

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

September 2020 • Volume 13, Number 9



## Premier visits Kin-Ability Centre

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk visit with Moosomin Kin-Ability Centre clients Ryan Bender and Barry Gessell while learning about the hospital laundry services offered at the Kin-Ability Centre.



## Premier visits Moosomin rec facilities

Moosomin recreation director Mike Schwean gave Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe a tour of Moosomin recreation facilities Wednesday, including the Blue Moose Lounge. The premier attended

## An interview with Saskatchewan's premier as election looms

# Moe looks back on first term, ahead to election

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe recently visited the World-Spectator office in Moosomin, where Plain and Valley is published, for an interview. Moe became Saskatchewan's premier in February of 2018 and will be facing the voters in a provincial election on October 26. Following is the full interview with World-Spectator and Plain and Valley editor Kevin Weedmark:

We were at the Saskatchewan Party leadership convention back in 2018 when you won the leadership. I took a few photos as the results were announced. As the results of the final ballot were announced, people around you were on their feet, cheering and you were seated, with your eyes closed, looking like a monk in deep meditation. What were you thinking at that moment?

I was actually already thinking 'boy we have a lot of work to do.' Because we did.

"We actually drove down and we started work the next morning at 10 o'clock, we were in the Legislature and starting on our transition.

So as those numbers were read off, there were a couple things going through my mind. One, just as we won, we have a lot of things to do and we need to do them in a hurry.

And two, just before that moment, I was still thinking about what I was going to say, win or lose, to ensure that the party would continue in a healthy fashion. When you enter a race you have to be prepared to not only win but also be prepared to lose, and I was prepared for either outcome that evening.

But I remember my family's reaction. Both the kids were excited for different reasons. My son doesn't particularly like politics but he loves winning. My daughter loves politics and she understood what it all was about. My wife was thinking, 'oh my goodness, what have we gotten into,' and I was already starting to contemplate the work ahead.

What was your main goal when you became Premier two and a half years ago? What did you want to accomplish before the 2020 election?

My immediate goals coming out of that evening were twofold. If you think back to that particular evening, the state of the province's finances, we were on a three-year path to balance the budget here in Saskatchewan, and so that was number one or that was most certainly a goal that I wanted to continue on the path that we had, and I wanted to accelerate it if we were able.

Goal number two was, any time there is a leadership race, you have a number of leadership candidates—we have seen it at the federal level a few times in the last few years—that are out and they are really pushing on the edges of the policy within the party and it's a healthy process.

The first couple of terms of the Saskatchewan Party government, Brad Wall seemed to be the personification of the Saskatchewan Party. How have you tried to put your own stamp on the Sask Party government over the last two years?

I've said since the beginning, I'm not Brad. Brad was a great leader and I think he will go down in history as a great Premier, one of the greatest Premiers of the province. Most certainly in my mind that statement is true. You're right—Brad was the persona and he was a great communicator and a great leader—but what I have tried to do is bring a little bit of a different flavor, if you will, where it isn't all about Scott Moe. The Saskatchewan Party isn't just about our elected members that are in caucus either, although that is who represents the Saskatchewan Party and represents the people collectively across the province as their government.

We hope to have the honour to continue to serve as this province's government if the people of this province are willing, for the next four years, because we are heading to an election on October the 26th, but the Saskatchewan Party is even much broader than our caucus members.

It's all of the people that are a part of the party, that were at that evening of the leadership convention, but also all of the people that participated in that process, and also all of the people across this province that believe in the direction of, not just this party, but the direction of the province.

We have a real opportunity coming, post-Covid. When you look at the economic opportunity that this province actually has—we traditionally produce food, fuel and fertilizer and we send that all around the world, but as we move forward and expand our horizons we are seeing a whole sector of our economy emerge based on innovation and technology that we have never had before.

We're seeing the manufacturing sector really start to increase, which 15, 25 years ago we didn't have here. And that industry isn't far from here as well with Vaderstad at Langbank as well as all of the manufacturing that is associated with the energy industry and the mining industry which is very front of mind here in Moosomin.

So that collaborative effort, bringing those grassroots ideas up from, not only party members but community members, through our MLAs, into the caucus, into the cabinet and into the decision making process of the government of Saskatchewan, is paramount.

I would say that the focus on the grassroots ideas is more than it's ever been.

What are you most proud of in your time as premier, and what would you have done differently?

Well throughout this Covid pandemic there are a number of things that I would have probably done differently had I known what I know today.

But with respect to what we would be most proud of over the course of the last two-and-a-half years, it would be the release of the plan for growth, and the goal of growing the province to 1.4 million people and between now and 2030 to start checking off some of those boxes.

Continued on page 7

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**Back to school Covid-style**

It was a cautious back to school for children around Saskatchewan and Manitoba the week of September 8 as they headed back to classrooms with new precautions in place for Covid-19. Among those precautions were wearing masks, having dedicated meeting points or separate entrances before heading into the school in cohorts, set times to be in the hallways so that cohorts don't meet, and staying with the same class of kids throughout the day.

**Above left:** Teachers at MacLeod School in Moosomin meeting their student on the first day of school at meet points to help ensure classes stay together. **Left:** Elkhorn School students wearing masks in class. **Above:** Elkhorn School students coming off the bus with masks.



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**Thank You**

Banister Pipeline Corp would like to thank the Town of Moosomin, the surrounding municipalities, and the local businesses for their hospitality while we were in the area working on the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project.

Thank you to the local farmers along the right of way.

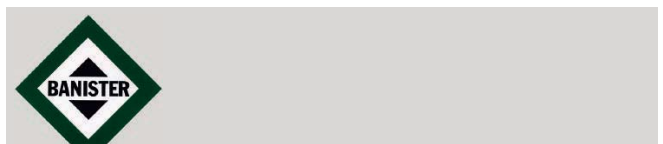
Also, a big thank you to the local health care workers and the staff at the South East Integrated Care Centre.

We'd also like to thank Enbridge for their input on Covid-19 safety measures.

We understand that we were working in the area at a difficult and uncertain time with Covid-19, and we appreciate the hospitality shown to us.

We hope the Moosomin area continues to stay healthy and safe!

– From Banister and all our staff, and Glen Huston, Superintendent with Banister Pipeline Corp





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**Left:** Near Kelso, the last piece of land along the 1,070-km Line 3 replacement pipeline right of way has been reclaimed to pre-construction condition or better.

**Above:** The project ran Covid-free, thanks to Enbridge's strict Safe Work Protocol. Almost 25,000 temperature checks were conducted at the Moosomin field office over 10 weeks, all with negative results.

# Enbridge wraps up line 3 work in area

Final topsoil replacement spells the end of major project work on the new Line 3 pipeline

On a sunny Friday afternoon in late August, 38 kilometres southwest of Moosomin near the hamlet of Kelso, Saskatchewan, a small grading crew replaced the final blades of topsoil along the 1,070-km Canadian Line 3 Replacement Program (L3RP) right-of-way.

By Saturday, August 22, the soil had been cultivated and contoured, crimped straw laid down to avoid erosion from the prairie winds, and the final piece of land along the pipeline route was ready to return to productive agricultural use.

"The yellow iron (heavy equipment) is all off the right of way," says Al Sawatzky, L3RP Construction Manager, referring to the color of the heavy equipment used during construction. "It's very satisfying."

"The farming part of the job—seeding,

straw crimping, weed control—is ongoing. We will continue to monitor the right of way and complete our warranty work. We don't walk away from any of our commitments."

The completion of reclamation along the new pipeline route spells the end of major project work on the replacement pipeline which carried on over four seasons of intense field activity (2017-2020) and three years of regulatory and prep work preceding construction (2013-2016).

Only the decommissioning of the original Line 3 remains to complete the entire project scope. Decommissioning is anticipated to occur over two phases, beginning in the spring of 2021 and to be complete by fall 2022.

"This is one of the largest projects in En-

bridge's history and it's been extremely well executed, with a stellar safety, environment and quality performance throughout," says Dave Lawson, Vice President, Major Projects with Enbridge.

"I'd like to acknowledge our appreciation for the tremendous support we've received from governments, landowners, municipalities and Indigenous communities, labour unions, business organizations such as chambers of commerce, and industry associations like CAEPLA (the Canadian Association of Pipeline Landowners' Associations)," he adds.

"Having such a broad spectrum of society 'on board' from the beginning was critical to getting the project off the ground and maintaining momentum throughout."

This year's final reclamation, which took

place over 10 weeks this summer from a base in Moosomin, came in with a zero TRIF (Total Recordable Injury Frequency), and no environmental incidents.

With the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic earlier this year, Enbridge put in place a Safe Work Protocol to prevent potential spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of the 230-strong workforce.

Almost 25,000 temperature checks were conducted during the project, all negative results with no one requiring a visit to the onsite paramedic.

Five workers who declared they were not feeling well needed to leave the site for Covid testing and then self-isolated for 14 days, following the protocol. All later returned to work.

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SALE ENDS SEPTEMBER 23



# An interview with Sask Premier Scott Moe

Continued from page 1

And that's what I'll be most proud of is that we are a province where now, for the second time, we have laid out and believe in the fact that we can grow our communities and we can grow our province.

We do that by growing our economic opportunities, and I always say the recipe for success in Saskatchewan is just not that complicated.

We produce things, we mine things and we make things, and we sell them to other areas of the world. Our export industries are a source of wealth in our communities and across Saskatchewan, whether it's uranium or potash mining, whether it's rare earth elements.

The energy we produce, the agricultural products, the food products that we produce, the manufacturing that we do that services each and every one of those industries—this is what we do and we do it very well in Saskatchewan, and it is our source of wealth. If we can increase that export value, not just the volume, but increase that export value, we create careers and we create the opportunity for people to move here. Of all of the targets in the plan for growth, first and foremost among them, is to increase our population to 1.4 million people.

Well that just doesn't happen by itself, people don't just move here because it's a sunny place, they move here because there is a career and an opportunity to better their life. They stay here—our children, that next generation, will stay here if there is an opportunity for a career and a good life.

That hasn't always been here. The people that I graduated with don't all live in Saskatchewan, but I look at my son's generation, in his mid 20's, many of them do, many of them have chosen to stay here, so the recipe for success has been working for about the last decade or better now, and what I'm most proud of is the fact that we have a plan out to 2030 to continue and to build on that success and to grow our province even further.

Now the hard work comes, in particular, since we've been through this economic curve ball if you will, health and economic curveball, of a global pandemic, but I still believe there's tremendous opportunity on the back side of this virus.

## What have been the biggest challenges for your government?

We have had significant challenges as a government.

In the very early days, I remember it quite vividly because I was out speaking at the Manning Centre in Ottawa and it was a Friday evening and we had our ruling come down in the Gerald Stanley case. I quickly flew back and met with all of the tribal chiefs and the family and the chief of the FSIN to work through some of what the next steps were in healing as communities across province.

I think of the Humboldt bus crash that we had not too long after that. And that was a tragedy of such a proportion and that I just can't imagine.

And more recently there's the global pandemic. The challenges of the global pandemic are not immediate but they are severe and we often use the term that the response to this pandemic is a marathon, it's not a sprint, and that's proving to be true. We are not through it yet by any stretch.

The challenges have been great, but I think what the challenge will be as we look ahead is we are going to continue with the health care challenges we have with the Covid-19 pandemic.

But we are starting to have very active conversations with those very industries that create wealth in our communities that I referenced earlier, on how do we best place our Saskatchewan industries so that we can recover as we work our way through what hopefully are the final months of this pandemic.

How do we ensure that Saskatchewan potash is being viewed by the world as not only an available, ethically sound product, a sustainably produced product, but the product that you should actually purchase because of its quality, its price and how it's produced.

The same with the agri-food products in Saskatchewan. Do we have an opportunity to climb the value-added chain when it comes to the agri-food products to create jobs and put people to work here, and looking very closely at capitalizing on any of those opportunities that may arise.

The same holds true with uranium mining, the same holds true with our energy



## Premier visits Moosomin

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe points out the reactions of people in a World-Spectator photo from the moment it became clear he won the Saskatchewan Party leadership in 2018 as he sits down for an interview with World-Spectator and Plain and Valley editor Kevin Weedmark.

industry, which has been particularly challenged throughout this pandemic due to—let's call it what it is—federal policies that have been put in place over the course of the last four or five years as well as a global price war that has been engineered by a couple of countries.

