

Inside this issue of Plain and Valley



Miskiman optimistic about provincial health region
Page 3



Sask Party candidate Scott Moe visits Moosomin
Page 8



Brian McCarthy inducted into Canadian Simmental Hall of Fame
Page 27



Dr. Kuzmicz credits her rural roots for her approach to care

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE
Saskatchewan's Family Doctor of the Year says her rural upbringing contributed significantly to making her the compassionate, people-focused physician she is today.

Dr. Jennifer Kuzmicz, who grew up on a farm near the hamlet of Candiak, Sask. and attended Montmartre School, said the development of her people-centered approach to medicine took root early in her life.

"A small-town setting is about really getting to know people. You respect their privacy but you learn a lot about their personality and character," said the 45-year-old physician.

Dr. Kuzmicz earned the 2017 Family Physician of the Year award both for her extensive medical career accomplishments and for her caring approach in her 750-patient practice.

"I try to make the person in front of me the most important thing and not to feel rushed or distracted because people can tell when you're not listening," said Dr. Kuzmicz.

Long-time patient Sandi Potter has benefited from a number of house calls from Dr. Kuzmicz over the years and has witnessed her physician go above and beyond in providing medical care.

"She's just wonderful," said the 92-year-old Potter. "When I come in,



Dr. Kuzmicz with a patient.

I bring my little list and she goes over everything with me one by one."

Dr. Kuzmicz earned the family doctor of the year award, conferred

by the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians, for her mentorship of other family physicians as well. She received her Fellowship

in Family Medicine in 2014 and has been the Regina Family Medicine Residency Training Coordinator since 2013.

Being a teaching doctor at the Academic Family Medicine practice, Dr. Kuzmicz now gets to work with physicians who are starting their careers. As part of the training, Dr. Kuzmicz not only emphasizes the need for continuing education and the honing of diagnostic skills, but she places a high level of importance on viewing the patient as a whole.

"What I tell residents is to remember these are people, they're not just patients, and that they don't necessarily have a lot of experience or knowledge about the health system and they're depending on you," said Kuzmicz, a mother of two young children.

Colleague Dr. Sarah Liskowich nominated Dr. Kuzmicz for the award, citing tremendous contributions to the education of future family physicians from first year medical students through to residents in family medicine and other specialties.

"She is a family physician who consistently puts patients first, acts as a role model to colleagues, learners and the interdisciplinary team, advocates for her patients and above all provides high quality continuity of care," said Dr. Liskowich.

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Miskiman optimistic for provincial health region

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Saskatchewan moved to a single provincial health region as of last week, and one person who has spent a lot of time working for rural health care is optimistic that the new health region will be good for the province.

Moosomin's Larry Miskiman served on the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority for the last four years, and in the past spent years at the local level planning and fundraising for the Southeast Integrated Care Centre in Moosomin.

"I'm optimistic," he said in an interview last week. "I think we have a strong board for the new provincial region. The two individuals I know on the board are two strong people. The people I know on the senior leadership team are strong leaders, so I'm encouraged. I think it's the right thing to do and hopefully we'll see some good changes take place."

Miskiman says his experience in health care governance has given him perspective on the issues and what is needed to address them.

"I was really involved with trying to get services to the community in the health sector, and when I was approached to apply to serve on the RQHR I applied, and I was appointed."

"Serving at the RQHR level, it gave you a bit more perspective on what the health system is capable of doing and what it's not capable of doing."

"The board is there for governance and strategic planning. They're not involved in operations at all. But I knew if there was an issue here, I knew the people within the health system to set up a meeting with, so you could get that fire put out as quickly as possible."

"Most fires are due to miscommunication 99 per cent of the time. If you get the right people communicating, all of a sudden the major fires are put out pretty quick."

"As a board member, I didn't get involved in operations, but I could link operations and the community together, and that's what you need to do."

"With the Saskatchewan Health Authority, there are people who communities can deal with if there are issues. With the board covering the entire province, municipal leaders might have to take the role of advocates for their communities and start the discussion if there are any issues."

He said the new structure should ultimately be a good change, but it may take some patience before everything is operating perfectly.

"I believe the concept is good, but it's a large undertaking to go from 12 administrations to one," he said.

"The concept of becoming one is the right one. The challenge is making it work operationally. It will take some patience and it will be challenging."

"Representation could be an issue, but it may depend



LARRY MISKIMAN

on the town and RM councils to advocate for their communities if there are issues."

He said this area is ahead of the curve on that, as the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation, which fundraises for local health care needs, and the Southeast Municipal Healthcare Corporation, which owns the building in which the Moosomin Family Practice Centre operates, involve local municipalities.

"With the Health Care Foundation we brought the municipalities together when we were planning the new facility," Miskiman says. "It has stayed in place to fundraise for health care

and has been very effective."

He said it is important for the new authority to keep the focus on patients.

"What is important is quality of care and patient safety," he said. "If they keep focused on that, I think the patients and the residents will be served well."

"I feel comfortable knowing there are people in the health system that people can talk to and I think they would be open to listening to the elected leadership of the community if there's an issue."

Is he worried that rural communities could be forgotten by a board running major health facilities in

Regina and Saskatoon?

"It's up to the leadership to make sure that doesn't happen," he said. "I think there will be a concerted effort to make sure that doesn't happen. In a provincial entity you have to make sure that there is an effort to serve every community."

"I believe there will be an effort to provide more services outside the cities. There's definitely potential for that. Moosomin has had the chemotherapy program, Dr. Crouse does the carpal tunnel surgery, and people come from Regina to Moosomin for that surgery."

"The more services you can get outside of Regina and Saskatoon the better. I believe you will see more services outside the main cities."

He said Moosomin is unique as a rural community with a strong medical practice.

"We recruited some very good doctors initially, and the community has always been very supportive of the doctors. People say we're

lucky. I'm not sure we're lucky. We made a concerted effort. We tried to bring them in and get them involved in the community. To keep doctors, you have to give them a good quality of life. We were fortunate to have enough doctors here that the doctors could always get away and get a break."

"Many other communities just haven't been able to recruit the way Moosomin has been able to."

"We've been fortunate to have always had an adequate number of physicians, and give a pretty high standard of care to our community."

He said the new authority will have a structure that will ensure good communication between the administration and the medical community. "My understanding is that each vice-president will have a physician liaison and they will work together so there will always be a link between the physicians and the region. That's very important."



Steven Bonk, MLA

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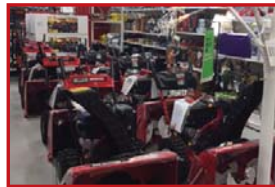
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Thanks to our readers and advertisers for making this newspaper a success

Since the Moose Jaw Times Herald made the decision to cease publication, I have had a lot of people expressing their hope that our paper—the World-Spectator—will continue on and how much it would be missed if it closed like Moose Jaw.



Kevin Weedmark

I have assured everyone that we are doing fine at the moment, thanks to the support of our community.

Friday morning, I got a call from CBC. They had been told by people in our industry to give me a call as an example of a successful newspaper that is doing well.

I had to think about what the differences are between our operation and the Moose Jaw paper.

Roger Holmes, a community-minded businessman and a great publisher, bought the Moose Jaw Times-Herald after it had been owned by a large chain for many years, and tried to turn the operation around, but it was too late as the owner, Transcontinental and before them Thompson, had not invested in their product or their community.

The Moose Jaw Times Herald had 2,000 subscribers in a city of 34,000.

The World-Spectator prints 4,000 copies each week and has another 300 people read it online in a town of 3,300.

