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Plain & Valley

August 2024 • Volume 17 Number 8

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

Kevin Weedmark running for Sask Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre

Kevin Weedmark is running for the Saskatchewan Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre. Weedmark says several Sask Party members approached him to run after Steven Bonk announced he will not seek re-election.

"I believe that Scott Moe and the Saskatchewan Party have the vision to keep building Saskatchewan and I want to be part of that."

"I have the skills and the experience to be an effective MLA. As owner and editor of the World-Spectator and my other roles in the region, I have made contacts at all levels of government and have been effective at uniting the community behind important projects and issues, and motivating government to act on and solve issues."

"After several people approached me locally and from around the province to consider running, I decided to let my name stand."

"First it was local people asking me to run, then MLAs asking me to run, then provincial cabinet ministers encouraging me to run, and I decided I would let my name stand."

Weedmark is the president of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Moosomin Housing Authority, a member of the Moosomin Economic Development Committee, and a member of the Community Builders Alliance.

"Part of my motivation as a business owner is seeing the potential in my employees and wanting to help them reach their full potential," he said.

"Part of my motivation in economic development is seeing the potential of my region and wanting to see it reach its full potential."

"I see lots of potential in the Moosomin-Montmartre constituency and across the province of Saskatchewan, and I would like to do my part to help the constituency and the province realize their full potential. This region has the ability to be an economic powerhouse with its natural resources—agriculture, energy, and potash—and all the businesses that spin off from that. I have seen those industries grow and develop, and I intend to help them realize their full potential through advocacy, innovative solutions, and collaboration."

"It's been great to see things happening in the Moosomin area over the last few years as a result of everyone working together," he said.



Kevin Weedmark

"With efforts such as the Moosomin Airport Expansion, we've seen the value of co-operation, in that case between the provincial government, local governments, the corporate sector, and local businesses. I was honored to chair the

meeting in 2023 where the provincial government and Nutrien announced the support that led to the completion of the project."

"After all the work that went into the expansion I was thrilled to be on the tarmac when the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance landed in Moosomin for the first time now that the new runway is complete, and I was proud to be there when the first corporate jets landed at the airport—and I was on the first corporate jet to take off from Moosomin. It's amazing to see what can happen when everyone works together."

"I want to take what I've learned from some very smart people by being involved in the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Builders Alliance and Economic Development in our area and apply those lessons at the provincial level."

"With the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Builders Alliance and the Economic Development Committee, some very hard work has led to some wins on the economic development front. My experience in this area gives me a lot of insight into what works in economic development, and what can be accomplished by bringing different sectors together."

"With the World-Spectator we have succeeded and grown in a difficult media landscape. We have tried to be a media outlet that reflects and serves our entire community, and that has helped us grow rapidly in an industry where growth is not the norm."

"What being a small business owner has taught me is that the people you work with are invaluable and if you expect a lot of them, and lead by example, they will deliver."

"I have spent my career talking with people who have done great things or have amazing ideas, I've spoken with politicians, with athletes, with business owners, with community builders, with volunteers, and I have appreciated and learned something from every one of them. I love to take these ideas and come up with solutions and outcomes that work for everyone. Listening is the first step, collaborating and acting are the next steps."

Continued on page 7



I've had the pleasure of getting to know Kevin over the years, especially during my years as an MLA. In fact, whenever I'm in Moosomin I still take a moment to drop by and see how things are going.

Kevin is a community person. I've noted his involvement in many community endeavours. While many local papers are struggling or closing their doors, he has continued to put out an award winning newspaper. I've been impressed not only with the quality of information the

World-Spectator includes, but with the fact that Kevin and staff have included information from and about many community endeavours in surrounding communities.

Kevin is also aware of the economic engine that fuels our economy as he continues to remind us of the important role agriculture, mining and oil and gas play in our area as well as the province.

I believe Kevin will be an effective voice in the Legislative Assembly of our province and will represent the constituency of Moosomin-Montmartre well as an MLA.

—Former Moosomin MLA Don Toth

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Kevin Weedmark and Premier Scott Moe in Moosomin, looking at photos Kevin took of Moe at the moment it was announced he won the Sask Party leadership.



Kevin Weedmark in discussion with Federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre at Kevin's office in Moosomin. Weedmark has interviewed Poilievre multiple times.



Kevin Weedmark and Ashley Bochek interview Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill at the World-Spectator office in Moosomin earlier this summer.



Kevin Weedmark and staff interview Health Minister Everett Hindley at the World-Spectator office in Moosomin.



Kevin Weedmark has a discussion with Ken Chevaldayoff.



Kevin Weedmark has a discussion with former Saskatchewan cabinet minister and Deputy Premier Gord Wyant.



Kevin Weedmark has a discussion with former cabinet minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor.

Working with politicians over the years

Kevin Weedmark, who is running for the Saskatchewan Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre, has spent years working with politicians and working to advance local issues.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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DESPICABLE ME 4	BORDERLANDS
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Overwhelmed with support

I have been absolutely overwhelmed with the support since I announced I am seeking the Saskatchewan Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre.

I can't count how many people have come into the office, stopped me on the street, or called or texted to tell me they are supporting me in this run.

We have a competitive nomination race, but as far as I know at this point, I am the only candidate who lives in the riding.

I chose to live here. I grew up in Regina and came to Moosomin after university to work. I chose to live in rural Saskatchewan and I chose to do everything I can to improve my community and area.

I have been involved in the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce for many years, I have been involved with the Community Builders Alliance since it began, I am chair of the Moosomin Housing Authority, I sit on the Moosomin Economic Development Committee and I have done everything I can to move this community forward.

We have seen some strong wins on the economic development front, with a commercial building boom in Moosomin, a new airport, a new daycare in the planning stages, a new housing incentive plan, a new water treatment plant under construction that will accommodate growth up to 4,600 people and many new businesses.

I have built a successful business in an industry where many are struggling. I like to think I have been part of what led to the success in the Moosomin area. And there are real possibilities to take what I have learned in my experiences in Moosomin and apply those lessons at the provincial level.

Here in the Moosomin-Montmartre riding, we are an export powerhouse, with agriculture, mining, oil, and manufacturing leading the province in export-oriented production.

We have amazing resources, but the most important thing about this area is the people. I moved here and have stayed because I'm surrounded by the most amazing people in the world.

I know the issues that are important to the people of Southeast Saskatchewan because I have been talking to people about them and writing about them for my entire career, and in many, many, many cases we have helped solve issues for people.

I have been fighting for the issues that are important to southeast Saskatchewan for my entire career.

I have fought for Saskatchewan agriculture my entire career. In 2022, when Environment and Climate Change Canada was trespassing on farmers' land to take water samples from dugouts, Water Security Agency minis-



Kevin Weedmark

ter Jeremy Cockrill called out the federal government for trespassing. While the federal government denied it was doing anything wrong publicly, it was me who got Health Canada to admit it was testing for pesticides, something that the government initially denied, and it was me who got the federal government to stop testing pending a legal review, despite the federal minister's insistence that the government was doing nothing wrong.

In what seems like a lifetime ago, I sat in the premier's office when Lorne Calvert was premier. There were farm support programs at the time that were cost shared between the federal and provincial governments. The provincial government was waiting for a federal commitment before putting its money up, and farmers were desperate to know that the programs were funded. Calvert kept saying to me, "it's not fair that the feds aren't paying their share, it's not fair that the province is being asked to carry the load," and I asked him, "is it fair to balance the budget on the backs of farmers?" I remember playing the tape back for my staff afterwards. Premier Calvert stammered as he always did when he was caught off guard or backed into a corner. "Uh, uh, uh, uh, actually we will fund the program," he said. So I got a scoop for my newspaper and farmers got their program funded.

I have fought for the oil and gas industry my entire career. When Energy East was cancelled because of ridiculous federal programs I was part of the group that organized a major oil and gas rally in Moosomin, to which we attracted hundreds of people and the federal Conservative leader, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs, Senator Denise Batters, and many more. I was there, reporting on the event and helping it get into the national media.

That event managed to get the pipeline issue onto the national agenda.

I have fought for rural communities my entire career. I investigated when some of the numbers in the last federal census looked suspect, vastly undercounting some local communities.

I investigated carefully, and found that many of the

census numbers were impossible. In Moosomin, for instance, the number of households in the census count was far less than the number of households the town knows to exist because they are billed for taxes and water. We found the same in many communities, Statistics Canada admitted it made mistakes based on my research, that information was shared with other communities across the region, and now communities across southeast Saskatchewan are getting millions more in revenue sharing funds because of my work in correcting the federal government's mistake in the census.

I have fought for rural health care my entire career. Whether it be getting the Southeast Integrated Care Centre built, whether it be getting services back at Broadview Hospital, whether it be getting the \$10.6 million airport expansion at Moosomin built so we can access the Air Ambulance in our area, I have fought for our region. I was proud to have chaired the meeting last year when Nutrien and the province came in with commitments to each cover a quarter of the cost of the \$10.6 million expansion, and I was happy to be there to see some of the first landings of the Air Ambulance to serve our region, which doctors say are life-saving.

I have fought for fairness my entire career. I can think of dozens of examples of this. For example, when it was brought to my attention last year that Ukrainian students who came to our country under CUAET were being charged international student fees at Saskatchewan universities, I spoke with Gord Wyant, the Minister of Advanced Education, he promised to fix the problem within two weeks, and two weeks to the day later I was invited to the Saskatchewan Legislature as the province announced a resolution to the issue. A few weeks later, the issue was raised in the Ukrainian parliament as an example of how welcoming Canada is, using words from my articles on the issue.

I want to represent this area in the legislature, but I will need your support. We are in a competitive nomination race, and if you want a **Respected, Local** voice for Moosomin-Montmartre, buy a Saskatchewan Party membership and show up to vote. Click here to sign up for a Saskatchewan Party membership so you can vote:




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Kevin Weedmark running for Sask Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre

Continued from front
 "I have learned that everyone has a unique perspective and unique life experiences, and all those views need to be respected. It has been wonderful to learn from so many and to be able to help so many of

them by sharing their stories. I look forward to applying some of what I have learned at the provincial level.
 "Also being a business owner has helped me understand what makes business work and how



Kevin Weedmark receiving the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for community service from Saskatchewan Lieutenant-Governor Russ Mirasty

of serving his community. In his role with the World-Spectator, he has spent many hours interviewing federal, provincial, and municipal politicians about issues that concern the Moosomin region.

Most recently he has advocated for the Moosomin Airport Expansion, which has allowed for the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance to land in Moosomin and expand health care services.

He has spent time reporting overseas in Afghanistan, Vietnam and the Philippines, working with the Canadian government. When the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2021, Kevin worked to get his former interpreter, Qasem Sediqi and his family, out of Afghanistan. He felt Qasem saved his life on a couple of occasions in Afghanistan, and risked his own life for Canada's mission in Afghanistan, and wanted to do everything he could to repay the favor. The family are now safely living in Canada.



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Background

Kevin Weedmark is the long-time owner and publisher of the Moosomin World-Spectator, Plain & Valley and Ag News. Kevin has been an active member of the community in the Moosomin region for over 35 years.

Kevin has a long history

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\$30,000 cash incentive for new housing units: Moosomin passes incentive plan



A new residential housing incentive plan is in place in Moosomin to encourage development of more housing units. Keller Developments is currently building two 12-unit apartment buildings on South Front Street.

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Building in Moosomin pays. Literally. Develop a new housing unit in Moosomin—a home, an RTM, a modular home, a mobile home, a basement suite, a garage suite, a townhome, or a backyard suite—and the town will pay you \$30,000 once an occupancy permit is issued.

Build an apartment building, condo building, or multi-family housing development and the town will pay you \$30,000 for the first door and \$8,000 for each additional door.

The incentive plan applies to any residential building permit issued since August 21 of last year. The cost of the program is covered by a \$1 million federal Housing Accelerator Fund. Moosomin is one of only a handful of communities on the Prairies to be approved for grants under the Housing Accelerator Fund. Moosomin is receiving \$992,000 of funding. The town of Outlook and the City of Humboldt are the only two other municipalities in Saskatchewan to have Housing Accelerator funding announced last week.

Councillor Murray Gray, the chair of Moosomin's Economic Development Committee, said he believes that the incentive plan will have an impact on residential development.

"We are trying to have an impactful incentive program that will encourage development," Gray said. "The cheque up front to developers, as opposed to a tax incentive, is something that was outside the box that was suggested by the Community Builders Alliance and will be very impactful, I think, in order to grow our residential housing quickly."

He said he believes the goal of the program, to add 43 new housing units in Moosomin, will be met quickly.

"I suspect that we will reach our goal of 43 within one year. That's my estimate. We'll reach out to some of the developers who we've been talking to over the years and let them know that we have the new incentive plan and I think things will happen fairly quickly from there. I'm confident that things will happen fairly quickly."

Gray said he believes the incentive plan will be attractive to developers.

"I think that developers will be more excited about something that's different than what everybody else does," he said. "We're trying to set ourselves apart from Brandon or another small town. I think that it's just unique enough that it'll catch their attention and I think that it's awesome that we're already situated to grow without this."

"I don't think a developer would be as interested if we were a stagnant town and then all of a sudden you threw the money at them. We have a very positive economy growing and growth going on and this on top of it just points to the fact that this is a great place to invest in residential."

"We have had employers say they have trouble bringing people in because there isn't enough housing. We've had people say they would move here if they could have housing. So we know there's demand, we just have to increase the supply, and this is one way to do it."

He said housing is an issue in the community because of strong economic growth.

"We need more housing because of the fact that we have grown without any additional homes. We have very strong immigration into our community with our healthcare and our new businesses that we have. We have new people in the community but we haven't added any new doors in a long, long time so I think that pressure is catching up to us. So we need to get caught back up and hopefully keep the momentum going, going forward."

What does he credit for getting the \$1 million federal grant?