The energy industry is one that does require significant attention moving forward. I think there is opportunity here on September 23rd for the federal government to really address the difference between rebuilding an economy—which would include rebuilding the energy industry economy here in Western Canada and Atlantic Canada, as it is one of the most sustainable energy sources in the world—as opposed to the words that I hear from the federal government when they talk about their speech from the throne—building a greener economy.

What we need to do here in Saskatchewan and in Canada is to rebuild and recover the existing economies that have created wealth traditionally in our communities across the province, and we need to recognize from an environmental perspective what they are already doing.

## One of our main resource industries in this area is the potash industry and some in the industry are worried about the competitiveness of the industry here in Saskatchewan compared to other parts of the world in terms of regulations and the tax structure. Do you think it is time for a review of regulations and taxes for the potash industry?

The challenge with, let's use potash as an example, is the competitors in other areas of the world are in Russia, Byelorussia, places such as that, where they have nowhere close to the labour standards and nowhere close, even near, the environmental standards that we have here in Saskatchewan.

Yes that does add cost to the product that we are producing here but there is another side to this, as Saskatchewan has, and the potash industry will be quick to tell you this, the most sustainably produced potash in the world. It's available right here from Saskatchewan.

But this is a time for us—not only at the provincial level, but also at the federal level—to ensure that the regulations that we do have in place are not placing onerous costs on the industry and there are opportunities for us to work with, in this case, the potash industry.

We have done some work with the energy industry.

Is there an opportunity for us to really align regulations so that we get the same outcome, particularly if it's an environmental outcome that the regulations are trying to address or whatever the outcome is, but is there an opportunity for us to really align those regulations so that the cost to the industry isn't as great and the opportunity continues to be there for the industry to survive?

We have done some of that over the course of the last few months with the energy industry, and those are important discussions for us to have as we look to rebuild these industries.

And we not only want to rebuild back to pre-Covid levels in the potash industry, the energy industry, all of the industries in Sas-

katchewan, we actually want to start growing again to achieve some of the growth targets that we set out in our plan for growth.

We are almost back, we are not quite back, but we are getting there, back to the number of jobs we had pre-Covid.

We are leading the nation in our employment rate but there is more work to do. We want to, very quickly, get back to the pre-Covid employment levels so then we can start to focus in on the targets that we have and start growing the economy.

## How do you frame the upcoming election? What is the choice voters will be making this fall?

The choice that voters will have this fall is who is best to recover the economy.

We have come through a health care pandemic that has had a tremendous impact on the economy far and wide, across this nation and around the world.

The world is starting to reopen.

Here in Saskatchewan we are fortunate we did not close down as much as other provinces and other areas in the world, in fact 87 per cent of people in this province continued to work throughout the pandemic.

We have recovered. For those that were unable to work during the pandemic, we have recovered at a faster rate than any other province and we have what the world needs to recover.

As far as the election and the question that people will be asking themselves as they go into the voters booth is—there are two parties that have seats in the legislature today and the question will be who is best to recover the economy here in Saskatchewan, who is best to ensure that people can get back to work in their communities, and I would put forward that we have a growth plan out to the year 2030 and we have a track record with the previous growth plan.

So we have a growth plan for the province on how we are going to grow those very industries and expand and use those industries that have created wealth in this province for decades, half a century and a century in some cases, here in the province. We look forward to putting that into action, and I would put forward the other guys are just simply a risk that this province cannot afford.

## What will be your priorities in the next term if you are re-elected?

Next term, top priorities are number one—recovering the economy. We need to get everyone that was working pre-Covid back to work and then we need to focus in on exactly those industries that are creating jobs in our communities and those source wealth industries.

I call them our export based industries, that's where we sell things to other places all around the world and we use those dollars to fuel the activity in our economies.

The chances are, in Saskatchewan, if the company you work with isn't directly exporting product to another area of the world, then your company is servicing someone that is. For example our auto dealers are selling to farmers, they are selling to energy workers, they are selling to people that work at the potash mines. They are servicing an export based industry.

Our rural newspapers for example—

much of the work that you do is focused on agriculture. Here in Moosomin you would also be focused on mining and would also be focused on the energy industry. You in an indirect way are servicing those export based industries.

MNP, the accounting firm across the street, would service all of the industries in the area, and they would be quick to tell you, being an accounting firm, how important those export based industries are.

That's where the source of our wealth comes from in this province.

If we focus on increasing the value of our exports, the industries that service those export related industries, those export based industries will do well.

## The polls show the Saskatchewan Party leading in every region of the province right now and that it has added a bit to its lead over the summer. How does that impact how you run your campaign?

We run our campaign like we are 10 points behind.

We have been out in essentially what is full campaign mode now for months and we will continue right up to and including Election Day on October 26th.

You don't get the opportunity to serve the people of this province as their government by any poll.

You receive that opportunity on Election Day, and so the polls are out there to discuss trends and to inform the public on where those particular polls think the general trend is.

The fact of the matter is elections aren't about polls. Elections are about interactions between MLAs, like Steven Bonk, and his constituents, the people that he serves.

We run every election like we are coming from behind. This one is absolutely no different. We have been working at essentially 100% capacity for the last couple of months.

Even before that we were up to a level of election readiness and we will continue knocking on every door, talking to every constituent across this province, including in the constituency of Moosomin, and asking for their support on October 26th so we can put into action our plan which we feel is the best plan on how we are going to recover and grow the economy here in the province.

## What is your vision of this province? What do you want Saskatchewan to be?

A bigger, better, more wealthy and a more caring place. The driving force behind the Saskatchewan Party hasn't changed.

It's about growth. Growing the economy, growing the opportunity so that people can move here, and they have, but so also our children and that next generation can stay here.

That grows the population.

With that growing population you can take the proceeds of that and reinvest them back into your communities, and that's why we are in Moosomin here today, to announce and confirm some of the investment through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program, or the MEEP program, which never occurred 10 years ago.

That is a program that we had brought in to ensure that our municipalities can continue with their infrastructure plans throughout this Covid pandemic.

We will use Moosomin as the example, there is \$600,000 that was provided to Moosomin up front this year in revenue sharing and almost \$400,000 supplied through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program.

That's a million dollars in the community of Moosomin that was not available in 2007. It's through the government that the people in Moosomin and across the province have chosen that those dollars have been made available, not only to Moosomin, but every municipality, rural and urban, across the province.

That's a true partnership and that's true respect of the different levels of government and how they serve the very same constituents that we all represent collectively.

And so I think of the commitment that this government has had not only to its municipalities but to the education sector, to the advanced education sector, to our highways and infrastructure, is indicative of a government that wants to continue on our growth agenda so that we can continue ultimately to reinvest into our province.

So grow our economy, grow our population and take the proceeds and reinvest it back into health care, highways, municipalities and education.





### Filipino food fundraiser

On August 15 and 16 in Rocanville, Rhoselyn and Norman Tolentino hosted a Filipino food fundraiser for Barry Aiken. Aiken was recently diagnosed with stage four cancer and his kindness throughout the community has led others to step up and help him in a time of need. Along with the Tolentino's, Rhose, Frank, Zheryl, and Janlyn Perante were helping with the food fundraiser. They also thanked, Russel Filipino Store, Arlene and Joel Deramas, Jun and Rose Lomerio, and Mike and Maureen Catacutan for their contributions to the fundraiser.

**Left:** Rhoselyn Tolentino, Laurel St. Onge, Zheryl Perante, Rhose Perante, Janlyn Perante, Frank Perante, Terri Lalonde, and Norman Tolentino.  
**Right:** Barry Aiken and Terri Lalonde.

## Family is about more than blood for Barry Aiken

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Certain people have the ability to light up a room, make you feel like you belong within seconds of talking to them, and invite laughter and smiles to every conversation. That's Barry Aiken in a nutshell.

Not only is Aiken known for his friendliness and giving nature, but he's known for his resiliency and toughness. That attitude has never shone through more clearly than the way he's attacking life despite a recent stage four cancer diagnosis.

The combination of his cancer diagnosis and the Covid-19 pandemic leading to Aiken being laid off has put him and his partner Terri Lalonde in a tough situation. They plan on moving to Edmonton to be closer to family and to help them out Riley and Laurel St. Onge put together a donation campaign for Barry and Terri while Rhoselyn and Norman Tolentino organized a Filipino food fundraiser.

Aiken is just the type of person whose kindness leads to others paying it forward with kindness of their own, and that's what has played out here with two different families stepping up to help out where they can for a man they believe deserves it.

Laurel St. Onge and son Riley feel so strongly about Barry and Terri that they set up donation campaign to help Barry and Terri in such an uncertain and tough time. "Barry and Terri both worked at Rocanville home centre with my son (Riley) and they became good friends and then friends with us, too," said Laurel St. Onge.

"When we saw that he needed help, in the back of my mind I knew we needed to do something for him, but we just didn't have the time. Then when I saw he was moving to be closer to family I thought 'time's running out here and we've got to do something whether we've got time or not.'

"They're just really good people. Even when we talked to the credit union in Rocanville—where we set up the funding—they said to us, 'we're so glad somebody is doing something for him because they're such nice people and he's such a hard worker.' This is somebody who really needs it and deserves it. With everything going on right now we just knew we needed to do something.

"We thought just a fundraiser online where people can either donate at a Conexus—they can do that at any Conexus in the area—or they can just go online and donate with an e-transfer at benefitaiken@gmail.com," she said. "This is a direct donation to them so what you donate all goes to them. Everybody thinks the world of them and he just needs some help. We are family, we're not blood family, but we are family. That's just the way we view them.

"They're very humble people. The girls at the credit union were so happy someone is doing something because they're so nice. At Christmas time Barry and Terri brought them treats and every time he has chemo or was in the hospital here, he brings donuts for the staff. They're just very giving and thoughtful people. They give to everybody so this is a chance for somebody to give back to them."

Despite the hard times he's going through, Aiken couldn't feel more humbled and appreciative of his

friends, who he refers to as family, while sitting outside on a warm summer day enjoying the Filipino food fundraiser in his honour.

"When they said they were going to do this for us, it just touched my heart," he said. "I'm 69 years old and I find out I have stage four cancer and then these people step up and do this for me? Wow, it's just amazing. You can't ask for a better family—it's overwhelming. You deal with all this and then you've got folks like this who step up and don't quit, they just go ahead and do it. You can't ask for anything more. I'd do the same for them in a heartbeat and they know that. They're amazing people.

"It's hard enough to accept that you've got cancer and to deal with that and everything else. Financially, we can't survive here anymore so we're going to be moving to Edmonton and be close to family because who knows how long I've got. They tell me I have a year and a half, but I said, 'you don't know me.' We're moving at the end of the month and then all these people stepped up to help us financially, it's overwhelming.

"We got to work with this young lady (Rhoselyn Tolentino) at the Co-op and we got to know her and basically adopted her as our granddaughter," he said. "Then the rest of her family is basically all of our family. We fell in love with everybody and they accepted us and we accepted them as family. Them doing this for us means so much. Yesterday was so busy, they sold out by 3 p.m., it's been unbelievable. You can smell how good it is through the town. It's been awesome."

Aiken and his wife Terri have lived their lives helping other people out because it's the right thing to do and the support they've received in their time of need is how others are paying them back for all they've done in the community.

"My wife and I, we're the same," he said. "If somebody needs some help then we help them. We had a restaurant at one time and we had a food truck at one time and we helped people out. We've fed people for nothing because we knew they didn't have any money and we wanted to make people feel good. Just because you have a restaurant doesn't mean that you can't help people, it was the

same with the food truck. We'd give people hamburgers and hotdogs because we knew they didn't have the money and we wanted to help them.

"It all comes down to respect. A lot of people don't know the meaning of that word anymore. Show respect to everyone. People sometimes forget what it's like to have nothing and we haven't forgotten that, it's all about picking up your socks and keeping on going and it's important to keep coming back stronger than before. We try to help everyone as much as we can.

Given the circumstances, many people would struggle to keep pushing on to live their life—but that's not Barry Aiken, he's a fighter.

"I got laid off because of Covid-19 and two weeks later I found I've got stage four cancer, our life went down real quick, but we're not giving up," he said.

"You've got to keep fighting. A lot of people give up too easily. Yes, cancer is not fun, this is not curable what I have. They can regulate it and prolong my life, but can't cure it and I've accepted that. A lot of people give up mentally, but it's over as soon as you do, so I won't. You've got to live your life, I'm not giving up. I've got too much to live for, I've got my beautiful wife with me and I'm not going anywhere."