I'm in a market one-tenth the size of Moose Jaw and have twice as many subscribers. If I had the same proportion of the population, we would have 200 subscribers, at which point we wouldn't really be serving the community.

Our regional publication, Plain and Valley, goes into 27,500 households in southeast Saskatchewan and

southwest Manitoba.

We started Plain and Valley 10 years ago and it has grown every year.

The World-Spectator has been around since 1884, and has grown every year that I have owned it.

Our local advertising income is up this year again for the 15th year in a row.

So we're not in the same difficult position as the Moose Jaw Times Herald at this point.

We have always made it our first priority to serve the community, rather than thinking of the newspaper as a business and the business side of things has done very well.

We are in a supportive community. Moosomin and surrounding towns are full of readers and advertisers who support us as we do our best to serve them.

Sometimes our readers appreciate us a bit too much.

A couple of weeks back, I bought a batch of fudge from the Caring Communities auction to show my support, and had it out for the staff.

Then Jacqui, one of our employees who loves to bake, brought cookies as she does most weeks.

Then the organizers of a community event brought a

cake for our staff, to thank us for our support of their sold-out event, and our help with the tickets, posters, and promotion for the event.

Then one of our customers, an artist who has us print art cards and prints for her, brought a dozen cinnamon buns for our staff to thank them for the work they do for her.

If I'm getting overly chubby, I will try to blame it on our customers and readers!

I know the world is changing and newspapers won't be around in printed form forever.

In a community like this, however, I would think there will always be a role for local news, a central clearing-house of information, in whatever form that information is delivered.

For whatever reason, our newspaper is not going the direction of some in our industry.

One strong trend I notice is that the papers owned by large chains are the ones that are really struggling, while I know many independent publishers who are serving a need in their communities and are doing fine.

If our particular newspaper is doing well, it's thanks to the readers and advertisers who have supported us over the years.

If you are reading this right now, you are one of them. Thank you for your support.

We will continue to work hard to inform and support our communities.

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Dr. Gaucher says he will miss Moosomin



Dr. Ron Gaucher

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
When Dr. Ron Gaucher travelled to Moosomin last Wednesday and Thursday to provide optometry services at FYI Doctors, it marked the end of a 30-year tradition.

"I started coming out in 1987, so it's been 30 years," Dr. Gaucher said last week. "I had started coming out to Wawota a couple of years before that, because at that time Moosomin had an optometrist, and Wawota approached me and asked me if I wanted to come out to provide service, so I did."

"I did that for a couple of years, and then the optometrist in Moosomin retired, and a lot of Moosomin patients were coming to Wawota to see me. Bill Thorn was the one who approached me and asked if I would start coming to Moosomin. I kept both the Moosomin and Wawota offices going for a few years but eventually I closed Wawota and dedicated my time to Moosomin."

"For the first 15 or 20 years I was coming out for

two days a week. I never missed a week."

Since then the Moosomin office has been shared with other optometrists from Dr. Gaucher's Regina office, with Dr. Gaucher coming alternate weeks.

"When I first started coming to Moosomin I thought it would just be for a couple of years until I got established in Regina," Dr. Gaucher says. "But then you develop a connection with the community, you develop a connection with your patients, and I enjoyed it. I enjoyed providing the service and I became very connected and I didn't need to come out, but I wanted to come out."

Dr. Gaucher said the Moosomin office serves thousands of patients. "We're out there two days a week and we're booked up every time we're out there, so I would think we have served thousands of patients over the years."

"Being a small clinic that's providing service a couple of days a week, it is a little harder justifying having all the high-

tech equipment we would have in our Regina office, but Moosomin has been a strong enough office that we've been able to maintain the technology."

"We have an imaging system in Moosomin now that none of our other satellite offices have. We try to keep up as best we can because Moosomin has been a very good office. It's been a very productive office, so it's easier to justify having some of that equipment that other offices don't."

What has he enjoyed about coming out to Moosomin?

"It's the people. They appreciate you coming, they're very loyal. They realize the commitment that you have made to them. It comes down to the people more than anything else."

After being the sole optometrist staffing the office in Moosomin, Dr. Gaucher started sharing duties with Dr. Yea, who is now on maternity leave, and some new optometrists are now serving the office.

"We transitioned a couple of the new doctors in over the past year," says Dr. Gaucher. "I've been coming out less, they've been coming out more."

"We have two new doctors. They're basically going to take over my practice and Dr. Yea's practice."

He said FYI is committed to Moosomin for the long term. "We intend to be in Moosomin for the long term," Dr. Gaucher said. "It's a great location, it's been a great office. Our intent is to continue serving Moosomin."

What will he miss about Moosomin?

"I'll miss the routine. It's been part of my career since I started. I've never not travelled. I've had patients for 30 years in Moosomin. I'm on the fourth generation with some families. I've got some really strong connections and I'll miss them. I have some mixed feelings about this."

While he will no longer be working in Moosomin, Dr. Gaucher will be returning to town regularly—among other reasons to see the doctor.

"My GP is in Moosomin—Dr. Van—so I'll travel to Moosomin to see him. He's my family doctor."

"I have way better care in Moosomin than I would in Regina, so I'll keep coming to Moosomin—I'll maintain the connection."

Alberta licensed vehicles no longer allowed on Sask Highways construction sites

The Government of Saskatchewan announced recently that vehicles displaying Alberta licence plates will no longer be allowed on job sites for Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's new projects.

"Saskatchewan contractors tell us that vehicles with Saskatchewan plates are not welcome on Government of Alberta job sites," Highways and Infrastructure Minister and Minister responsible for SaskBuilds David Marit said.

"Saskatchewan operators feel forced to register their vehicles in Alberta if they want to do business there. Today's announcement just levels the playing field."

The new restriction was developed in response to industry feedback that Alberta's practice has placed Sas-

katchewan suppliers at a competitive disadvantage. The restriction will apply only to new contracts awarded by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. Existing job sites will not be impacted.

"We are very pleased to see government enacting changes that will level the playing field for our members," Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association President Shantel Lipp said. "Saskatchewan heavy construction contractors have been one of the largest employers in the province in good years and in bad, creating major economic impacts and fiscal benefits for Saskatchewan. Our members invest in people, and machinery to construct our network of roads, railways, pipelines, dams and, in the past century, build mines and

cities. As local construction companies obtain a larger share of the Saskatchewan construction marketplace they develop the people, equipment and capacity to maximize their economies of scale."

New contracts awarded by the ministry will require suppliers to ensure that no vehicles displaying Alberta license plates are present on ministry-funded work sites. This will include contractors, sub-contractors, consultants and workers. Ministry staff will enforce the contract provision through job site monitoring.

"Saskatchewan operators have been subject to this treatment in Alberta for years," Marit said. "Today, we are sending a clear message that Alberta suppliers can expect the very same treatment here."

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Sask Party leadership candidate Scott Moe spoke to party supporters in Moosomin Monday.

Sask Party candidate Scott Moe visits Moosomin

Scott Moe is one of the six candidates to be the next leader of the Saskatchewan Party and the next Premier of Saskatchewan. He visited Moosomin last week, along with Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, who has endorsed him.

Kevin Weedmark had an interview with him:

What made you decide to get into this race?

There are a lot of things that run through your mind before you ever run for politics in the first place, and before you enter a leadership race such as this, but to make a long story short, my motivation is to really just leave things a little bit better than I found them, to improve things for the next generation, my children's generation, in the way of opportunities for jobs, and the way of opportunities for them to have a choice, to have a career, in the community they are raised in. That is why I ran for politics in the first place, to improve that and that is why I am running in this race as well, to do what I can do to leave things a little better than I found them.

How do you feel the race is going so far?