"Working together and collaboration 100 per cent," he said. "Between the CBA, Economic Development and the town—everybody working together for a common goal. Everybody sees that it's needed in order to add housing and so hopefully we can fulfill that need."

He said addressing the housing issue addresses one of the barriers to growth.

"Adding housing is the next phase in our growth plans for sure," he said.

"Also keep in mind that we have a water treatment plant opening in the meantime as well. So over the next year we'll have that completed and it's made to accommodate growth up to 4,600 people. The only limitation to that is storage so you could add more storage to service more homes. We can make more water than that, it's just the storage that limits us to that—which we didn't change the storage. We also have the daycare in the planning stages,

and those 90 new daycare spots will fill a need. When people can find a home and find daycare, it'll be a lot easier to move here."

What does he see as the future for Moosomin?

"Onward and upward," he says. "The future is bright and all of these things—all of these little wins along the way are part of the puzzle in order to achieve big things as a community."



A SIGNIFICANT CONCERN FOR COTTAGE OWNERS

Capital gains taxes are a significant concern for many Canadian cottage owners. Changes in tax policies, particularly those introduced in the 2024 federal budget, have heightened these concerns.

Many cottage owners who purchased their properties decades ago have seen significant appreciation in value. For instance, some cottages, originally worth around \$50,000, are now valued at about \$250,000. The new tax rules could result in tens of thousands of dollars in additional taxes, reducing the amount that could be passed on to heirs or used for other expenses. Primary residences are exempt from capital gains taxes, but secondary properties, like cottages, are not. This distinction means families hoping to pass on their cottages face hefty tax bills. Additionally, these new tax rules make worse existing financial pressures for cottage owners. Maintenance costs for cottages have increased substantially over the years, often running into thousands of dollars annually. Upkeep expenses, property taxes, insurance, and potential renovations add to the financial burden, especially for those relying on fixed incomes or retirement savings. For some owners, renting out their cottages has become a necessary strategy to cover these costs. However, this too can be fraught with challenges, as municipalities introduce regulations and taxes on short-term rentals, adding another layer of complexity.

The emotional connection many Canadians have with their cottages further complicates the decision-making process. Cottages are often seen not just as properties but as cherished family retreats, places where generations gather and create memories. The prospect of selling these beloved properties or facing substantial tax bills when passing them on to the next generation creates a significant emotional dilemma. For many, the idea of losing a family cottage is not just a financial loss but a personal one as well.

Moreover, the broader implications of these tax changes extend to the real estate market itself. Potential buyers might be deterred by the high tax implications, leading to decreased demand and possibly affecting property values in popular cottage regions. Sellers might also face longer listing times and reduced offers, complicating their financial planning and retirement strategies.

In summary, the changes to capital gains taxes have introduced significant financial and emotional challenges for Canadian cottage owners. These changes complicate the financial strategies for those looking to maintain family legacies, manage rising costs, and navigate the evolving real estate market. As families grapple with these new realities, the dream of owning a cottage, maintaining it through generations, and enjoying a peaceful retreat by the lake becomes increasingly fraught with challenges and uncertainties.

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Miracle Treat Day raises \$27,746 in Moosomin

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Miracle Treat Day raised more than ever in Moosomin this year. Moosomin DQ sold \$27,746.21 worth of Blizzards on Miracle Treat Day on August 8, up from \$23,714 last year, \$11,000 in 2022, \$8,000 in 2021, and \$2,700 in 2020.

DQ had sold 4,356 blizzards last year and set a target of 5,000 for this year. Community support helped them exceed that target, selling a total of 5,118 Blizzards Thursday.

All proceeds go to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Morgan Kerr of Moosomin Dairy Queen says Miracle Treat Day was a success. "It turned out very good. I set a goal of 5,000 Blizzards for this year and at the time I did think the goal was very high especially when I woke up and the weather was quite cold out and I thought that wouldn't help when trying to sell Blizzards for Miracle Treat Day, but it was really good."

Kerr says lots of Blizzards were purchased as donations.

"I would say, of 5,100 Blizzards—close to a third of that was donated to other people. So, purchased from one business and donated to another, or bought for schools for September, day cares, the Kin-Ability centre, or Bryant house. Anything people could find to buy blizzards for. We had some purchased for Kennedy School too."

Kerr says she couldn't believe the support from Esterhazy businesses and people. "Esterhazy blew my mind too. We had a lot of Blizzards sold in Esterhazy."

"We had Tara Stowe who works for Esterhazy Ford, she delivered for us last year and again this year. She had 300 Blizzards to deliver. Then, we also had a friend of mine who is an RCMP officer in Esterhazy, sell 100 Blizzards within an hour."

Kerr says they call every business in the surrounding area to support Miracle Treat Day.

"We're calling and asking. Sometimes it is just a matter of asking."

"They can purchase coupons for the Blizzards, too. I had a lady come in and buy 25 Blizzard coupons for Christmas presents or birthday presents throughout the year. People are just thinking of any reason to buy Blizzards that day. I am going to be busy in September with delivering to schools."

Kerr says Moosomin Dairy Queen is known at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.

"I got an email yesterday from Rhonda, who was our old Dairy Queen rep, and she lives in Saskatoon. My picture is in the Saskatoon Children's Hospital with Blaze, and with a cardboard frame around us that says Moosomin DQ. So, Moosomin's name is in the Saskatoon Hospital. It is incredible how a small town can raise big city



Blaze Dunn and Morgan Kerr of Moosomin Dairy Queen on Miracle Treat Day.



Kevin Weedmark and Ashley Bochek of the World-Spectator volunteered to help make Blizzards for Miracle Treat Day.

numbers, and actually beat big city numbers."

Kerr is thankful for the amazing support from the community and surrounding area.

"We just get amazing support. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We can't even begin to thank people enough in our community and in the area for their support with any project. Any project, people in Moosomin get behind—it doesn't matter what it is, they get behind it. We have a new day care going in and it will be paid for soon—it doesn't take long, because people just want to help. People really step up when they're asked. It is just a matter of asking."

Kerr says the Moosomin Dairy Queen staff enjoyed having Blaze Dunn, an ambassador of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, again this year.

"Blaze was great. He has so much energy. He was a great help and we loved having him again this year. It is nice to be able to help kids like Blaze, and help people who need the hospital."

Kerr is already thinking about her goal for Miracle Treat Day 2025. "I am thinking next year my goal is 5,500 Blizzards. I think we can beat this year. We approached

some businesses this year that said, 'Oh, we will get you next year.' There was a business in Esterhazy, Bridgeview Manufacturing, sent a little note on a \$100 bill for their donation saying, 'We didn't know, we will get it next year!' So, I think we should be able to do even better next year."

Kerr says they looked to other community business to help accommodate the many Blizzards for Miracle Treat Day.

"On Wednesday night before Miracle Treat Day, we looked in our freezer and realized there was no more room and called Cory Coumts at Borderland Co-op and he let us use their freezer. There was close to 65 milk crates full of Blizzards at the Borderland Co-op. It takes a community."

Kerr says she enjoys Miracle Treat Day and helping support the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

"It is a great day. It is a good cause. It is so good seeing kids like Blaze and helping kids like him. It is all about helping people and that is what I think life is about, helping people."



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Community supporter

Kevin Weedmark, who is running for the Saskatchewan Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre, is heavily involved in the community. Here are just a few examples of his community involvement.



Left and above: Kevin Weedmark chairing a Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting.



Kevin Weedmark volunteering to decorate cookies for the Smile Cookie campaign. Thanks to the promotion of the event, Moosomin sold more Smile Cookies than any other location in Saskatchewan for the third year in a row



Kevin Weedmark signs copies of the Champions book for school students in Moosomin-Montmartre. Weedmark was recognized as a champion in the book for his work for Canada in Afghanistan.



Kevin Weedmark and Ashley Bockchek volunteered to make Blizzards at Moosomin Dairy Queen for Miracle Treat Day on August 8, 2024. Moosomin DQ raised more than \$27,000 for the Jim Pattison's Children's Hospital.




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Local women sewing quilts for Jasper

Quilters get together to make quilts for Jasper families displaced by forest fires

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

A group of local women got together in Moosomin recently to sew quilts for families in Jasper who have been evacuated from their homes due to the forest fires.

Tanya Cestnick, the organizer of the quilt drive, says she knew she had to help after her daughter was evacuated from her home in Jasper.

"Shirley Kelly helped organize with me after hearing what has been happening in Jasper.

"My daughter is a park worker in Jasper. She has been evacuated and her house isn't completely burned, but it is not livable. She worked for another 15 days after the evacuation, helping with food and all sorts of things. I was driving home from my trip to see her because she was being evacuated and knew that I really wanted to help."

Cestnick says the idea came from a past experience of losing her home in a forest fire.

"We actually lost our house at the time, in Fort McMurray in 2016 to the forest fire there and they had a quilt drive to help the families. My kids got quilts from that drive and just treasure them so I sent out a message to Shirley's Facebook group and Shirley instantly answered saying, 'Yes, let's do it!' so she got all the ladies together and they were more than happy to help."

She says her daughter was evacuated and sent to a ho-



Tanya Cestnick and Shirley Kelly working on a quilt for a Jasper family.



Joshua Knutson helping his grandma Nancy with sewing a quilt.

tel in Hinton.

"My daughter was evacuated July 13. She is staying in a hotel in Hinton right now. Lots of people have spread out all over Western Canada. I know some are in Edmonton, BC, and Saskatoon, where they have family and friends.

"There was a resort that burned and lots of those people were from elsewhere and they have nowhere to go. Some of them didn't even have cars when they were being evacuated. They don't have any other family in Canada so I am unsure of what they're doing."

Want to help

Cestnick says she knew she wanted to help as soon as she heard. "I wanted to help was my main reason, but it is so hard to do something meaningful that you can do from afar and you can't go there to help because the hotels are full. I wanted to help with quilts because of how amazing it was for my kids when the forest fire happened in Fort McMurray and quilts were handed out. My kids were just so touched and so was I."

Seeing support for Jasper from all over

Cestnick says she has people reaching out from all over Canada to help make quilts and send to Jasper.

"We are making the quilts for Jasper at Shirley's Sewing

Room and then there are other quilt clubs or individual ladies from Saskatoon and Edmonton who have contacted me saying they have quilts, so I will have to pick them up and organize that when I take them to Jasper. The ladies in Moosomin are going to make quilts until we have one for every family that has lost a home."

Cestnick says she knew the ladies in Moosomin at Shirley's Sewing Room would be more than happy to help.

"I am from Saskatoon originally then was in Fort McMurray and then, I moved to Broadview. When I moved here and I didn't have any friends, I came to Moosomin to sew and the ladies were so welcoming.

"When I posted I wanted to do this, lots of people were asking me about posting a Facebook note publicly for people to share to let others know. There are people from all over sharing it to try and help support as many Jasper families as we can with quilts."

Cestnick says she hopes to have enough quilts to donate one to every family.

"Celsa, my daughter did a quick count and thinks there are 150 people who have lost their homes and another 100 that are displaced. We would like to try to do one quilt per family and then if we have more, one quilt for every child under 18. We have at least 20 quilts made so far and I have 10 more at home and many other quilt stores involved so I bet we have 40 quilts already, maybe even more."

Continued on Page 26

Steven Bank wins Souris-Moose Mountain riding Conservative Party nomination

Moosomin MLA Steven Bank has won the Conservative Party of Canada's nomination in the federal Souris-Moose Mountain riding.

He defeated opponent Mike Strachan after voting took place at nomination meetings in Moosomin on August 9, and Estevan and Weyburn August 10.

Kevin Weedmark is running for the Saskatchewan Party nomination in Moosomin-Montmartre for this fall's provincial election.

Dr Robert Kitchen will remain Souris-Moose Mountain MP until the federal election, and Bank will remain the Moosomin MLA until the provincial election.





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Free side entertainment concerts throughout the entire festival. Mollie B performing.



Watch as Viking re-enactors duel in daily battles at the Viking Village, a free side stage.

Great entertainment at a great price at Minot's Norsk Høstfest Sept 25-28

Norsk Høstfest is proud to host the 45th annual festival in Minot, North Dakota! Scandinavian tradition is on full display for the four days of the festival. No matter where you may roam during Høstfest, one thing is for sure—it will be a Nordic adventure!

The 2024 Norsk Høstfest takes place from September 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th at The North Dakota State Fair Grounds in Minot, North Dakota. Festival doors open at 9 am on Wednesday-Saturday. Dining and shopping vendors are open until 8 pm daily.

Affordable

A general Festival Admission Ticket costs \$44 and gives you all-day access to the festival, shopping, authentic food, daily activities, and free side-stage entertainment.

For an additional \$20 to \$30, you can purchase a Great Hall of the Vikings Ticket, which includes access to individual concerts or shows. These tickets range from \$64 to \$74, depending on the performance, and include same-day festival admission with the concert.

This means you get full festival admission and access to a concert for one great rate when you purchase a Great Hall of the Vikings Ticket.

Free Extras

The festival features five side stages packed with performances from morning until evening every day. These side-stages are free to view and enjoy! Performers include Mollie B, The Country Gentlemen, Steve Solkel's Overpopulated One Man Band, and several other returning and new acts.

There's also a Kid Fun Zone for the younger audience and tons of hands-on activities for children of all ages. The Familie Fjord is a vibrant hub for children with storytelling, traditional dances, education, and more. Other free entertainment experiences include the Artisans, Nordic Kitchen, Author's Corner, and the extensive Viking Village.



Jay Leno will be performing in the Great Hall of the Vikings at 1 pm on Sept. 27.

Artisans

Take in some great traditional art and craft making up close! The Artisans are a fan favorite feature at Norsk Høstfest as they give a taste of culture like you've never seen before. They share their craft with visitors that have an appreciation of Scandinavian traditions and customs. Artisans at this year's festival will display wood turning, jewelry making, rosemaling, Scandinavian weaving, and more!

