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# Plain & Valley

December 2023 • Volume 16 Number 12

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Daniel Miskiman with the Moosomin town crew was helping to hang up Christmas decorations in Moosomin last week for the Christmas season.

**Santa Day Dec 9**  
**Food Drive on until Dec 9**  
**Twinkle Tour Nov 30 - Dec 10**  
**Santa Claus Parade Dec 17**

## Christmas events in Moosomin

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There are lots of Christmas events coming up in Moosomin. Santa Day will be Saturday, December 9, the Chamber of Commerce Food Drive is continuing until December 9, and the Moosomin Twinkle Tour sponsored by Rolna Pranke RE/MAX goes until December 10.

### Saturday, December 9 Santa Day

Santa Day, featuring photos with Santa and a free Christmas matinee movie for the kids at the Moosomin Community Theatre, will be Saturday, December 9.

The Moosomin Kinettes will organize Santa Day photos on the morning of December 9.

Santa photos will be taken at the Conexus MCC Center/Mike Schween arena from 9 am to noon. Photos are one for \$10 or three for \$25.

Free treat bags will be handed out to the kids, donated by Tim Hortons and Borderland Co-op.

The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a matinee of Trolls Band Together at the Moosomin Community Theatre that afternoon.

Kids who get their photo taken with Santa will receive a free movie ticket and free small popcorn at the movie.

### Until Saturday, December 9 Chamber Food Drive

The Chamber of Commerce is organizing a Food Drive for the Moosomin Food Share until December 10.

The food drive was organized after the chamber heard from Sam Campbell of the Food Share at the October meeting. She explained that food bank usage is up, and donations are down.

People can drop off donations of food at Glasser's TV, Andrew Agencies, Celebration Ford and the World-Spectator.

Campbell says there has been a lot of support for the food share.

*Continued on page 3* <sup>ESP</sup>



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**Santa Day Dec 9**  
**Food Drive on until Dec 9**  
**Twinkle Tour Nov 30 - Dec 10**  
**Santa Claus Parade Dec 17**

# Christmas events in Moosomin

**Continued from front**  
 "It's great to see the Chamber businesses collecting food. Co-op has agreed to sponsor the potatoes and salads for us for the Christmas dinners. Nutrien is giving us a monetary donation and they are sponsoring the toys for the children. P&H is also giving us pancake mix."

**November 30 to December 10**

**Moosomin Twinkle Tour**  
 The Moosomin Twinkle Tour starts with Moonlight Madness on November 30 and continues to December 10. People can take a tour around Moosomin

and vote for their favorite light displays. There are Moosomin Bucks prizes for the first, second, and third place winners, plus everyone who sends in their votes will be entered to win one of three prizes of \$50 in Moosomin Bucks.

This promotion is organized by Rolna Pranke of RE/MAX Blue Chip Realty. People can enter by texting Pranke at 306-435-7343, emailing her at rpranke@remax-yorkton.ca or messaging her on facebook.

**Sunday, December 17**  
**Santa Claus Parade**

The Kinettes Santa Claus Parade is set for Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm. Marshalling will begin at Bradley Park at 6:30 pm.



Above is a photo taken with Santa during Santa Day 2021.

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Scenes from the Holiday Smile Cookie campaign in Moosomin.



## Moosomin tops in Sask for Holiday Smile Cookie sales Local campaign benefits MFRC

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin has done it again—top in Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie sales through Saskatchewan with \$12,400 raised for charity.

"We're extremely proud to get our title back," said Greg Crisanti, owner of the Moosomin location.

"Those results you don't get lightly without the community support, and it's just amazing to see some strong results out of Saskatchewan; again putting Moosomin back on the map."

With daily sales updates closely followed, the week-long campaign also noted a bit of a race to the top between stores.

"There was definitely some friendly competition between other Saskatchewan owners and our owner group," Crisanti verified. "But it's all in good fun for some great causes!"

Cookie sales were so good that the

Moosomin location actually ran out of the sugar cookie with green and red sprinkles—an unexpected bump in the road felt by many locations as the distribution centres in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were drained.

