there's a little digger involved. Plus there are flea beetles attacking the canola. And hubby is fixated on fixing the problems. Me? Not so much. It's not that I don't care. After all, I do know this ag business we operate has to cover the cost of what we dropped into the ground, not to mention feed us to boot. So yeah, I care. I just don't hands-on, nose to the ground care is what I mean.

This season has found me enjoying some projects at the museum (at least the ones that involve a hammer, nail and some wood plus a little designing on the side). I've also tackled a couple of small projects in the back yard, again, ones that involve wood) as well as a project for my niece whose wedding shower is quickly approaching. When she asked if I could build a wooden 'champagne wall,' I didn't hesitate for a single second. And while in retrospect, I recognize it may have been above my skill set, I can say it's done, with a bit of help from a couple of neighbours who understand cutting curves and angles a bit better than me.

This particular week, I have left my saw behind (oh and my hubby) for the city, where I am, in the wake of the teacher's strike, tackling noon hour supervision of my youngest grands. Their noon hour runs from 1:30 to 3:30 essentially so technically, I am on afternoon supervision. What a blast! We have a routine: DQ for lunch, Dollarama for taking care of Grandma's cash, a 'Spell 15' moment which essentially means spelling practise for 15 minutes of words Grandma thinks are important to know how to spell (canola, fertilizer, harvest), 'Move 30' which is get outside and play for a minimum of 30 minutes, and 'Take 20' which is clean house like crazy for 20 minutes. Sadly, my son in law works all day and takes kids to ball each evening and hasn't had a minute to work on the new deck he is building. Which is a killer for me—I just want to take his saw and get to work! Pretty sure he is happy to know I am going home before he has time to continue his build.

The Lighter Side of Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM
by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
dl_beutler@yahoo.ca



As we drove to Dollarama one day, our youngest granddaughter bemoaned to me how fast her life is going by. "Really," I asked. "Yeah," she replied, "My life is going by so fast and I am already in Grade 2!" Oh Darling, I think to myself You may find yourself saying exactly the same thing even when you are old like me.

The conscientious side of me has not left all things 'farm' behind—I have brought my farm books along with me to the city and though I have procrastinated all week long in favour of trips to Dollarama and DQ (and even writing articles and columns), I am determined to say I am done before lunch time today rolls around.

As the clouds keep the sun at bay on this particular day, I can't help but wonder if we will ever get any heat. All forecasts call for a hot, dry summer and I am pretty sure if that happens, we will be crying for rain. Until now though, between cool, cloudy, windy and rainy days, it's really difficult to imagine what a beautiful warm day might be like. Except for one evening this spring so far (June 13 as I write this part), mosquitoes haven't even been out enjoying the search for prey.

The twins of course find every day outdoors to be the perfect day. Their pedal boat hits the deep dugout in search of catch and release trout fishing days. They keep the weeds filled and the grass cut. I help out if they happen to be away for several days in a row, which this year has been now and then. Up north fishing to Pine Point Lodge on Lake Athapapuskow, a new venture in their parents' (and a

couple others). I wasn't sure, after a week there, that they would ever come home. And those great big Pike! Wow. These boys were in their glory when they weren't helping the men get some tidying up done around the cabins.

Between baseball and school and all these outdoor things to do on the farm, they just keep on soaking up all things ag and it continues to be the coolest thing for this Grandma to watch as they grow. They often are young men of few words, but when I asked them about their trip up to the fly-in fishing camp, I got a deluge of information. And good for them for enjoying grain farming, cattle showing and fishing to boot.

As for us, now that spraying has ended (hopefully, considering the persistence of those miserable little flea beetles), we are packing up for some lake time. So far, we have the chocolate bars for the kids purchased. That's it. Obviously have a bit of work to do before we are ready.

As for you, our dedicated readers, here's to hoping you have an amazing summer and maybe a bit of down time yourselves. Keep at it! There's no life like it!



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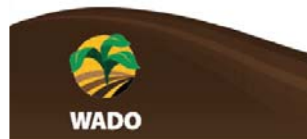
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Hebert records podcast live at Canada's Farm Show



BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you know Moosomin's Kristjan Hebert, and Evan Shout, you know these two guys have a lot of opinions, maybe even prone to the odd rant on a topic they especially feel passionate about. Hebert and Shout have recently taken their wisdom in the world of all things agriculture to the online world, launching The Truth About Ag podcast a couple months ago.

During Canada's Farm Show in Regina, the duo brought that show to the stage, recording an episode with Justine Hendricks, president and CEO of Farm Credit Canada as their special guest.

"I think I'm on the hot seat. I feel squeezed, gents," joked Hendricks as the interview began.

"You forgot your ball cap," replied Hebert as both hosts brandished such headwear, mostly to shield the stage lights.

This brief exchange, drawing laughs from the crowd assembled, set the tone for the casual chat; one that those watching couldn't help but become enamoured with.

Shout began with clearing the air on a rumour that FCC intends to pull out of Saskatchewan, stating "I hear FCC's moving to Ottawa."

After briefly quipping that perhaps the head office could move to Moosomin, Hendricks removed any doubt of FCC pulling up stakes.

"We are not moving from Regina in terms of head office," she confirmed. "We've been here since the '90s, there's over 1,000 employees here, it makes a lot of sense for us to be headquartered here. But we also want to kind of maintain our footprint across Canada. So you two won't get rid of me that fast!"



After providing a little background on how they met and shared ideals on the future of farming, Hebert was curious on Hendricks' vision of that future from the FCC standpoint.

"My number one goal was to understand and get the vibe for what was going on," said Hendricks, noting meeting with customers, employees and stakeholders was crucial in her first 15 months in the position.

"There's two things that I heard loud and clear: one was, can you actually help tell the story," she explained. "And then the other one was, FCC, we need you to do more. I heard that across the country."

She referenced the tagline, 'ag and food needs all of us,' explaining how partnerships in and outside of the agriculture industry are vital.

"It starts with FCC, but really what that's meant to say is we need to partner with those in the industry, those outside of the industry, and if we're all going at it, hoping that we're going to solve it all, we're going to lose before we even got started. If I was to take three words to summarize, what we're trying to do is: we're trying to be bold, we're trying to be a catalyst, and we're trying to be resilient."

What is the story of ag today?

Shout put his co-host on the spot, asking Hebert what the story of agriculture in our province is today.

"There's no question—I think agriculture is by far the best industry to be in, in the world," Hebert replied. Providing clarity on that statement, he pointed to the simple fact that "the world needs food." Hebert also noted the hundreds of thousands of jobs available that directly and indirectly revolve around agriculture, but also the strong connection to the land still present in younger generations.