Cuisine

This is the place to get all the authentic cultural foods, baked goods, snacks and sweets. Find many of these items at the Scandi Kitchen. In addition, there are the numerous food vendors with everything from lefse, lutefisk, rice pudding, and Swedish meatballs. Sharpen your skills in the kitchen by taking in the free daily cook-

ing demonstrations at the Nordic Kitchen, featuring several professional chefs.

Vikings

The fun to be had within Viking Village is endless! The village is designed to replicate a Viking settlement and is complete with traditional tents, cooking stations, and crafting areas and features live Viking role-playing that takes place throughout the day. Get ready to be transported to a bygone era of warriors, craftspeople, and storytellers at Norsk Høstfest's Viking Village.

Vendors

Norsk Høstfest is jam packed with all sorts of Scandinavian vendors. Purchase silver jewelry, Norwegian sweaters, authentic Scandinavian gifts, fine arts, souvenirs, and much more. The handcrafted

items you'll find for sale are like the experiences you'll have at Høstfest: truly one-of-a-kind!

Authors

The Author's Corner at Norsk Høstfest is a gathering place for book lovers and literary enthusiasts. Visit with the authors during Q&A sessions or book signings after presentations. The Author's Corner is open to all who appreciate Scandinavian literature, history, culture, and reading.

Entertainment

Several acts will take to the Great Hall of the Vikings stage! Tickets range from \$64 to \$74 per show. This includes admission into the festival on the same day.

Acclaimed TV late-night show host and admired stand-up comedian Jay Leno will return to Høstfest on Friday, September 27th at 1 pm. Garrison Keillor's 50 Years of a Prairie Home Companion show will close out the festival on Saturday, September 28th at 5 pm. Trace Adkins takes to the Great Hall of the Vikings stage on September 26th at 7 pm. Singer-songwriter and Yellowstone TV star Ryan Bingham will perform on September 27th at 7 pm.

Gaelic Storm and The Texas Tenors will perform at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 25th. Church of Cash, a Johnny Cash Tribute band, takes the stage at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 25th. The Fab Four is undoubtedly the Ultimate Beatles Tribute band, and will be on at 1 pm on Thursday, September 26th.

Velkommen to the Show

The Norsk Høstfest in Minot, North Dakota offers top-tier entertainment at an affordable rate, making it an ideal option for Canadians seeking high-quality cultural experiences without the high price tag. Don't miss your chance to be part of North America's largest Scandinavian Festival this September 25-28, 2024!

For more information visit www.hostfest.com or call at (701) 852-2368



Air Ambulance lands in Moosomin

For the first time, a patient was transported by Air Ambulance at Moosomin's expanded airport

BY JOEY LIGHT AND KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan Air Ambulance has started landing in Moosomin, with flights July 16 and 17 to pick up patients.

Patients were transferred from ground ambulance to air ambulance at the airport.

The airport is in the final stages of a \$10.6 million expansion designed to accommodate the Air Ambulance.

A new runway has been built and paved. The final stages include installing electricity, runway lights, runway markings and electronics.

Jeff St. Onge says he is extremely excited to see the airport in use. "Dr. Van and I were so excited when the Air Ambulance came in Tuesday," said St. Onge. "We got to watch it land and talk to the pilots, we want to be up to speed on what makes a better airport and how we can accommodate the pilots."

"Right now our airport is functional," St. Onge said. "We hope to make improvements in the future to make our airport

even better.

"Yesterday the first Air Ambulance landed and Dr. Van and I were very excited to finally see this happen after all the work that went into getting the airport open, and all the support from the community and surrounding area to help get it up and running. It's just phenomenal to see everything come together and finally be able to get the Air Ambulance here. This airport is not only good for the medical side but the business side of things as well. We had people fly in and stay all weekend in town, as well as spray planes coming in and out. Having this Air Ambulance saves doctors and patients a ton of time in transportation, which is very, very important in some cases."

AIR AMBULANCE HAPPY TO SERVE MOOSSOMIN REGION

David Mandzuk, Manager of Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, said he is happy to see the first landings.

Continued on page 24



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Labour Day: the holiday Canada gave the world

Welcome to Labour Day, the holiday that is so much a part of our culture that Canadians rarely pause to consider its true purpose and meaning.

Today, Labour Day is often more associated with fairs and festivals, and a last summer weekend at the cottage, than with what it was meant to be—a heartfelt celebration of workers and their families.

That's too bad, but perhaps not surprising. In a way, the holiday has become a victim of the labour movement's enduring success in improving the lives of working Canadians.

Today we take paid holidays, safe work places, medical care, unemployment insurance, fair hours, union wages and 'the weekend' for granted. But how many of these advances would have happened if it were not for the long-forgotten heroes who fought so hard to make unions, and Labour Day, a reality in the first place?

Labour Day began in Canada on April 15, 1872, a mere five years after Confederation. On that historic day the Toronto Trades Assembly, the original central labour body in Canada, organized the country's first significant 'workers demonstration.'

At the time trade unions were still illegal, and authorities still tried to repress them, even though laws against "criminal conspiracy" to disrupt trade unions had already been abolished in Britain.

Despite the obstacles, the assembly had emerged as an important force in Toronto. It spoke out on behalf of working people, encouraged union organization and acted as a watchdog when workers were exploited. Occasionally, it also mediated disputes between employers and employees.

By the time the landmark parade was organized in 1872 the assembly had a membership of 27 unions, representing wood workers, builders, carriage makers and metal workers, plus an assortment of other trades ranging from bakers to cigar makers.

One of the prime reasons for organizing the demonstration was to demand the release of 24 leaders of



the Toronto Typographical Union (TTU), who had been imprisoned for the "crime" of striking to gain a nine-hour working day.

The event took on a life of its own and was one that authorities could not ignore.

Held on Thanksgiving Day, which was then observed in the spring, the parade featured throngs of workers and a crowd estimated at 10,000 Torontonians who applauded as the unionists marched proudly through the streets, accompanied by four bands. In speeches that followed, trade union leaders demanded freedom for the TTU prisoners and better conditions for all workers.

It was a defining moment in Canadian labour history, opening the door to the formation of the broader Canadian labour movement over the next decade and sowing the roots of what is now an

annual workers' holiday around the world.

The Toronto parade inspired leaders in Ottawa to stage a similar event. A few months later, on September 3, 1872, seven unions in the nation's capital organized a parade more than a mile long, headed by an artillery band and flanked by city firemen.

The Ottawa parade passed the home of Sir John A. MacDonald, the prime minister. He was hoisted into a carriage and taken to City Hall where, by torch light, he made a ringing promise to sweep away "such barbarous laws" as those invoked to imprison the TTU workers in Toronto.

The 'Old Chieftain' kept his word. Before the year was out the hated laws were gone from the statute books in Canada.

In 1873 the Toronto Trades Assembly called a national convention and

set up the first national central organization, the Canadian Labour Union (CLU), which in 1886 became the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada (TLC), which was one of the forerunners of the present Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), now the major national labour organization in Canada.

Labour Day celebrations in the United States began in the 1880s, inspired by the beginnings made in Canada.

Initially, Labour Day was celebrated in the spring but that did not last long. After it was declared a legal holiday by the Parliament of Canada on July 23, 1894, the celebration was moved to the early fall, where it has remained ever since.

Around the world today Labour Day is celebrated at different times. In Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia it is known as "May Day"—or International Workers' Day—and it is celebrated on May 1. In New Zealand, it is held on the fourth Monday in October, and in Australia the date varies from state to state across the country.

But wherever it is celebrated, the purpose remains the same. In the same spirit it began so many years ago, it remains a day that affirms the dignity and honour of working people everywhere.



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Workers or labourers are an inseparable part of the society, and on a larger scale, of the nation. We all are heavily dependent on the contribution of everyone surrounding us, so we also must give back to them in return. On Labour Day, May Day, or International Workers' Day, we can pay our respect to their efforts and celebrate their jobs without creating any discrimination among them.

*Sending our appreciation and respect to the workers of every field.
Happy Labour Day!*



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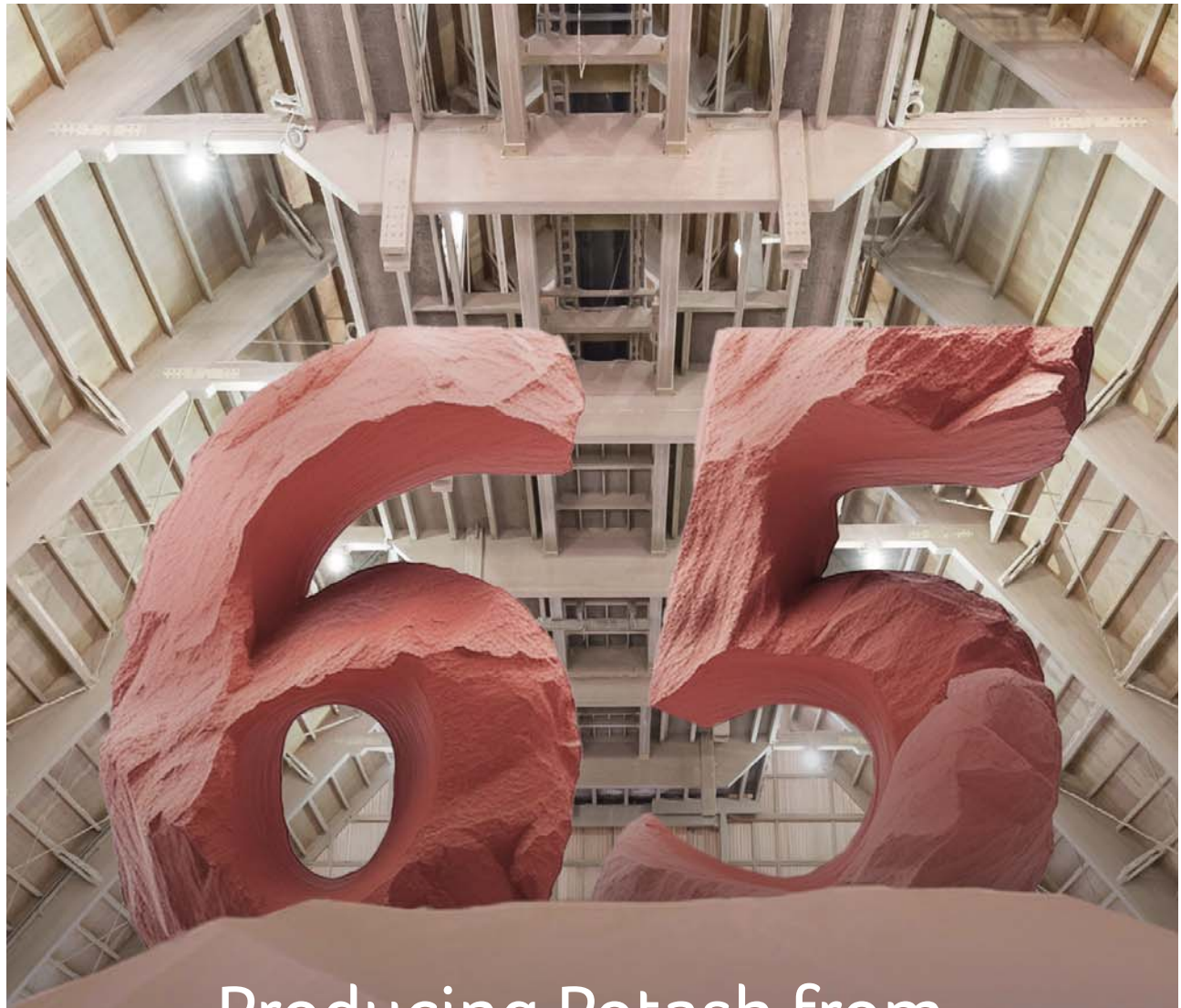
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Innovation is Changing the Landscape for Nutrien

65 years of technological advancements brings AI to mining



Control Panel

When Nutrien opened the first potash mine in Saskatchewan at Patience Lake in 1959, rudimentary tools and machines were the standard as technology wasn't considered a key factor during those early days, but things have changed a lot.

As Nutrien celebrates 65 Years of Potash Production in the province the technological advancements made over those decades have been staggering as Nutrien is now integrating cutting edge global technology that includes artificial intelligence.

"BeltVision is working, and worth it," Dylan Stewart, an Employee Driven Reliability Specialist at Rocanville said emphatically.

During his early morning shift on May 10th Dylan experienced firsthand why BeltVision is considered a game changer in the mining industry. That morning, using the artificial intelligence app Dylan noticed that a splice on a conveyor belt had incurred significant damage.

"Under normal conditions, if a splice was noticed in the middle of the night, a decision would be made on whether it is going to last until the belt crew arrives. The panel operator on that shift was surprised to hear from reliability in the late hours of the night. A reliability team member happened to be viewing the active belts that the miners were dumping ore onto that night, as this was happening, the damaged splice was noticed. The damage was significant enough that Operations had to be notified immediately to avoid a failure. The crew captain made the decision to stop the belt and allow our employees to make the repair," Dylan explained.

Although the belt was damaged, the incident turned out to be a positive.

"This opened a lot of positive conversations around proactive maintenance, BeltVision technology, and using operations to repair belts other than miner extensible belts. There were some production employees who were unaware of our ability to monitor splice conditions, this also created positive conversation around communication. Without having the ability to view the splices in detail, we stood a greater chance of having a failure on a splice," Dylan said.

BeltVision is an application that was first implemented into the Rocanville site in 2020. It was introduced after our Potash team identified the mainline conveyor belts as a significant bottleneck and source of downtime. These belts which are kilometers in length bring the ore from our borers to the hoists that bring it to the surface – they're the arteries of our sites. One significant recurring potential issue with these belts is splice failures. Mechanical splices – a series of clips that look like a zipper – connect two pieces of belt material, and sometimes they fail.

BeltVision utilizes AI to recognize and analyze belt splices and damage.