"So we had to go back to our playbook and were told by our head office to run with the chocolate chunk cookie," Crisanti explained.

"Thankfully, we did have enough of those available to us and owners that were able to get the hands on the chocolate chunk cookie saw no change, and we were just able to stick the face on those and still support the charities."

Money raised from the sale of the special cookies—more than 8,000 of them just in Moosomin—will be split between the Moosomin Family Resource Centre and the Tim Hortons Camp program.

"It was just a fun event because it brought, in a sense, the community to-

gether to fundraise for the MFRC," said Crystal Leshchyshyn, MFRC board chair. "But in decorating cookies, we had the opportunity to talk with many people in the community, some which were new and had never heard of the Moosomin Family Resource Centre."

One large donation came from Nutrien, ordering \$1,000 worth of Smile cookies for their employees.

"Luckily, they didn't want their cookies right away," joked MFRC Program Coordinator Sheryl Willms-Bromm.

Willms-Bromm credited the staff at Tim Horton's and the fantastic volunteers who worked shifts for the cause.

"We had people really step up to help us, and that was great because we're such a small organization," she said.

"We just weren't sure if we'd get the volunteerism that we were looking for, but we really did. It was really awesome."

The MFRC will use their portion of the

money raised to update kitchen facilities and for their nutrition program. The other half will be devoted to the Tim's Camp—something especially dear to Crisanti as he sits on the Tim Hortons Foundation Camps board.

"We have seven camps throughout North America, the closest one to us is Camp Whiteshell up in Manitoba," he explained. "It's life changing for kids to get to go to those camps."

"I just can't say a big enough 'thank you' to the Moosomin Family Resource Center for helping out with their volunteers, as well as our community," Crisanti concluded.

"And just all the volunteers that were part of the week coming in to help decorate—and everyone that purchased a cookie."

If you didn't get a chance to pick up a special Smile cookie this time around, the next campaign will run in May.

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# 90 new spots for Moosomin, 60 new spots for Esterhazy: New daycares for Moosomin, Esterhazy

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

New day care buildings will be built in Moosomin and Esterhazy, with 90 new day care spaces being established in Moosomin under the Play Fair Daycare structure, and 60 new spaces in Esterhazy through the Little Miners Community Daycare.

In November, the provincial and federal government announced \$23.5 million for the creation of 2,349 new regulated child care spaces across the province, including the Moosomin and Esterhazy spots.

"This investment of \$23.5 million will provide Saskatchewan families greater access to affordable, high-quality early learning and child care opportunities," Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "These spaces will support positive child development, early literacy and student achievement."

Funding for the newly announced spaces has been allocated to 51 organizations in 41 communities that will either build new facilities or add new spaces within their existing facilities. The province will be looking to fund nearly 400 additional spaces through an application process.

Funding for these new spaces is provided through the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, which provides a federal investment of nearly \$1.1 billion over five years for child care in Saskatchewan.

Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill told the World-Spectator in an interview that he's happy to see the new spots spread around the province.

"The funding that was announced for the new spaces all over the province is under the Canada and Saskatchewan Early Learning and Childcare Agreement," he said. "For these regulated spaces it's open to non profits, co-operatives, and municipalities anywhere in the province."

"Basically these organizations or municipalities will put in applications and we have a process within the ministry of how we evaluate them. We do a community needs assessment and review the applications to understand how ready an organization is to actually open up the spots. So it's good to see these spots opening up in 41 different communities



Play Fair Daycare in Moosomin will be adding a second location after the government's announcement in November.

because as you're well aware, growth in the province is not just happening in Saskatoon and Regina. As I said to a number of folks, we're open to applications from anywhere in the province and certainly we'll work with any organization that is wanting to open up regulated childcare spaces, just because we know that there's a really big need for that.