It is likely not that easy to gauge, but our response has been very positive. It's been good here this evening, and it has been good in the communities across the province.

I've had the opportunity to visit over 100 communities over the last three months and I am reminded of what a strong presence we have here in the province.

Meeting all of the people that build our communities across the province over the last three months has been one of the more personally rewarding things that I have ever been involved in, and win or lose this race, I am a winner already.

What sort of things are you hearing out there?

We hear a lot about the financial situation of the province, we hear a lot about some of the changes our federal government is making in the way of trying to impose a carbon tax on provinces and some federal corporate income tax changes.

Ultimately where we end up with most groups is talking about what are our industries and what are our communities and what is our province going to look like at the year 2030. Over the next decade what are we going to look like at the end of the day, and we reflect some of that vision with some of the policies that we've put forward, most notably our growth target of 1.5 million people by the year 2030.

What differentiates you from the other candidates?

Having a population growth target that is a credible target that is achievable of 1.5 million by 2030, and the policies that will be put into place to expand our economy, to expand our exports, to provide those careers in communities across the province, to ensure that we can hit that target and to continue to grow our communities so we can reinvest those revenues into services that people expect their provincial government to provide—services like healthcare, services such as our K-12 education and post secondary education.

Brad Wall was a very popular politician in this area, a lot of people look up to him—how is the next premier

going to follow up on that?

It isn't going to be easy. Brad Wall has provided great leadership to the people and the industries, not even just in the province of Saskatchewan, but for the nation of Canada at times.

He has spoken very loudly and proudly and has taught us to be proud being from our community and being from this province and that is something I think we can all appreciate.

As we move forward we need to ensure that we elect an individual and a team in our case with the depth to ensure that we can put the policies in place and make the decisions moving forward that allow us to continue with that growth—to grow our wealth and our economy which ultimately means the growth of jobs and growth of our communities. It's about the policies that we can put in place and the leadership that we can provide. We will be forever grateful for the leadership that premier Wall has provided for all of us.

What do you think the biggest challenge will be for the next premier?

I think there is a challenge with our economy to begin with, and how we can ensure that we make decisions that provide not only the survival of our industries but have them poised and ready when some of our natural resources prices do return, and some of those are starting to show signs of creeping back. Some of the other challenges that we have quite honestly are with some of the regulations and efforts that are coming out of our federal government. Things such as the carbon tax, things such as changes to the decisions around the goalposts if you will for projects that benefit Saskatchewan like the Energy East pipeline, changes with respect to corporate income tax. There are a number of challenges that are directly being imposed on Saskatchewan industry and Saskatchewan residents by our federal government, and we are going to have to be firm in some of our discussions around that situation to ensure that we do not hurt the growth of our economy and the growth of our communities into the future.

What have you learned through this process so far?

First and foremost I have learned how strong our communities are. They are strong because of the people in them. I have had the opportunity to meet so many of them over the last three months. That's the greatest thing that I have learned and am reminded of and most thankful for throughout this process.

What else I have learned is how quickly you can wear out a Chevy pickup truck.

Are you on the road seven days a week going to communities like Moosomin?

Pretty much every day. We were in Rose Valley and Porcupine Plain yesterday, Meadow Lake the day before. Pretty much seven days a week, but like I say, it has been one of the more rewarding processes that I have ever been involved with. I have a load of respect for all of the candi-

12:1c

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dates who put their name forward. We are all Sask Party members first and I think the whole process is a good one for the party.

I am engaging with people across this province and providing them a view of our vision as well as answering any questions that they may have. What I have learned is how strong our province is. That's what I will take from this race.

What is your measure of success in this race? Is it simply if you're the next premier, that's success, and anything else is failure?

This is a little bit different than that. I think all of us as candidates in this race ultimately want, and I think we have a chance to, be successful in this and be the leader of the party and the premier, and I am no different.

I am very biased, I am hoping and thinking that we have a chance in being successful, and our team does want to lead the party and lead the province.

But ultimately success in this race is for us to have to really redo that whole engagement process that those eight founding members did two decades ago with the formation of this party.

To re-engage at a very grassroots level with people across the province through selling memberships and conversations like we had here tonight on what does our province, what do our communities look like in the future, and renew that vision that started just two decades ago with the formation of this party.

So at the end of the day what is success?

Success I think is a stronger relationship between the party and the people of the province, and ultimately a stronger party.

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12:1c

New dentist excited to be in Rocanville

BY KARA KINNA

A new dental office has opened in Rocanville, and Dr. Simon Haimanot says he's excited to be part of the community.

Rocanville Dental Clinic opened on Nov. 1, and is providing dental services five days a week. A dental therapist—Lynn Bryan—is on site Monday to Friday and Dr. Haimanot is available three days a week.

Haimanot graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2015 and, even though he grew up in Saskatoon, he says working in a rural area led him to fall in love with small town life.

"After I graduated I worked in Regina for just over a year, and then after that I went to Lac La Biche, Alberta, a small town about two and a half hours north of Edmonton on the way to Fort McMurray," says Haimanot. "I worked there for about a year and a half and then was contacted about this opportunity out here and decided to ahead with it."

Haimanot says he enjoyed his time in Lac La Biche so much that he knew he wanted to practice dentistry in a small town.

"I've really enjoyed all the advantages of working in a small town," he says. "It's nice to slowly become part of the community. People see you around and they start to get to know you, and I like that. That's part of why I decided to come to Rocanville versus setting up a clinic in the city."

Haimanot found out about the clinic in Rocanville from a friend, and thought it would be a great opportunity.

"A friend told me about it and one of the local dental reps who was in contact with Lynn (Bryan) then got in contact with me and that's how we opened up," he says.

"I was a city boy and always thought I'd be a city boy. I worked in Regina and loved Regina, but when I moved to Lac La Biche, I just really loved living in a small town. I thought it was really cool and neat. I like practicing in a small town. Small town practice is a little different than a city practice. Personally I've really enjoyed it."

"When I saw this opportunity I kind of jumped at it."

"In a small town you can walk down the street and see your patients, whereas in the city you are a little more anonymous. There is a dentist on every corner. There are so many dentists in the city, and in a small town you are seeing people from all over and a lot



The staff at Rocanville Dental Clinic. From left are Anastasia Lehman, Lynn Bryan, Dr. Simon Haimanot, and Danielle Gibson.

of them have serious dental needs and you're able to help them out.

"A lot of the patients we've had haven't been able to get in just because a lot of the clinics here are so busy and they are doing their best to service as many people as they can. There is a lot of need out here."

"When we have patients here, to send them to a specialist, it's a two and a half hour drive at least, and even the specialists in Regina are packed, so you get a little bit more of an opportunity to be able to do a little bit more dentistry. Otherwise they'd have to be sent to the city."

Rocanville's dental clinic has had a number of dentists pass through over the last few years.

Haimanot says one of the toughest things about starting up a clinic in Rocanville is convincing people he's serious about staying.

"That's kind of been a challenge for us—a lot of patients don't know if we are sticking around, but we're here for the long haul," he says.

"Right now I'm here three days a week and our dental therapist, Lynn is here five days a week. Monday to Friday someone will always be here and Tuesdays and Thursdays we're open late until 7. We're hoping that helps serve people."

The clinic is also providing same-day emergency

services.

"That's kind of our goal, to be able to see people, especially when there is an emergency," says Haimanot. "It's always nice to have someone be able to see you that day. Cleanings and checkups are always important, but being able to see people when they are in pain."

Haimanot continues to practice in Alberta a few days a week as well, but

says eventually he's hoping to spend more time and get more settled in Rocanville.