"We can see detailed images of splice clips while the belt conveys ore. We also have employees doing a physical visual inspection of the belt and documenting how many damaged splices they observed. We use BeltVision to help determine when we should schedule a repair," Dylan said.

The success of BeltVision is the result of many teams collaborating to make it happen. Multiple IT teams, such as Digital Transformation, Converged Technology, Connected Worker as well as ETC teams such as Operational Excellence, and our Maintenance and Reliability group were part of the implementation.

Site engineering, site IT, operations and many others also have been a part of making this technology successful and the lessons learned in the implementation extend throughout the Nutrien network.

"The cameras operate in hot, dusty environments. They see a lot of vibration. We must stay on top of keeping the camera lens' clean, and ensuring the proper hardware is installed to keep the camera protected. Several departments play a role in installing a camera and using it for its designed purpose, we are improving communication amongst all involved departments which plays a significant role in why it is working well," Dylan explains.

Prior to BeltVision being installed, production was regularly halted due to scheduled shutdowns. Manual splice inspections needed to be performed, these inspections were expensive and resulted in downtime.

"These types of catches make a considerable impact when it comes to the value for up time to Nutrien / Potash / Rocanville and help eliminate serious safety risks," Justin Stade, Director, Commercial Planning & Business Process Improvement stated.

In the last four years the technology has been trialed at other sites, enabling the knowledge transfers within the Nutrien network. BeltVision is just part Nutrien's commitment to our core values that include safety and integrity as we continue the push to Feed the Future.

"The BeltVision application only works if we have excellent people in charge of reliability like Dylan. He is always up to date on the status of the belts on BeltVision, communicates in a very clear and timely manner with our team at corporate, and is obviously organized and communicative with his team on site (based on how quickly things are fixed, cameras are cleaned, etc.). The benefits of the application are realized because of Dylan's commitment to safety, integrity, and reliability," Jayme Mitchell, Data Scientist added.



Dylan Stewart, Employee Driven Reliability Specialist, Rocanville



Labour Day in Canada

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

Before the 1880s, people held sporadic festivities in connection with larger labour movements. Some historians trace the origin of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement (1872).

Labour organizations began to hold celebrations more frequently following a labour convention in New York in September 1882. Spurred on by this initial success, the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor actively promoted workers' celebrations on the first Monday in September in the United States. The Canadian chapters of these organizations did the same. Records show similar gatherings in Toronto (1882); Hamilton and Oshawa (1883); Montreal (1886); St. Catharines (1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver (1890); and London (1892).

As the event grew more popular nationwide, labour organizations pressured governments to declare the first Monday in September a statutory holiday. Their impact was significant enough that the Royal Commission on the Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada (1886-89) recommended that the federal government establish a "labour day." Before this, the day had of-

ficial status in only a few municipalities. Montreal, for example, declared it a civic holiday in 1889.

In March and April 1894, more than 50 labour organizations from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia petitioned parliamentarians. These groups included several regional trade and labour councils, as well as local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. They based their lobbying movement on similar initiatives from American unions. In the House of Commons, a bill sponsored by Prime Minister John Thompson prompted the debate about the holiday's legal status in May 1894. The House passed an amended holiday law without major discussion. It received royal assent on 23 July. The United States federal government also recognized the holiday in 1894.

The provinces had no choice but to adapt. For example, Quebec parliamentarians announced that the province's courts would not sit on the first Monday in September of that year. It wasn't until 1899 that the province granted the holiday legal status, ordering school boards to delay the start of classes until after the first Monday in September.

Canadians celebrated Labour Day with much ceremony on September 3, 1894. In Montreal, the city's Trades and Labour Congress played a key role in organizing events for the day. A parade set out from the Champ de Mars park at 9 a.m. Its divisions grouped together unions representing the same trade. The Grande-Hermine local assembly of the Knights of Labor led the way. It guided participants to a park where they held speeches, games and a picnic. In Quebec City, the Trades and Labour Congress chose instead to hold a mass followed by entertainment. This included bicycle competitions, foot races and a lacrosse match.

LiUNA!

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On Labour Day, we recognize the hard working people of our province & the invaluable contributions of the Saskatchewan workforce in continually building our province!



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Looking forward to Labour Day

The meaning behind some parts of our history tends to fade from our collective memory over time. This is certainly the case for Labour Day, a holiday that has taken on a whole new significance through the years. One thing remains the same, however: Canadians continue to welcome this long weekend with open arms!

Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence. Even though there is still a feeling of summer in the air, we become more aware that the days are getting shorter and we notice that the harvest season is around the corner, bringing fall scents like hay and wet fallen leaves.

Labour Day is a time of change in many different ways, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to roam the countryside, stocking up on freshly-picked vegetables or biting into crispy apples. It is a favourite time of year for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, with some people taking advantage of this three-day weekend to travel even further afield, exploring new areas of the country.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist. That vast mobili-

zation of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.

Labour Day is more than just another day off. This 1st of September, let's celebrate the success of the workplace and think about ways of improving every aspect of work, so that every day is safer and more fulfilling. Labour Day has been celebrated on the first Monday of September for more than a century. In fact, the first Labour Day parade was held in New York in 1882. Twelve years later, Labour Day became an official holiday in the United States as well as in Canada.

Picnics, fireworks and many other activities organized by unions take place during this long weekend, to remind us of the great battles that were won over the years and the challenges faced by a work environment in perpetual transition. It's the perfect occasion to make sure that safety will remain a priority and that new ways will be found to consolidate family and work.

While primarily a celebration of the working class, Labour Day is increasingly recognized as the unofficial end of summer. Therefore, take the time during this long week-end to fully enjoy summer's last effort. Make it a weekend to remember by joining in public events in the city or in the country; celebrate with an outdoor barbecue and one last splash in the pool or the lake! During these festivities, also take a minute to fully appreciate the fact that having a job enables you

to enjoy the good things in life, while building a good future for yourself and your loved ones.

Happy Labour Day!

Thank you to all the hardworking men and women of Saskatchewan, as well as the employers, who have helped build this province and have contributed to our quality of life.



Daryl Harrison, MLA for Cannington
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On behalf of the United Steelworkers and Local 7916 we want to take this time to wish all working people in all sectors of the Canadian workforce a safe and happy labor day.

USW LOCAL 7916





Air Andrew donates \$200,000 to Airport Expansion

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

A major donation has been made to the Moosomin Airport Expansion. Air Andrew donated \$200,000 to the project on July 29.

Scott Andrew says they're excited for the future ahead for the Moosomin Airport and for this area.

"Moosomin has been a community that the Andrew family has been involved with since 1995," Andrew said.

"Facilities like this for smaller communities require infrastructure. We were able to do a lot of things out of Virden whether it was the insurance brokerage business or our telecommunications company, and one of the key components there is the airport and facility, so I look at this for Moosomin as required infrastructure. I am pretty sure that the next generation of entrepreneurs will utilize the facility and be able to bring some of that success to rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba."

Andrew says the airport holds many benefits for the Moosomin area.

"There are two benefits that I have tuned in on the business side, one is agribusiness. The kind of airplanes that we are flying now to support agribusiness you really want a paved municipal type airstrip to operate out of so that gives some support to agribusiness which is only getting bigger. The other one is access for small businesses like getting your customers here or getting to your customers. For any of the innovators that are around who are building businesses in your community they're the ones that are going to use this."

"We're contributing \$200,000 from Air Andrew and the Andrew family."

Andrew says the future development of the airport could be similar to the way Virden's airport has developed.

"I wouldn't be surprised if you see similar development of what you have seen around Virden airport eventually in Moosomin. It can be a long road—you have to find the right participants. When you start looking at hanger development, it is not insignificant. The RM of Moosomin's approach to subdividing the property so you can purchase it and then develop it, is significant, because most airports think they should just lease. The problem with leasing is then you can't put any real mon-

ey into the development of that property.

"You're going to spend a million bucks on a hanger. The problem is someone who can afford to do that might be at the end of their career, but then they can't sell it to a young person because they need to go to the bank and the bank is not going to lend money on a leased property. So, the deeded property and being able to own it and develop it is important, and then the builder knows that when the next generation takes it over they can go to the bank. It's heavy infrastructure dollars and heavy capital upfront."

Andrew believes municipal airports are critical facilities that add to the community.

"They're absolutely critical infrastructure for communities like Moosomin and Virden. We started this conversation with what we were able to do up until divesting our insurance brokerage business and our communications company—I was close to 400 employees and all the executive management was in Virden. You want the ability to do that in Moosomin. Even if not all of the people are here, you want the executive management that wants to be here to stay. There are a lot of jobs as a result, we are probably not the top employer in Virden, but we used to be really high on the list. The oil and gas industry has larger operators there which would be more significant in the community, but small business wise you add 50 jobs to a community it is significant."

Andrew says the two airports in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba are great assets for this area.

"This is great! This was a long time coming. Last time I was here in an airplane I landed on the old grass strip and met Marshall McLeod so it has been a long time to get back here from the air. We're excited about the opportunities here. The alignment of the Moosomin runway, the 13-31 complements Virden's at 08-26 there is probably a handful of times we get weathered out because of the cross-winds so having the two airports at different orientations complement each other. That was a conversation Jeff and I had many years ago when he was involved with the flying club in Virden. I think it is fantastic. In the time-critical moments when

you're trying to do life flight or ambulance you're 30 minutes down the road and if they can't get into Virden they can get into Moosomin or vice-versa. It is a short drive compared to the alternatives."

Virden Airport approved for expansion

Andrew says the Virden Airport will be working on expanding their air strip in the near future.

"The contracts have been let for the dirt, the paving and the pavement remediation. The tenders came back. Virden was in this same place in 2001. We started the four year project in 1996 and got it paved and operating by 2001."

"In Virden we're adding 1,600 feet to the runway. So we will have 6,000 feet of runway. We're a little short in Virden right now at 4,300 feet."

Air Andrew offers pilot training in Virden

Air Andrew offers flight training in Virden.

"We have flight training. We do that right through to the multi/IFR and float training out of Oak Lake. We have got three planes in

aerial application and two jets. There are probably 15 airplanes in the registry. The number of airplanes has more to do with the flight training unit as we do a bunch of tail-wheel training as well. There really isn't an aspect of aviation that we don't train in Virden so we're a little bit of an anomaly whether it is land or sea airplanes or multi/IFR, we have a lot. You can come to Virden and do it all."

Organizers welcome donation

The organizers of the Moosomin Airport expansion are welcoming the \$200,000 donation from Air Andrew.

Jeff St. Onge, the president of the Moosomin Flying Club says the donation will help complete the final steps of the airport.

"This is huge. We are right at the final stages of fundraising for the electrical, lighting, and painting lines. I would argue that your hardest fundraising to find is the very first and the very last. We're right at that stage right now. This is a huge donation that will go a long ways toward putting in the electrical and lighting."

St. Onge says the airport project has been supported solely with fundraising.

"If it is all about fundrais-

ing. It was a \$10 million runway and we had to fundraise all of it between provincial and local governments, corporations, and private companies and individuals. Everything—literally every dollar—makes a difference."

RM of Moosomin Reeve Dave Moffatt adds, "The fundraising built the airport and this project."

St. Onge says it is unreal to see the Air Ambulance use the airport after many years of working on the project. "I never doubted it, but also can't believe we are here. I am so excited. This is the very first day a jet has ever landed in Moosomin. It is a historical moment and it seems like we're having them every week now. First Air Ambulance a couple weeks ago and now a jet. It is very exciting."

ing. It was a \$10 million runway and we had to fundraise all of it between provincial and local governments, corporations, and private companies and individuals. Everything—literally every dollar—makes a difference."

Airport benefits all

Kristjan Hebert of the Community Builders Alliance (CBA) says the airport is a huge benefit to this area for many different reasons.

"I think health care has been the main focus and absolutely—we always used that number 'would you spend \$350 to get your child or family member to Saskatoon if they had a stroke?' and everybody can relate to that, but I think one of the other nuances that Moosomin, Southeast Saskatch-

Proud moment

Air Andrew donated \$200,000 to the Moosomin Airport Expansion Project. Air Andrew officials flew in from Virden, marking the first time a jet has landed at the Moosomin Airport. From left, Tyler Thorn of the CBA, Tyson Andrew, Hayden Andrew, Brock Andrew, CBA member Kristjan Hebert, CBA member Dan McCarthy, Jeff St. Onge of the Airport Committee, Scott Andrew, RM of Moosomin Reeve Dave Moffatt, and Sean Morgan of Air Andrew.

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Words of support for Kevin Weedmark

Following are words of support for Kevin Weedmark in his campaign to be the Saskatchewan Party nominee in Moosomin-Montmartre.

Over the last 24 months I've gotten to know Kevin a lot better through the Community Builders Alliance and my top two reasons for supporting him would be because he would be in my handful of people who are the most passionate, not only about Moosomin, but about the whole southeast region, and secondly, the man is a library of facts and figures on the whole area—of where it started and where it has come from and where he hopes to see it go. He really has some strong feelings and passion to get it there.

— Kristjan Hebert, owner of Hebert Grain Ventures and Vice-President of the Community Builders Alliance

I've had the pleasure of getting to know Kevin over the years, especially during my years as an MLA. In fact whenever I'm in Moosomin I still take a moment to drop by and see how things are going. Kevin is a community person. I've noted his involvement in many community endeavours. While many local papers are struggling or closing their doors, he has continued to put out an award winning newspaper. I've been impressed not only with the quality of information the World-Spectator includes, but with the fact that Kevin and staff have included information from and about many community endeavours in surrounding communities. Kevin is also aware of the economic engine that fuels our economy as he continues to remind us of the important role agriculture, mining and oil and gas play in our area as well as the province. I believe Kevin will be an effective voice in the Legislative Assembly of our province and will represent the constituency of Moosomin-Montmartre well as an MLA.