"The challenge that we have in Saskatchewan is that before, prior to this agreement being signed, the childcare sector was largely unregulated. There were a lot of home based spaces that are not necessarily licensed, but the lack of spaces is a problem across the province. I'm a new dad, I have a seven month old at home, and my wife and I are on a couple of wait lists right now in hopes that our little guy will have a spot by the time he's ready to go, but it's a challenge because obviously we've got significant population growth and then we've have kind of this, under the agreement, a fairly narrow gate for people to be licensed, and so there's

a real rush for those licensed spaces that are available so that families can access them."

He said there is capital funding to help build new daycares.

"The capital funding available to regulated childcare providers is \$10,000 per space for capital funding. So that's really what was announced with these 2,349 spaces—basically the \$10,000 per space start-up funding.

"The spots announced, they need to be open by March of 2026. Obviously we hope that they're open much sooner than that, but I know that, for example, I was speaking with one of the centres on the list earlier today and they received some of these dollars right up front here to help them with the cost. So, again, we're working with all of these centres as these expenditures come

up so that these dollars are flowing.

"This announcement brings us to over 8,000 regulated spaces in the province. About half of those are in development right now. We want to get to 28,000 regulated spaces in the province so there's a lot more to do in this space and we are open to speaking to any organization that wants to create spaces because there is certainly a demand out there and there are more and more families moving to our province, more families in our province having children and choosing Saskatchewan to raise their families."

"When the federal government set out to create a national early learning and child care system with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners, we had three main goals: make child care more affordable, create new child care spaces, and support the workforce," said Jenna Sudds Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. "Thanks to our investment, families in Saskatchewan are already benefiting from an average of \$10-a-day early learning and child care, saving up to \$6,900 per year per child. These new spaces across the province are an important step in ensuring that all families, no matter where they live, have access to affordable, high-quality, inclusive early learning and child care."

The additional spaces are a part of the shared goal of the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada to create 28,000 new child care centre spaces in the province. There have been 5,751 new child care centre spaces allocated since signing the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in August 2021.

## Moosomin town council:

# Town commits \$150,000 for Visual Arts Centre

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin town council has committed \$150,000 to assist in establishing a Visual Arts Centre in Moosomin.

Councillor Chris Davidson made the motion November 8 to provide an annual grant of \$50,000 a year for 2024, 2025, and 2026, with a review of the annual funding commitment in the fall each year.

Council also asked the Visual Arts Centre organization to fundraise throughout the year, and asked to have a councillor on the board of the arts centre.

The decision was made after council met with a delegation of Krista Crellin and Terry Grant of the Visual Arts Centre at the council meeting on November 8.

"When we first started this we wrote a letter to the economic development committee about the benefit of the arts and why we should do this," Crellin told council.

"Cultural attractions, museums, theatres, and galleries draw tourists and residents alike. In Canada, cultural tourists tend to stay longer and spend more, contributing to local businesses and tourism revenues.

"Investing in the arts is a wise economic decision for Canadian communities. It generates employment, contributes to GDP, attracts tourism and business, enhances property values, fosters innovation, and enriches the lives of residents. The arts not only make a community culturally vibrant but also drive economic growth." She pointed to statistics showing

that cultural industries (which includes printed media in Stats Can's figures) are a larger contributor to the economy than sports and recreation.

"Sports have a positive economic spinoff, and so do the arts," she said.

The delegation presented a proposed budget for the facility, including a salary for a full-time employee and building occupancy costs.

Councillor Chris Davidson suggested a contribution to cover the cost of the building for three years. "Would you be happy with a commitment of \$50,000 a year for three years?" he asked "Having the biggest expense covered would help you," said Councillor Murray Gray.

Continued on page 12



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# Second daycare location will have major, positive impact on Moosomin

Additional daycare will allow more people to work and live in Moosomin, relieving backlog of people waiting for daycare spots

BY KARA KINNA & KEVIN WEEDMARK

"We are very excited about the news of the 90 daycare spots," says Jalisa Miller, the chair of the Play Fair Daycare board. "We have had an application in for about six years for these spots. We know how much the town needs the extra childcare spaces and in order to accommodate further economic development in the town these spots are essential."

Miller says four of the spots will be put to use right away in the existing daycare building.

"We will actually be able to use four of the spots right away in our current building as we have the space for them, but we were limited on licensed spaces before. The remainder of the spots we will be planning on building a new building."