"We're still lucky enough in Canada that a lot of people are only one, two, three generations from the farm; that they still remember it, that we can capture that opportunity to bring them back," he said, pointing to other parts of the world that are in some cases 10 generations removed from agriculture.

"The farm doesn't mean anything to them, they still think bread comes from Sobeys—not from wheat," Hebert said. "I think in Canada, we have a huge opportunity there."

He also stressed the importance of telling our story on the global scale, referencing a report released shortly before COP28 in Dubai that "literally showed virtually every commodity we grow in Saskatchewan, we are the best in the world."

"Team Canada should be out there selling more commodities than we've ever sold in the entire lifetime of our nation," Hebert said. "To build infrastructure, to build a rainy day fund for the future."

Another part of the 'telling our story' piece is presenting information in a light that people will understand. For those outside the agriculture industry, words like 'herbicide,' 'pesticide,' and 'genetically-modified' may bring up negative connotations without the proper background.

"I have a million kids," said Hebert via an analogy. "I feed them food, give them vitamins. If they're sick, I give them a prescription, and at the end of the day, they're healthy."

A major point rising from the conversation was how the message being put forward needs to be consistent - provincially and at the national level.

"If all the regions split up and then go elsewhere, it becomes super hard for you to sell who you want to be internationally," said Hendricks. "So I agree, every province—and Saskatchewan has got so much to offer - but 40 per cent of the agricultural land is in this province. So within the province, you represent such a big part of what Canada is all about. But when we end up spending too much time, almost fighting with each other to have our own space, rather than saying, 'can we put our foot forward together?' That's where I think you got to remember Team Canada and what it looks like internationally."

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Chief Evan Taypotat has big goals for Kahkewistahaw First Nation

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Kahkewistahaw First Nation is growing and developing, and Chief Evan Taypotat believes that economic development is the key to further growth and ultimately, sovereignty.

"I was raised on Kahkewistahaw as a young guy in the '80s," he says. "It was just dusty roads. A lot of us were poor at the time, but we didn't know we were poor. We would go to town once a month for pizza or the odd time we would get some chicken. We would go to town with mushum and kokum every so often on payday, but we just thought that was normal, when in hindsight we were poor. I went to school in Broadview and was bussed in every day."

Taypotat became a teacher, then joined the Canadian army, fought in Afghanistan, and eventually returned to Kahkewistahaw.

"I left the reserve when I was 18. I enlisted in the army and went to university. I came home to be a teacher in 2005 when I graduated with my BEd from U of S. I taught for two years and then I went to the military for five years. I was all over—in Montreal, Quebec, Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick for my battle school training. Then, I was posted to 1 PPCLI (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) after in Edmonton. Then I went to Afghanistan. Once I realized Afghanistan was over—and I say that in respect to the 158 soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan and the people who were injured—but once that war was over I just thought there was no need to be in the army anymore. I came home and was our principal at Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School and I was there for four and a half years. Then, I took this job as chief in May of 2017. I just passed my seven year anniversary of this job. I have been here since May 12, 2017."

The chief and council work together on improving life in Kahkewistahaw.

"I work with four elected councillors. They make the decisions and I am the spokesperson for them. Together we help govern Kahkewistahaw First Nation. There are 2,333 members worldwide. There is about 750 on the reserve and there are 210 units of housing. Together we make the decisions for Kahkewistahaw and I chair the meetings. Essentially, the four councillors have an agenda and we go over each topic and I will ask for discussion and anyone in favour or opposed. The roles and duties of a chief, in my opinion, should be moving their people toward sovereignty, meaning that we don't depend on anyone else. Obviously, we depend on the government right now for funding. We depend on a lot of people, the pharmacist in Broadview, the dentist in Melville, the grocery store in Moosomin.

Path to sovereignty

"The path to sovereignty is economic development. You have to make the money. If your economic ventures are good then money is coming in and then you can build more things and do more for your people. You can afford a doctor, you can afford tribal police, you can afford a dentist, but right now we can't because treaty gives us the bare minimum. It is not covered in treaty to make sure that Kahkewistahaw First Nation or other First Nations have their own doctor or dentist. We know that sovereignty is over there, we see it, we know what it looks like, it means independence. When you think about the community of Moosomin for example, you think that is a good place to live and for Kahkewistahaw that is where we are aiming because our people deserve that. We deserve to be healthy and wealthy, just like the people of Moosomin.

"We are very progressive right now. If I was to put 74 First Nations of Saskatchewan and rank us, Kahkewistahaw would be in the top five because of the economic ventures we have going and the team we have here. We have a great workforce, we have strong program managers, a strong council. We do a good job together guiding Kahkewistahaw in the right direction."

Kahkewistahaw is developing land in Saskatoon that Taypotat says should pay dividends for decades.

"Right now, we are developing land in Saskatoon. We bought 60 acres in 2017 right by the airport. We have a gas station there. We are developing more commercial rental units starting in June, four of them. We are also developing the Mamawi Business Centre which will have RBC, lawyers offices, and Indigenous Gaming Regulators (IGRs) main offices will be there. That is the next phase.

"The next phase beyond that is a hotel and convention centre, a hockey rink, and a fast food restaurant. What we

"The path to sovereignty is economic development."

—Chief Evan Taypotat



Chief Evan Taypotat looks over a new housing development under construction on Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

want from there is if those businesses are on our property, there is money coming to the First Nation and then we can start providing those services back here."

Chief Clarence Louie a role model

Taypotat takes inspiration from a BC chief who has led economic development in his nation.

"Chief Clarence Louie, he is a famous chief in Osoyoos BC, and he says, 'the economic hero will pull the social cart' so if we can bring money in economically we can start tackling the Residential school effect which is very much alive on our First Nation. There is a lot of trauma here and a lot of drug and alcohol abuse, and some domestic abuse. Our people are hurting and the only way we are going to address those is through programs and services, speaking to psychiatrists, doctors, the things treaty doesn't cover for us. So, we have to make sure we bring that money in to address those problems."

Hope for a better future

Taypotat says both the financial benefits of economic development, and the fact that development gives people hope for a brighter future are important.

"I think both are equally important—the money coming in for our people and the people knowing there is more money coming in the future. What I have been telling my people right now, is in 100 years from now when that land in Saskatoon has made us millionaires, no one is going to remember the things we do today, but we still have to make economically sound decisions that are for the greater good of Kahkewistahaw financially, so we are not breaking the bank today because we are trying to plan for the future.

"It took us seven generations to get to where we are today. We are trying to plan for seven generations from today so when I am long gone and my little daughter is a kokum 50 years from now, that her kids and grandkids have the opportunity that we planned for today. That is the goal."

He said Kahkewistahaw is looking at opportunities in other centres as well.