—Don Toth, former Moosomin MLA

The biggest reason I'd support Kevin is his connections and the opportunity that he brings to our whole trading area just with his business alone, as well as his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce. His connections with government from provincial to federal are just remarkable and I can't think of a better guy for the job to be honest.

Kevin's passion for progress and business and growth is very transparent. Being in my business I see a lot of people firsthand, a lot of people who aren't from our area, and Moosomin is constantly complimented on how progressive it is. Some people will say, "What is it that Moosomin has that we don't?" and I say "Kevin Weedmark." It's just his passion. He's so intelligent and so smart. Being in the newspaper business for as many years as he has, he has been on the front line for every single kind of story out there. With that comes knowledge and relationships. I couldn't think of a better person for the job.

—Kari Kosior, owner of Kari's Kloset and Moosomin Chamber of Commerce member

Kevin has been studying politics because of his job for as long as he's been here. He knows all the issues and what we need in our constituency and I think he'd be an excellent candidate.

He's a great candidate due to all that he's done to learn the issues and know what's going on in our area.

To be able to listen is number one for a candidate. There's an old saying that goes "you've got two ears and one mouth, so you listen twice as much as you talk," and I think that Kevin does that.

—Moosomin town councillor Chris Davidson.

Kevin is very interested in what happens in the constituency, and from the standpoint of the town of Moosomin, he's done tremendous things for us. I can't thank him enough for what he's already done, and I think as an MLA it will be even better. It's nice to have somebody local. I think it will be a really good fit.

He already has a lot of the contacts that he needs in the government to fit in and I think he'll do great for the whole constituency. I think the contacts that he has with most of the ministers at this point already—it's just going to be a fit, and I think that's one of the major things. He'll fit right in with the team.

We've had the ministers out to chamber meetings and that's all because of Kevin—he's the one, he looks after it, he does it. With the things he's done for the health care foundation and everything else in our community, including the chamber, he will be great.

Kevin has the right personality to talk to anybody, and whatever he sets his mind to seems to get done. I think that's really important for an MLA to do well in the constituency. And I say that with good authority just based on what he has done for me and the town.

—Larry Tomlinson, Mayor of Moosomin

Kevin is all for the community. He is all for serving his community by getting involved in different events and is great with people and a very effective communicator.

Not only that, but he's very empathetic and has the ability to listen, especially to our family's story regarding our refugee claim. He was willing to do a lot of work behind the scenes, despite already bringing light to our situation through the paper and for many others experiencing similarities.

As far as what Kevin has done for this community, being the owner of the World-Spectator, he does more than just provide news for us. It's a lot more intense than that. I think he genuinely does create a lot of opportunities in this town and he does a lot of good with his paper.

He's an outstanding guy. His whole personality is what makes Kevin, everything about him would make him a really good candidate and I look forward to seeing him in that



Victor Santos Cardoza receiving his Junior Citizen Award. Kevin Weedmark nominated Victor for the award and attended the award ceremony along with other members of Victor's community.

position.

Covering our family's story about our refugee claim played a big part in helping out my family—getting our story out there, getting our story heard all throughout the region.

Getting the word out to Ottawa also played a big role. Kevin made sure that the federal government and minister of immigration was aware of our situation, and had a big role in that.

The way he contributed, and the World-Spectator team contributed, meant so much to my family. I couldn't think of anyone better to help us. We have Kevin to thank 100 per cent.

—Victor Santos Cardoza
Moosomin's first Junior Councillor

I think Kevin would be an excellent candidate because he's very community minded. He's done a lot for our community to put it on the map. He's always there to support the businesses and support others in town that are fundraising. He's very active with the Chamber of Commerce. And this is just a step up for him. He's just getting into something where I think he belongs. He has the background for it.

Because he is so community minded, he knows what the people want. He's always open to talk to people and he's in a position where he's very accessible to people. So if they do have comments or concerns, he's very available, and that's a big plus going into a position like this.

I think the most important attributes for a candidate are being in the public eye. Kevin is very well known. And because he's a newspaper editor, he researches. So if something comes up, he's not going to take something at face value—say a bill that comes through the Legislature. He is going to research it, he will talk about it, he'll get other ideas, so I think he has a good background to enter something like this.

—Heather Truman
Owner of Sew Creative,
Moosomin Chamber of Commerce member

Kevin's political connections are huge in covering the Sask Party stories and the stories of this province and area. For the past several years he has made connections that would be long lasting in a political position just as a journalist.

I sit on Economic Development with Kevin so I know how his critical thinking is and I know how much he loves our town, our constituency and our province, and I think that is a main attribute to be a politician representing the people of Saskatchewan.

Being an MLA is certainly a position of leadership where people look to you for direction, and the Chamber, Economic Development, the CBA and all of the committees that he's sat on have shown that he's got lots of leadership, so he's got that already in his back pocket.

I think that you have to understand the people you represent. I think you have to understand what the people of our constituency want from our provincial government and what makes them tick, what are their issues and how to handle those issues. I think Kevin's experience is ideal for that.

—Murray Gray
Moosomin Town Councillor

I've spent a lot of time on different projects with Kevin, and he's just so incredibly well informed on whatever the issue is. He does his research very well, and is very open minded to all sides of the story, which he comes by pretty naturally as a newspaper guy.

All the work that he's done for the Chamber of Commerce in Moosomin, and just in all the projects he's been involved in, make him a good candidate. He's been involved in the CT scanner and the airport expansion. There's a lot of politics involved in those types of projects so he's got lots of experience in working on those projects and working with the various levels of governments, whether it's municipal or provincial or even federal on some of the projects he's worked on.

Just being able to work with various levels of government and understanding how they operate is crucial, as is the networking, the people he's met and built relationships with through the chamber or economic development or reporting for the paper. He's had lots of opportunity to speak to a number of our provincial leaders and some of the federal folks as well. So he has lots of experience that way.

As a long-time newspaper guy, you have to be open minded and report the whole story, not just half of it. He's open minded, he's receptive to feedback from people. He's very patient and politics takes a lot of patience. He's so good at research. Before he forms an opinion he really does his research to make sure that he's got all the information required.

—Tyler Thorn
President of the Community Builders Alliance,

Kevin is always for the people and for the community no matter what. He helps everyone and he has leadership skills.

He's always finding ways to help people when they need it. When people need him he's always there. He's open hearted and sensitive to what the people need.

When we wanted to stay in Canada, he was the one helping us with our refugee process until the end, until our citizenship. He assisted our family through our entire process. Without him we couldn't have done much.

I think he was a good influence in getting the whole community to support us and back us in that situation, and we really appreciate what he did.

He has helped a lot of people in different ways and now he needs the people to support him, and he will do it because he's always for the people.

—Lesli Cardoza

Without Kevin, we wouldn't have made it (through our refugee process) because he was the one who helped us in the beginning. When we had a meeting with him, he was the one who asked us if we wanted to go to the media. He was the one who started everything, and it helped us a lot. It changed our life.

He was one of the first people in the community who helped us and we really appreciate him and really love him.

It's the kind of leadership that we need in this country and in this community. We really love to have people like that. He is a good leader and he's going to make it and we are going to be there for him too. We really appreciate all the help he gave us.

—Victor Santos

Air Ambulance lands in Moosomin

For the first time, a patient was transported by Air Ambulance at Moosomin's expanded airport



Continued from page 14

"I want to congratulate Moosomin and surrounding communities for all of your efforts to rebuild and revitalize the Moosomin airport. Saskatchewan Air Ambulance now has an excellent facility in which to conduct medevac transports that will serve Moosomin and the surrounding community. We have been to Moosomin twice this week and could have performed a third transport if our crews had not been on other transports at the time of that request.

"I am looking forward to having 24 hour capability for access to the airport and understand that this should be in place this fall."

DR. VAN SAYS AIR AMBULANCE SERVES A REAL NEED FOR THE AREA

As the Air Ambulance landed in Moosomin for the second time in a week, Dr. Schalk van der Merwe said it was vitally impor-

tant to have the service available.

"Today we had a call again. STARS had to go out to a different location to get somebody else who was critically ill and the air ambulance said 'We can come because there's a new runway in Moosomin,'" van der Merwe said.

"So we know that the other critically ill patient is getting the care they need, and it's because we have this runway. Six months ago we didn't have the option. So what that means for me is that I can come here, I can transfer the patient over which takes me out of the hospital for 20 minutes versus of a five hour round trip if I went to Regina.

"What a phenomenal project to be a part of. I can't help but smile because as serious as the situation is, we have this option because people believed in it, and it's life or death.

"And if we had to take

the road ambulance I'm out of the community for five hours, what do we do? Then another doctor has to step in, which they do, but I mean the physician is out of the community delivering care to critically sick people. So with the runway, the Air Ambulance can get critically ill people right to the care they need.

"I just want to say to everybody, 'Thank you for all of your support. Thank you for your continued support.' The air ambulance has now been here twice in two days. Before that they were here once in 10 years. Not because they didn't want to come but because if it was dark, they didn't come. If it was snowy they couldn't come. Now, with all of this, they can really come anytime."

He said the Southeast Integrated Care Centre is getting busier and it's good to have the option of the Air Ambulance to transport patients. "As we get

busier it's just a matter of math," he said. "When you see so many more people, so many more people are sick and so many more people need to be transported out. Now we have more options—do we go fixed wing, do we go rotary wing, do we go road ambulance? It's just having those options.

"The sound of a plane is one of the best things to hear when your loved one is critically sick because you know that they're going to the care they need

right away."

He said he was thrilled to see the Air Ambulance land for the first time in Moosomin.

"You couldn't wipe the smile off my face all day," he said. "I was just like, 'Ah, it's so fantastic!' I went home to my wife last night and I said, 'Today is the best day. It's a great day.' When you think that it started out with two guys wanting to put lights on the runway, and look where it's brought us. Somebody got the care they

needed, and that's what it's about. Thinking about it, for people to commit over \$10 million to a project like this, and then for it to deliver exactly what it was built for, to land the air ambulance, it's unbelievable. I don't have words. I've been thinking of a way to capture this exactly and I just can't. I don't have the vocabulary. It's almost like a roller coaster where you get that excited feeling in the pit of your stomach. That's the way to describe it."



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Bekevar wind project part of major plans to increase wind and solar

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The construction phase of the Bekevar Wind Energy Project near Kipling is nearing completion and will soon be contributing power to the provincial grid. Once finished, 36 wind turbines will have been assembled and ready to produce energy by year end.

"The plan is for that facility to be online by the end of the year providing power to the grid," explained SaskPower spokesperson Joel Cherry. "Out of a 200 megawatt project, you expect the capacity to be about 40 per cent. So, it's not the same as a 200 megawatt gas plant, for example, where you can get the maximum out whenever you want."

SaskPower uses that 40 per cent number as a factor over the life of a facility contributing cost-effective, clean energy to the greater power supply.

"We look at the grid kind of being like a pool," Cherry explained. "So each of the facilities that we have on the system—whether that's a wind farm, or a solar facility, or a natural gas plant, or a hydro facility, for example—they all kind of add water to the same pool."

Despite wet and windy conditions through spring and summer, the Bekevar project remains on track for meeting construction goals.

"We are targeting the start of energy production later in August," said Michael Capaldo, Vice-President of Construction and Engineering with Innagreen Investments, the company building the project. Capaldo also noted during peak construction at Bekevar, around 250 people were employed at the construction site.

In addition to the wind turbines being constructed, 18 km of new road has also been included, with 3.5 km becoming mu-



A wind turbine going up at the Bekevar Wind Energy Project near Kipling.

nicipal roads. Under the soil, a network of 106 km of medium-voltage cables connecting the turbines are included in construction.

SaskPower planning for major increases in wind and solar

Currently, wind energy makes up 11 per cent of the overall power mix in Saskatchewan, contributing 617 MW to the total generating capacity of 5,355 MW. Solar power accounts for about two per cent (95 MW), but those numbers are expected to climb with some ambitious targets coming

over the next decade. "We're looking at adding up to 3,000 megawatts of wind and solar generation by 2035, which is pretty significant," Cherry said. "Our entire capacity of all the resources on the system right now is only around 5,000 megawatts, so that's a significant increase."

In addition to that jump in green energy reliance, Cherry pointed to an ultimate target of reaching 'net zero' by the 2050s, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent from 2005 levels within six years.

Continued on page 26



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Local women sewing quilts for Jasper

Quilters get together to make quilts for Jasper families displaced by forest fires

Continued from Page 11

Plan to get quilts to Jasper

Cestnick says she plans to pass the quilts along to her daughter to distribute to the families.

"My plan is to get the quilts to my daughter and she will figure out a place to store them in Hinton. Then, she will be in touch with people she knows. It is a fairly close-knit community so she does know lots of people. The mayor even lost his house so she is going to figure out a way we can reach everybody, but that is still being planned.

"There are about 2,000 residents in Jasper. It is big because there are about 15,000 tourists in the summer, but only 2,000 people that live there in the winter, it really cuts down on who lives there. Lots of people have summer houses in Jasper too. So, we are hoping to give quilts

to the residents of Jasper who have lost their homes and then if we have more then maybe to the first responders that stayed. There were lots of park staff that stayed right until the end. Some of them didn't get out and have to stay somewhere else in Jasper. Not all of Jasper burned, only about 30 per cent did.

"It was amazing how much infrastructure they kept from burning. They kept there two schools, waste and water plant, the rec centre, and the park office, so the firefighters were amazing."

Amazing local support for Jasper

Cestnick says the ladies are supportive of donating to many different fundraising charities.

"I know these ladies and they all have huge hearts and they love to sew. A lot of ladies came out on a hot summer

day to sew. I know that people have reached out to my daughter and myself asking, 'What can we do to help?' and then this came together in my mind on my drive home.

"Everybody likes to help and these ladies are amazing. They actually have a quilt group that meets and does charity quilts and they give them to other places. They are supportive and community driven.