"We approached the town to see if they had any lots set aside for a new daycare building and they only had one residential lot that won't be large enough. Our next step will be to approach the school board to see if there is potential to build it somewhere in the school yard. If that's not possible we will begin searching for another location. Close to the school is a must because we have to accommodate kids that are coming before and after school."

Miller says the announcement from the government is a massive step forward and should take care of a large portion of the costs associated with building a second daycare building.

"We know the government will be giving us funding to support the new building," she said. "We haven't received the details on total funding but it will cover a huge portion of what a new building will cost. The remainder we will have to come up with through donations fundraising etc."

## Mayor says huge need for more daycare

Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson said there is a huge need for additional daycare spots in Moosomin.

"It's very important for us to go ahead within the town, because I know that even at the hospital there's nurses that have had babies and can't come back to work because they've got no daycare for their kids," he says. "In all businesses, for people to come back to work, there are just no spaces. I think for us to grow, that's what had to happen and that was one of the things that was kind of putting us on hold a little bit—so it's huge, that is a huge thing. Now we need to get it off the ground and built."

Tomlinson said the town will help in any way they can. "If they were asking the town to do something, possibly the town might donate a couple lots to put it on. I'm not exactly sure what their plans are but when they come to us we'll see what we can do, whether it's donating a couple of lots to put the building on or whatever our portion is of putting something into it. I could see something

## 'This is the fruit of our labor.'

—Murray Gray  
Town Councillor & Chair of  
Moosomin Economic Development Committee

like that happening," he says.

How important is this to the town overall?

"Well I think it fits in very well in terms of putting people to work that possibly couldn't work because of nowhere to put their children," he says. "I think it's very huge. It will put people to work as well and it will help us expand some more."

The daycare announcement on Friday is one of a number of new developments for the town of Moosomin in recent months, including a new gym under construction and several new businesses under construction, an airport expansion, a new outdoor basketball court, and a new visual arts centre in development. Tomlinson says it's a testament of people working together for a common cause to move the town forward.

"I think the whole town has worked together and everybody's pushing for things," he says. "It's pretty exciting times and we can't ask for much more than what we're getting. People are working hard to get it, so good for them and good for the town. It's awesome and it's exciting. We just keep pushing forward and I think we'll become a well-known regional centre before we know it here and I think it's excellent."

"Maybe the World-Spectator is a big part of this with the paper, how well it's distributed and how well you do it. It keeps people pumped and once they're pumped then things are going to happen."

## 'Extremely important' says EDO

"It's extremely important," says Moosomin's EDO Casey McCormac of the announcement on Friday. "We've had parents reach out to us a long time ago saying that we needed more daycare spots because I know that their waitlist is huge—if you're planning to get pregnant in the next year, you need to be on the wait list which is insane for people."

"So it's definitely needed and we have more and more kids in our community. It's important because if parents can't get daycare then they can't go to work and that hurts our economy in the town."

McCormac says adding a second daycare location is a crucial step in the continuing development of the town of Moosomin.

"I think it just builds and it brings more amenities to

the town of Moosomin, and so more and more people are going to want to move here. It's also creating more jobs for people," she says.

McCormac says one of the biggest needs for economic development now is more residential development.

"The biggest thing is residential development because we don't have enough houses to house these new people," she says.

Needed in order to grow, says Gray

"It's huge," adds Moosomin Town Councillor Murray Gray and the chair of the town's economic development committee. "It's something that we need in order to grow at all. We are limited to our workforce without it. There are many key positions in our community that we can't hire without daycare spots. It is a TSN turning point for sure to finally gain these spots."

How much work went into letting the government know that Moosomin is in dire need of daycare spots?

"It was more of a letter to tell the story of where we are at," says Gray. "It was a lot of making sure they knew within the government department how we have grown as a community and where we plan to be and how daycare spots can inhibit that growth."

"It was a whole lot of making sure the 'aha' moment was had by the members of the government."