"My dad used to say this and I say it to Barry, 'hell doesn't want him, heaven is afraid he's taking over, so he ain't going nowhere,'" said Terri Lalonde.

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# Parkland College is ready to welcome students

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On August 31, Parkland College opened the doors of its campuses to students with strict new protocols and new ways of approaching post-secondary education in place.

"We spent most of the summer preparing for COVID-19. We figured out how many students we can have at a time, we set all our classrooms up so we can have the social distancing and we implemented our protocols to make sure that when students or staff come onto the campus that the protocols are followed so that they will be safe and kept healthy on our campuses," said Mark Hoddenbagh, President and CEO of Parkland College.

"We have face masks that are now required in all public and common areas. Staff and students may take them off if they are in the classrooms or in their offices as long as they can maintain physical distancing. So if a student goes in and sits at their desk, they can take it off, but if a teacher comes over to help them with something, they have to put their mask back on again."

It isn't just the protocols and class sizes that are new, Parkland has made sure the information and materials to keep safe are available too.

"We have signs we have cleaning materials, we have an increased cleaning schedule. So we have that in place for our students," said Hoddenbagh.

Another weapon against spreading the virus is reducing the amount of students that will be on campus at one time.

"Not all students will be on campus all year, some will only come in once or twice a week for shorter periods of time, obviously for our shops and our labs or anything that requires 'hands on' will be done face to face, but again we have got the proper protocols in place there to ensure our students are kept safe," said Hoddenbagh.

The preparedness for the new semester is in part due to the work put in over the summer by college and its staff.

"It is something that is new; no has one gone through this before, so everyone is trying to figure out the best way to do this. We kept in touch with government officials, we kept in touch with other institutions, federal guidelines for international students, we made sure we are very much aware of what the guidelines are and then we implemented them on our campuses, so it was a lot of work because we had to first figure out how to do it, then we had to set everything up. It was quite a bit of work, but if it keeps our staff and our students and visitors to our campus safe, it is well worth it. It was a very different summer, some of our staff did not get as many holidays as they normally would like to have had," said Hoddenbagh.

## Blended learning for the future

One of the new terms that have become common in these strange times is "blended learning."



One of the many signs that welcomed students on Parkland College Campuses the first week of classes

"Blended learning is face to face, online, hands on. Its different ways of delivering our programs. Our real desire was how can we help our students be successful? Many of our students are students who have been out of school for a while, so they really do need that face to face on a regular basis, and so we thought about how can we do that and support our students and at the same time keep them safe. Those are the two things we kind of had to juxtapose together to provide a good learning experience and be able to get our students the support that they need while also keeping them safe," said Hoddenbagh.

Along with getting the campus COVID-19 ready, the other big challenge was making sure instructors would be comfortable teaching in new ways.

"The other (challenge) was how do we get our instructors up to speed to be able to teach in an online environment. Even though they are not doing everything online, they were still doing a significant amount of stuff online,"

said Hoddenbagh.

The school was in the works of making online teaching more accessible in the future, but COVID-19 changed all that.

"Six months ago, we were thinking of providing online programming as part of our five-year strategic plan and all of a sudden we had to get all of our instructors up to speed in a hurry. That was a real challenge, but the instructors stepped up and we got through the training so I think it is going to be a much better experience for our students this semester than it was finishing off last semester when we were scrambling to get all those things done during the shut down," said Hoddenbagh.

There is no really way to predict how the future is going to look, but there were some good lessons learned during these strange times that can be carried forward beyond a time of COVID-19.

"We will certainly have a higher awareness and attention to health and safety, not that we didn't have that in the past, but we will have a different focus going forward," said Hoddenbagh.

"A second thing will be the online stuff, we are not going back from that. There is a very good reason for that. Most of our students when they graduate they will end up being in an environment where they will have some kind of digital component and if they don't know to work that digital component when they leave college, we have not done our jobs," said Hoddenbagh.

It all goes back to making sure students leave Parkland prepared for the real world. "Even in the trades now, there is work done on a device, so we have to really help our students understand that digital world and how digital technologies work so they will be adaptable to whatever they encounter," said Hoddenbagh.

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**SOUTH EAST CORNERSTONE**  
 Public School Division #209

**NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**BOARD MEMBER**  
 South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209  
 Subdivision Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Board Office, 80A-18th Street N.E., Weyburn and during regular business hours from September 11, 2020 to October 6, 2020, at the Board Office, 80A-18th Street N.E., Weyburn, SK.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following locations:  
 The Board Website: [www.secpsd.ca](http://www.secpsd.ca)  
 The Board Office at  
 80A-18th Street N.E. Weyburn, SK.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2020

Shelley Toth, Returning Officer

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# Zach Gehl breaks world record in sparring

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When a global pandemic closes down the entire world and postpones or cancels events, what is a young up-and-coming MMA fighter to do to stay fit and sharp?

In the case of 19-year-old Zach Gehl from Esterhazy, you train up to break the world record for most rounds sparring in one go on August 29. If you are the kind of person that Gehl is, you also do it as a charity event to help out Yorkton Martial Arts Training Center, the gym that supported you, and for kids who might want to take up fighting.

"I've been training since I was 13 and competing at a high level since I was 15," said Gehl.

His high level competing has taken him all over north America including Las Vegas, Reno, Chicago and as far south as New Orleans. Gehl was particularly fond of fighting in Las Vegas.

"There is always big fights going on there so it was interesting competing in the same place where so many large events have taken place," said Gehl.

At age 13, Gehl fell victim to something too many kids have to deal with – bullying. However, he decided to take action.

"I started because I was getting bullied so I wanted to build my self-confidence and, if it ever came to having to defend myself, I'd rather know how than not know how to," said Gehl.

He felt at home in the world of fighting, but that did not make the training any easier.

"I was quite bad at it for the first year at least. I didn't win anything in the first year (I competed). It was getting through, not being co-ordinated and not being good that was the hardest thing," said Gehl.

## World Record

The idea to go for the world record was a combination of a few factors, all brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Before COVID-19, I would compete once every two months at minimum, but mostly once a month. When COVID-19 started, there was no competing of any kind obviously and even training was shut down. I had to have some kind of goal to keep that competitive spirit going," said Gehl.

The idea was to keep training interesting and attempt something that would push him.

"So, I started to research world records because I thought that would be cool, then I saw the sparring one."

The previous record for sparring was held by writer and actor Daniel P. Lewis from Liverpool, England. He broke the previous record of 141 consecutive rounds in August 2019.

Like Lewis, Gehl would take on this Herculean task for charity.



Zach Gehl in the boxing ring at Yorkton Martial Arts Training Center just before the 19 year old took on 150 sparring rounds to break the world record.

"It worked out that I could support my gym that I have been going to since I was 13 and the money I donate to the gym will be going to classes for kids that would otherwise not be able to take martial arts. So it was kind of a win, win, win," said Gehl.

To break the record Gehl would have to spar for 144, three minute rounds and only take one minute breaks between each round. However Gehl felt he wanted to go for 150 rounds.

Two of the people Gehl sparred against were his own father and mother.

His father came in at round 143 when Gehl tied the record and he sparred his mother in the round 144 the round that officially broke the world record.

"It was good. Most of the time we don't spar each other but it was kind of interesting. They supported me so much through all of my competing so it was nice that they got those rounds," said Gehl.

## Round 100 and beyond

Any endurance athlete will tell you that there comes a point where the body shuts down and all that remains is mental endurance.

"At about round 100, I had nothing left physically so it was all mental from that point on," said Gehl.

In a standard kick boxing fight, on the level that Gehl competes, there are three rounds of three minutes each, so training for the 150 rounds was a bit different from what Gehl was used to.

"I completely changed my training for this, obviously, because you can't prepare for three rounds

the way you prepare for 150. I went all in on the cardio aspect. It is completely different from what my body was used to," said Gehl.

It is the mental game that can lead to breaking records.

"I just focused on every round. You just kind of have to get through it. You get into a zen state. You just have to say to yourself, 'You got to round 100 why would you stop now?' You just have to hear your way through it," said Gehl.

## Turning 150 rounds into 155 classes

Gehl only needed to get to 144 rounds, but powered through to 150.

"I just thought that 150 was a nice round number," said Gehl.

It also meant that he for every round he sparred, he secured another kid a free martial arts lesson.

"What I was really happy with is that I raised \$2,950 and that translates into 155 classes for kids. That was definitely why I did this record. It wasn't just for me to say I got a world record. The gym I go to shut down because of COVID-19, so I thought this would be a great way to support them, and support kids, because I know how much it (martial arts) helped me," said Gehl.

When the last bell rang and the 150 rounds ended, so did the zen of it all.

"I was in a zen state, but after that, you kind of realize how sore you are. You pop back into normal and you realize that everything is in immense pain," said Gehl.



Some of the people who attended and helped out the day Zach Gehl beat the world record for boxing sparring.

Left to right: Kiana Campbell, Edmond North, Andrew Holfman, Dillon Zolkavich, Lee Seaton, Isaac Forster, Jordan Stewart, Matt Ball, Mike Forster, Zachary Gehl, Bryan Rocas, Ryan Gehl and Delphine Gehl.

## The Future

With a world record and countless medals to his name, Gehl wants to get in the octagon for an MMA fight.

"I want to definitely get an MMA fight, that is my next goal because it is what all this has been leading up to. COVID-19 shut all that down, so I am just keeping on training until I get an MMA fight. (Before COVID-19) I was supposed to have a kickboxing fight in Minnesota with a ranked guy. It is on hold, but that is still in the

works," said Gehl.

Gehl has two tips for anyone who thinks about getting into martial arts training.

"The first tip I would give is actually entering the door of the gym, because that can be intimidating. I know it was for me, but it is like a big hurdle you have to get over. When you see the people you realize it is not scary it is not some action movie where everyone is screaming at each other, or anything. It is a really nice atmosphere.

Tip two is sticking with

it. If you stop you lose your progress," said Gehl.

## Gratitude

A feat like this can't be done alone. Gehl is very grateful to everyone that was in his corner.

"I would like to thank Yorkton Martial Arts Training Center for hosting the event, the 17 sparring partners that sparred me making this record possible and everyone who donated to give in need kids free kick boxing and jiu jitsu classes," said Gehl.

## BOARD OF REVISION TOWN OF MELITA

Under Section 41 of the Municipal Assessment Act, Public Notice is hereby given, that the 2021 Added and Reduced Assessments, as well as the 2021 Preliminary Assessment Roll, for the Town of Melita have been delivered to the Town Office at 79 Main St., Melita, Manitoba, and will be open for public inspection during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of the Municipal Assessment Act.

### APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42(1) A person in whose name the property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under subsection 114(1) of the Real Property Act, an occupier of the premises who is required under the terms of the lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make an application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- Liability to taxation;
- Amount of an assessed value;
- Classification of property; or
- A refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under Section 13(2).

### 43(1) An application for revision must:

- Be made in writing;
- Set out roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which revision is sought;
- State the grounds on which the application is based;
- Be filed by:-
- Delivering or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under subsection 41(2); or
- Serving it upon the secretary at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled sitting of the Board, as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications on October 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Town of Melita.

The deadline for receipt of applications by the secretary of the Board is 5:00 p.m., on Monday, October 12, 2020.

Sandra Anderson, Secretary  
Board of Revision, Town of Melita  
Box 364, 79 Main St.  
Melita, MB R0M 1L0





# Highway 8 near Rocanville, Highway 308 to Welwyn, passing lanes on Highway 16 included: Highways announces record \$437 million fall tender

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The province has released \$437.4 million in new highways projects in its 2020 Fall Tender, the largest in Saskatchewan history.

The province says the new projects will stimulate the economy and improve the safety and reliability of a number of highways across the province.

"Our government is excited to announce a number of great highways projects in this year's record Fall Tender schedule," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit said.

"We have listened to industry and put the tender schedule out earlier than ever before, which mitigates the risk of rising prices and ensures the best value for the taxpayer."

Putting projects on the market earlier also gives contractors time to plan for the upcoming construction season.

"For the last several years, our industry has been asking the provincial government to release the Fall Tender Schedule earlier," Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association President Shantel Lipp said.

"This is the earliest the Fall Tender Schedule has been released and it will help our industry plan much more effectively and ensure gravel is where it needs to be for the start of the construction season next May."

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure publishes tender plans in the spring and fall so industry may prepare to bid on upcoming projects.

Passing lanes highlight the package which includes the completion of a multi-year, multi-passing lane project on Highway 7 from Saskatoon to the Saskatchewan/Alberta border.