He's says his client list is slowly growing.

"All in all it's pretty good. We're not full by any means but we are definitely seeing patients coming in and coming back which is always nice to see. Slowly but surely we are seeing new patients coming in."

Haimanot says the community seems happy to have dental services back.

"Everyone I've talked to seems really positive about

it and the town was quite happy about it," he says. "This is a pretty good sized town, and on top of that there are a lot of surround-

ing communities that are in need. The key is just getting the word out there that we are here and able to serve people."

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School Division ends year with \$2 million deficit

BY NORM PARK
South East Cornerstone School Division Chief Financial Officer Shelley Toth presented the 2016-17 annual financial report to board members on November 22.

Toth noted the anticipated \$5.6 million deficit had been trimmed to \$1.9 million, thanks to efforts made across the division to find efficiencies in support of the government's request for fiscal restraint.

Revenues exceeded expectations by \$871,000, giving Cornerstone a total revenue base of \$102.6 million while expenses came in at \$104.5 million.

"The majority of the division's operating revenue is determined by the provincial funding formula with the source of this revenue coming from a combination of education property taxes, provincial grant and some tuition revenue," she said in her written and oral report filed with the board of trustees during their regular monthly business meeting.

She went on to note that any variance

between estimated and actual property tax revenue is offset by adjustments made to the provincial grant to ensure total revenue is not higher or lower than the amount determined by the provincial formula.

During the past fiscal year, taxation revenue was \$981,000 higher than budget and the operating grant was \$3.7 million less than what was budgeted. Adjustments made to the operating grant included a decrease of \$700,000 for enrolment and funding rate reductions and a decrease of \$300,000 for the 2016 property tax cash reconciliation from estimate to actual and a decrease of \$2.7 million from an anticipated increase in the 2017 property tax revenue as a result of property reassessments.

A reconciliation of estimated to actual property tax collections will be made at the end of December this year with adjustments, if necessary, being made through the 2017-18 grant.

\$1.3 million for design of new school, day care in Weyburn

On the capital project side, Toth said \$1.3 million was provided for the design of a new Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 school, and a 51-seat day care facility in Weyburn.

"Other revenue was significantly higher than budget ... by \$1.6 million. The variance is due to the recognition of a non-cash donation of \$1.14 million from the Estevan Summer Games for a track, equipment and storage building donated to the Estevan Comprehensive School (ECS)," she said.

On the expense side of the ledger, Toth said expenses were down by 2.7 per cent or \$2.9 million from the budgeted amount. Salaries and benefits made up a good portion of that reduction, coming in \$1.3 million under budget.

She said that is reflective of the provin-

cial hiring freeze and lower than budgeted wage increases. Goods and services were \$1.7 million under budget, she reported. They make up nearly 20 per cent of the division's operating expenses.

"Budget managers in every functional area made efforts to reduce expenditures which resulted in lower than budgeted costs for travel, professional development, textbooks, supplies and services," Toth said. Heating costs were \$459,000 under budget thanks to a warmer winter and fuel for the school buses was also lowered, bringing that cost \$207,000 under budget. Contracted bus service was also lower than budgeted by \$212,000, she said.

During the course of the year, \$5.9 million was added to the division's tangible assets thanks to the addition of the ECS track and storage building, six more buses (\$612,000) and two trucks (\$80,000) as well as \$1.9 million for computer hardware and audio/visual equipment and another \$1.5 million for buildings.

New regional business event gaining momentum

The RM of Souris-Glenwood, RM of Pipestone, Town of Virden, RM of Wallace-Woodworth, Town of Melita, Municipality of Grassland, RM of Sifton, RM of Deloraine-Winchester, and Virden Skills Training Inc., have come together to organize and facilitate the South West Business and Entrepreneurship Expo.

The goal of this expo is to attract and support new and existing entrepreneurs in the region. An exhibition area will be available to registrants.

"The expo is geared to showcase numerous services available for entrepreneurs in different stages of their business life cycle," says chairperson Tanis Chalmers, Manager of Economic Development for the RM of

Pipestone. There will be learning sessions from industry experts throughout the day. These sessions will provide innovative ideas and tools to succeed in the competitive business environment.

Another unique feature of this event is the Pitch Session. This is open to start-up entrepreneurs and existing ones looking to expand. They will not only get feedback from their expert panel of judges, they will also get a chance to win cash prizes.

The First Annual South West Business and Entrepreneurship Expo is scheduled for February 7, 2018 at the Tundra Oil and Gas Place, Virden, Manitoba. Sponsorships are a key element to the success of this event.

"We are fortunate to have

a very supportive business resource sector and so far have been successful in arranging funds from various sources, such as financial intuitions and government agencies," says Chalmers.

The committee will continue to pursue sponsorships for the event, including tradeshow booths in the next coming weeks.

"We would like to encourage business to business interactions as well as business resources that are available," says Chalmers.

Anyone interested in the expo as an exhibitor or sponsor is asked to notify the committee at their earliest convenience.

If you have any questions about the event please contact Peggy Foy, Virden Skills Training Inc. 204-748-6083

or find visit Facebook at Southwest Business & Entrepreneur Expo. All updated information about the event and sponsors will be posted here as it becomes available.

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Rob Swan delivers a rock at the Wawota curling rink on Nov. 24 in an eight-end game as part of a personal challenge to visit as many curling rinks as he can this winter.

Swan raising awareness of curling across Canada

BY DONNA BEUTLER

Rob Swan is curling his way across the nation and recently made stops in Wawota, Virden and Moosomin.

Swan is a life-long curler who makes his home in the village of Harvey Station, New Brunswick and who jokingly tells others he was "born on a rock."

"With what he said is 'granite running through my veins,' his original goal when he started visiting curling rinks both in Canada and the U.S.—100

gon and lead Carla Weatherald against skip Duane Lamontagne, third Sierra Murray, second Tim Hamilton and lead Emma Bunz.

Afterwards on Nov. 24, Swan travelled to Virden to curl, then headed to Moosomin to curl in the women's bonspiel that evening.

"I do it to get curling into the news, to bring awareness of the sport," he said.

He talked about the fact that people can watch the grand slams on television, but that what it's really all about is everyday people

(in many parts of the country)," Swan said, and in his continued efforts to promote curling, he has been working towards having his province's MLAs visit curling rinks across his province each season.

"Tourism needs to get involved," he said, "and schools. It needs to get into every school."

Swan also assists curling clubs with fundraising ideas and safety promotion. He will help clubs make good choices when it comes to fundraising and loves to

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Above and below: Rob Swan curling in the women's bonspiel in Moosomin on Friday, Nov. 24.

of them in the 2014-15 season—was to raise funds for his home rink which was in need of repairs and upgrades.

Since then, Swan has continued his travels in his off time, though he doesn't set a goal of a certain number of rinks per season anymore, simply due to health and finances.

Now in his third season of traveling, Swan brings his love of curling to rinks both large and small, recently visiting the Wawota Curling Club where, on Nov. 24, he played an eight-end game with skip George Eisler, third Taylene Bour-

everywhere playing the game and making it the great sport it is today.

"Maybe I can persuade just one person to play the game," Swan said. "If I do, I've done my job."

Swan spoke of the sweet sound of the rock rolling down the ice and how, when he's curling, that's all he's thinking about—the game. When Swan, 51, was diagnosed with cancer, curling became a form of therapy for him. He loves to see the 'spiels that are held to raise money for cancer research and would personally like to see more.

He spoke of the camaraderie of fellow curlers and how people who play the sport are always meeting new friends. He has personally curled in wheelchair curling, seniors' curling, blind curling events and in all-women's curling events, including the Moosomin women's bonspiel.