"If you have all these new businesses coming to town and they can't hire new employees because they don't have anywhere for their kids to go, obviously it would be part of the challenges. And I think HR is a big challenge for every new business and existing business. So it is definitely piece of the puzzle. And to be honest my expectations were not to get the whole 90 spots that were applied for. This is a huge bonus, but that being said, we will be able to fill all 90 of those spots in due time, I know we will be able to."

Gray says from an economic development standpoint, the additional daycare spots and additional building meets one of the town's major goals.

"This is the fruit of our labor," he says. "We've been working very hard at economic development as a committee and as a community for a few years now. And the hard work and all the connections and everything we've done, this is the fruit of that labor for sure—it's part of the next step and takes us to the next level."

How did Moosomin get there?

"I think it's progressive thinking," he says. "I think it's things like the CBA (Community Builder's Alliance) and the collaboration that we have between our municipal governments. I think working together you can accomplish a heck of a lot more than working on your own. And I think that's the biggest advantage we have is like-minded people working together for a common goal."

# New childcare facility in works for Esterhazy

## Extra 60 spaces to be added

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Childcare options in Esterhazy received a big boost in November with a provincial government announcement promising over 2,300 spaces being opened across 51 facilities. The total investment from the Government of Saskatchewan is an estimated \$23.5 million, and part of that will go towards the newly-minted Little Miners Community Daycare in Esterhazy.

"It's fantastic," said Mayor Grant Forster when asked for his reaction to the news. "We want to make sure that we have the service available to our residents. It also opens up possibilities for us to get more people into town. It just gives us one more attraction to have people want to move here. With that and hopefully a new hospital coming on in the next three to five years, we're setting ourselves up pretty good. It definitely takes care of a need."

Earlier this year, some residents expressed concern about childcare availability as they planned on returning to work. A town meeting was held in May, which seemed to get the ball rolling on the idea of increased childcare spaces.

"We had a survey go out in May, it was only posted for

'We want to make sure that we have the service available to our residents. It also opens up possibilities for us to get more people into town.'

—Esterhazy Mayor Grant Forster

five days and we had over 90 responses on it," explained Shaelynn Sarich, vice-chair of the Little Miners Community Daycare Board. "There's a huge need in our community."

"It's super exciting to see that it's going to become a reality," she said when asked about her reaction.

There will be 60 spaces in the new facility with the government committing \$10,000 per space for building costs.

While still many months away from opening, the new daycare is estimated to nearly double current availability in Esterhazy.

"It's a great opportunity," said Melville-Saltcoats MLA

Warren Keading. "The current daycare we have in Esterhazy is doing great work, but they are at capacity. We just got some new folks who just moved to the community who are willing to take this on. To get a manager, executive director and a board established is a struggle itself."

While still in its early planning stages, Little Miners is firming up its board and eyeing a physical location in Esterhazy.

"We got word that there was potentially a facility that would become available," Forster said. "We got our economic development person on it at the time and she ran with it."

He also noted that there will be a Town employee in close contact with the board, ensuring municipal involvement and progressive updates are communicated.

"It will be an exciting opportunity for a lot of stakeholders involved," Keading added. "In this agreement we got with the Feds, there's some really good capital opportunities that they're willing to put forward."

Keading believes the extra childcare spaces will attract more people to Esterhazy as well.

"I can't wait for this to happen," he said. "I do believe it will help support being able to recruit professionals to our area as well. We definitely have that need."

Next issue of Plain & Valley: **January 12**

Deadline: **January 5**

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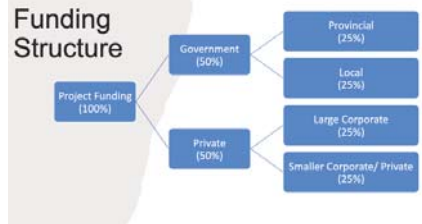
# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