"We are looking at Regina and Moose Jaw as centres we want to be involved with because those mayors and councillors in those cities see us doing good things in Saskatoon and they want us to be a part of their plan going forward.

"The land in Saskatoon stood for sale since the 1940s because there was no infrastructure there. There was no water lines, power lines, sewer lines, so we have done all of that now and we have shown people that we can get things done.

"Obviously, other cities have mandates to have an Indigenous footprint in their city so they want to pick winners. We have a proven track record in Saskatoon that is enticing to other urban areas."

"If you look at the richest First Nations in Canada they're geographically gifted. They're in or around cities. Out here if I were to build a hotel and casino in Kahkewistahaw there isn't a lot of traffic out here, but if you build that in Saskatoon by the airport where there is a lot of traffic coming in and out, it's going to be more successful. That is why we do the urban reserves. It is to make money that we couldn't make out here."

He said the first nation does face barriers to development, including racism.

Continued on page 27

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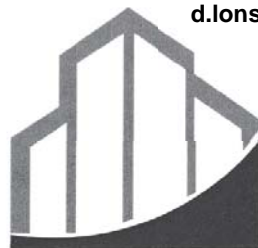
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Brad Wall says agriculture needs to find its voice

Continued from page 17

"Whoever the federal government is in Canada, whoever the federal agriculture minister is, they got to worry about it all," Wall said. "They got to worry about every agri-food product that comes out of this country and imagine the diversity of that job. I think the difference is that the provincial governments and our provincial government can focus on our agriculture. And I know they do that when they're negotiating our part of agri-stability, or when they're at the table when we're trying to develop new risk mitigation products, new crop insurance products. It's about Saskatchewan."

Agriculture today

Given his unique perspective, Wall was asked about the role of agriculture today and the changes in mindset from producers.

"The role of agriculture today, maybe more than ever, is that we continue to find and use our voice," he said. "Agriculture has always been a source for policy development, political parties were sort of born out of agrarian movements in this province as well. So I think there's always been a ready connection and an effective connection between farmers and policymaking. All sides of the spectrum. So that needs to continue. And I'm not sure we all recognize how important agriculture is."

Wall noted the importance of a theme stressed throughout the Canada Farm Show, that of telling our own story...before someone else does. A prime example he chose was the cautionary tale of

Canadian oil, and how in 20 years, that product went from having a fine reputation to one that's been tainted globally as 'dirty oil'.

"How could this happen?" Wall asked. How could we get to the point where our oil can be branded thusly, and we can't get a pipeline built in this country? Well, that did happen. It absolutely happened. Now, we got about a \$30 billion pipeline—it's the only one that we're gonna get built. The government had to nationalize it. So is there a lesson for us in agriculture? Yes, there is.

"The NGOs that help brand Canadian oil thusly, they don't much like what we do in agriculture," he continued. "If they don't like modern agriculture, they got similar issues that I don't think are well founded. They're not founded on fact, and come from an environmental perspective, but we all know the attacks that come on agriculture in the name of climate change."

To further illustrate his point—and in the same breath, provide a solid case of agriculture and environment working in tandem—Wall used the example of the change from plastic straws to paper ones in the name of saving the oceans.

"The case could easily be made that an ecosystem right in our backyard is at greater risk than some of the oceanic ecosystems for which we now sacrifice the ability to drink a milkshake," he said. "And that is the grasslands."

Some estimates note that only 14 per cent of native grasslands remain in the province, but even that seemingly tiny number has a mighty impact, responsible for two million tons of carbon dioxide sequestration.

"If you're worried about an ecosystem, you should be asking how is this grasslands ecosystem preserved? Well, there's one reason for grass, and that's to feed a cow," Wall said, noting that with the near extinction of plains bison, cattle have taken on the role of grazing. "If you want to use a paper straw to save the ocean ecosystem, God bless you. If you'd like to save the grasslands have a burger."

However, he noted the current generation of producers are doing a much better job of spreading the truth about agriculture.

"I think we are advocating better," Wall said. "I think our trade associations, our discussions like we're having today, I think we are doing a much better job of advocating for public policy."

Near the conclusion of the coffee chat, Jolly-Nagel asked Wall for an update on the ranch.

"What's next for you, and is it cowboy poetry," she joked. "That was my predic-

tion!"

"Well, we got a branding on Friday at a friend's," Wall began, adding that the consulting business and ranch life keeps him busy. "Although, I think Colter said something like, 'really, you're going to be a silent partner after 18 years of politics?' But I do like to show up, especially if it's horseback work."

Fencing apparently gets the former premier kicked off the jobsite.

"I showed up for fencing once. He (Colter) said, 'you know, if you're just going to come and shoot gophers, you might as well stay home!'"

As many folks living in the southwest are prone to do, Wall spoke of the beauty of the Cypress Hills region.

"We've made just great friends, and we're very grateful to still be in the southwest corner of the province, but really in the southwest corner over in the Cypress Hills where the West's definitely still wild!"

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New sclerotinia tool helps growers assess disease risk and severity

Growers and agronomists looking for help in making sclerotinia spray decisions this summer will have access to a new online tool from the Canola Council of Canada. Available at CanolaCalculator.ca, the sclerotinia risk assessment tool offers both a recommendation about whether or not to spray a canola crop (at 20-50 per cent flower) based on several inputs from the user, along with an opportunity to assess the spray decision by rating sclerotinia severity at maturity (30-60 per cent seed colour change).
The second part of the tool is an economic calculator to provide an estimated return on a fungicide application based on different scenarios. These include percent of in-

fection, fungicide cost, expected yield and market price. "These new tools are designed to help growers and agronomists make timely, informed decisions on whether a foliar fungicide application is advised," said Chris Manchur, CCC agronomy specialist and lead on sclerotinia stem rot. "Farmers have a lot of choices to make throughout the growing season. It's very exciting to put this new technology in their hands to help simplify decision making and assess potential impacts on productivity and profitability."
Sclerotinia stem rot is one of the most economically sig-

nificant canola diseases in Canada. Caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, the disease is heavily influenced by environmental conditions leading up to and during the flowering period of canola. Assessing the environment can make it difficult to predict outbreaks and make the decision to spray. That is where the tool comes in. The tool also includes a helpful resource library which hosts images, videos and other educational materials, serving as a valuable knowledge hub supporting growers and agronomists in sclerotinia management. These tools were built following three years of collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and extensive testing with agronomist partners and are an evolution of the sclerotinia stem rot checklist that growers and agronomists have relied on for years. The project was funded in part by the Government of Canada under the previous Canadian Agricultural Partnership - AgriScience Program, along with support from Alberta Canola, SaskCanola and Manitoba Canola Growers.

Left: Sclerotinia stem rot photo that shows early infection on leaves. Growers will want to spray shortly after canola starts to flower and before infection starts, so timing for this article is this week or next week.