"I have no financial sponsors," Swan said, "though Asham has been the best."

Swan's work in the field of safety is such that he works for a couple of weeks on and then a couple off.

Swan is working towards getting provinces like his own to acknowledge, support and create curling "days" or "weeks" as a means to bring more awareness to the sport. His home province of New Brunswick recently mandated a "curling week" while Saskatchewan, he noted, has a provincial day of curling. Curling was designated as Saskatchewan's official sport in 2001.

"There is no municipal or provincial support of curl-

ing. He also likes to see emergency action plans posted in curling rinks, maps at the exit doors, and that rinks have AEDs, fire extinguishers and first aid kits on hand.

Swan spoke about not only the great sport of curling but the great people who play the sport, including 90-year-old George Eisler of Wawota who was Swan's skip during the Nov. 24 game at the Wawota Curling Club.

"I started when I was 13," Eisler said, "and I curled in Wawota and Manor."

Eisler has been an avid curler for all these years and presently curls in a seniors' league twice a week in Carlyle. It's been about a dozen years since Wawota has had seniors' curling on a regular basis.

"Quite a few years ago," Eisler said, "we had school kids curling, then they lost interest, but now it's coming back."

This is encouraging to both Eisler and Swan, to see a resurgence of interest in curlers of all ages. For both of them, this sport is second to none, something that is evident by the passion with which they speak and play the sport.

Swan has visited well over 200 of 1,500 curling rinks in Canada and plans to keep the visits going as long as he can, in the interest of simply promoting and bringing awareness to the sport he loves.

For those who are interested in following Swan as he travels across the nation, visit his Facebook page, 'Curling Across the Nation.'

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Left: The Delta Nu Girls. Left to right are Brena Abbey as Margot, Quinn McLean as Serena, and Brenley Palmer as Pilar.

Kim Poole photos

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Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up in Whitewood!



Santa Night in Whitewood saw a huge turnout of kids who enjoyed horse and wagon rides, a night of free skating, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus as well. The annual event was held Dec. 4 at the Whitewood Community Centre.



Here Santa and Mrs. Claus visit with Adrian (on Santa's knee) and his big sister Martelise Fourie of Whitewood during the Dec. 4 Santa Night at the Whitewood Community Centre. All the children, 160 of them to be exact, went home with a treat bag, courtesy of Santa and his wife and his two elves!



Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as one of their elves welcomed a visit from this family during Santa Night at the Whitewood Community Centre on Dec. 4. Pictured from left to right are Marlene Carefoot, Shaya Istace, Keiryn Istace, baby Meric Istace and Rowan Istace, children of Ludger and Krista Istace of Whitewood.



Jaya Brehaut of Whitewood enjoyed telling Santa exactly what she would like him to bring her this Christmas. Santa visited with approximately 160 children during the annual event which was held Dec. 4 at the Whitewood Community Centre.

Donna Beuler photos

From my family to yours, wishing you joy, peace and hope this holiday season and throughout the New Year!

Merry Christmas!



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Provincial law changing because of federal legislation

Sask says zero tolerance for driving under influence of drugs

New federal legislation on drug-impaired driving is expected to take effect in late December or early January, and the Government of Saskatchewan wants drivers in this province to know how it impacts them.

The Miscellaneous Vehicle and Driving Statutes (Cannabis Legislation) Amendment Act, 2017 was introduced in the Saskatchewan Legislature Tuesday to prepare for those federal changes.

"It's important for people to remember that in Saskatchewan it is currently and will continue to be illegal to drive while impaired—whether by drugs or alcohol," Minister Responsible for SGI Joe Hargrave said.

"That is not changing, even when personal cannabis use becomes legal in July. New federal legislation gives police new tools to detect drug-impaired drivers. Anyone caught will face the same tough consequences as drivers impaired by alcohol."

Marijuana impairs a driver's judgment, reaction time, motor coordination and ability to make decisions. Mixing drugs with alcohol increases impairment.

Saskatchewan will have zero tolerance for all drivers for drug-impaired driving. Implementing a zero tolerance approach means that drivers should not get behind the wheel with any level of impairing drugs in their system that is detectable by a federally-approved screening device. The province is updating legislation and regulations so that tough administrative consequences that impaired drivers in Saskatchewan currently face will also apply to anyone charged under the new federal laws.

The zero tolerance stance is part of Saskatchewan's action plan for cannabis legalization in Canada next year. In the Government of Saskatchewan's recently released Cannabis Survey (www.saskatchewan.ca/government/news-and-media/2017/november/23/cannabis-survey-results), 65.6 per cent of people agreed or strongly agreed that the same penalties for alcohol-impaired driving should apply to drug-impaired driving.

A majority of respondents also agreed that there should be zero tolerance for drivers who use cannabis or other impairing drugs.

Police can currently lay an "impaired by drugs or alcohol" charge under the Criminal Code. Federal Bill C-46 adds three new drug-impaired driving offences to the Criminal Code. Once the bill receives Royal Assent, police can immediately lay those charges.

When new Criminal Code charges are laid

When Saskatchewan's new legislation is passed, a driver charged with one of the three new Criminal Code

charges under Bill C-46 will also face administrative consequences under The Traffic Safety Act:

Immediate driver's licence suspension until the court has disposed of the charge;

30-day vehicle seizure, or 60 day seizure if driver is also impaired by alcohol and has a blood alcohol concentration over .16 (vehicle owner responsible for towing and impound fees).

Upon conviction

In addition to fines, jail time, driving suspensions and other sanctions imposed by the courts, a Criminal Code conviction will result in the following administrative consequences from SGI:

Minimum one-year driving suspension to a maximum of five years;

Penalties ranging from \$1,250 to \$2,500 under SGI's

Safe Driver Recognition program, depending on the severity of the offence; and

Requirement to complete prescribed education programs, as applicable, depending on the number of previous Criminal Code convictions.

Once Bill C-46 is in place, police will also have the authority to use federally-approved roadside drug screening devices for impaired driving, if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a driver is impaired by a drug. These devices will test saliva for the presence of THC (the impairing component of cannabis) as well as some other drugs. If a driver tests positive, or fails a standardized field sobriety test, police can demand a blood sample or a drug recognition evaluation. Saliva testing is not currently available in Saskatchewan, but the new provincial legislation is preparing for the eventuality that testing will be available and police in this province will lay the new charges when appropriate.

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INTO THE WOODS



Creative Vision Productions in Moosomin performed "Into the Woods" Nov. 10-12. The musical mixed fairy tales with humor and drama. Four shows were performed that weekend to mostly sold out crowds.

Clockwise from top left corner: Desiree Neville (Baker's Wife), Blake Kelly (Baker), and Amanda Selby (Witch).

Trevor Vuono (Rapunzel's Prince) and James Calloway (Cinderella's Prince) singing.

Krista Russel (Granny) and Chelsea Sauvé (Little Red Riding Hood) popping out of Trevor Poole's (The Wolf) belly.

Amanda Selby (Witch) climbing the tower by Miranda DeCorby's (Rapunzel) hair as Trevor Vuono (Rapunzel's Prince) stands by.

Kevin Weedmark photos



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Hours: 467



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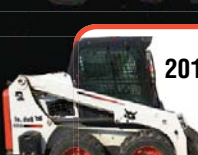
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Leadership candidates visit Moosomin constituency

About 150 people attended the Saskatchewan Party Moosomin Constituency Association AGM and leadership candidate forum in Wolseley Wednesday, Dec. 6. Five of the six leadership candidates attended the event. Moosomin is one of the strongest seats for the Sask Party, and has regularly had the second highest number of memberships out of all the constituencies. The World-Spectator has been conducting interviews with each of the candidates, as the winner will be the next premier.