"People donate and lots of those quilts for Jasper are made out of donated fabrics. I quilt myself and that is also why I have decided to make quilts for Jasper because it is something I can do to help.

Shirley Kelly, owner of Shirley's Sewing Room adds, "If anybody would like to be part of this, but does not sew we would be grateful of donations for backing and batting for our quilts."

Bekevar wind project part of major plans to increase wind and solar

Continued from page 25

"Wind is definitely cost effective," Cherry stated. "It's not exposed to the federal carbon tax. So when we burn coal or natural gas, there's the cost of the fuel, but then there's also the carbon tax on top of that. When it comes to wind power, the fuel is the wind itself, and there's no tax on it. Generally, it's our lowest cost option for generating power. If we could generate all of our power from it, it would be very cost effective."

For now, wind and solar energy are a complement to the larger energy producers. Natural gas still reigns supreme at 39 per cent of generating capacity (2,065 MW), followed by coal at 24 per cent (1,281 MW), and hydro at 21 per cent (1,155 MW). With a federal government mandate to retire coal by 2030, there's a real crunch to roll out alternative sources.

Conversations are also ongoing regarding nuclear energy, with two possible sites being considered in the Este-

van area for a small modular reactor, and the Elbow area also being considered. According to SaskPower's SMR projections, actual site prep is not planned to happen until at least 2030, but they are interested in the GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 boiling water reactor with each unit capable of producing 300 MW.

"We've shared our concerns with that because for us to replace all of our fossil fuel facilities with non-emitting generation, and especially for that period of time, it's just not possible in terms of logistics and cost and we just don't have the technology here," Cherry remarked.

Another factor is the extreme temperature shifts in the province, combined with increasing draws on that energy grid.

"We came within about 14 megawatts of our summer record just recently on July 11," Cherry said. "With the heat really cranking up here the next couple days, I wouldn't be surprised if we got close to a summer record again. So it's because the province is growing, too, and more and

more, we're going to see more things electrifying, too—more and more electric vehicles and other aspects of industry are going to be electrified—so we'll need to accommodate that, too."

Wind facilities seem to be popping up all over the south, which is the most favourable part of Saskatchewan for wind. In 2022, a pair of facilities were constructed near the communities of Assiniboia and Herbert, expected to add 375 MW to the grid. The Bekevar project will contribute a further 200 MW once online (enough to power 10,000 homes across the province), plus a further 400 MW is expected to be produced from a pair of wind power projects currently in the planning stage for south central Saskatchewan.

Natural gas projects will also see more energy produced through two projects currently under construction—the Great Plains Power Station in Moose Jaw (377 MW) and the Aspen Power Station near Lanigan (370 MW).

"It's a pivotal time for the province," Cherry concluded.

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TYLER THORN, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS ALLIANCE, OWNER OF "CELEBRATION FORD"

I've spent a lot of time on different projects with Kevin in the last couple of years, and he's just so incredibly well informed on whatever the issue is. He does his research very well, and is very open minded to all sides of the story, which he comes by pretty natural as a newspaper guy.

All the work that he's done for the Chamber of Commerce in Moosomin, and just in all the projects he's been involved in, make him a good candidate. He's been involved in the CT scanner and the airport expansion. There's a lot of politics involved in those types of projects so he's got lots of experience in working on those projects and working with the various levels of governments, whether it's municipal or provincial or even federal on some of the projects he's worked on.

Just being able to work with various levels of government and understanding how they operate is crucial, as is the networking, the people he's met and built relationships with through the chamber or economic development or reporting for the paper. He's had lots of opportunity to speak to a number of our provincial leaders and some of the federal folks as well. So he has lots of experience that way.

As a long-time newspaper guy, you have to be open minded and report the whole story, not just half of it. He's open minded, he's receptive to feedback from people. He's very patient and politics takes a lot of patience. He's so good at research. Before he forms an opinion he really does his research to make sure that he's got all the information required.

KRISTJAN HEBERT, OWNER OF "HEBERT GRAIN VENTURES" AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS ALLIANCE

Over the last 24 months I've gotten to know Kevin a lot better through the Community Builders Alliance and my top two reasons for supporting him would be because he would be in my handful of people who are the most passionate, not only about Moosomin, but about the whole southeast region, and secondly, the man is a library of facts and figures on the whole area—of where it started and where it has come from and where he hopes to see it go. He really has some strong feelings and passion to get it there.

The fact that he has owned and operated a small business is huge. In today's world of politics, balancing budgets and understanding income and expenses is something that all politics could use more of.

I think that The World-Spectator has given him a unique background in negotiating and understanding deals and confidentiality and working his way through those problems. That's a pretty unique mix to bring to the table.

I've only been a part of the Chamber for a couple of years but Kevin's ability to align, not only the residents of the area but the businesses of the area on key projects, has always been super important.

VICTOR SANTOS SENIOR

Without Kevin, we wouldn't have made it (through our refugee process) because he was the one who helped us in the beginning. When we had a meeting with him, he was the one who asked us if we wanted to go to the media. He was the one who started everything, and it helped us a lot. It changed our life.

He was one of the first people in the community who helped us and we really appreciate him and really love him.

It's the kind of leadership that we need in this country and in this community. We really love to have people like that. He is a good leader and he's going to make it and we are going to be there for him too. We really appreciate all the help he gave us.

306-435-2445 | 306-435-9299 | kevin@world-spectator.com



Plain & Valley

August 2024 • Page 29

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Breaking ground

Dignitaries and members of the general public gathered for the official ground breaking of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation joint fire department/operations and maintenance building on Aug. 6. Seen here are (from left) Les Sparvier, O&M Manager; Mike Propp of SAL Project Management; Dustin Braun, AODBT Architects; Lorne Wright, President of Wright Construction; Chief Evan Taypotat; Stan Bobb, Kahkewistahaw Fire Chief; Youth Abigail B.; Elder "Kokum" Vesta Isaac; Iris Taypotat-Scribe, KFN Councillor; Amy Thomas, Yorkton Tribal Council Emergency Services; and Michael Bob, KFN Councillor.

Kahkewistahaw breaks ground on new fire hall, O&M building

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There's a piece of land just north of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation that's been cleared. Black dirt, plus the odd tree root and rock or two can be seen, but not much else . . . for now.

The piece of land will soon be bustling with activity as construction on the Kahkewistahaw Fire Hall and Operation & Maintenance building begins.

"In the next few weeks, Wright Construction will pull in their stuff and put piles in the ground, and away they go," Chief Evan Taypotat said moments before speakers took to the podium at last week's groundbreaking ceremony on the site.

Some of the specs on the \$30 million dollar project include 10 bays on the O&M side, plus two for the fire hall. Hydraulic lifts capable of hoisting a semi will make maintenance and repair work much easier as well.

"It was really important to build this because right now, our operation and maintenance guys are down in the valley," Chief Taypotat explained. "That's where our graders are, our semis, our backhoes. It's a really old, ugly building. Our fire department, which is really a world class fire department, they need something because they're in an old, outdated building as well."

Chief Taypotat says the decision to combine both fire hall and O&M operations under one roof sets the stage for continued development in the area as further plans will be taking shape in the coming years.

"We started about 18 months ago deciding what the community needed next," said Chief Taypotat, noting the community had just finished building their governance centre in 2022. "It was this or a hockey rink and community centre. But this one won over right now, because the hockey rink we use is Ochapowace's rink, and our governance centre is our community centre. Once this building



Chief Evan Taypotat was pleased to announce construction plans for the new building on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

starts, we're going to start planning for a hockey rink and community centre."

The nearly five acre footprint for the new building will also mean installing new utility lines, plus decommissioning the old fire hall once the new structure is complete. Initially, there were three possible locations for the new building before choosing the final site. Chief Taypotat noted a lot of planning through several meetings have been held over the past year and-a-half, pointing out that "any time we are adding something like this, it's not just by accident." Construction projects like this are also about leaving a legacy for future generations and ensuring well-built facilities will serve community members.

"To build something like this and get something like this, that's one thing our council agreed upon is no more second class stuff for our citizens," he said. "Our constituents deserve the best as do constituents anywhere else."

Dignitaries break ground

A jovial shout of "dig deep—dig right to China!" was heard as dignitaries donned hardhats and simultaneously collected a shovel full of soil each. The symbolic gesture marked the mid-point of the project, closing 18 months of planning and beginning 18 further months of construction.

While both the firehall and O&M operations will have their own stand-alone spaces, there will be certain shared services such as laundry, showers, and change rooms. There is one shared situation that Fire Chief Stan Bobb is looking forward to ending, though—one that plagues the 17 firefighters in their current abode.

"As you may or may not know our current situation, the fire hall's in the old O&M shop and we share it with about 800 pigeons right now," Bobb joked. "We're hoping that we can leave them there and move over to our new building!"

During his opening remarks, Chief Taypotat spoke of the importance in having facilities and equipment that are safe for people to utilize.

"Leadership agrees that we should have first class, first rate facilities, and this is going to be the best of the best. The reason why we're doing this is because those buildings are old and outdated, and no-one should be working in those types of spaces," he said. "I always talk about the 'Blue People' I call them, the Blue People of our First Nation. That's the Fire Department, that's the O&M guys; the Blue People of our First Nation are the ones that are in the trenches and we're doing this building for them."

Continued on Page 39 & 40

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USask's CDC brings thousands of jobs, billions of dollars

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

A recent report discovered some amazing statistics about the Crop Development Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Data from the CDC Economic Footprint Assessment, which was prepared by EY (previously Ernst and Young LLP) looked at several key areas, such as economic contribution, return on investment, and socio-economic benefits.

Some of the key findings from that report include over 9,000 jobs created in Canada, a contribution of \$17.8 billion in gross farm outputs from 1991 to 2022, over 500 varieties across over 40 kinds of crops developed and released from the CDC since its inception in 1971, and more than 530 peer-reviewed publications produced from the CDC since 2016.

"The remarkable and ongoing successes of the CDC are a confirmation of the world-class agricultural expertise at the university," said Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD), USask's vice-president research. "The researchers with the CDC are giving cutting-edge advantages to growers in Saskatchewan and around the world and continue to be what the world needs as we address feeding a growing population."

I wanted to find out more about what the report means to not only the CDC, but to the agriculture industry and the country as a whole, so I caught up with Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), director of the CDC. He's one busy guy, but was happy to take a break from field work—literally, he was managing a 34°C July afternoon between field tours.

What was your reaction when you when you first saw the report's findings?

It was invigorating and humbling all at the same time. The CDC was established back in 1971 with the mandate to develop new crop varieties, to promote crop diversification in Saskatchewan. For well over 50 years, well over 500 varieties, we've been delivering solutions to western Canadian agricultural producers. So we're quite proud of what we've been able to accomplish, and the report really just



Research technician Ayla Lichtenwald works in the durum wheat molecular lab at the Crop Development Centre

David Stobbe photo

stresses the significant impact that the CDC has had on Western Canadian agriculture.

I was wondering if you could explain the importance of the findings in this report, in terms of innovation here and throughout the world.

We really looked at the report, we were just going through the process right now of developing and implementing a new growth plan, and we thought it was important to have a look at our impact and really assess the economic contributions, the return on investment for farmers and stakeholders that support our programs. We also wanted to take a look at the socio-economic benefits in terms of jobs, research and innovation, and collaboration. From an economic contribution point of view, the CDC has contributed \$1.2 billion in GDP to the western Canadian economy. We did a study back in 2016, and that number—the \$1.2 billion number—is around

half a billion dollars more than what it was even back in 2016. So that's significant. Almost 7,000 full time equivalent jobs based on CDC plant breeding activity, \$254 million in wages and salaries, but probably the most impressive number is the benefit cost ratio, where for every \$1 that's invested in the Crop Development Centre, we return \$11 to Canadian farmers. With net benefits of \$10.2 billion, these are significant. If we consider the lentil crop alone, the pulse breeding that we do at the centre has been so vital to building a strong and vibrant pulse industry in Western Canada. And that benefit cost ratio is for every dollar invested in lentil breeding, it returns \$37 to lentil growers in Western Canada. So just a remarkable impact with the research that we do to western Canadian agriculture.

Our pulses are the best in the world, the most sought after.

Most sought after, absolutely. We have a

very productive breeding program and we focus on a whole range of market classes of pulse crops—pea, lentil, chickpea, dry bean—we have a strong pathology program that focuses on improving disease resistance in our varieties, which is so important for not just pulse crops, but obviously all the crops that we work with at the Crop Development Centre. But we're really proud of the work that we do in developing innovative new crop varieties for western Canadian growers.

The one stat I found interesting, too, was where the report referenced 428 students since 1971. Many of those are now leaders in the ag industry—that must be so amazing to see these students go on to achieve such great things.

Absolutely, and that's one of the very unique things about the Crop Development Centre that we probably don't tell that story well enough and often enough, in that the Crop Development Centre is actually fully integrated into the Department of Plant Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Bio Resources here at the university. T

hat really provides us the opportunity to mentor and train the next generation of crop scientists in real world breeding programs. And 420-plus, that's an impressive number. But equally impressive is since 2016, the CDC faculty have published in high impact scientific journals, well over 500 manuscripts of novel research. That's impressive and important for the CDC, in fact, because our research spans that continuum from the research lab all the way to the farmer's field, all the way to their dinner plates.

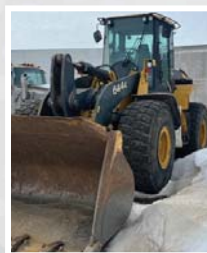
We can quickly translate the basic research that we do, translate that into innovative, new varieties that are grown and adopted by Western Canadian growers. So that's really what makes the CDC unique. Some of that research is really cutting edge—a lot of it is cutting edge—in the sense of many of the genomic sequencing experiments in our crop plants, where we study the DNA of each of the species, we work with that.