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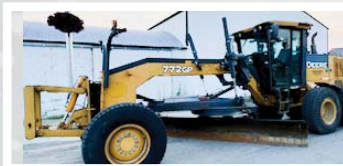
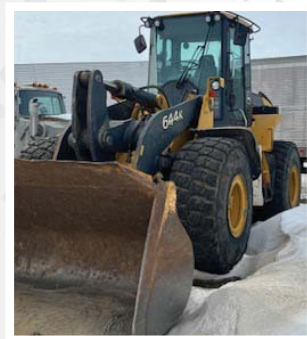
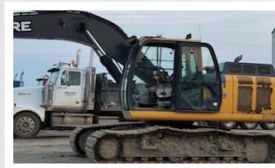


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How cash flow statements help with farm expansion

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN, FCC

When you plan for growth around your farm operation, such as a construction project, having a solid cash flow statement can help turn dreams into reality.

FCC Senior Relationship Manager Paul Bateman says farmers should view a cash flow statement as a building block to business planning.

"Consider a cash flow statement as a foundation or base-case scenario," Bateman says. "Once complete, you can use it to test infinite scenarios. Think of it as a tool, not a task."

Start with the knowns: Your farm business bank balance, identified expenses and confirmed income. Then, build your cash flow statement from there.

Bateman says there are three important factors to keep in mind when growth plans involve construction on the farm.

1. Setup

Start-up costs for the proposed project, including construction, initial investments, labour and other associated costs.

2. Contractor payments

All contractors' payments are required based on the payment schedules outlined

in the quotes. Also, consider the sources for making these payments, including owner injections, cash from operations or disbursements from your lender.

3. Taxes

In provinces where sales tax is paid and then reimbursed, consider the timing of the payments and how long before reimbursements are made. Large payments impact short-term cash flow, which will readjust when reimbursement is received. However, there's also a chance you may have your claim audited, which could delay a refund.

Don't forget assumptions

When creating a cash flow statement with the goal of a construction project in mind, include an assumptions page. It's a space to show the sensitivity of the cash flow projections, which can help identify risks and plan contingencies.

Consider including the following in an assumptions page:

- Cost of the project
- Sources and specific uses of funds
- Interest rate, payment frequency, and amortization on the amount borrowed
- For primary production, summarize

the price and production assumptions. If you have multiple commodities, summarize each of them.

• Any other useful information on overall cash flow, including noteworthy items. For example, include labour expenses that reflect an average of the previous five years, adjusted for the expanded acreage.

Cash flow statements and how they are

generated are important to farm management, especially when planning an expansion or start-up. Begin with your bank balance, add expected cash inflows for the month, and subtract planned cash outflows, including any expenses related to construction or expansion projects, to arrive at an end-of-the-month cash position.



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Chief Evan Taypotat has big goals for Kahkewistahaw First Nation

Continued from page 22

"The number one challenge is racism. My late uncle Denton George, he raised me. He wasn't allowed at a lot of corporate tables and he was very vocal against the Enbridges, CN rails, the Saskatchewan government, and the Canadian federal government because we weren't at those tables. Fast forward 2024, now we are at some of those tables, but not all of those tables.

"With Enbridge we sit at the table and they say 'what do you want for your people, Chief and how can we help protect the environment?' that is what you want. With the province of Saskatchewan we don't sit at those tables. In Saskatchewan, some are non-Indigenous and I am Indigenous.

"We are going to be neighbours forever. I think we should get to know each other and understand each other better, but that divide is there still. You see all of these companies getting super rich with all the natural resources that we don't really have a say in, that's racism because we are going to neighbours forever so why wouldn't we want to be rich and healthy together because health is directly related to wealth and the Non-Indigenous people are richer than my people and in the long-term they are going to be healthier than my people and they are going to live a longer life than we are and that is not right. Our people are treated like second class citizens and live in third-world conditions in some places in a first-world province. That is wrong and that is racism.

"I am optimistic, but there are some people that think if they tweet something nice one day a year that they're reconciled and they are not, it is just letting the problem fester. We live with Whitewood, Broadview, and Grenfell right here, but we don't really know each other."

Optimistic for better understanding

He is optimistic, however.

"We had a school powwow and we saw Broadview School there so it is amazing to see that and it has taken this long to take that happen. So I am optimistic. I think there is an effort by some people to change it, but we need the greater population of Saskatchewan to want to change it because we are going to be neighbours forever and we depend on each other.

"We are going to win some claims coming up in the next 12 months when our people get those dollars we don't rent a spaceship and go to Mars, we spend our dollars in Moosomin, Kipling, Melville, Churchbridge, Regina, Saskatoon, and I just think that is just being good neighbours and good Saskatchewanites.

"All our opportunities are based on our economic ventures. If our economic ventures go really well then we can go above and beyond. We have a young boy who just made the Team Saskatchewan training team for softball. His name is Spencer MacKay and he is going to have a really good opportunity to be a high-caliber successful player, so we have dollars in our budget now for elite athletes where most First Nations don't have that though because their economic ventures may not be as great. We are fortunate enough where our economic ventures are doing pretty good so Spencer is going to have a bit of dollars at his disposal.

Growth in Kahkewistahaw

Taypotat says there are many examples of growth on Kahkewistahaw.

"The governance building is an example of the growth on Kahkewistahaw. This building cost us \$20 million in 2020. Right now, we are building 15 housing units for



The planned fire hall and operations and maintenance building on Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

families. We are planning to own Maintenance and Operations building and Firehall and then after that we are going to build our hockey arena and our community centre. Next fall we are going to start our own minor hockey program. That is the growth right now. Covid made us think really strong about sustainability. This summer we've started a community garden in the middle of the village and next year we are starting our own greenhouse. The plan is in place it is just a matter of making sure we have the dollars, the funding, and capacity.

"I think why we would be developed less than say Moosomin, that's just a lack of opportunities.

"We don't worry about the mortgages out here because the reserve owns the houses, but we never were really supposed to be doctors, NHL players, the residential school effect was supposed to squash all of that and get rid of the Indian in the Indian. We are still battling that effect today. The opportunity offered to the non-Indigenous person growing up in Saskatchewan in the 1900s was a lot better than the Indigenous man or woman growing up on a reserve."

Goals as chief

Taypotat says his goals are sovereignty, and for Kah-

kewistahaw to be a self-sufficient community.