Additional highlights include:  
 Highway 8 resurfacing near Rocanville;  
 Highway 16 passing lanes from Springside to Saltcoats;  
 Highway 16 passing lanes from Saltcoats to the Manitoba border.

Various culverts and bridge rehabilitations and replacements.

## Highways 8 and 308

The work on Highway 8 and Highway 308 will be advertised for tender in October.

The work includes 27.71 km of paving  
 "The project includes about 11.5 km on Highway 308 from the intersection of Highway 8," said Steve Shaheen of Saskatchewan Highways.

"It also includes paving from Rocanville to about 16 km north. Highway 8 between Highway 308 and Rocanville is not currently planned."

No other paving on Highway 8 is in the plans right now.

"There is not anything else to announce right now," said Shaheen. "The ministry will continue to monitor and prioritize the remainder of the corridor for future work."

## Passing lanes on Highway 16

The passing lanes along Highway 16 will be tendered in February 2021.

"The Highway 16 passing lanes project is still in the design phase," said Shaheen. "The section of highway from Yorkton to the Saskatchewan/Manitoba hasn't been finalized, but initially it is looking at three to four sets (6-8 passing lanes). In total, the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is planning for up to 12 sets (24 passing lanes) from east of Saskatoon (Clavet where the current twinning begins) to the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border."

"The distance between passing lanes is typically 10-14 km (in the same direction), however a number of factors need to be taken into consideration such as community accesses and geography. Typically, they position passing lanes where there aren't good passing opportunities."

While the first tender advertisements for the fall 2020 tenders are underway, start dates for construction will depend on when the tender is awarded, contractor availability and weather. All tenders are available at [www.sasktenders.ca](http://www.sasktenders.ca).

The Government of Saskatchewan will improve more than 1,000 km of provincial highways this year, the first of its 10-year Growth Plan goal to build and upgrade 10,000 km of highways.

The province has invested more than \$9.8 billion in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 15,800 km of Saskatchewan highways.



Saskatchewan Highways has released its fall tender schedule, with \$437.4 million worth of work, including repaving of Highways 8 and 308 in the Rocanville-Welwyn area and the addition of passing lanes on Highway 16 from Yorkton to the Manitoba border.

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# 500-600 workers for Nutrien project in October

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Between 500 and 600 contractors will be working on a project at Nutrien Rocanville in October.

"The 500-600 workers are contractors. This involves 24-7 coverage, so typically 100-150 contractors on-site at one time during the peak periods. Nutrien employees are also completing maintenance work as well," a Nutrien spokesperson told the World-Spectator Friday.

"Rocanville will be completing the planned turnaround over a four week period in October," Nutrien said.

"The number of workers involved will vary over the four weeks, with 500-600 during the peak.

"This is typical for turnarounds at Rocanville and in line with previous years' work. The timeframe for the turnaround has not been affected by Covid-19."

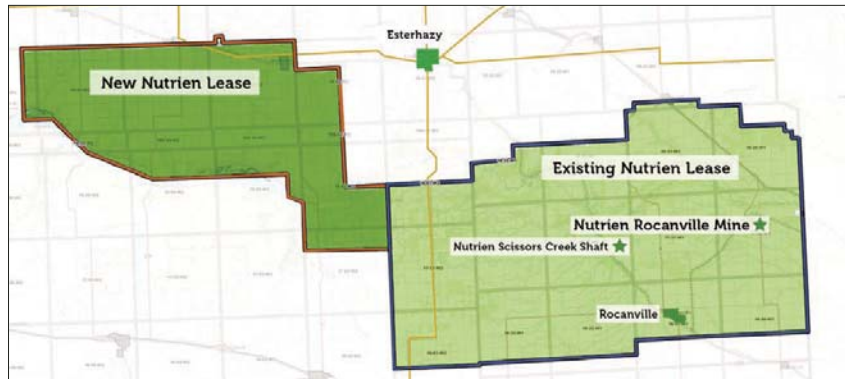
"Further out, the focus will be sustaining essential capital, and replacing and modernizing equipment in the original mill to match the functionality of the new mill."

Rocanville is a low-cost producer within Nutrien's system, and the mine is important to the future of the company's potash production.

"Long term, the outlook for Rocanville remains positive and productive," said Nutrien. "Rocanville will continue to carry the production load for our potash network, and we will continue to invest in safety, technology and operational efficiencies to maintain its strong, low-cost position within the network."

It's not medium term or long term, it's the very long term. That's not on the horizon at the moment, it was a strategic acquisition. It has the potential to add to the life of the mine, which is always good when you have any big re-

source asset. It's always good to look decades ahead and ensure you've got ongoing potential for development. It's a really key investment for Nutrien in that part of the world."



In May, Nutrien acquired a new lease of more than 243 square kilometers for the very long term expansion of Nutrien Rocanville.

## Crown lease purchase an investment for the long term

Nutrien acquired more than 253 square kilometres of mineral rights earlier this year in what the company describes as an investment for the very long term. "That acquisition is looking decades into the future," a Nutrien spokesperson said.

"In May, we completed a Crown lease purchase agreement with North Atlantic Potash that provides Nutrien with another 263.5 square kilometers of subsurface mineral rights north-west of our Rocanville potash mine," a Nutrien spokesperson said.

"The lease area, known as KL-279, is rich in potassium chloride and holds the potential to add 30 years of mining to Rocanville. This was a strategic long-term investment to support future expansions of Rocanville and ensure that our potash network remains strong and competitive.

"Adding decades of potash production at Rocanville is also good news for our employees, customers and communities who rely on our operations to grow and thrive.

"That acquisition is looking decades into the future."

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Kevin Weedmark photo

Harvest is well under way across southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba and the fields are looking beautiful from the air. Above, combines lined up for the harvest on the Crossley farm near Moosomin Lake. Below left, the Pipestone Valley and ravines cut into the pattern of fields. Below right, fields on the edge of the Qu'Appelle Valley. Kevin Weedmark took this aerial photo with the help of local pilot Rob Austin recently.



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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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# Patron in court Sept. 23, 24

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Travis Patron of Redvers, facing charges of Assault Causing Bodily Harm and Aggravated Assault, is back in court September 23 in Carlyle to face charges of failure to appear in court, and is back in court in Regina September 24 to face the assault charges. His last court date was September 10 in Regina.

He was charged with assault causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and breach of probation after two women were allegedly assaulted after declining a ride home from him in Regina on Nov. 2 of last year.

Police were dispatched at around 2:30 a.m. to the 1900 block of Victoria Avenue after receiving a report of an assault. Police say two women, aged 33 and 43, had just been assaulted by Patron. They both had visible injuries from the incident and were taken to hospital for treatment.

The women and Patron had allegedly been in conversation earlier in the evening.

Patron offered them rides home, and when they declined, the alleged assault occurred, police say. Shortly after 3 am on the night of the incident, the Regina Police Service was able to spot the suspect walking on Victoria Avenue, but he refused to be interviewed.

Upon further investigation, police were able to determine his identity and arranged for him to be interviewed. As a result of that interview Patron was charged with assault causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and breach of probation.

The breach of probation charge stems from a probation order made by a judge of the Province of Quebec on March 7 of last year. One of the conditions of the probation order was for Patron to "keep the peace and be of good behavior."

He was arrested and charged November 9 of last year and made his first court appearance November 12 of last year.

## Failure to appear

Patron is also scheduled to appear in provincial court in Carlyle on a separate charge under Section 145-4(a) of the Criminal Code. That section reads as follows:

Failure to appear or to comply with summons (4) Every person who is served



Travis Patron

with a summons and who fails, without lawful excuse, to appear at the time and place stated in it for the purposes of the Identification of Criminals Act or to attend court in accordance with it, is guilty of

(a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

## Court orders

Patron is currently under several court-ordered conditions.

He is under a curfew and must be in his home between 11 am each night and 7 am the next morning.

He is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcohol, cannabis or any drugs that have not been prescribed to him by a doctor.

He is prohibited from entering any location that sells cannabis or alcohol as its main purpose, including bars, liquor stores, and cannabis stores.

He is prohibited from having any contact with the victims of the assault, referring to the victims of the assault on social media, or be at the home or workplace of the victims.

He is prohibited from possessing any firearms, ammunition, crossbow, prohibited weapon, restricted weapon, prohibited device, prohibited ammunition or explosive substance.

He is prohibited from possessing a knife "except when using a knife to eat."

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**New headframe taking shape**

Kevin Weedmark photo

The continuous pour on the south headframe at K3, part of the \$3 billion expansion of Mosaic Esterhazy's K3, was completed Friday, September 4—three days ahead of schedule. At 380 feet, the north headframe at right in these photos is the tallest structure in Saskatchewan. Crushrite Concrete provided the concrete for the pour. Kevin Weedmark took this aerial photo with the help of local pilot Rob Austin recently.

**Sask ICE investigation leads to arrest in Australia**

A Saskatchewan Internet child Exploitation investigation has led to identifying an Australian man who was grooming and luring young females online and his guilty plea to 56 charges of the 117 counts he was charged with.

On October 3, 2019, the ICE Unit began investigating a complaint from Regina, from the parents of a 14-year-old female, that their daughter was being lured online and counselled for sexual touching through two social media applications.

The ICE investigation in Saskatchewan identified an Australian male youth care worker who was responsible, and who the Australian authorities were unaware of.

The ICE Unit worked with the Australian Federal Police Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team who were then able to use the evidence gathered in Saskatchewan to obtain a search warrant in their country.

This search led to the seizure of the offender's devices, and, after analysis, identified many other international child victims.

The Australian man—26-year-old Joshua Nicholas Baird—was arrested by Australian authorities and charged with 117 offences. He pleaded guilty in an Australian court to 56 of those charges. Sentencing has been set for December.

The Saskatchewan ICE investigation was the catalyst which led to a serial offender being identified, charged and the rescue of numerous young females from continued victimization.

The Saskatchewan ICE Unit is comprised of investigators from the RCMP, Regina Police Service, Saskatoon Police Service, and Prince Albert Police Service.

Their mandate is to investigate crimes involving the abuse and/or exploitation of children on the Internet.

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Above: Scenes from the Crossborders Growing Project in Kola's harvest day that happened on August 21. 19,796 bushels of wheat was taken off 275 acres in just over two hours

## Kola Crossborders Growing Project harvests 275 acres for Foodgrains Bank

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On August 21, The Crossborders Growing Project harvested 275 acres of land just east of Kola, Manitoba.

The 275 acres yielded 19,796 bushels of wheat. It took the volunteers just over two hours to complete the task.

Due to the new normal, there were not as many people as usual.

"We weren't as many people as other times. I think COVID-19 had a part to do with that," said Gord Janzen, Regional Foodgrains Bank co-ordinator for Manitoba.

Although the turnout

was smaller than in the past, those who attended did seem to be in good spirits.

"It was really good for many reasons. The yield of the crop, the way that the community came together around this specific project and just the fact that the community is looking beyond themselves, which is always encouraging to me," said Janzen.

The Crossborders Growing Project has been a tradition in the Kola community for over a decade.

"I think it has now been over ten years and I think it is a big effort for these communities. They are giving their land, which they

could have kept for their own harvest, but no, they are looking beyond themselves," said Janzen.

Crossborders Growing Project is one of 39 growing projects in Manitoba that support the Foodgrains Bank. Any money that is made from the crop is matched 4:1 by the federal government.

"The Canadian government matches donations on a four to one basis for our food assistance programs," said Janzen.

"It really makes a difference."

Don Neufeld, project co-ordinator of the Crossborder Project, is as satisfied with this year's crop as

Janzen.

"It went very well. We had 10 combines, nine highway tractors and four grain carts," said Neufeld.

"We will haul it (the wheat) to the elevator and they pay us and then we give that money to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and then the federal government matches it four to one," said Neufeld.

This matching system is capped at seven million dollars.

Neufeld has been active in the Crossborders growing project for over 30 years.

"My dad was the project co-ordinator before he passed away. He was the

PR guy. I was just the grunt labourer for many years, but then when he passed, I inherited everything. So, now I do the grunt labour and the organizational part," said Neufeld.

"I love it. I am actually privileged and blessed to be able to do it. I get far more out of it than I actually put into it."

The main gathering on harvest day is usually the lunch that is served to the volunteers. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this tradition had to change a bit.

"We did have a lunch. It was prepackaged. The sponsors (Farm Credit Corporation) could not serve it like they usually do, but

that did not stop the community getting together," said Neufeld.