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USask's CDC brings thousands of jobs, billions of dollars

Continued from Page 30

It's the genetic blueprint, if you want to call it. CDC scientists have been up-front and leaders in generating those genomic fingerprints that can then be used to improve the efficiency, precision and speed of plant breeding activities so that we can deliver the very best varieties to growers as quickly as possible.

You explain the research done at CDC as "deliberate, bold and strategic," and as you've mentioned, spanning from the lab to the farmer's field, and you're literally in the field right now! Is this a key component of the overall success?

Absolutely. I call it the Innovation Pipeline, where we conduct basic research, that site generation of scientific knowledge, then we work to translate that to first validate it—obviously important to validate science—and then translate that in the field into field-ready cultivars that are adopted by growers.

There are many examples of the varieties that have been developed at the Crop Development Centre where the idea was started in a research lab, and there was extensive study, genetic study, and graduate student training, generating that knowledge within that flowed directly into the breeding program to develop new cultivars. So an Innovation Pipeline is something that's quite unique at the centre where we're connected from the beginning to the end.

Obviously, what I mean by 'strategic and deliberate' is that our growers and our stakeholders that support our breeding programs, they signal, they communicate to us their priorities. Farmers are telling us, 'we want more yield,' and 'we want standability and good disease resistance.' The customers and market are telling us, 'we want good quality, nutritious, and sustainable product.' So plant breeding sort of integrates all of that to develop the final product that maximizes the agronomic performance—the disease resistance, as well as the marketability—all of these things are important for success.

I call that the Three Pillars of Plant Breeding. Yield

is profitability, and then you need stability of performance, which is where resistance to heat, droughts, insects, and disease comes in to make sure that the yield is stable. And then the marketability piece—you can produce a lot of grain, but if you can't sell it, it doesn't translate into profitability. So those three pillars are really important, and really the focus of a lot of the research and plant breeding that we do.

Looking towards the future, is there any sign of this rapid pace slowing?

Our mandate is to grow the centre more than it is and keep up the momentum that started way back in 1971. We're big users of the latest and most modern innovative technologies that are available to plant breeding, such as genomic tools and digital phenotyping, drones, and computer-based decision making software and integrating all of those with field-based testing. So we're quite an innovative group.

I see no signs of slowing anytime soon. As I said, we're working and implementing a sustainable and bold and strategic growth plan that will keep the western Canadian farmers productive, sustainable and profitable in the long term.

What has contributed to the CDC's success?

It's just a great success story. Success is really the result of good people that are committed to the vision and mission of the centre to be bold and to develop the very best varieties for western Canadian agriculture.

Equally important is our stakeholders, our funders that come and invest in the good work that we do, in particular, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, who's a fantastic supporter of the CDC and the work that we do.

So it's the people, it's the stakeholders, all believing in and pushing forward a common vision and mission to really keep us at the leading edge of technology in new varieties that are produced in a sustainable way. We're just all very excited about the impact that we have, and I'm looking forward to keeping that momentum going.

Right: Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), the director of the CDC.



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- SEPTEMBER 2024 -

4	Wednesday	Regular Sale.....	9 a.m.
11	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
18	Wednesday	Regular Sale.....	9 a.m.
19	Thursday	Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale.....	5 p.m.
		Horse Sale.....	Approx. 7 p.m.
23	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
25	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
30	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.

- OCTOBER 2024 -

2	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
7	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
9	Wednesday	Simmental Bonanza Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
16	Wednesday	Charolais Extravaganza Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 p.m.
17	Thursday	Tack / Small Animals.....	5 p.m.
		Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale.....	6 p.m.
		Horse Sale.....	Approx. 7 p.m.
23	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #1 Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
25	Friday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
30	Wednesday	Angus Showcase Sale #2 Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.

- NOVEMBER 2024 -

6	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale Speckle Park Gather.....	9:30 a.m.
8	Friday	Special Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
13	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
18	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
20	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
21	Thursday	Tack / Small Animals.....	5 p.m.
		Pre-Sort Sheep / Goat Sale.....	6 p.m.
		Horse Sale.....	Approx. 7 p.m.
27	Wednesday	Regular Sale Feeders & Butcher Cattle.....	9 a.m.
29	Friday	Season Opener Bred Cow & Heifer Sale.....	5 p.m.

- DECEMBER 2024 -

2	Monday	Butcher Cows / Bulls.....	8 a.m.
4	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
6	Friday	Bred Cow Extravaganza Sale.....	5 p.m.
9	Monday	No Borders Charolais Sale	
11	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale.....	9:30 a.m.
13	Friday	December Classic Bred Cow / Heifer Sale.....	5 p.m.
18	Wednesday	Regular Sale Feeders & Butcher Cattle.....	9 a.m.
20	Friday	Winter Soltice Bred Cow / Heifer Sale.....	5 p.m.



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Taking action on verticillium stripe

BY BREANNA MILLER
 Researchers detected verticillium stripe, caused by the pathogen *Verticillium longisporum*, in canola in Manitoba in 2014. Since then, the disease has been found across the Prairies, causing yield loss and lodging in some fields.
 Disease surveys from the three Prairie provinces indicate the verticillium stripe situation in each province.



This canola stem cross section (cut near ground level) shows both verticillium stripe infection throughout and a small wedge of darker discoloration that is likely blackleg.

Manitoba 2023
 Surveyors participating in the Manitoba Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Brandon survey assessed 129 canola crops in August 2023. Most of the fields were ripening, not yet swathed or combined, when surveyed.
 Disease prevalence is the percentage of fields surveyed that have infection in them. The average prevalence was 29 per cent for verticillium stripe. Incidence is the percentage of plants surveyed within a field that have disease symptoms. Average incidence in infected crops was 11 per cent.

Saskatchewan 2023
 In 2023, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture surveyed 218 fields through the general canola disease survey and an additional 103 fields after harvest. Results confirmed verticillium stripe in 25 fields in 23 rural municipalities (RMs). SaskCanola also expanded its disease testing program last year to include verticillium stripe, which found the disease

in an additional 16 RMs, bringing the total to 39. (See the map for RMs with known verticillium stripe.)

Alberta 2023
 In Alberta, 356 fields were included in the 2023 disease survey, resulting in verticillium stripe prevalence at 18 per cent and incidence at just under one per cent. The complete plant disease situation from 2023 will be posted in the Canadian Plant Disease Survey once finalized.

What can growers and agronomists do?

- Verticillium microsclerotia are soil-borne. Steps to keep soil in place could provide some reduction in spread.
- Two- or three-year breaks between canola crops is a disease management best practice. This should help reduce verticillium severity, although verticillium microsclerotia can remain viable for many years.
- Scout effectively. If you suspect the disease, submit samples for testing. Watch the video "How to collect canola samples for verticillium stripe testing" at you-

tube.com/canolacouncil.
 • Get involved. For more information on verticillium stripe testing and participating in disease surveys, check out the 'Preparing for 2024: Canola disease recap' blog at CanolaResearch.ca.

What's next?
 In the long term, we hope genetic resistance or

tolerance will provide the best solution for control. Canola breeders are actively working to develop this trait.

Research is also underway to help quantify yield loss from verticillium stripe across the Prairies. Four Canola Research Agronomic Program (CARP) projects are investigating the disease.

To learn more about verticillium stripe, check out the verticillium stripe chapter at CanolaEncyclopedia.ca, or the Canola Watch fundamentals article 'How to identify verticillium stripe' at CanolaWatch.org.

Breanna Miller is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada.

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Hugh Drake of Elkhorn inducted into Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame

On July 17, Elkhorn's Hugh Drake was posthumously inducted into the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame.

The ceremony was held at Exhibition Place at Red River Exhibition Park in Winnipeg, with a number of Hugh's family attending to accept the induction on his behalf.

Hugh Frederic Drake was born on March 18, 1944 in Elkhorn, Manitoba and passed away on December 26, 2023. In 1904, Hugh's grandfather, Frederic moved to a farm outside Elkhorn where Hugh grew up farming with his dad. He married Mirna, and today, their two sons Darwin and Dwayne run a 17,000-acre grain, oilseed and livestock operation.

Hugh's grandson Danny is the fifth generation on the Drake farm and operates a forage harvester business as well as farms with the family. In 2004 the Drake family celebrated being a century farm, 100 years working together on the family farm.

Hugh attended Elkhorn High School and dedicated most of his life to service on various boards within the agriculture industry in Manitoba. He served on the Elkhorn Board of MPE for 28 years and became a delegate for Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1980.

The nineties brought the start of a period of unprecedented change to the grain handling industry as well as to farm input supply dealers. The days of having a grain elevator in every town to deliver grain and buy fertilizer and chemical were rapidly coming to an end.

Management and boards of directors were making tough but necessary decisions to close hundreds of smaller elevators and build a small number of large inland terminals. This would require substantial trucking for most producers and many rail line abandonments also caused further small elevator closures and a massive increase of heavy traffic on the road infrastructure.

As a member of the board of directors of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Hugh was often responsible for attending meetings to deliver welcomed news as well as the challenges that come in telling local boards that their elevators would be closing. Obviously, like most changes, many people were not happy and possibly apprehensive of what the future held for their businesses.

The period of change had only begun in the early nineties and by the mid-nineties it was clear to the board that with more multi national companies entering Western Canada and building large facilities, that Manitoba Pool Elevators must get larger in order to compete. The board had more tough decisions to make regarding mergers and acquisition.

Finally, in 1998, Manitoba Pool Elevators merged with Alberta Wheat Pool to form Agricore. Only one board of directors would be required and Hugh stayed on when the new board was formed so the value that both boards thought that he brought to the table was clear, especially during the merger negotiations.

The new board was tasked with an additional challenge in the fall of 1999 when the Grain Services Union decided to go on strike during negotiations for a new agreement to replace the existing agreements each previous company had in place. After months of negotiations and a month strike, the two sides reached an agreement



Hugh Drake

in December.

By 2001, more mergers and consolidations were in the wind. The board decided to merge Agricore with United Grain Growers to form Agricore United. More head office and board member positions were cut again, but Hugh was kept on the new board after the company was

formed and became the largest grain handling and farm supply company in Western Canada.

While at Agricore United, Hugh served on the Human Resources, Risk Review and Agriculture Policy Committees and worked to represent farmers during a difficult takeover. Hugh was also instrumental on the board in taking the company public. It traded on the TSX under the symbol "AU," limited voting common shares, convertible nine per cent debentures and series "A" preferred shares.

November 2006, the company became the target of takeover bids from Sask Pool and Richardson. Archer Daniels Midland were also buying shares in AU as well. Sask Pool made several initial offers which Hugh and the rest of the board voted against. Intense negotiations were ongoing for months and in February 2007 the board announced a merger arrangement to form a new publicly traded company to be known as Richardson Pioneer subject to shareholder agreement.

In the months that followed, both Sask Pool and JRI continued raising their bids until eventually an all cash bid of \$20.50 per share or \$1.8 billion total from Sask Pool was accepted when 81 per cent of the voting shares were tendered including all the ADM shares. This marked the end of the Agricore United board and the beginning of the new company Viterra which would have all Sask Pool management on their board.

For 14 years Hugh served as a director with three different grain companies. During this time Hugh also sat on the Heartland Livestock board, an amalgamation of Manitoba Pool Elevators and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool livestock markets. While Hugh was on the board of Heartland Livestock, the board built a new auction barn at Virden, Manitoba which remains operational today.

Hugh dedicated decades of his life to helping these companies succeed and while doing so managed a large family farming operation. Hugh was proud to have the family farm going into its fifth generation.

Continued on Page 35

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Myrna Drake accepting the award on behalf of her late husband Hugh Drake at the induction ceremony in Winnipeg on July 17.

Hugh Drake inducted into Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame

Continued from Page 34

In the late 80's Hugh participated in the provincial debt review board and played an active role assisting farmers in financial crisis. In 1993 Hugh completed the 20th Farm Leaders course in Winnipeg. This course concentrated on the grain industry. He also received his Farm Business Management certificate in 1988 from Assiniboine Community College, as well as the Management of Leadership Program certificate from the University of Calgary in 1999. Hugh received the Institute of Corporate Director Designation from the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary in 2005.

In 2008, Hugh became treasurer of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association. He was a member of the board for six years actively supporting canola research, and promoting the health benefits of canola oil and the advantages of canola meal in livestock feed. At the same time Hugh was a director with the Manitoba Flax Growers Association (MFGA) for eight years. Hugh was on the executive com-

mittee for most of his time on the MFGA board, and helped with the amalgamation from MFGA to the Manitoba Crop Alliance in 2020.

During this time Hugh was also a member of the Wasagaming Foundation, operator of the Camp Wannakumbac program at the Riding Mountain Conference Centre in Clear Lake. Hugh was the chairman of the board. Camp Wannakumbac is supported partially by donations of corporate entities, and is a place for kids to make friends, have fun and learn.

Hugh's peers described him as an influential leader, great listener, and advocate with a calm demeanor. He was active on a number of boards during trying times in Manitoba, and worked hard to represent the best interests of his organization and farmers. When asked about his favourite experience serving on these various agriculture boards throughout Manitoba, his response was the people he and his wife met. The friends they made along the way and kept in contact with for most of his later years is what he enjoyed most.



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Kahkewistahaw breaks ground on new fire hall, O&M building

Continued from page 29

Chief Taypotat also referenced other construction happening at Kahkewistahaw First Nation, including 15 housing units and the Elder's Building, which should be finished this month.

"It's always about putting the Tetris of everything together, so that it fits properly with financing and revenue streams," he said. "This building behind us is a \$30 million dollar building. We hope that once this build is done—February, 2026—that spring/summer, the hockey rink and community centre is going to be next."

O&M Manager Les Sparvier was grateful to all levels involved in the project, telling the crowd that the plans included everything he was hoping to see.

"Our community is growing, so it's a much needed addition to the O&M operations," he said. "Thank you for everyone who was involved, and we look forward to the finished building."