"As chief, I want to achieve sovereignty. Like all of the surrounding communities who don't have to go far for different services. In Moosomin, you can pretty much do everything there at home, we want that here in Kahkewistahaw. The goal is to have a sustainable healthy community on Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"When I was growing up, I graduated in the 90s then, my mushum and kokum said 'you have to get your grade 12 because you can get a good job,' it was right around that time it started changing. It then became you needed to get a university degree through the early 2000s, and then it became you needed to get your masters degree and now, we are at the point where Indigenous people are saying, 'get your doctorate.' That's what changing, the Indigenous animal is awakening in us and part of it is Canada is starting to accept that we are here now and that we are going to be here, and we are powerful people.

"We are powerful Cree people that our elders and ancestors fought long for us to stay here. With all the development we are seeing, the education we are achieving, and all the cultural awakening, I think where we will be in the next 20 years will be sovereignty and it will be a beautiful place.

"My mushum and kokum were affected by the residential schools. They were very tough love, but they always just wanted the best for us grandkids and I think if they could see their people and their family today, they would be really proud. We were just raised to be a good people and have good hearts."




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Fairlight's Doug Sauter led the Moosomin Parade with his appaloosa horses

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Doug Sauter of Fairlight was waving the Canadian flag and riding one of his appaloosa horses as he led the Moosomin Parade on Saturday, July 13. Sauter lives in Oklahoma and travels with horses to different events all over North America.

Sauter says he always dreamed of having his own horse ranch one day.

"I grew up on a farm at Fairlight. I am very proud of where I am from and my family roots. Horses were not a big part of our farm, but we always had some around, and it was one of my dreams growing up on a farm to someday have a horse ranch. After coaching hockey for 41 years my dream came true. My wife Brenda, and I have a 40-acre horse ranch in Oklahoma. We have 14 horses on it and one longhorn calf. It is a bit of a sanctuary for these horses—every horse has a story of where they came from and they're I think very lucky horses to be raised on our little ranch. I work for a company called Express Ranches and Express Employment Professionals. They're leaders in agriculture in North America. I am an ambassador for



Doug Sauter taking part in the Moose Mountain Rodeo Parade at Kennedy last summer.

their ranch."

Sauter says a friend gave the horses to him. "A gentleman by the name of Wayne Spears, he re-named Pawnee Bill. Pawnee Bill was a promoter of the Wild West show. They had the Pawnee Bill Ranch and had a leopard appaloosa called "Y"—all of the

horses only have one letter names. On this trip in Airdrie and Calgary right now we have Y, X, Z, and T. He got me hooked on leopard appaloosas and he eventually gave me his horse after 22 years. Over the years I have had close to a dozen leopard appaloosas."

Sauter says appaloosa horses are rare and are some of the crowd's favourites.

"The leopard appaloosas have a rare colouring and kids call them a dalmatian—they're spotted horses. They have an unusual look. Our one horse, X, he is a leopard mule—half donkey and half appaloosa. He came out with all these spots and he is very rare."

He says his wife and himself have travelled to many different parades with their horses. He led the Calgary Stampede parade with the horses for 20 years.

"We just finished the

Ponoka Stampede Rodeo, and Airdrie," Sauter said. "They're two bigger rodeos that we were part of. A lot of smaller rodeos around, the Moose Mountain Kennedy Rodeo, the ones in Oklahoma—the Oklahoma State University Parade they have 89er days. There is probably around 15-20 parades that we have participated in our home state of Oklahoma."

"We have a promotional six-horse hitch of Clydesdales. The Clydesdales are the second most famous hitch in the United States behind Budweiser and we would go every other year. The Budweiser team would go one year and

then we go the next. Four years ago we quit showing the Express Clydesdale in competitions and we brought percherons. Now we have Express Ranch Percherons and we are one of the top three hitches competitively in all of the United States."

Sauter and his team of horses have recently travelled from Oklahoma to the Prairies for events.

"We have been on the road now for seven days. We stay at my wife's family ranch and farm at Watota, the Dorrance ranch. On our way up here from Oklahoma we went on a little holiday."

Continued on page 33

Daryl Harrison

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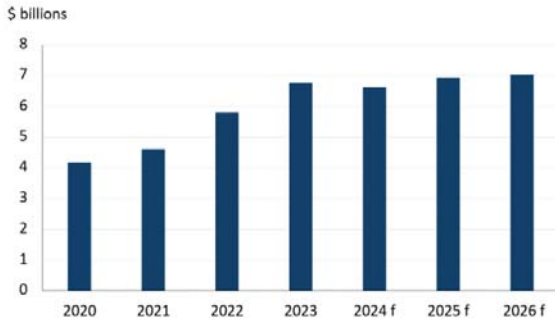
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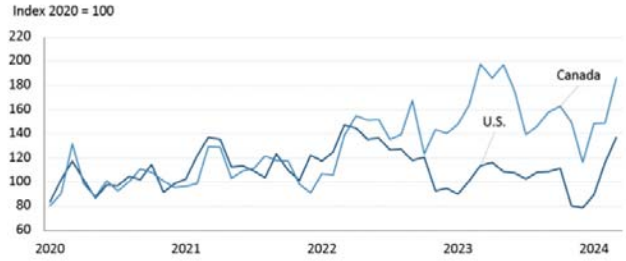
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Sources: Statistics Canada, FCC calculations

Figure 1: Canadian agricultural equipment manufacturing sales



Sources: Statistics Canada, U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Figure 2: Canadian and U.S agriculture equipment manufacturing sales measured in Canadian dollars

Economic headwinds for the agricultural equipment market

BY LEIGH ANDERSON
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC
This outlook highlights key trends for Canadian manufacturers of agricultural equipment as the pre-order season for the 2025 production line approaches while keeping an eye towards 2026.

Key observations

- Canadian manufacturing sales (nominal) are projected to decline 2.2% in 2024
- Slow sales growth in the years ahead due to lower farm profitability
- Economic slowdown points to slower growth rate on raw material and labour costs
- Growing U.S. protectionism could impact steel and agricultural markets

The Canadian agricultural equipment manufacturing sector experienced softer sales through the first quarter this year. Sales declined 5.1% from the same period in 2023 but remain above historical levels (Figure 1). Our latest projections suggest sales will decline -2.2% this year, a significant revision down from our earlier estimate of an 8.4% increase. The decline is due to tighter farm profitability, high equipment prices, and elevated interest rates. While sales are projected to dip this year, growth is expected to resume in the years ahead as farm profitability improves.

A slowdown in Canadian sales this year was always in the cards. For starters, large U.S. agricultural equipment manufacturers had already begun to curtail production in response to declining demand. It was just a matter of time before the same happened north of the border as well. Also, sales trends between Canada and the U.S diverged following the pandemic (Figure 2), with 2023 sales surging this side of the border after supply chain issues were sorted out. After such a solid year, a slowdown was inevitable.