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New clubhouse successfully moved

The new clubhouse for Pipestone Hills Golf Club, which was the former Tourism Saskatchewan visitor reception centre, was successfully moved from the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border to the golf course in the Pipestone Valley on Friday, Dec. 8.

The clubhouse, which was moved by Kola Building Movers, was carried south along the border road to Highway 48, west to Grid 600, north to Fleming, west along Range Road 131, and south on Highway 8 to the golf course.

Above is a photo taken by Rob Hockley of the clubhouse coming down the hill on Highway 8, then turning onto the road to the golf course.

Below is where the clubhouse came to a stop near its final location on the golf course.



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Will consumers pay more for verified sustainable beef?

Canada's beef farmers hope to learn whether their customers, and ultimately consumers, will pay more for sustainably produced beef coming from a verified production system. Farmers plan to get answers to their queries as part of a one-year pilot project launched in earlier this fall by Cargill, Canada's largest beef processor. Currently the pilot is only open to Canadian cattle processed at Cargill's High River, Alta. plant.

The project, called the Canadian Beef Sustainability Acceleration pilot, uses a number of existing beef industry programs, including the radio-frequency identification tag system. The Beef Info-Exchange System, commonly known as BIXS, is used to track cattle from the time farmers tag the animals until they're processed at Cargill's High River plant.

Verified Beef Production Plus is the certifying organization to audit farmers. The Canadian Roundtable on Sustainable Beef developed the sustainability standards farmers must meet.

Cargill's beef sustainability manager Gurneesh Bhandal says one of the pilot's goals is to meet "growing consumer demand for transparency about where food comes from."

Research shows consumers want to know how animals are raised and how national resources are managed in beef production, Bhandal says. "This project is about creating that transparency for consumers to learn about beef production."

Farmers can earn quarterly credits for all cattle that result in beef coming from the fully verified supply chain. Some of Cargill's customers helping to fund the pilot include McDonald's Restaurants, Loblaw's and the Swiss Chalet restaurant unit of CARA Operations Ltd.

Bhandal says the amount of the credits and the number of participating producers won't be known until the end of the pilot's first quarter next year. Farmers don't have to specifically sign up with Cargill to participate in the pilot.

All farmers who are verified by VBP+, registered with BIXS and uploading their cattle data on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency database are eligible for the financial incentive. The incentive is only paid if the cattle go through the entire verified supply chain from cow/calf to processor.

Bhandal says the first financial credits will be paid out to qualified farmers in early 2018. The amount of the financial credits will depend on "how many head of cattle make it through the system."

Calgary-area cow/calf and feedlot operator Bob Lowe, a participant in the pilot, says farmers want to know if customers and consumers will pay for "everything they're demanding us to do."

The pilot project "will either say consumers will pay for their demands or whether they won't," he says.

A one-year beef pilot project will help to build the supply of meat coming from certified sustainable farms.

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New Mazergroup building
Construction continues on the Mazergroup building in Moosomin. The new building will be on the North Service Road, facing the Trans-Canada Highway.

India import tariffs reverberate through crop markets

The Indian government took markets by surprise a few weeks ago when they increased import tariffs for wheat, oilseeds and vegetable oils, and introduced a new 50 per cent import tariff for field peas.

A successful monsoon season this year boosted Indian pulse crop production potential and, subsequently, this year's program to ship Canadian pulses into India is expected to be much smaller than the two years prior.

With a sharp increase in domestic India pulse production last year, and appearances of strong production again this year, pulse prices in India have come under sharp pres-

sure, placing financial stress on Indian farmers. That's why these import tariff measures were taken by the Indian government in an effort to support local values and, in turn, farmer profitability.

Concerns are rife about the potential impact of these policy changes, not only on field pea markets, but in broader global pulse markets.

The Indian government has been known to make sudden changes to agricultural and food policy in the past. They are constantly at odds between the conflicting agendas of supporting local farmers (and, in turn, supporting local production volumes and estab-

lishing food security) and the affordability of food for the Indian population of over 1.3 billion people.

Given India's importance to global pulse markets, the tariffs sparked concerns about the possible extension of these policies to other pulse varieties such as lentils.

There is further concern about how market access restrictions may pressure values in producing/exporting nations and how such pressures may influence a short to medium term decline in pulse production (lowering acres).

India remains a net importer of pulses, and although a lower than average level of imports may be

required from Canada this year, in future years the re-emergence of India's appetite in global pulse markets has the ability to create some real market volatility.

In the short term, further price volatility and liquidity is to be expected as the trade continues to digest how local pulse markets will reflect these policy changes and potential future policy changes.

India's decision to drop this 50 per cent field pea tariff bomb on imports triggered a significant move lower in Prairie cash bids for yellow peas, dropping from \$8 per bushel down to feed value of \$6 per bushel across many Prairie locations. Some merchan-

disers went to no bid until better clarity in the marketing world emerges. The ensuing confusion triggered cardiac arrest throughout the pulse trade here and internationally.

Last week saw some stabilization in the marketplace, with cash pricing in isolated locations seeing improvement - in some cases, back just above \$7 per bushel - likely destined for the American market.

Time is required to let the initial bearish knee-jerk market reaction to the India tariff news settle before prices return to some new equilibrium between buyers and sellers.

This India tariff event will, in time, re-organize the global supply/demand matrix for our pulse trade.

This tariff event will, in time, reorganize the global supply/demand matrix for our pulse trade, and will accelerate the development of other pea demand initiatives that will eventually shift our industry away from being so heavily dependent on India.

PFCanada suspects that the global-fracking (grinding for flour) and protein extraction story for numerous food ingredients will eventually come to influence the demand discussion and replace India as the former dominant demand outlet. Such initiatives are also expanding in the United States and China.

Already, four companies have announced plans to build fractionation plants in Western Canada. One is already operating in Vanscoy, Sask., with other plants under construction at Moose Jaw, Sask., Bowden, Alta. and Portage la Prairie, Man., which combined, will generate about 500,000 tonnes per year of new localized demand for peas.

India's 50 per cent field pea tariff imports triggered a significant move lower in Prairie cash bids. Time is required to let the news settle before prices return to a new normal.



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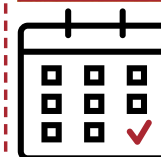
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McCarthy inducted into Canadian Simmental Hall of Fame

BY KARA KINNA

Brian McCarthy from Moosomin was honored for his work with the Simmental breed recently when he was inducted into the Canadian Simmental Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony was held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 in Regina.

Bruce Holmquist, the General Manager with the Canadian Simmental Association, says McCarthy has gone above and beyond when it comes to his involvement with the Simmental breed.

"He's done a lot of work within organizations, he was on the Regina Bull Sale committee and on the Saskatchewan Simmental Association, he was chair of the Regina Bull Test Centre when it was operating, and he was also president of the Canadian Simmental Association 2003-2004," says Holmquist.

"It's for the work he's done to advance things within the beef sector.

"He's been an excellent breeder of Simmental cattle, but from our association's perspective it's the things he did beyond that that qualify him for the hall of fame in advancing the Simmental breed. He's moved things forward on genetic improvement for the rest of the beef industry. Brian's got a good scientific mind for the application of genetics. He's always strived to produce better cattle, and when he was on the Canadian Simmental board he strived to create programming and he facilitated that programming.

"He laid the groundwork for some of the things that we are enjoying now.