The Saskatoon architect company AODBT was tapped again for this project, continuing their relationship with

Kahkewistahaw that started back in 2018 when planning began on the governance centre. They're known for designing such works as the Wanuskewin Heritage Park in Saskatoon, the Woodland Wellness Centre in Lac La Ronge, and the Dakota Dunes Resort on Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

"Working with Chief and Council, I always talk about the PMT meetings where they're full of jokes, people are engaged, and that's such a key part to delivering a project," said Dustin Braun, an architect with AODBT. "We were very excited in 2023 to begin working with Kahkewistahaw on the O&M Fire Hall."

"We kept hearing the requests of the community," Braun continued. "We kept going back to Chief and Council, and what we kept getting was, 'we want it to be right for the people', and in the end, I think we're going to deliver a project that is going to be right for the people."

On the construction side, Wright Construction will be bringing their equipment on site shortly. "This is our second project with your first nation, and we are very honoured to have another opportunity to

work with you," said company president Lorne Wright. "During our first project, we were warmly welcomed, and had the privilege of integrating ourselves into your community. Through this experience, we learned about and gained an appreciation of your rich culture and traditions. We've been moved by the strength and unity of your nation."

Councillor Micheal Bob—who's portfolio on Council includes O&M—spoke of the positive growth the new project will bring to the community.

"The fire department was very small, they didn't have much, they were in a small building—if we had a building," he recalled of those early days of the fire services, when equipment was stored wherever they could find some room. "Over the years, we've had smaller buildings for our Fire Department and our O&M. I always wanted to see something where they could have a good building to function and to provide the service to our people. That's the number one thing: providing service to our people."

Continued on Page 40

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Kahkewistahaw breaks ground on new fire hall, O&M building

Continued from Page 39

Fire department has gained reputation for its search and rescue expertise

Deputy Fire Chief Clinton Bobb points to a multi-coloured bar attached to the left breast pocket on his formal firefighter dress shirt.

"These are Government of Canada medals issued for community service, community long service, fire service," he explained, adding that he also has some from his military service. "These are for 20 years' service, but most of us have like 25 or 28 years. So at 30 years, you get a little pin that goes right onto the metal itself."

For the Bobb family, being a firefighter is in their blood. From nine brothers, eight have taken their firefighter training and seven are still active on the department.

"We are third generation now into our fire department," says a proud Stan Bobb. "We work side by side with our children and now our grandchildren. It is amazing, and it's a legacy we hope will continue!"

There's also keen interest from the younger generation to serve as firefighters, some even participating at the hall through a cadet program where they receive training.

"In order for us to have a succession plan, we need to introduce that to our young people. I'm proud to say that we have a number of young people on our team, we are preparing for them to take over. And I tell you what, for them to work out of a first class building is something that they deserve," Stan said. "We look forward to moving into the new building. It's state of the art. We've toured a facility in Saskatoon that will have many of the same features that we will have out here. We're very pleased that we'll be sharing the building with O&M, and it's something that we really look forward to."

One thing that sets the Kahkewistahaw Fire Department apart is their drone team, which is often called to communities all over Saskatchewan.

"We provide more than just fire services to our community—that was our initial mandate—but the question that our team has always asked is, 'what else can we do?' From there, we moved into medical services, which we started out with just basic First Aid, and for at least nine years now, we've had first responders as part of our service; we've also branched off into a drone team," Stan said. "We have federally licensed pilots, and we assist in search and rescues, missing persons all the way from way up north in Red Earth down to Carlyle, White Bear, and way over to Nekanee by Maple Creek."

Through their role in assisting search and rescue efforts by drone, the Kahkewistahaw team have built a reputation in the provincial firefighting community.

"It's quite an area; it's the whole province, basically," Stan continued. "And you know, I'm very proud to say that our drone team, they've gained a reputation for the ability to just produce. We have never turned down requests for assistance, and our Chief and Council again have been supportive of that."

The Yorkton Tribal Council has assisted the Kahkewistahaw FN Fire Department with training, and assistance in events such as mock disaster preparation. A recent example took local firefighters to some very remote areas on the first nation.

"We put two people out there somewhere in the wilderness, and it was up to the search and rescue team to locate them," Stan explained, adding that the team was given some information such as last known location and circumstances relating to the individuals participating in the exercise. "We are very proud to say that within three hours, the drone team and the ground crew were able to locate the missing people."

The training exercise highlighted the importance of continued, regular training sessions for the team.

"Hand in hand with that is now the search and rescue portion of our training, and we have a number of team members who are certified, and we are in the process of certifying more," Stan said. "We always look to improve, and partnerships are very important. We work very well with the Broadview Fire Department, we work well with EMS, we work well with Whitewood Fire Department, and STARS Air ambulance. We've landed STARS in our community on numerous occasions to assist with critical



Stan Bobb, KFN's Fire Chief, explained the importance of the new facility—plus updated equipment—for the firefighters.

incidents. So it's just a matter of keeping the ball rolling, never being satisfied with where you are and being able to ask what else could we need? What else could we do?"

Equipment upgrades on the horizon

An important factor for fire departments across the province is ensuring they fall within the minimum standards guidelines—a challenge for smaller communities who have been relying on used trucks and turnout gear as a means to get by.

"We've been there and done that, and we have gratitude for anyone who's helped us along our way," Stan said. "One of the brightest parts of this whole project is that we did an assessment on the state of our equipment, and a lot of it is due for replacement. Hand in hand with the new hall will come the opportunity for proper fund-

ing for updated equipment. It's a win/win situation for the fire department, for the community and for the whole area."

Chief Taypotat agreed, reiterating the importance of the firefighters' ability to safely do their work.

"We have a really good volunteer fire department that goes above and beyond, and we're excited to get them this new building because they deserve it," he said.

Paying for the new building will take some time as some money was received through Indigenous Services Canada (\$1.5 million), but the bulk will be covered via a 25-year loan.

"Economically, we're always trying to add businesses," said Chief Taypotat. "So then if you can add that, it's a revenue stream to pay for the loan."

Ultimately, breaking ground on the new site is about a dream coming to fruition—one that will support future generations in the community.

"It's a day that's been long, long coming," Stan said. "Our Chief and Council have been very supportive of our team, and they have given us all the tools we needed, whenever we've requested them. The last thing that we really needed was a proper building. This certainly is a dream come true."

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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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New sclerotinia tool helps growers assess disease risk and severity



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.

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 infection, 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 significant 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.




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July was a month of ups and downs

Well, isn't that some serious heat?!?! After a rather cool spring, with an abundance of moisture in May and June, we certainly have had quite the turn-around in temperatures.

The day we pulled our boat to the lake in late June, we unhitched in rain. The day we actually went to the lake to stay, just a few days later, we arrived in a downpour which made unloading the truck and getting into the camper dry and mud-free a bit of a challenge. So much for the chicken that was slated for over-the-fire roasting that night! While we were crying, 'Rain, rain, go away,' that night in early July, who would have thought less than two weeks later we'd be wishing for a bit more rain!

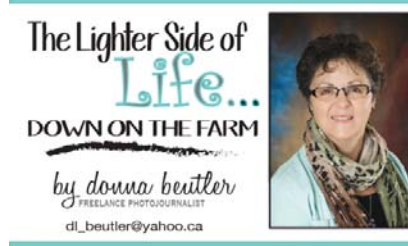
The start to our vacation away from the farm was delayed by a week or so this year as none other than moi ended up feeling less than wonderful one lazy Saturday afternoon, two days prior to what was to be our first lake day. How interesting that when you end up in the hospital freezing to death that the nurses (and they were oh so wonderful) won't give you a warm blanket because your temperature is too high. I tried to impress upon them that I was so, so cold and really needed a warm blanket. Their response was to bring me ice packs. I guess they didn't know I am more of a warm wheat-bag type of person?

When the nurses in Moosomin moved me from a room down the hall to a room close to the nurses' station with the explanation "Oh it's bigger and it's a private room—you'll like it much better," I knew they were getting a tad more concerned than what they let on. By the time they put another IV into my other hand "just as a precaution" I knew they were indeed concerned. They were right by my side almost every moment of that afternoon and evening as my fever raged on and my blood pressure kept dropping. Okay, now I was concerned!

As the hours progressed, nothing seemed to change and by midnight-ish, I was on my way to Regina. The ambulance attendants told me I was lucky because I was going in the "smooth-riding" ambulance. Hmmmm . . . I am pretty sure their definition of smooth is somewhat different than mine. It was one of the longest trips to the city I've ever taken, I am sure. How is it that you can be so incredibly tired that you can't even keep your eyes open yet can't sleep a wink?

As the days went on and they tried to figure out what was going on with me, I was hearing "gangrene," "flesh-eating disease," and other rather severe-sounding suggestions to what my body was fighting. By the time they put the tenth IV into my hand, I was ready to find an escape route out of that hospital. Long story short, I survived a deep tissue infection that took about five days to clearly reveal itself and while I was mighty sick for a few days, I was so well cared for and cared about by family and friends with visits and messages that I couldn't help but be incredibly thankful. While I was in the General, I developed an intense desire for strawberry jello (go figure) and an absolute gag reflex for anything that involved hospital hamburger or tuna fish sandwiches. The antibiotics may have cleared up my leg infection, but no amount of anything can undo the sight or the smell of hospital-prepared meat of any kind. Jello-makers, you rock!

Once I was declared well enough to head home, we began to look forward to the local 4-H show and our upcoming vacation to the lake. The twins, 13, and their sis-



ter, 15, have been busy again this year preparing for their local show as well as the regional show, both held over a three-day period at the Whitewood Livestock barns in early July. We were pretty proud grandparents seeing these teens with their animals all spiffed up and show-ready. I can't help but think of all the skills they are learning and the dedication it takes to raise an animal for show. Hats off 4-Hers everywhere!

One of the treats for us as we head off to the lake each year is to be joined by various grandchildren now and then. And while our campsite was a bit muddy and the mosquitoes were rather insane that first week out camping, our young camping guests were a delight!

The twins had only one thing in mind—getting out with Gramps on the boat and catching the 'big one.'

Every morning, and not as early as we used to get out (for some unknown reason), off Grampa and the twins went. And with any luck, we would see them back by early afternoon. Then off they would go again after supper for a couple of hours more to finish off the day. One evening when all of us went out into the 'fish-fly zone,' including the two youngest grands (8 and 10), one of the twins snagged the 'big one.' It was unbelievable! The rod was bent like a U-turn. It appeared Grams and Gramps

were both going to need to help out. Gramps stood up to help with the rod, I got the net ready and then there it was—the heaviest, soggiest piece of driftwood we had ever caught!

The afternoons were 'Gramma times' and oh what fun we had. We mini-golfed and we scavenger-hunted and we garage-saled and did some golf-ball searching. We swam and horsed around in the water and made the best of the super hot afternoons. We may even have made the ice cream lady rich in the space of a week and a half, especially on those days that felt like 38C. In fact, who really wants to barbecue chicken on those hot days when a poutine from the beach café will do the trick!?

While there's nothing quite like a break from the farm, there are some worries that don't necessarily disappear under the clear blue skies of a lake day. The reseeded canola and the sprayed, but flea beetle-damaged fields were a bit of a thorn in hubby's side. But there comes a point when you have to accept what is and what will be. And hopefully what will be won't be a big disappointment. This is the first year in my married life that I don't even have a vision of what the crops look like at this time of year because I basically went from a hospital bed to my comfy chair to my RV at the lake, bypassing our canola and wheat fields except for one pass-through down the highway.

But as July whips on by, we are already preparing for moving the RV home from the lake and getting ready for harvest season #50-something (for hubby). Year #47 for me. That seems like an awful lot of harvests under our belt and a whole lot of 'farm memories' we've made. And harvests seem to be the highlight of the year for us because, even though it may be the busiest, most stressful, and craziest time of the year, it's also filled with those moments of amazing sunsets, clear blue skies and star-studded skies, tail-gate meals, family times and funny moments. It's working together to bring in the fruits of our labour and so as our grain farmer friends and readers prepare for the 2024 harvests, hats off to you! See you in August!

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 <p>2016 Ford Edge Titanium 77,000 kms STOCK# 4S075A * Low Kms * Navigation * Heated Steering WAS \$29,900 \$24,868 \$136/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2021 Ford Escape SE 49,000 kms STOCK# 4S068A * Heated Steering * Heated Seats * Selectable Drive Modes WAS \$29,900 \$25,194 \$107/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2021 Ford Escape SE 42,000 kms STOCK# 4S078A * Low Kms * Sirius XM Radio * Heated Seats WAS \$29,900 \$25,994 \$111/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2018 Ford Edge Titanium 97,000 kms STOCK# 3T218A * 3.5L 6 Cyl * Heated seats * Navigation WAS \$31,900 \$27,681 \$116/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2022 Ford Edge Titanium 39,000 kms STOCK# 4S117A * Panoramic Roof * Hands Free Liftgate * Leather WAS \$43,900 \$38,789 \$164/WK OAC</p>
 <p>2021 Ford Expedition Stealth 103,000 kms STOCK# 4S085A * LOADS of space * 7 passenger * Road Trip Ready WAS \$68,900 \$62,909 \$263/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2015 Ford F150 Sport 268,000 kms STOCK# 4T100A * 5.0L V8 * Tow Package * Lots of Add-ons WAS \$22,900 \$22,900 \$195/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2017 Hyundai Tucson 127,000 kms STOCK# 4S048A * Great Value! * Great mileage! * Great price! WAS \$19,900 \$19,900 \$113/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2022 Ford F350 Lariat 60,000 kms STOCK# 4T133A * Diesel * Leather interior * Twin Panel Moonroof WAS \$86,900 \$86,900 \$332/WK OAC</p>	 <p>2019 Ford F250 Platinum 82,000 kms STOCK# 4T120A * Diesel * 5th Wheel Prep * Spray In Box Liner WAS \$79,900 \$79,900 \$336/WK OAC</p>



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