Higher equipment prices, as opposed to volume, are largely responsible for U.S. agriculture manufacturing sales growing 20% in the first quarter of the year. However, the large U.S. agricultural manufacturers are forecasting approximately 10 to 15% declines in large agricultural equipment sales this year and are accordingly cutting production to keep inventories in line with demand. While U.S. manufacturing inventory values have declined slightly so far this year, they are expected to remain elevated (Figure 3). A similar trend is occurring here as slowing Canadian agricultural manufacturing sales and rising equipment prices have resulted in rising inventories.

A positive story amongst the large U.S. manufacturers is that the above-mentioned curtailment in production has allowed them to focus resources on producing equipment that is in high demand (e.g. high clearance sprayers) and reducing the time from order to customer delivery. Canadian manufacturers may be in a similar situation as most are small niche manufacturers.

Other factors

- Canadian dollar and interest rates
- Production costs

The Bank of Canada cut the overnight rate in June to 4.75% and signaled additional cuts ahead. If, as expected, there are another 50 basis points by year-end, the interest rate spread with the US could widen further, weighing on the Canadian dollar in the process. A lower dollar would help export competitiveness, but it also means higher import costs related to raw materials. This period of currency weakness isn't expected to last, as the US Federal Reserve is also set to cut its own interest rate later this year, which will pressure the US dollar.

Continued on page 33





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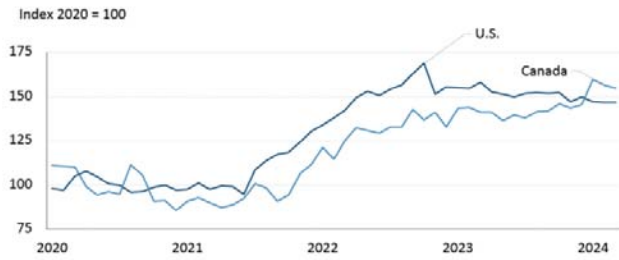


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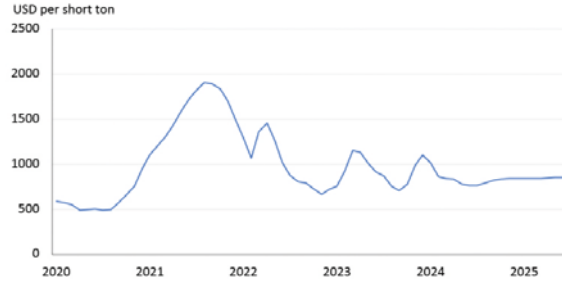
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Sources: Statistics Canada, U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Figure 3: North American equipment manufacturing inventory values remain historically high.



Sources: Barchart, FCC calculations

Figure 4: U.S. Midwest steel futures trending sideways

Economic headwinds for the agricultural equipment market

Continued from page 32

Manufacturing outlook: labour and raw material costs

Much like farmers focus on their per acre equipment costs, equipment manufacturers also pay close attention to their costs. Labour and raw materials account for approximately 20% and 65% of total expenses, respectively. Growth in wages paid by equipment manufacturers has trended higher during the first three months of the year with an average growth rate of 5.7%. Wage growth is expected to moderate as the Canadian economy slows, along with potentially increasing the supply of qualified workers available to be hired by iron manufacturers.

Various prefabricated metal and steel products are the main raw materials. The U.S. Midwest steel futures contract, which is used as a proxy for costs, is currently trading sideways (Figure 4). Slowing global demand and potential oversupply in places like China could result in prices trending lower.

Steel tariffs: will agriculture face retaliation?

There is uncertainty following the U.S. announcing it will re-impose tariffs (up to 25%) on certain Chinese steel and aluminum products on August 1, 2024. History can give us clues on what might unfold with U.S. steel tariffs. The U.S. imposed numerous steel and aluminum trade

tariffs in 2018 with several trading partners, including Canada and China. These trade barriers increased production costs as tariffs were applied each time a product crossed the border. In equipment manufacturing certain components may cross the border multiple times prior to ending up in agriculture equipment. Further impacting the agriculture economy that year, agricultural markets were caught in the crossfire of the trade tensions. U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was met by retaliation on U.S. exports of agriculture and food products. China's 25% tariff on U.S. soybeans weakened the demand for U.S. soybeans, which resulted in price declines and lost revenues for Canadian farmers.

As we continue to approach the 2024 U.S. elections, expect to see growing U.S. protectionism, regardless of any potential changes in U.S. administration leadership.

Canadian manufacturers must also think of the possibility of falling demand for raw materials and resulting downward price pressures. On the flipside, tariffs could lead to rising costs. Evaluating raw material needs and planning cost-effective purchases based upon various scenarios for 2025 and 2026 will be imperative to support profitability.

Bottom line

Tighter profitability has farms placing a greater emphasis on their per acre equipment costs, reducing demand for equipment. Manufacturing equipment sales are projected to experience slow growth in the coming years. Global trade tensions and the evolution of agricultural commodity prices are key drivers of the trends in the demand for farm equipment.

Fairlight's Doug Sauter led the Moosomin Parade with his appaloosa horses

Continued from page 31

We visited Fort Robinson, Nebraska to ride horses on trails and the Moose Mountain Provincial Park here in Southeastern Saskatchewan—all the ski-doo trails become equestrian trails in the summer and they have got a beautiful facility there where you can keep your horses in a pen, camp at the park, and ride all the trails. It is probably one of the biggest and most beautiful secrets in Southeast Saskatchewan that they have trails that are all groomed and safe."

Sauter said he was excited to return to his roots and visit Moosomin again this summer for the parade.

"Moosomin was the big town when I was growing up. One of the highlights when I was younger was going to Dairy Treat. It was located on the Trans-Canada highway with soft ice cream and you didn't go to Moosomin in the summer time and not stop there.

"I have to congratulate Moosomin on how progressive you have been. It starts with communication—with your paper. It's amazing just how important Moosomin is to a lot of people. You got a beautiful town."

He said he was happy to lead the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade.

"I felt very proud to come back and be a part of the parade. I recognized a lot of people and see some friends. My wife, Brenda, rides with me—she is a big part of our group of horses and she's got lots of ties in that area. Her mother came from Wapella. It is just a cool deal. I have some friends of mine that usually ride the extra horses, it is just a wonderful time and experience."

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Ag productivity gets \$5M boost

Announcement made at Canada's Farm Show

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Accelerated breeding is nothing new to the world of agriculture, but a homegrown initiative just received a big financial boost. The Global Institute for Food Security operates at the University of Saskatchewan, and their accelerated breeding program received a \$5 million commitment from Farm Credit Canada, announced on the first day of Canada's Farm Show in Regina.