### Contribution Levels

| Location              | Population | Current Per Capita | Contribution to 2023 | Commitment for 2024 | Commitment for 2025 | Commitment for 2026 | Commitment for 2027 | Commitment for 2028 | Contribution & Commitment | Additional Contribution Requested |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Town of Fleming       | 70         | \$107.14           | \$7,500              |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$7,500                   | \$17,000                          |
| RM 122 Martin         | 254        | \$350.00           | \$50,000             | \$38,900            |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$88,900                  | -----                             |
| RM 91 Maryfield       | 258        | \$350.70           | \$75,000             | \$15,480            |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$90,480                  | -----                             |
| Town of Wapella       | 278        | \$53.96            | \$15,000             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$15,000                  | \$82,300                          |
| RM92 Walpole          | 292        | \$350.34           | \$60,000             | \$42,300            |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$102,300                 | -----                             |
| RM 123 Silverwood     | 410        | \$365.85           | \$150,000            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$150,000                 | -----                             |
| RM 151 Rocanville     | 544        | \$367.65           | \$60,000             | \$140,000           |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$200,000                 | -----                             |
| Town of Wawota        | 555        | \$9.01             | \$5,000              |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$5,000                   | \$189,250                         |
| RM 93 Wawken          | 614        | \$48.86            | \$30,000             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$30,000                  | \$184,900                         |
| RM 121 Moosomin       | 541        | \$369.69           | \$200,000            |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$200,000                 | -----                             |
| Town of Rocanville    | 889        | \$67.49            | \$60,000             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$60,000                  | \$251,150                         |
| Town of Moosomin      | 2657       | \$350.00           | \$250,000            | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$929,950                 | -----                             |
| RM of Spyllhill       |            |                    | \$10,000             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$10,000                  | -----                             |
| RM Ellice-Archie (MB) |            | \$350.18           | \$30,000             | \$33,500            | \$33,500            |                     |                     |                     | \$97,000                  | -----                             |
| RM Wallace-Woodworth  |            |                    | \$30,000             |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     | \$30,000                  | -----                             |
| <b>Total</b>          |            |                    | \$1,032,500          | \$406,170           | \$169,490           | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$135,990           | \$2,016,130               | \$724,600                         |
|                       |            |                    | 38%                  | 15%                 | 6%                  | 5%                  | 5%                  | 5%                  | 74%                       | 27%                               |

### Funding Structure



Municipalities across the region have committed 74 per cent of the funds required from the municipal sector for the final stage of the Moosomin Airport Expansion project.

## More than \$2 million committed by municipalities, \$725k still needed: Three quarters of municipal funding for airport expansion now committed

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin's airport expansion project is getting closure to completion, with most towns, villages, and RMs committing their share of funding for the project.

There has been a multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to expand the airport with a new 5,000-foot runway to accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, as well as commercial interests.

The new runway will be the third longest in the province, after Saskatoon and Regina.

So far, \$6,456,111.57 has been spent on the project, but the total cost including paving, lights, and navigation will be \$10,589,058.64.

Nutrien and the provincial government have each contributed about 25 per cent of the total cost.

The airport expansion committee was looking for local municipalities and local corporate donors to up their commitment to make up the \$4.2 million shortfall.

Local municipalities have committed \$2,016,130 toward the expansion of the Moosomin airport, and another \$724,600 is needed to complete the municipal commitments to the project.

"When the amount increased with inflation and the project ended up being higher than we were anticipating back six years ago, we started looking at the formula," said RM of Moosomin Reeve Dave Moffatt.

"To break it down to catch up with inflation, we went with 25 per cent provincial government, 25 per cent corporate from Nutrien, 25 per cent private business and corporate, and then the local governments coming up with 25 per cent. It would take \$350 per capita from those local governments to meet what it was going to take to finish this project."

Moffatt said it was great to see the town of Moosomin's commitment of more than \$900,000 to the project this fall.

"It's huge. The other communities were

waiting for Moosomin to be on board. Everybody knows the importance of what this project is going to bring to the community and surrounding area, and having the town of Moosomin make a commitment to contribute their share helps a lot.

"The municipalities have been really good about paying their share. Now there are the corporate and private donations that are going to need to come in to match this," he said.

"We're hoping that when this article gets out, the corporates and privates will see the municipalities are contributing their share and will say, 'Okay, these guys are stepping up and now it's our turn to.'"