"He had a role in creating new programming that facilitated genetic improvement for the beef industry. And then also the Regina Bull Sale, it was things like that that helped to create market opportunities for other producers. People brought their bulls to Regina and sold them through the sale. And the Regina test centre was also one of his passions, and what they did there was testing for feed efficiency and weight gain, that type of thing. It focussed on more than just showing cattle."

"Inductions into the hall of fame have been taking place since 2002. McCarthy was nominated by the Saskatchewan Simmental Association for the honor.

"It's 50 years of Simmental in Canada we're celebrating this year, so back through those years there have been people who have done things a little bit special, above what they would have to do," says Holmquist. "There's lots of people that just ranch and do their own thing and sell their product and don't contribute to organizations. It's the people who do more than that that we want to recognize.

"I've known Brian for many years and respect his commitment and the things he's done for the breed."

McCarthy says he was honored to be inducted into the hall of fame. When he got started in cattle, the Simmental breed was a new breed that had come over from Europe. Today the Simmental breed is second



Above: Brian McCarthy, right, is presented with a plaque by Lee McMillan, the Canadian Simmental Association president, at the induction ceremony where McCarthy was inducted into the Canadian Simmental Hall of Fame.

Below: Brian McCarthy with some of his cattle.



only to the Angus breed in registrations in Canada.

McCarthy says his passion for the breed started small and grew through the years.

"I took over a family farm but they weren't really in the cattle business," he says. "I took animal science at university. I ran into some people there whose parents had just imported some Simmental cattle from France and so it was kind of exciting times. The whole industry was starting to import continental breeds from Europe. There were quarantine stations on the east coast that were never there before, and it was feasible now to do so.

"It was kind of an exciting time in the cattle business. The cattle business at that time was predominantly Hereford cattle. I would say around here it was probably 90 per cent Hereford cattle.

"I always liked cattle as a kid and was always following cows and their calves and their cow families. I always thought they needed a little more milk to be productive and Simmentals offered that.

"After I graduated from university my first job was teaching courses to beef

farmers and as it happened my teaching partner was also in the Simmental business. It seemed like it was exciting times. The cattle industry was expanding and it was kind of fun to be part of something new.

"I worked for Ag Canada in the livestock division for about three and a half years, but I had started purchasing some Simmental half blood cattle in 1973. In 1976 I came home to farm full time.

"My dad did have some commercial Hereford cows, but the Simmental breed has an open herd book so it allows you to grade up. You can breed a commercial cow to Simmental, record it as a half blood, breed her again to a purebred, record that again as a three quarter, and so forth, until you've raised purebred status. And so that's what I did. It was really kind of a passion and didn't really seem like a job, it seemed like something fun to do."

McCarthy says a few people started to dabble in Simmental cattle but not everyone stuck with it.

"There were quite a few people that did start using some AI and might have purchased one or two. At one time we had the Cross-

road Simmental Association based out of Whitewood and we had 30 members in the late 1970s, so there were a lot of people who belonged to this association, but they didn't stick with it."

McCarthy says he could see the potential of the breed, which led him to continue on with it.

"I could see what they were accomplishing. They really did have a lot of performance compared to the traditional breeds at the time," he says.

Today McCarthy raises seed stock, and holds a bull sale and a female sale each year. The Canadian commercial herd is predominantly a Simmental and Angus cross herd and the population of Simmental cattle is second only to Angus in Canada.

But McCarthy says the hall of fame induction is not just about what he accomplished on the farm. He says he's tried to involve himself in associations and committees due to his passion for advancing the Simmental breed.

"We had this local association—the Crossroad Simmental Association—which I was the director of and then later became presi-

dent of, and then I went on to be on the Saskatchewan Simmental Board of Directors for six years, and then some time after that I went onto the Canadian board for another six years, two of which I was Canadian president.

"Along the way I have served on many committees, like Agribition committees, bull sale committees, test station committees. I've been involved in a lot of boards and associations along the way.

"When you're proud of the breed and your operation, you want to be a part of these national associations. I think it's almost a bit of a duty too, that people have to take their turns and run these things, and also I had ideas of where I wanted to take the business and sometimes the best way to get that done is to be involved yourself. There were two or three things I accomplished while I was on the Canadian board and president there that are fairly big factors in our business today. I think you have an idea of what needs to be done and you have to go and do it."

What are some of the accomplishments that McCarthy is proud of?

"We started a whole herd reporting which enables for better collection of data, and therefore better EPD's to work with," he says. "At one time you might register this calf and that one, and a couple of good ones, but you might not register them all. But if you register them all then all of that performance and production data goes into the system and it makes for better EPD's, which are expected progeny differences.

"We opened up the herd book to allow us to incorporate Angus genetics, or foreign breed genetics into our breed so we could make better and faster progress to get to where we needed to get to.

"In the Angus breed there is a lot of good and well known genetics in the sire business. In the past we were unable to incorporate them into our herd book. But because of maternal upgrading, we were able to incorporate some of these good genetics from other breeds into the Simmental breed. Between total herd reporting and that upgrading process, those are two of the things that I am proud of from the Simmental point of view.

"Our breed has also changed from a spotted red and white breed to solid red or solid black cattle, which the industry accepts a lot better. Simmental cattle as we know them today are not the Simmental cattle that we started with in the early 1970s.

"To be a part of all that change is gratifying, and to know that you played a part in that. Had the breed not changed it would just be a hobby or antique breed. You have to adapt the breed so that it fits the current market conditions.

"It's enabled me to do this for my whole life and have some fun along the way doing it."

McCarthy says being inducted into the Canadian Simmental Hall of Fame meant a lot to him.

"First of all I got a little emotional," he says. "It's something you put a lot of time into. I just really felt a sense of pride. I had pretty humble beginnings here, and to think that I could make that difference is a good feeling. I had a lot of help along the way from my parents, my wife Sharon and our three children. But just to feel that all of a sudden you are being recognized by your peers, that is pretty humbling and pretty emotional."

McCarthy's family attended the induction banquet, including Sean and Lauren who flew in from Calgary, and Dan and Olga from Moosomin.

"It really made me feel good and meant a lot to me," he says.

Looking back to the early 1970s when he purchased his first Simmental cattle, McCarthy says he never imagined then he'd be where he is today.

"If somebody would have told me this is where you'll end up, I would have said 'gee I'll take that in a flash,'" he says.

"I've been lucky to be able to make living out of something that was a passion and a hobby."

Open house for proposed RM of Rocanville wind farm

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

More details were released on a proposal for a wind farm in the RM of Rocanville on Nov. 14.

NextEra Energy is in the very early stages of developing a proposal for a wind farm west of Rocanville, near a high voltage line that carries power to the Tantallon substation. NextEra is the world's largest producer of power from solar and wind. It operates solar, wind and nuclear power plants across four Canadian provinces and 30 states.

David Lawlor of NextEra told the Rocanville meeting that SaskPower's plan for 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 includes plans to buy 1,600 megawatts of wind power.

SaskPower expects individual wind farms in the 100 mw to 200 mw range. A 100 mw wind farm would include 25-30 towers, a 200 mw farm would have 55-60 towers.

NextEra submitted a Request for Qualifications bid to determine that they are qualified to bid on supplying that power, and the company has qualified.

Lawlor said the Rocanville project isn't advanced enough to bid into the first request for proposals.

"This project is not advanced enough to bid into this current SaskPower process," he said. "You need one full year of meteorological data. We have our bases for our met towers being installed.

"We will be setting up two met towers. They will be erected at the end of this year or early next year.

"This is a very early stage project. We just started looking at leasing land in the summer and met with council in July."

He said the location near major power transmission lines makes the area attractive for wind development.

He said the company has secured some land in the area, but not enough to create a project yet.