"For those who are being introduced to our organization for the first time, we were founded as a unique industry government academic partnership in 2012," explained Steve Webb, CEO of GIFS. "Our mission is to work with partners to discover, develop, and deliver innovative solutions for the production of globally sustainable food. I'm especially excited that we're here at Canada's Farm Show in Regina, which serves as a great reminder about why we do the work and who we do it for: Canadian farmers. And in particular, growers here in Saskatchewan, in Western Canada, where we produce some of the world's most sustainable products and agricultural commodities in the world."

The newly minted FCC Accelerated Breeding Program at GIFS seeks to increase yields for crop and livestock breeding, using such technologies as genomic selection, speed breeding, bioinformatics and computer simulations.

"We are proud to be part of Canada's innovation ecosystem that is helping bring new tools and solutions to growers to build on these results and further enhance economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the entire agri-food system," said Webb. "We have the opportunity today to reimagine how partnerships and collaboration can accelerate the velocity of innovation, the opportunity to bring even more new tools and technologies to enhance agriculture and food."

Justine Hendricks, FCC president and CEO, spoke of the great work done at GIFS, highlighting the importance of it happening in Saskatchewan.



From left are Baljit Singh, Vice President of Research with the U of S; Alana Koch, GIFS board chair; David Marit, provincial Minister of Agriculture; Justine Hendricks, president and CEO of FCC; and Steve Webb, CEO of GIFS.

"It is a key pillar of our strategy with FCC's investment of \$5 million," she said. "We are excited to support research and help enhance the future of food security. It's about partnering with producers and industry to find innovative solutions that will ensure the crops grown and livestock raised are focused on today, tomorrow, and the well being of generations to come. Leveraging innovative solutions is not new to our industry, certainly not new to this province, and Canada has long been a global leader in sustainable production."

Previous to her role at FCC, Hendricks worked with Export Development Canada, giving her more insight into the issue of food security on a global scale than the average individual.

"This partnership is about collaboration, and investing in impactful innovation,"

Hendricks said. "It's an opportunity to leverage our industry's knowledge and new technology to address the challenges producers face. The accelerated breeding program brings together cutting edge science and practical agricultural knowledge. It will bring new crop varieties and livestock genetics to producers and other stakeholders much faster, which will stimulate rural economic growth and increased revenue." With the global population projected to reach 10 billion by 2050, being proactive about food security is crucial. Currently, food demand has risen by 60 per cent, making projects like the accelerated breeding program more important than ever.

"The program will make food production more efficient, sustainable, and adaptable to the world's evolving needs," explained Hendricks. "Agriculture and food

needs all of us supporting with our voices and investments to realize the change the world needs and keep Canada at the forefront of agricultural excellence. So looking ahead, we envision a future where our efforts today lay the foundation for new and innovative solutions that will drive increased productivity, economic growth, and further advanced sustainable production practices to feed Canada and the world. This partnership is a critical step towards that future."

Provincial agriculture minister David Marit was also on hand for the announcement, beginning with sentiments of appreciation.

"On behalf of the farmers and ranchers of this province, thank you very much for this investment into the ag sector here, not only in the province, Saskatchewan, but all of Canada," he said.

A founding partner of GIFS, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a large monetary injection of its own earlier this year, some \$15 million over five years.

"This announcement today only enhances the value of the Global Institute for Food Security, and we're very fortunate and grateful to have FCC as a partner," Marit said. "This province is a global leader in agri-food research and production. Over the last five years, we've invested almost \$52 million into crop related research through the Agriculture Development Fund alone. That's the kind of support that helps our producers stay competitive and profitable in the international markets. That work can and does have a tremendous impact in Saskatchewan, and arguably around the world."

Marit also noted how farmers in Saskatchewan—as well as agri-food stakeholders—"need that advantage."

"It's an advantage that enables them to continue setting the pace and development of new crop varieties in genetics," he said. "That advantage helps to clear the ground for commercialization and increase competitiveness."

Continued on page 38

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Canada's Farm Show moves to March

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Listing changing farming cycles and better placement between other agriculture expos, interim REAL president and CEO Roberta Engel announced Canada's Farm Show is being moved up a couple months, starting next year. "I'm extremely excited on behalf of REAL and Canada's Farm Show, as presented by Viterra, to announce that we are moving our Farm Show date to March, 2025," Engel told reporters on the first day of the annual agriculture show. "Mark your calendars—March 18, 19, and 20 are going to be the new dates for 2025, and going forward.

"We are super excited about this whole entire move and change," she continued. "It's a new date, new show and new reasons for us to attend." Engel explained that through consultation with industry leaders, farmers and others who are a part of the show, placing the show earlier in the year was quite advantageous. "We need to reinvigorate the show and move it to a time period where we feel that we're going to be able to attract farmers, and also bring in under-represented industries," Engel said.

Jeanine Nazarchuk, manager of Canada's Farm Show, noted receiving generally positive feedback from those who learned of the shift in dates.

"We've had really positive feedback, times are changing in agriculture and March is a good spot for us to go to," she said, adding that more than 250 exhibitors filled the halls this year. "It fits what farmers are looking for, what our exhibitors are looking for. We've had some really good feedback and we're excited for that switch."

Given March often presents major weather challenges with blizzards and heavy snow not entirely uncommon, some question whether the move is the right decision.

"I think farmers have proven—and as a farm girl myself—we will drive through any type of weather," Engel remarked. "No snow storm will stop us. I'm not wor-

ried about the weather at all. And given that it's an indoor show, I think it will be proven to be a great success."

She also noted that further details on the shift and all the impacts therein will be made public soon.

"I'm not quite ready to share all of the changes that are coming down the pipeline," admitted Engel. "We are working on some great programming and some new initiatives. Over the next days, weeks, and months, we'll definitely be sharing that as they become public."

A main reason Engel did share was the timing of the event will most likely happen before seeding, whereas the traditional June dates often coincide with a time many producers are spending in the field with spraying operations.

"The farming cycles have changed over the years, and we heard from farmers that back in the day, when Farm Show was happening and seeding stopped," Engel said. "It was a great time for farmers to get out of the field and with the farm cycles changing, this is the right time for them. March is just before they hit their really busy season of seed-



Roberta Engel, interim REAL president and CEO, told reporters that Canada's Farm Show is moving to March effective 2025. She's seen here with fellow advisor committee members (from left) Derek Molnar of Degelman Industries, Drew Watson from South Country Equipment, and Jason Steinley with Dutch Agriculture.

ing, so it will be good for them."

There's been mixed reaction from some producers the World-Spectator spoke with, some pointing out that lumping so many shows close together in the first part of the year could lead to burnout

and lower attendance numbers. Regina's Crop Production Show is usually held in January, as is Ag Days in Brandon, and Langham's Ag in Motion is held in July.