In the 30 years that Neufeld has been working with the Crossborders project, it has seen some changes.

"When my dad and uncle first became involved with the Foodgrains Bank, we actually had a piece of land just on the Manitoba and Saskatchewan border. We had an 88 acre piece there and then we had an actual piece in Saskatchewan, that is why it is called the Crossborders, because we actually farmed those two pieces together. Over the years it actually expanded," said Neufeld.

*Continued on page 24*



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# FCC review suggests modest increase in farmland values for 2020

Average increase in farmland values			
	January 2020 – June 2020 (six months)	July 2019 – June 2020 (12 months)	January 2019 – December 2019 (12 months)
B.C.	3.0%	3.2%	5.4%
Alta.	4.9%	8.5%	3.3%
Sask.	4.2%	7.9%	6.2%
Man.	2.3%	3.6%	4.0%
Ont.	0.4%	3.7%	6.7%
Que.	2.6%	6.3%	6.4%
N.B.	6.5%	8.3%	17.2%
N.S.	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
P.E.I.	0.4%	22.1%	22.6%
N.L.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada	3.7%	7.1%	5.2%

Average farmland values in Canada are once again showing modest increases for the first half of 2020, although the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to be weighed, according to a review by Farm Credit Canada.

The national average for farmland values increased an average of 3.7 per cent for the first half this year. This increase is in line with mid-year results over the past five years, which showed single-digit increases for the full year.

“Given the global economic situation during the first half of 2020, Canada’s farmland market is showing remarkable resilience in the face of adversity and uncertain times,” said J.P. Gervais, FCC’s chief agricultural economist. “Changes to production and marketing plans induced by the pandemic have had a definite influence on profitability, yet the demand for farmland remained robust.”

FCC’s review showed lower 12-month increases in average farmland values for most provinces over the last 12 months compared to last year’s average, with the exception being in Alberta (8.5 per cent compared to 3.3 per cent) and Saskatchewan (7.9 per cent compared to

6.2 per cent). In general, the pace of farmland value increases over the past six months was slightly higher in western provinces and slightly lower in central and eastern parts of the country, with the exception being New Brunswick.

Average farmland values have increased every year since 1993; however, increases were more pronounced from 2011 to 2015 in many different regions. In 2015, the average increase was 10 per cent, and since that year, Canada has seen more moderate single-digit increases in average farmland values.

Low interest rates, the limited supply of farmland in the market and confidence among producers in the farmland market appear to be the main drivers behind the 2020 mid-year increase.

“Despite supply chain disruptions that have impacted some sectors, such as red meat, the pandemic has so far not significantly affected the agriculture land market,” Gervais said. “In fact, the grain, oilseed and pulse sectors have performed well in the first half of 2020, supporting the slightly higher rate of increase in western Canada.”

Crop receipts (excluding cannabis) for the first six months of 2020 are 1.6 per cent higher than for the same period last year.

Gervais recommends farm operators should continue to exercise caution, especially in regions where the growth rate of farmland values significantly exceeded that of farm income in recent years. He also recommends operators maintain a risk management plan to protect their business from unpredictable circumstances.

By sharing agriculture economic knowledge and forecasts, FCC provides solid insights and expertise to help those in the business of agriculture achieve their goals.

For more information and insights, visit the FCC Ag Economics blog post at [fcc.ca/AgEconomics](http://fcc.ca/AgEconomics).



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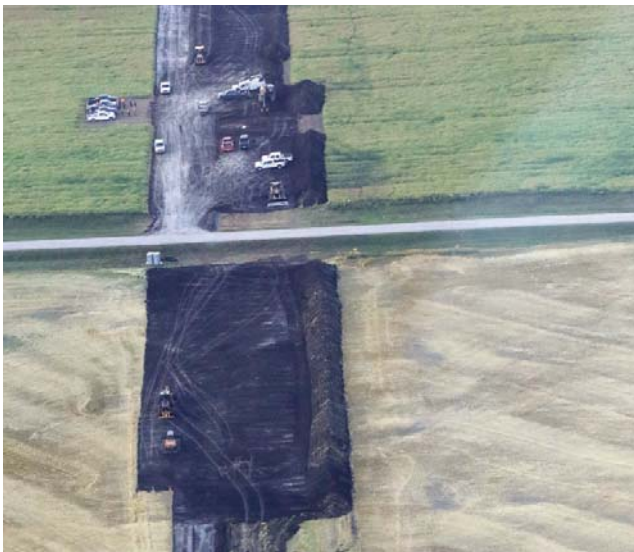
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Kevin Weedmark photo

## Work under way on transmission line to Nutrien Rocanville

Work is under way on a natural gas transmission line from TransGas facilities near Moosomin to Nutrien Rocanville. Kevin Weedmark took this aerial photo with the help of local pilot Rob Austin recently.



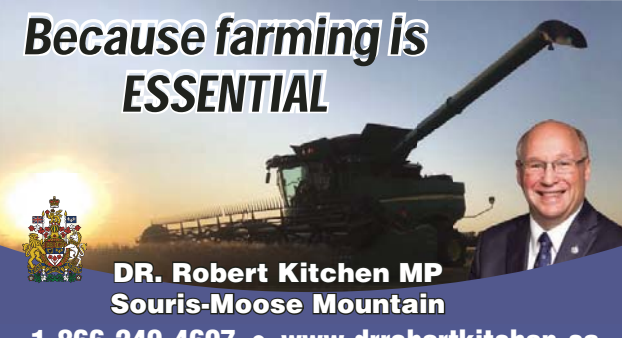
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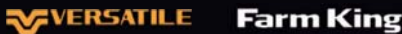
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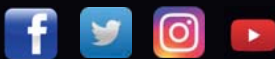
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# Have a wonderful harvest

Lake time has long since come to an end as it so inevitably does each summer and our trusty RV has left its beach-side summer home and settled back into its spot next to the farm shop with that down-on-the-farm view of both the chicken coop and the dog house, all ready to become the cook shack/harvest sleeping quarters.

Those special summer-time moments were being recounted by my grandchildren and I as we were sitting on the back deck the other day – those kayaking and paddleboard moments, our great fishing days and somehow, about Grandpa's 'farm' half-ton (the replacement for the one stolen in February) that was now in the shop for repair (for the second time in five months).

One of the twins (nine) said to me, "Grandpa's farm truck breaks down all the time." Without missing a beat, the other chimed in, "Because it's a Ford."

"Whoa, whoa, whoa," I said. "Let's talk about your two-year-old Dodge that left your Mom and Dad sitting on the side of the road the day they were coming to pick you up from the lake. I don't think we ought to be coming down so hard on Grandpa's Ford."

Pause. And then I heard: "Well, Grandpa's breaks down lots but when ours breaks down, it breaks down good." Ahhh yes, that's more like it! And the Ford/Dodge debate promises to continue I am quite sure!

One weekend, while our son and his family were away, our daughter was on chicken/egg picking duty at their farm and, as sometimes happens, a chicken had died and she needed to dispose of it. Her text to me (as I was on the boat in the middle of the lake) was, "What do I do with this dead chicken?" My response came with some intensity of thought: "Mmmmmmm. I know that when you have farm dogs, you best not let them get a taste of chicken so I was pretty sure a farmyard burial was not going to cut it. And I had never raised chickens myself so I couldn't bank on experience.

As it was, the solution seemed to be to chuck it in the lagoon and so there was our daughter, dead chicken in hand with her eight-year-old daughter not far away, ready to chuck this thing into the lagoon when she hears: "Mom, don't fall in! I don't know how I'll get back to town 'cause Dad is working." And so it seemed she was more worried about how she would get home if her mom drowned in the lagoon than if her mom actually drowned.

In August, I had the pleasure of two young grand-visiters coming for a couple of weeks. They were excited to do meals in the field, spend some nights in the camper at the farm, spend some time with their cousins, and just have some good old play time. When my six-year-old grandson called me from the bathroom one day as I was prepping supper to take to the field (and in a hurry as usual), he said he'd missed the toilet 'just a little bit.' I told him no worries, that happens sometimes and I would get it cleaned up. "Oh don't worry, Grandma I put a cloth on it." A cloth? Yup, there was a lovely teal-coloured facecloth placed as flat and as neatly as could be (he has some OCD tendencies) on the floor right next to the toilet. As I walked in, carrying the Lysol spray and the paper towel, he was washing his hands. I didn't say anything as I walked past him and that's when he said in the cheeri-



est of voices: "You're welcome for that, Grandma!" And away he went!

One day just before harvest began, the kids and I were driving across the farmyard on our way to the farm next door when I said to the twins, "Now why wouldn't the guys line the augers up neatly in a row? One is over there facing east, another over there facing south ...." They looked at me with a strange look (I am not OCD about my book, but I like a very neat and tidy 'machinery row.' With a laugh, they said, "Cause we are always using the augers to move grain. What does it matter how they are parked." Well, there's that, I thought to myself. Still, everytime I go past a hodge podge mix of augers parked this way and that, a little shudder ripples through me.

These young farmhands have been in their glory for much of August as nothing is quite so much fun for them as riding around in the combine hour after hour after hour. They take their lunch with them and they hop out for Grandpa's tailgate suppers in the field and back they go combining.

One September day as they rode along with me on the combine, they had some pointers for me: "Grandma, maybe lift the pickup a bit." "Grandma, don't pay attention to the ground speed, look at the fan speed." "Grandma, back up and grab the canola the wind blew out of the swath." I told them Grandpa would just have to pick up the odds and ends but I was duly informed that that's "not how we do it!" As for climbing the hill full, they thought maybe I ought to dump ahead of time especially with the hopper topper pretty full. Good thinking, boys, good thinking! Did I mention they are nine?

On a day when the combines weren't rolling, I took them ATVing across the field. In the distance we could see the swather cutting canola on Grandpa's field. "What the heck!" one exclaimed. And then the other: "Why is Grandpa swathing straight-cut variety?" And while I didn't likely have the best answer ("Because, ahhh, because ..."), I thought to myself, "How would they even remember that that field was straight-cut variety anyhow, and furthermore, why would they even care."

My meals on wheels continue to be the tailgate variety, no matter the weather. I keep wishing for my pie-in-the-sky dream motorhome (field variety) but some dreams I just never come true, or so my husband tells me as he

rolls his eyes at my literal meals on wheels dream vehicle. Hey, it's all about the dust, don't you think? We eat a lot of it.

Sometimes a dozen of us (50% children) gather around for a meal in the field lovingly prepared (well, prepared anyhow) by myself or our daughter-in-law. Sometimes the food's a bit cold and a bit sparse by the time the last one eats but since it doesn't look like any of us are starving, I suspect we are doing okay, food-wise.

This harvest season has been an absolute treat compared to last year when I think most of harvest was done in October. This year, we harvested a fair bit of the 2020 crop in August and that felt oh so good. Life on the farm may have its challenges from year to year but what's most interesting is watching the delight of the younger generation as they become more and more ingrained in all things 'farm.' Agriculture is definitely making a big impact on these farmers-in-the-making.

And so, to all our farmer readers, we wish you a happy harvesting season! May you delight each day in the ever-transitioning skies and the sun as it sets on the horizon; the combines as they roll across the acres taking you ever closer to the finish line; and the moments when you are reminded that even during a busy, stressful day, the most important things in life are not things at all, but rather the people in your life who share your love of the land and your passion for a way of life like no other.

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12	Monday	No Butcher Sale Receive Feeders 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Presort
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15	Thursday	Sheep/Goat Sale 12 Noon
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## Fundraiser to help restore grasslands

BY MICHÈLE LETOURNEAU  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM  
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Manitoba branch of the Nature Conservancy of Canada has launched a fundraising campaign to restore native prairie grasslands on a newly acquired addition to its Fort Ellice property.

The property, called Fort Ellice 3, is roughly an hour and a half northwest of Brandon, near St. Lazare.

Kevin Teneycke, the conservancy's regional vice-president in the province, likens the new 644 acres to the hole in a doughnut. The private, non-profit organization already owned the land around it, except Crown land to the south, which is managed by the Association of Manitoba Community Pastures.

"All the land together creates a large block of unfragmented native habitats," Teneycke said.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada partners with individuals, corporations, foundations, Indigenous communities and other non-profit organizations and governments at all levels to protect natural areas. It secures properties through donation, purchase, conservation agreement and the relinquishment of other legal interests in land and manage them for the long term, according to its website.