Successful bidders will sign a 25-year power purchase agreement to sell power to SaskPower.

Lawlor said the Rocanville project has the potential to bid into a SaskPower request for proposals in 2019 or 2020.

If the project wins, it would be in service in 2022-2023.

Lawlor said a bylaw passed in May by the RM council has a limitation on turbine height which could be problematic for the project.

"As technology has improved, turbines have become taller," he said. "We



RM of Rocanville residents speak with Next-Era Energy representatives at a public meeting in Rocanville on Nov. 14.

want to get turbines up out of the way of obstacles that cause interference.

"We're now looking at towers of 110 metre height and rotor diameter of 130 metres, or 65 metre blades.

"We want to use the most advanced technology, which is also the quietest."

Lawlor said he is hopeful the project can go ahead.

"There is benefit to the overall community," he said. "It provides very local jobs, provides millions in landowner lease payments, it allows land to remain in agricultural use.

"It allows the land use to remain the same. They're on the landscape, but you can farm around them."

In response to a question from the crowd, Lawlor said NextEra has other projects in development in Saskatchewan.

"We have other spots in Saskatchewan, some of which are more advanced than this one," he said. "We will be submitting something to SaskPower in the first RFP."

In response to another question, Lawlor said the focus on Saskatchewan would be on wind, not solar.

"Right now Saskatchewan has a 10 mw opening for solar, but wind is still more inexpensive," he said.

One person at the meeting asked if the wind towers would be connected to the grid with overhead or underground wires.

"Our standard design is all underground collection," said Lawlor. "There have been a few instances—the side of a mountain, a big

rock—where you need to go above ground, but we try to stay underground. Our preference is underground."

One landowner asked if oil drilling would be permitted on land with wind turbines.

"They can still drill, yes," said Lawlor. "They can coexist on the landscape. We can't reasonably deny oil development."

One person asked about the separation of wind towers from homes.

"Our internal is 500 metres, but it's not uncommon to be 700 or 800 metres from a residence," he said.

"We do a lot of stuff before building to make sure there isn't a noise issue.

"We model, we try to do a lot of work way up front. We

can put a noise meter on the house and measure it."

One person asked if there has ever been an issue where a wind tower will fall over in a tornado or plow wind.

"On very rare occasions, yes, towers have buckled," said Lawlor, "but it's extremely rare."

One question was whether icefall from the blades is a problem.

"Alberta and Saskatchewan are less moist areas, but you can heat the trailing edges on a blade to avoid icefall," said Lawlor.

One person asked about decommissioning windfarms 25 or 40 years down the road.

"There has been decommissioning done on wind farms across North America," said Lawlor.

"We decommission a metre below ground."

One person asked about the advantages of NextEra over other companies developing wind farms.

"We procure more GE equipment than any other entity in the world," he said. "That gives us some leverage there. We develop, we construct, and we operate, so we're in it for the long term."

One person questioned why the company sent land agents to sign up land owners before approaching the RM.

"If you look at the way the RFP is set up with SaskPower, you have to

demonstrate land control," said Lawlor.

"You have to have the agreements in place.

"We don't usually at this early stage have a full public meeting."

"There's a land rush right now. There are a lot of companies out there—we need to get the land now or we're not getting it.

"If we can't get enough people on board, we need to go to a different area. If we're not here, it might be Algonquin or someone else knocking on your door.

"A lot of companies acquire the land just to turn it over to a bigger company like us."

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Destination Whitewood hosts annual art show



The Whitewood Art Show, which was held at the Whitewood Legion Hall November 18, showcased the works of several artists and artisans in what has become a near annual event.

Displays included the works of several painters whose work was remark-

Left: Artist Cathy Campbell of Whitewood displayed some of her paintings.

able in its originality and composition.

"The vivid colors and subject matters of the painted works of art were really compelling," Donna Beutler, chair of Destination Whitewood said of the art that was displayed at the show. "And it wasn't the color only, it was the detail, the texture, the subject matter, even the lack of color in some, that just seemed to pull you into the piece of art. From exacts to abstracts, the variety evoked so much interest from those who came to view the art, and in some cases purchase the art."

"There were others forms of art on display, as well as the work of artisans. Amazing quilt work was on display, as well as photographic works including photos on canvas," Beutler added, saying that each contributor's work was interesting to view. "There was some interesting egg shell work as well,

Left: Artist Brenda Tollefson, left, took some time away from her booth at the Whitewood Art Show, to have caricature artist Dean Lewis draw her portrait. Tollefson and Lewis were two of about 20 vendors who showcased their work at the annual event.

something many have never seen before."

"This year marked the first year in four or five years that we have hosted the art show that we had a caricature artist on hand," Beutler said. "Dean Lewis was busy pretty much all through the afternoon's show which ran from noon until five p.m."

The art show, technically known as the Art and Wine Show, follows a similar pattern from year to year, incorporating the art displays and, in some cases, sales for those who wish to sell their work. There is a wine and cheese corner which offers those who attend a chance to sit down for a leisurely visit with friends and acquaintances.

"Destination Whitewood, which by the way is Whitewood's promotional group, has really enjoyed being able to host this event and we have a lot of fun with it," Beutler said. "We are most appreciative of the many people who have supported the event and for their interest in the arts."

Several names were drawn for a number of door prizes at the close of the show, as well as in the toonie draw.

At the end of the day, Destination Whitewood members discussed plans for future events that they are planning, as well as looking at how to make next year's art show even better.



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Redvers raising funds for play structure

The Redvers School Community Council and Redvers Lions Club are currently raising funds for a new wheelchair accessible play structure for Redvers School. "This is Phase 3. Our

first phase that was completed was done in 2013, which was the basketball court outside," says Redvers School vice principal Bryce Birch. "Phase 2 was a new playground structure which was installed in 2014, and then for phase 3 we are looking to build a wheelchair accessible playground structure."

Birch says the approximate cost of the play structure is \$100,000. The School Community Council and the Lions Club have raised

\$60,000 already, and a recent \$10,000 donation by Tundra Oil and Gas has brought the fundraising total up to \$70,000.

Birch says they hope to break ground in the spring.

"A special thank you to Tundra for their donation," says Birch. "A big part of this was to be an inclusive structure that's not just for our students but for our community as well. Our facility is used by the community as much as it's used by the students."



\$10,000 for new play structure

Tundra Oil and Gas made a donation of \$10,000 recently to Redvers School for a new wheelchair accessible play structure at the school. Redvers School and the Redvers Lions club are raising money for the play structure, which they hope to have in by the spring.

In front, from left are Tarin Nahachewsky with Tundra Oil and Gas making the donation, Redvers School Vice Principal Bryce Birch, Redvers School Principal Nancy Fraser, Tracy Kay with Redvers School and the Redvers Lions, Crystal Aime with the Redvers Lions, Sherry Stewart with Redvers School and the Redvers Lions, Noah Aime, the student rep of the SCC, Heather Sanborn with Redvers School and the Redvers Lions.



The wheelchair accessible play structure.

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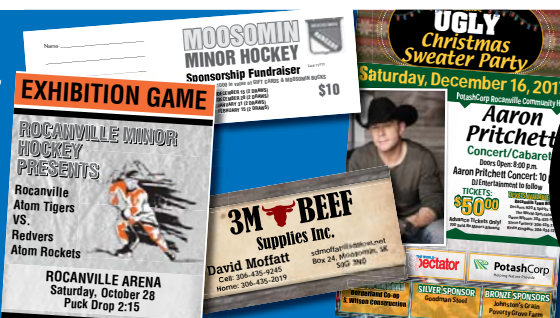
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