"One could perceive it to be that way," replied Engel, when asked if the

current June dates being so close to AIM may have been a factor. "But it really, truly is about making the show a great show for farmers to want to attend. I think there's room in our industry for Crop Production in January, our show in March, and then AIM

in July. So it's about providing opportunities for farmers to attend all three shows that are going to get different content and different information."

The new March dates for Canada's Farm Show will remain until at least 2027.



At the entrance to Canada's Farm Show this year.



Plain and Valley is published by McKay Publications Ltd., Box 250, 714 Main Street, Moosomin SK S0G 3N0.

Plain and Valley is delivered to post office boxes across Southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Canada Post Customer Number 2116693.
Canada Post Contract Number 40011909.

Canada Post employees: As a community newspaper, Plain and Valley can be delivered into all post office boxes, not just those that have opted to receive flyers in the Consumers' Choice program.

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How cash flow statements help with farm expansion

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN, FCC

When you plan for growth around your farm operation, such as a construction project, having a solid cash flow statement can help turn dreams into reality.

FCC Senior Relationship Manager Paul Bateman says farmers should view a cash flow statement as a building block to business planning.

“Consider a cash flow statement as a foundation or base-case scenario,” Bateman says. “Once complete, you can use it to test infinite scenarios. Think of it as a tool, not a task.”

Start with the knowns: Your farm business bank balance, identified expenses and confirmed income. Then, build your cash flow statement from there.

Bateman says there are three important factors to keep in mind when growth plans involve construction on the farm.

1. Setup

Start-up costs for the proposed project, including construction, initial investments, labour and other associated costs.

2. Contractor payments

All contractors’ payments are required based on the payment schedules outlined in the quotes. Also, consider the sources for making these payments, including owner injections, cash from operations or disbursements from your lender.

3. Taxes

In provinces where sales tax is paid and then reimbursed, consider the timing of the payments and how long before reimbursements are made. Large payments impact short-term cash flow, which will readjust when reimbursement is received. However, there’s also a chance you may have your claim audited, which could delay a refund.

Don't forget assumptions

When creating a cash flow statement with the goal of a construction project in mind, include an assumptions page. It’s a space to show the sensitivity of the cash flow projections, which can help identify risks and plan contingencies.

Consider including the following in an assumptions page:

- Cost of the project
- Sources and specific uses of funds
- Interest rate, payment frequency, and amortization on the amount borrowed
- For primary production, summarize the price and production assumptions. If you have multiple commodities, summarize each of them.
- Any other useful information on overall cash flow, including noteworthy items. For example, include labour expenses that reflect an average of the previous five years, adjusted for the expanded acreage.

Cash flow statements and how they are generated are important to farm management, especially when planning an expansion or start-up. Begin with your bank balance, add expected cash inflows for the month, and subtract planned cash outflows, including any expenses related to construction or expansion projects, to arrive at an end-of-the-month cash position.

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Ag productivity gets \$5M boost

Announcement made at Canada's Farm Show

Continued from page 34

Marit also referenced some of the goals in the growth plan, including an increased crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion, tripling the growth of the Saskatchewan tech sector, and growing provincial agri-food exports to over \$20 billion.

"Saskatchewan has been setting records for agri-food exports in each of the last four years," Marit said. "In 2023, our exports were \$20.2 billion. We have reached our agri-food exports targets for 2036—years ahead of schedule. This investment by FCC in the accelerated breeding program enables more growth, further innovation and greater sustainability."

Adding to the list of provincial accomplishments was Baljit Singh, vice-president of research at the University of Saskatchewan.

"We are very proud of the Saskatchewan agri-food system, and the reason we are very proud of that is because over more than 100 years, we have continued to evolve with time, we have continued to incorporate the latest principles in agri-food science into our production system," Singh said. "That's what has led to the sustainability of the system that we have when the world is just now getting used to using the word 'sustainability' everywhere."

He also noted that the farming system in Saskatchewan has been focussed on sustainability for a long time.

"Over this course of time with the development of the College of Agriculture at University of Saskatchewan, we have continued to develop departments, centres and institutes to answer the question of the day and to provide the most compelling tools and technologies to the farmers who are very open to adopting those," Singh explained. "This is the only jurisdiction that I can think of where a zero-till system has been adopted to a level where it's nearly unachievable in so many other jurisdictions. It is because of that that the product we make is so grand and received and respected around so many parts of the world."

Singh called GIFS a "major catalyst and accelerator" in the agri-food system.

"It is bringing the most modern technologies, and the technology platforms and the tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning so that we can speed up the development of crop varieties that can answer the needs of the changing climate," he said. "And that can also withstand the scrutiny when it comes to sustainability."

As a result of their dedicated and tireless efforts, GIFS has become a centre gaining worldwide attention. The reason for this notoriety—according to Singh—is the strong support and partnerships.

"Over the next decade, we have major challenges or questions in front of the agri food system, and entities like the Global Institute for Food Security are going to help us answer those," he said. "That's why today's \$5 million investment from the FCC will go a long way in making sure that GIFS has the tools and the technologies to support the agri-food system in our province."

GIFS board chair Alana Koch expanded how the centre is an "initiative whose time has come."

"Accelerated breeding is not new, however, GIFS has recognized the need and the opportunity to bring these technologies to crops and livestock that are valuable to Canada," Koch said. "I'm so thrilled to see this happening. As a farmer, I'm very proud of the strides that Saskatchewan and Canadian agriculture have made over the decades in the face of challenges such as the changing climate, trade issues, conflicts and limited resources. We have continued to thrive, feeding the world and holding

on to our reputation as an agricultural powerhouse in the world's fifth largest agriculture and food exporting nation."

She credits this result to farmers embracing innovations such as zero tillage, embracing herbicide-tolerant canola, and using sustainable crop rotations, for example.

"These innovations have resulted in our crop production being the least carbon-intensive compared to globally competitive regions as evidence in GIFS' carbon life-cycle analysis that was released earlier this year," Koch said. "While these innovations have carried us so far, we remain confronted with natural and manmade challenges to feeding the world. It is time to embrace other tools and technologies to take us even further. The need for innovation in agri-food has never been greater. Growth of agricultural productivity is lagging globally, and Canada is no exception."

She also spoke realistically about how making these huge changes is not up to one organization to solve on its own, rather collaboration being the key.

"As the board chair of GIFS, I'm thrilled to see the institute play this important role in the ecosystem serving as a bridge between research and the market," Koch said. "We need these bridges to help advance innovation to market and into the hands of end users as quickly as possible. But this is such a daunting task and no single entity can do on its own. This is why GIFS is about partnerships. It's woven into our mission. It's how we operate and it's who we are—founded by industry, government and academia. The very essence of GIFS is to bring the best of all three stakeholders across the entire value chain together to transform inventions to innovations and deliver solutions for sustainable food production. From here in Canada to the world."

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