Teneycke said the conservancy has already purchased the land and the fundraising goal of \$350,000 is to pay that debt down, as well as finance the restoration and ongoing management of the property.

The habitat restoration work will

include reseeded land, recently used for farming, with grassland species.

"It's recognized that once native prairie is broke, you'll never get the same native prairie back," Teneycke said.

Nevertheless, the conservancy will reseed 50 to 60 or more species. "It's not an easy thing to do it. It does carry some expense, but it is trying to put it back," Teneycke said.

Because the land was converted to farmland not so long ago, there's hope there may be grassland seeds in the soil that, given the opportunity, will start to come back. All told, that process could take three to five years, after which the area will be managed with prescribed grazing by cattle.

The conservancy said in a news release that more than 90 per cent of Manitoba's prairie grasslands have already been lost, and that grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world.

"It is estimated that we continue to lose an additional 147,000 acres every year," it stated.

"The conservation of Fort Ellice 3 will complete 5,411 acres of a species-rich land block, comprised of mixed-grass prairie, aspen forests, riverbank and floodplain forests, sandhill prairie and sand dunes, wetlands, streams, freshwater springs and willow shrublands.

"Large mammal species like, elk, moose and Canadian lynx, roam the property. Threatened birds, such as Sprague's pipit and Chestnut-col-

lared longspur depend upon the unique grassland habitat for survival."

Teneycke said it takes thousands of years for such an ecosystem to evolve.

The conservancy has partnerships with Waywayseecappo First Nation, Park West School Division and Birtle Collegiate. The partners have used the Fort Ellice property for some of their educational programming. Waywayseecappo has used it for after-school education programming.

"With Park West, we've done everything from wildlife track identification and winter survival. We have a number of trail cameras that are out there and the students collect the video cards and take the information back to the classrooms. They and identify what species have been found on it. It was part of a wildlife technician course that the Park West School Division had offered," Teneycke said.

The organization is not only helping to relieve threats and stresses on nature, but it also offers humans the opportunity to experience nature.

"There certainly is documentation saying there are lots of health benefits to providing places and opportunities for people to go out and experience nature," Teneycke said.

There are hiking trails available to the public, but those who might want to avail themselves of the natural setting are asked to contact the regional office and get permission, as cattle do roam.

# Kola Crossborders Growing Project harvests 275 acres

*Continued from page 19*  
Hellen Koop, who owned the 275 acres, approached Neufeld.

"She came to me and asked if we would want to take her half section and break it up and farm it. We rented it from her for 10 or 12 years, and then when she passed along, her family came to me and we bought it," said Neufeld.

The growing project now owns the land and there is no need to try and find land to use every year.

"That is the longest we have been in one spot. In the beginning we moved from place to place wherever we could pick up land. For the last 15 years it has been at this location," said Neufeld.

Neufeld is very proud to be a part of the Foodgrains Bank and he is not at all surprised that they secured additional funding for projects related to COVID-19.

"Of all the organizations that I have been involved in, they are the most efficient at administration to actual dollars on the ground. Only five per cent of the money raised by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank goes towards administration," said Neufeld.



Canadian government will million. "The small-scale farmers have disrupted livelihoods, farm production and food supply chains. For small-scale farmers who rely on the crops they grow for food and income, these disruptions can mean the difference between having food on their plates or not," he adds.

The new grant will be used for projects in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. Program activities will begin in 2020 and continue into 2021 as part of a long-term response.

Based on consultations with the Foodgrains Bank's local African partners, the new grant will focus on providing agricultural support services to help farmers increase their harvest and supporting community savings and loans groups, so farmers can buy seeds and other inputs. The grant will also assist farmers in getting their crops to market.

"When the COVID-19 health crisis hit, the Foodgrains Bank continued its work as an essential service, instead of closing programs, we and our partners did everything possible to make emergency food distribution safe for staff and families who need assistance," said Cornelius.

The additional funds will enable Foodgrains Bank members to reduce the increasing risk of hunger for small-scale farmers by protecting their livelihoods and guarding against threats to their farm.

"With this additional support from Global Affairs Canada, we have an opportunity to make sure small-scale farmers, and communities in Africa who depend on them, have access to food throughout this pandemic and beyond," said Cornelius.

## Additional government funding

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank has received additional funding to respond to global hunger caused by COVID-19. The \$2.3 million from the

World Food Programme warns we may face the worst humanitarian food crisis since the Second World War due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so institutions like the Foodgrains Bank and the support they give is crucial.

World Food Programme warns we may face the worst humanitarian food crisis since the Second World War due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so institutions like the Foodgrains Bank and the support they give is crucial.

ers we work with in developing countries have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 prevention methods," said Jim Cornelius, Foodgrains Bank executive director.

"Drastic efforts to reduce the spread of the corona-

viruses have disrupted livelihoods, farm production and food supply chains. For small-scale farmers who rely on the crops they grow for food and income, these disruptions can mean the difference between having food on their plates or not," he adds.

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# Mazergroup adds three Sask dealerships

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Mazergroup is adding to its family of dealerships.

The Brandon-based company, which has a location in Moosomin, has acquired three new locations in Saskatchewan, including Yorkton New Holland, Raymore New Holland and Watrous New Holland. This will bring the total of Mazergroup dealerships to 19, with 14 in Manitoba and 5 in Saskatchewan.

The merger became effective September 1st, 2020.

"We are truly excited to add these three dealerships to our organization," says Bob Mazer, President and CEO of Mazergroup.

"We look to build upon the relationships that have been created in these locations by continuing to offer great products, great service, and an expanded support network to keep our new customers as productive as possible."

Dave Marshall purchased the New Holland Dealership in Raymore, Sask. in 1998. In 2002, he had the opportunity to purchase the Yorkton location, and in 2008 expanded to a third location in Watrous, Sask.

"The Marshall family would like to thank all of our customers for their support over the past 20-plus years" adds Dave Marshall. "We're excited to join the Mazergroup family."

Mazergroup will add over 50 employees with the merger, bringing the total to over 370 employees.

Mazergroup is a privately owned group of machinery dealerships offering agricultural, construction, and commercial turf equipment, sales, parts, and service.

Mazergroup was established in 1959 as a single agriculture dealership in Brandon, Manitoba, now expanding to 19 locations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Bob Mazer of Mazergroup last week. Following is a transcript of that conversation:

**How did Mazergroup get started?**

My dad came from Saskatchewan in 1959 to Brandon to become a Massey Ferguson dealer. I started farming in 1968 and then got into business around 1970. I worked in the business as everything, from a painter to wash bay guy to truck driver. I got going in 1970 and got the Versatile agency and it went from there. We started our expansion process from a single store in 1994, with Hartney joining us and it just went from there.

It's a privately held company but we do have many of our management team as shareholders. Starting in Steinbach and Regina and now with the new locations, when we make acquisitions or mergers, the former owners stay on as shareholders in Mazergroup.

**Was Moosomin your first location in Saskatchewan and you've grown from there?**

Yes. We just went to Regina last year in 2019. That's a very large store in Regina we took over. I had been talking to Dave Marshall (the owner of the three newly acquired locations) for probably around 10 years. He was planning his exit from the business, he was wanting to retire, and we finally came up with a process that worked for both of us. It was as much a merger as it was a purchase of Yorkton, Raymore and Watrous.

**Were those all fairly big stores that the Marshalls ran?**

Yeah they were reasonable sized facilities. The business they were doing for the three stores combined was similar to Regina. Each of those stores were doing somewhat less than Moosomin is doing now. We have grown the business dramatically in Moosomin since we have built the new facility there. There wasn't quite as much revenue as Moosomin, but in that range. In Yorkton it's a bigger facility but it wasn't at the sales level that Moosomin is.

**How well has the expansion in Moosomin paid off for you?**

Very well. Since we built the new store it basically sent a signal to the producers in the area that we were absolutely serious that we had the facilities to serve them.

The addition of NAPA was also a very good piece of business for us because it draws all kinds of different traffic and people that we don't normally deal with.

We are extremely happy with the perfor-

**Mazergroup expands in Saskatchewan**

Mazergroup, which has a location in Moosomin, below, has expanded with the acquisition of three new dealerships in Saskatchewan.



mance of Moosomin now. It was a building process. It's about relationships, it's about product, it's about price, it's about a whole bunch of things, but sometimes it is about facilities. We have to have the kind of facility that has the capabilities to service the larger pieces of equipment. It's big equipment and we have to have the ability to get it in and service it in the winter because that is when most of the preventative maintenance is done. It was a good decision to build.

**Is the Moosomin store where you want it to be now or is there still room for growth in this region?**

I think there is always a little room for growth. I think our family owned, privately held, operations are gaining ground all the time. We grow our market share in almost all our locations every year, not dramatically, but a nice steady growth, and yes, there is room to grow in Moosomin.

**Now that you have these three new locations, how much of a process is it to integrate those in your operation?**

We had 16 locations as of Monday and we have 19 locations now. It isn't as difficult as you might think. We obviously keep all staff, so really we just change the sign on the building and apply our processes and philosophies of business and interaction with customers in the locations, but that's kind of a silent, behind-the-scenes process, and for the customer it's business as usual.

My CFO wouldn't necessarily agree with me that it's a simple process, but ultimately it isn't as complicated as you might think.

We are New Holland dealers, that's our primary product line, and we have this great relationship with our primary supplier and they support us in all of the steps that go along with it.

I was at those dealerships Monday and Tuesday and got home to Brandon Tuesday night and there is some of our management staying up there, continuing to support everybody, and that will all happen in a consistent basis in the next month. There will be someone from our management team that will be in those stores and ultimately it's business as usual.

**How important is it in the implement business to have economies of scale, to have a large or a growing dealer network? Is a network of dealerships essential now to run a successful implement business?**

I wouldn't say essential, because there are some very good single location dealers with different colours of course, but quite frankly this is the trend of the industry.

We are the largest dealer complex in North America for New Holland. With that comes some benefits. We have an extremely good relationship with New Holland. Some things that may not be available to a single store are available to us.

The economy of scale, say parts inventory, as of now, we have about \$15 million dollars' worth of parts. Mostly it's within about 45 or 50 minutes. A single store can't have that kind of inventory.

The same is true in whole goods, if someone wants a specific year, model option, let's say for a combine or tractor, the

chances are we are going to have it in our organization. A single store does not have that ability. So that's a couple of examples of the advantages when you have a complex over a store.

**Is it significant growth, going from 16 to 19 stores?**

Absolutely. The significance for the folks, in particularly the sales force in those three stores, is our significant whole goods inventory throughout Mazergroup that they didn't have access to before. It is a significant change for those folks.

Of course if you sell whole goods then you are probably going to follow up with parts and service.

**Where do you see Mazergroup going in the future? Do you see more acquisitions going forward?**

I would suggest that we are probably finished our expansion to the west.

If there is any expansion in the future it

will probably be south and into the U.S.

But we have a very viable entity at the 19 stores. We are at an aggregate volume in our stores that is extremely viable and we still can have the touch and feel of a family business in every location and we don't want to lose that.

If there is anything that would curtail expansion, it would be that. If we feel like we are losing touch with the customer. I don't think we have done that yet.

We have a great management group, a lot of them have been with me for 15, 20, 25 years and some even 30 years. I've been in the business for 52 years, so we never lose sight of what's important and what's important is looking after customers, that's it.

If we stop doing that, or fail at that, then it's time to stop expansion.

We're really quite happy about this expansion and the staff at those locations are extremely happy to have joined a group that has a long-term vision. Mazergroup will be around for a long time.



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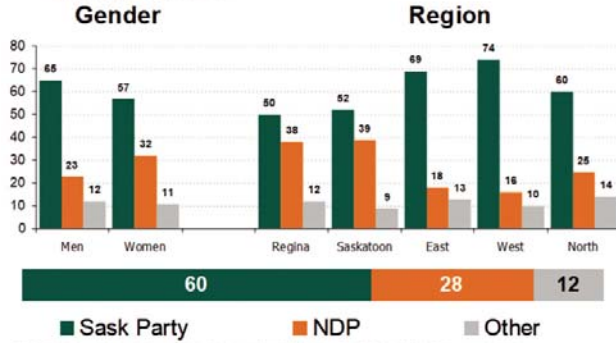
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Vote intention by demographics (i)

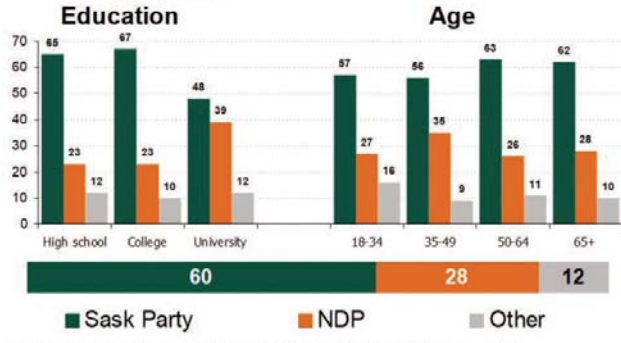
Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



BASE: Residents of Saskatchewan; July 10-August 26, 2020, n=1,638, MOE +/- 2.4%, 19 times out of 20

Vote intention by demographics (i)

Q. If a provincial election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?



BASE: Residents of Saskatchewan; July 10-August 26, 2020, n=1,638, MOE +/- 2.4%, 19 times out of 20

With election expected October 26:

# Poll shows increasing support for Sask Party

The Saskatchewan Party has widened its already large lead over the opposition New Democrats to 32 points, and now have the support of over twice as many decided voters as the NDP, as they lead the NDP 60-28 according to a new EKOS poll released recently. The remaining 12% support another party.

These numbers are good news for the governing Saskatchewan Party just two months ahead of a planned election in October. Still, nearly a quarter of voters (24%) remain undecided.

## Sask Party numbers up, NDP numbers down since June

Compared to the last EKOS poll conducted in June and early July, the Saskatchewan Party has seen its support increase three points from 57% to 60%, while the NDP is down four points from 32% to 28%.

Support for other parties has remained the same at 12%, while the number of undecided voters went up one point from 23%.

These numbers are closer to the result of the 2016 election, which saw the Saskatchewan Party win 62% of the vote and NDP 30%.

## Sask Party leads in every region

The Saskatchewan Party continues to lead in every region of the province, including in Saskatoon and Regina. Since the last EKOS poll, the Saskatchewan Party has increased its lead in Saskatoon by 44%, going from a nine-point lead (46-37) in July to a 13 point lead (52-29) now.

The Saskatchewan Party increased its lead slightly in Regina in the latest poll, with the Saskatchewan Party now leading by 12 points in Regina (50-38), and the NDP dropping one point from July (50-39).

The Saskatchewan Party has increased its margins in the rural part of the province, with its biggest lead in Western Saskatchewan, where it still has the support of three quarters of decided voters (74%; down from 75 in July), compared to the NDP which is now down to 16% (down from 20).

The Saskatchewan Party saw an increase in its numbers in both the North and the East, going from 63% to 69% in Eastern Saskatchewan and from 53% to 60% in the North.

## Among men, SP has almost triple the support of the NDP

One of the biggest shifts in voter intentions over the summer has come from men. The last EKOS poll showed no discernible difference between how men and women were planning on voting. Over the last month and a half, the Sask Party-NDP gap among men has widened considerably, while the gap among women has remained steady. The Saskatchewan Party now leads the NDP by 42 points (65-23—close to triple the support) among men, which is a nine point increase for the Sask Party and a 10 point drop for the NDP. Among women, the gap has actually tightened, as the NDP has gone up two points to 32%, while 57% still support the Saskatchewan Party.

## Little change in party support among different age groups

There has not been as much of a shift among the different age groups. Voters over 55 remain only somewhat more likely to support the Saskatchewan Party compared to younger voters.

The age gap is widest among the 50-64 cohort where the Sask Party has a 37 point lead (63-26), and is the closest among the 35-49 cohort, where it has a 21 point lead (56-35). Education remains a driving factor in how the parties are polling.

Since the last EKOS poll, the biggest shift has come among college-educated voters, where the Saskatchewan Party now leads the NDP by 44 points (67-23), compared to last month, when the gap was just 28 points (57-29).

This gap is now wider than high school-educated voters,

where the Sask Party leads 65-23. The gap remains the tightest among university-educated voters, where the Saskatchewan Party leads 48-39.

"With the next election just two months away, it looks like the Saskatchewan Party is well positioned to win another landslide, barring any unforeseeable events," according to EKOS.

"Still though, a quarter of voters are still undecided, and this number hasn't changed over the summer. If this group decides they want change, things could get closer."

This survey was conducted using High Definition Interactive Voice Response technology, which allows respondents to enter their preferences by punching the keypad on their phone, rather than telling them to an operator. In an effort to reduce the coverage bias of landline only RDD, EKOS created a dual landline/ cell phone RDD sampling frame for this research.

As a result, the company was able to reach those with a landline and cell phone, as well as cell phone only house-

holds and landline only households.

The field dates for this survey are July 10 to August 26, 2020. In total, a random sample of 1,638 Saskatchewan residents aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/- 2.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The margin of error increases when the results are subdivided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education).

All the data were statistically weighted by age, gender, education, and region to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the Saskatchewan electorate, according to Census data and past election turnouts.

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Some of the older hop vines that have been a staple at JGL Shepherd Farms for the last four years as the family strives to be the first major hops grower in the province.

# 'We can grow hops in Saskatchewan'

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
 Driving south from Moosomin on Highway 8 one can see the canola and wheat being harvested. The landscape is going from the green and yellow of July to a golden brown.

Over at JGL Shepherd Farms, meanwhile, there are vines of lush green hops swaying in the wind.

Four years ago Justin Shepherd and his family started getting the farm ready to be the first major hops grower in the province. Now you can see acres of vines when you turn onto the property.

They started off with a 1.3 acre hop yard on their farm between Moosomin and Fleming and over the years have expanded. They have grown from 400 plants in

2018 to 9,000 plants today.

"We always knew it had to get bigger to be a commercially viable business, but there was not a set four-year plan to get to this specific size," said Shepherd.

"We started with 1.3 acres. This is about 8 and a bit. So just over 20 miles of cable up top. We're shooting for 9-12 acres—on that scale. This would be one of the bigger ones in the three prairie provinces right now."

The last four years has been a continual process of expanding and upgrading.

"You have to keep upgrading. You always run into what is the next equipment that needs to be upgraded. Our harvester will do 10 to 12 acres of hops, so we knew we had to get to that size to make this machine pay for itself," said Shepherd.

The need to grow at such a rate is not so much a matter of demand at this point, but a necessity.

"You need to be a certain size where a brewer has enough options. You can't be too small and you can't be too big," said Shepherd.

Last week brewers were taking tours of the Shepherds' operation. The hops have been used in products created by micro-breweries such as Pile of Bones Brewing in Regina, and by larger operations such as Great Western.

"I would say we are still in market development mode," he said. "We have days where we have brewers out to try and convince them that we are legitimate, we are a business, we are not doing this out of our back yard."

"There have been some of the brewers that have been more interested than others. Some have no interest in using our product, so it's up to us to convince them that we grow a good product, that it's high quality, and that they should try it."

"We're still learning what our aromas are and how different we are. One variety we have is Centennial, and how different is that than the west coast. It's slightly different. Is there enough of a difference there to say that's terroir where there's a real regionality, I don't know."

"But hopefully year in year out we'll see what that aroma profile is and how it develops over time. As the plants mature, it does change. So it's a work in progress still."

*Continued on page 29* <sup>ESP</sup>



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# 'We can grow hops in Saskatchewan'

Continued from page 27

"They know we're here, but some of the ones that have showed up today (last Monday, when brewers were visiting for an open house at the hop farm), this is their first time visiting us. Some have used us and some have not. So this is a great opportunity to show what we are doing, the different processes, what makes us unique, why they might want to try our hops, and we're hosting a field day closer to harvest this year just so when they walk through the fields, most of the varieties are close to harvest and have the aromas they would expect when we actually harvest... What you smell today is what you are going to get in a lot of the varieties."

Shepherd says growing hops is more like growing grapes than the traditional commodity crops on the prairies.

"It's more like grapes in how you sell them. For wheat, as long as you are willing to accept a price there's always a market for it. Someone is willing to use it, whether it's food or feed or animals. With this they could be free and if they aren't the right variety, nobody is going to use them. So it's a real specialty crop, it's not at all like a commodity crop, and it makes it a lot more challenging from the marketing side. But it also means there are fewer people willing to take on the risk."

## New industry in Sask

The goal is to one day be a big part of the brewing process in Saskatchewan, an industry that is growing, with more and more microbreweries popping up and potential for much more growth.

"Whether it's a small micro-brewery to a group like Great Western, our focus is definitely the Saskatchewan market place. Maybe in a couple of years we will produce enough where we'd have to look outside. As we grow, Saskatchewan craft beers continue to grow. This year there's supposed to be four or five breweries opening up. The biggest thing is to convince them that we can grow hops in Saskatchewan," said Shepherd.

What sets JGL Shepherd Farms apart from other growers in the province is the fact that they have committed to be a large scale hops grower.

"There are a few people out there that has half an acre or a quarter of an acre, this would be one of the bigger ones in the three prairie provinces," says Shepherd.

"There are lots of people trying. There are lots of people taking a stab at hop farms. It is as very high failure rate just based on the marketing and actually getting people to buy them. It is hard to grow them. There is no text book on how to grow them in western Canada so we are writing it as we go," said Shepherd.

## Family project

The Shepherd family have joined in with Justin's passion project and that has made all the difference.

The hop yard has reignited interest in the farm among some family members.

"I didn't know anything about hops when we started. I liked craft beer, that is all I knew at the start. We thought we could maybe start a brewery, I home brew, but that is not really my passion. We are farmers, we are good at farming. My family didn't laugh me out of the room when I said, 'let's try something different,' they thought this is a nice challenge and then they went along with it," said Shepherd.

The new and interesting crop at the farm has ignited a new energy into the family.

Shepherd's siblings, parents, aunts and uncles all help with the hop farm.



Justin Shepherd standing next to a row of newer hop vines.

"My little sister does Instagram for us. We send her pictures and she puts filters on and does that marketing spin. My big sister does art work for us. She is in Regina and helps when

she can. It's been a big surprise to me that it has brought our family closer together in farming, where as growing up, maybe the rest of them didn't really care about farming

because it was wheat and hay, but now it is fun. We will see the whole family out planting together. Lots of us live in different parts and we all come back together for the harvest and for spring. It has been really rewarding to see family members interested in the farm again," said Shepherd.

## Local and quality

Marketing is crucial, since brewers won't buy hops just because they are locally grown. "The hardest part to learn has been that brewers will not just buy it because it was Saskatchewan-made. You can get a sale, maybe, because it is local the first time, but it doesn't get you a second sale. We always knew that we would have to care about quality and I think we have done a good job of that, but brewers have not been lining up at the door

to buy either. They have their established suppliers and they have established groups they work with, so we just need to keep proving ourselves time and time again and get them out here, show them around and make them feel that this is a really neat place," said Shepherd.

"Our product, it's at least as good as anywhere else, if not better."

The process might be hard, but there is progress being made.

"We are finally at the stage where we are selling hops and we are seeing them when a brewer shows up with beers and it has our hops in them. The first couple of years where we produced 10 pounds, it was not enough to be used commercially, you don't really get that gratification out of it. Now we are at the point where we are seeing brewers use them consistently and that is a lot of fun," said Shepherd.

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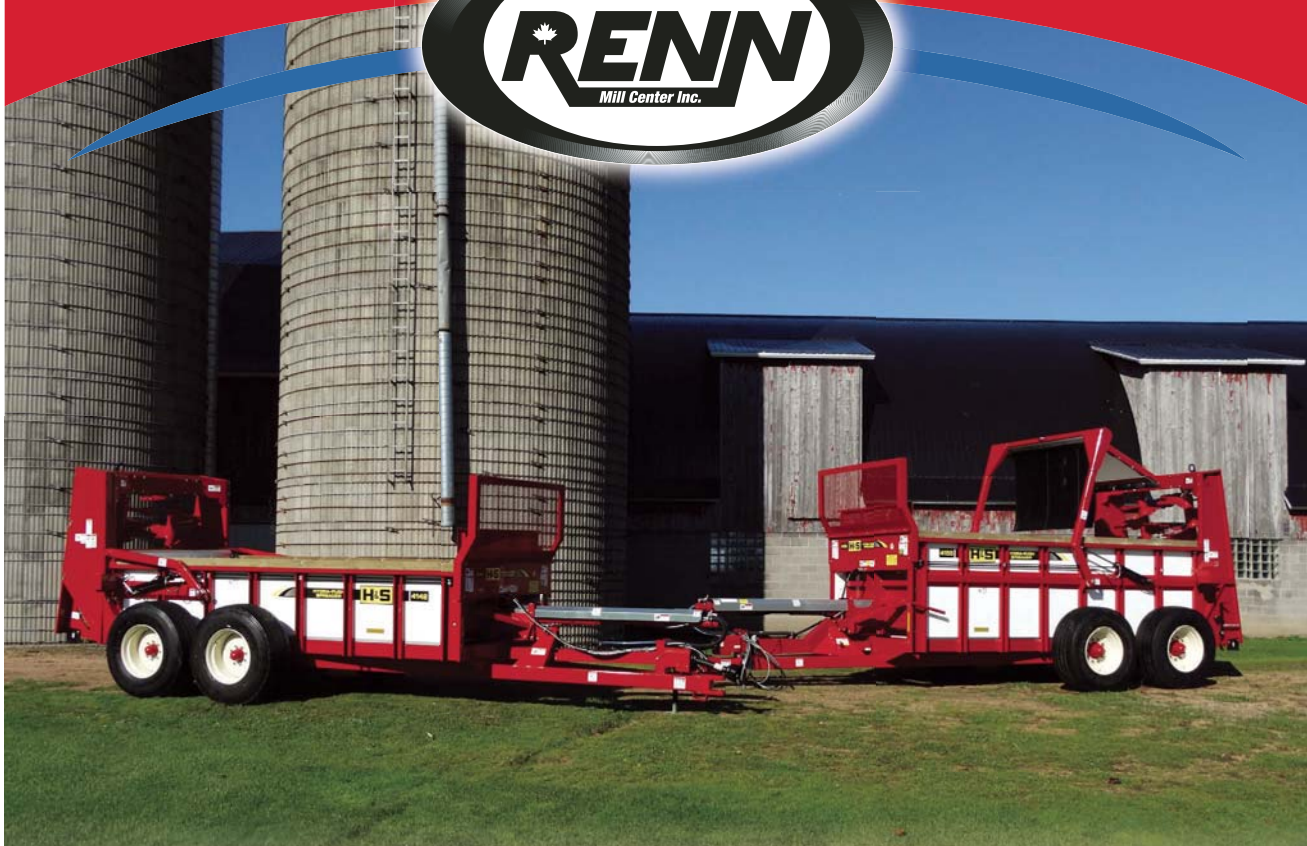
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# Not quite blackleg or sclerotinia? Could be verticillium

BY JUSTINE CORNELSEN

Verticillium stripe, a stem disease, is showing up in more canola fields in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and harvest is a good time to look for it.

The fungal pathogen *Verticillium longisporum* causes stem cross-section discoloration that can look somewhat like blackleg and bleaching of the stem that can look somewhat like sclerotinia stem rot. But these diseases are all quite different in terms of yield risk and management, so it's important to be able to tell them apart.

The good news, if you can say that about a plant disease, is that verticillium may not be a significant threat to Canadian canola production and the disease is not a regulated pest with any of our trade partners. But while we wait for new research projects to tell us more about possible yield implications, effective control measures and favourable environmental conditions, farmers and agronomists will want to learn to identify verticillium so it can be distinguished from blackleg and sclerotinia stem rot.

*V. longisporum* is a soil-borne fungus that infects roots and travels up the water-transporting xylem, plugging it late in the growing season. It can kill parts of or whole plants. Plants become extremely brittle and start shredding.

Symptoms are easier to identify right at or after harvest. Look for bleaching of mature stems, noting that bleaching could be on one side or all around the stem. After harvest, infected stems will have a peeling epidermis (the outer skin of the stem) with signs of microsclerotia just under that outer layer.

This is a distinct symptom of verticillium stripe. Sclerotinia-infected stems will be brittle and tissue-papery, and when shredded open will have larger mouse-dropping sized sclerotia inside the stem. Verticillium microsclerotia are small grey spots, almost like the specks inside a blackleg lesion, but verticillium specks are tinier, more numerous and under the epidermis while blackleg specks are always on the surface.

Harvest scouting for blackleg relies on cross-section clipping of canola stems just below ground level. (Pull them up and clip through the root tissue about a centimetre below the top of the root.) Verticillium can cause some general greying of the stem cross section, but it won't have the distinct black wedges characteristic of blackleg. Eventually, grey specks of microsclerotia will be visible in the verticillium-infected root tissue.

Because verticillium has, so far, been more common in Manitoba, Manitoba Canola Growers Association is offering free verticillium stripe testing of canola samples submitted to the PSI Lab in Winnipeg. For more information on the tests and sampling requirements, visit [www.mbpestlab.ca](http://www.mbpestlab.ca). Samples

are submitted under the blackleg race ID test.

Distinguishing verticillium stripe from sclerotinia stem rot and blackleg is important for farm management planning. If the disease is confirmed as verticillium, the microsclerotia are soil-borne, so anything that keeps soil in place – like equipment sanitation and reduced tillage – will reduce the spread of verticillium. Control measures include increasing rotation length between canola crops, management of brassica host weeds (like mustards) and increasing soil fertility to improve canola hardiness. Foliar or seed treatment fungicides to protect against verticillium are not currently registered for control in canola.

If the disease is sclerotinia stem rot, the best management is to apply fungicide to flowering canola crops when moist humid conditions favour disease development.

If the disease is blackleg, the three effective management steps are crop rotation, growing resistant cultivars and rotation of resistant cultivars. A two- or three-year break between canola crops on a field allows for the decomposition of infected canola residue, reducing the spores available to infect the next canola crop. Growing the same hybrid repeatedly on the same field will select for races of blackleg that can overcome genetic resistance in that hybrid. Rotating varieties or resistance gene groups creates the opportunity to bring a mix of major resistance genes to the field over time, which can reduce selection pressure and improve durability.

For more tips on how to identify canola diseases, please read "Disease ID



Eventually, grey specks of microsclerotia will be visible in the root tissue of canola with verticillium stripe.



Harvest scouting for blackleg relies on cross-section clipping of canola stems just below ground level. Verticillium can cause some general greying of the stem cross section, but it won't have the distinct black wedges characteristic of blackleg.

tips for pre-harvest scouting" at [canolawatch.org](http://canolawatch.org). You can also find lots more in the Diseases section of [canolaencyclopedia.ca](http://canolaencyclopedia.ca).

Justine Cornelsen is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. Email [cornelsenj@canolacouncil.org](mailto:cornelsenj@canolacouncil.org) and follow @CornelsenCCC on Twitter.



After harvest, stems infected with verticillium stripe (right) will have a peeling epidermis (the outer skin of the stem) with signs of small grey microsclerotia spots just under that outer layer. This is a distinct symptom of verticillium stripe. Sclerotinia-infected stems (left) will be brittle and tissue-papery, and when shredded open will have larger mouse-dropping sized sclerotia inside the stem.

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**Farmers! Got unwanted pesticides or livestock/equine medications?**

Safely dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications – **no charge!** Take them to the following locations on the dates noted between **9 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

**Check for Event Locations & Dates here:**

<b>CARLYLE</b> October 28 Precision Ag 306-453-2255	<b>ESTEVAN</b> October 29 Richardson Pioneer 306-634-2342	<b>ITUNA</b> October 27 Nutrien Ag Solutions 306-795-3606	<b>MAPLE CREEK</b> October 28 Richardson Pioneer 306-662-2420	<b>SHAUNAVON</b> October 29 Pioneer Coop 306-297-2662
<b>CENTRAL BUTTE</b> October 28 Hawk's Agro 306-796-4787	<b>ESTON</b> October 26 Emerge Ag Solutions 306-962-4132	<b>LEADER</b> October 27 G-Mac's Ag Team Inc. 306-628-3886	<b>MOOSE JAW</b> October 26 Moose Jaw Co-operative Association Ltd. 306-692-1661	<b>SOUTH DAVIDSON</b> October 29 Richardson Pioneer 306-567-4778
<b>CEYLON</b> October 30 Croyton Pikes Ag 306-454-2245	<b>GRAVELBOURG</b> October 27 Hawk's Agro 306-648-3110	<b>LEWVAN</b> October 29 Synergy AG 306-789-9493	<b>MOOSOMIN</b> October 27 Sharpe's Soil Services Ltd. 306-435-3319	<b>SWIFT CURRENT</b> October 30 Pioneer Coop Agronomy Centre 306-778-8705
<b>CORONACH</b> October 30 Richardson Pioneer 306-267-2100	<b>INDIAN HEAD</b> October 28 Nutrien Ag Solutions 306-695-2311	<b>LUMSDEN</b> October 30 Synergy AG Services 306-731-1200	<b>RAYMORE</b> October 26 Cargill 306-746-2055	<b>WHITEWOOD</b> October 26 Richardson Pioneer 306-735-2626

Partner

• Next Cleanfarms collection in this area in fall 2023.  
 • COVID social distancing measures may be in place.  
 • For collection dates in Northern Saskatchewan or elsewhere in the Prairies, go to: [cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/](http://cleanfarms.ca/materials/unwanted-pesticides-animal-meds/)

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<p><b>2016 Ford Edge</b> STOCK# 0T003A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; V6</li> <li>&gt; New tires</li> <li>&gt; One Owner</li> </ul> <p><b>\$21,876</b></p> <p><b>\$89</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2014 Ford Edge</b> STOCK# 0T052A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; SEL</li> <li>&gt; AWD</li> <li>&gt; Moonroof</li> </ul> <p><b>\$15,567</b></p> <p><b>\$69</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2017 Ford Explorer</b> STOCK# 9T102B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Leather</li> <li>&gt; 4WD</li> <li>&gt; 3.5L</li> </ul> <p><b>\$25,725</b></p> <p><b>\$99</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2017 Ford Escape</b> STOCK# 0T004A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 4WD</li> <li>&gt; Local Trade</li> <li>&gt; 88,000 kms</li> </ul> <p><b>\$19,459</b></p> <p><b>\$79</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2017 Envision</b> STOCK# 0T035A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Heated Seats</li> <li>&gt; AWD</li> <li>&gt; 69,000 kms</li> </ul> <p><b>\$25,969</b></p> <p><b>\$99</b> PER WEEK</p>
<p><b>2015 Ford Escape</b> STOCK# 0T063A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; New tires</li> <li>&gt; 4WD</li> <li>&gt; 97,000 kms</li> </ul> <p><b>\$16,419</b></p> <p><b>\$79</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2017 GMC Yukon</b> STOCK# 0T018A <i>PERFECT FOR THE BUSY SEASON</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 81,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; Local Trade</li> </ul> <p><b>\$51,900</b></p> <p><b>\$199</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2016 Cruze</b> STOCK# 0T086B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Great on fuel</li> <li>&gt; 112,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; Awesome color</li> </ul> <p><b>\$11,900</b></p> <p><b>\$65</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2013 F-150 XLT</b> STOCK# 0T117A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 5.0L</li> <li>&gt; 129,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; 4x4</li> </ul> <p><b>\$19,900</b></p> <p><b>\$105</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2015 Ford F-150</b> STOCK# 0T107A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Power boards</li> <li>&gt; Max trailer tow</li> <li>&gt; One owner</li> </ul> <p><b>\$31,900</b></p> <p><b>\$139</b> PER WEEK</p>
<p><b>2017 Ford F-350</b> STOCK# 9P278A <i>READY FOR WORK!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 63,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; 4x4</li> </ul> <p><b>\$46,900</b></p> <p><b>\$181</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2006 Mark Lt</b> STOCK# 6P213A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 5.4L</li> <li>&gt; 182,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; 4x4</li> </ul> <p><b>\$11,900</b></p>	<p><b>2018 Ford Escape</b> STOCK# 0P183</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; AWD</li> <li>&gt; 47,000 kms</li> <li>&gt; Remote start</li> </ul> <p><b>\$22,900</b></p> <p><b>\$93</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2016 Expedition</b> STOCK# 0P174A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Platinum</li> <li>&gt; Local SUV</li> <li>&gt; Max</li> </ul> <p><b>\$32,900</b></p> <p><b>\$145</b> PER WEEK</p>	<p><b>2014 Ford Explorer</b> STOCK# 0T091B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 3.5L</li> <li>&gt; Room for 6</li> <li>&gt; New tires</li> </ul> <p><b>\$21,900</b></p> <p><b>\$99</b> PER WEEK</p>

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Published from the World-Spectator office  
714 Main Street  
Moosomin, SK

**306.435.2445**

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www.plainandvalley.com

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