#### MOST COMMUNITIES HAVE MET \$350 PER CAPITA COMMITMENT

While most municipalities have met the \$350 per capita requested, some communities have not done so yet.

The town of Rocanville responded to the request by noting that they will consider

the funding as they work on their 2024 budget, and the airport committee has not met directly with some of the other councils.

"There are still some communities that are on the list that we haven't had the opportunity to speak with directly yet," said Kendra Lawrence, CAO of the RM of Moosomin. "We have been working through those meetings."

Lawrence said there have been some questions from municipalities.

"There have definitely been questions about where we are at, project-wise. There was a lot of concern around the total dollar value of finishing the project."

"There was some concern over where it's gone from six years ago," said Moffatt. "I think we've answered and shown why that was—we've been fairly up front."

Moffatt says the commitment from the municipalities makes it easier to approach businesses for support.

*Continued on page 8*

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# More than \$2 million committed by municipalities, \$725k still needed: Three quarters of municipal funding for airport expansion now committed

Continued from page 7

"Talking with a member of our fundraising committee, this will be greatly usable to go to them with a cover page and a one-pager and break it down and show them this is where it's at and this is what we need to finish. He feels that it will be matching dollars that will flow in fairly quick," he said.

"It's that proof that the municipalities are behind it that was needed before any corporate or private sponsorships really started to flow in," added Lawrence.

The construction schedule will depend on how funds flow in from this point.

"It could be pavement and lighting that could possibly happen at the same time. If not, then we would focus our attention on the pavement and make sure that that's done first next year," said Lawrence. "We're looking at a February/March tender so it would be very nice to see that we have the financial commitments from municipalities, corporate and private sponsorships and that there would be enough to then put the tenders out at that time because we would hope that we'd get the best pricing and availability of contractors being that early in the year to have that paving tender put out."

The RM may borrow to do some of the work before all of the committed funds are in place. "It will have to be discussed with council yet, but I think that will be our next step just the way that some of them have shown that they'll be coming in," said Moffatt.

"Most are within a year to two years and the Town of Moosomin's is five and

we completely understand the necessity of that," added Lawrence. "With these contribution commitments and letters, it will definitely help to go forward with borrowing the funds to the Saskatchewan Municipal Board because they look at how you would repay your loan and so this is laying that format out for them."

"It's huge having a letter of intent showing that this will be met," said Moffatt.

Moffatt said it's great to be in the final stages of the airport expansion project.

"It will be unbelievable to finish this project and to move onto our next step of the CT scanner. As Dr. Van has done in presentations and shown the importance of it, it's huge. To finish this and to move on is going to be great."

"There is a true connection between having a paved, lit airport and that grand possibility of having that CT scanner come to our area," said Lawrence. "It's just one more thing to show that our community is growing in the right direction—the whole area is growing in the right direction."

How much work has gone into this project to get it to this point?

"It's been an unimaginable amount of hours and time, meetings and a lot of items that are behind the scenes of the construction, the actual physical construction of the airport," said Lawrence. "A lot of people wouldn't believe the amount of time that it's taken to complete and keep the details in order and in the right time frame—everything in regards to Transport Canada, RNAV, all of that and making sure that we were hitting those time-

lines so that when we were able to do the earth work construction and that it didn't hold it up and make it unusable for a year because we didn't have the Transport Canada and RNAV complete. Jeff St Onge was very instrumental in that with knowing those regulations, applications and that air information."

"It's been a lot of work just keeping things rolling so that it doesn't get forgotten about and people don't feel like they're not getting the information," added Moffatt. "That was huge."

"And we're always open to a conversation. If there's anybody out there that wishes to have a conversation with my-

self or David, please reach out," added Lawrence.

"I'd sooner answer some questions than hear about speculation or people being misled."

### WORK IN 2024

Lawrence says she's optimistic most of the remaining work can be completed next year.

"If we can go ahead with our paving in 2024—and I'm very positive that we'll be able to do the electrical at the same time—it would be done and installed before the end of the construction season of 2024."

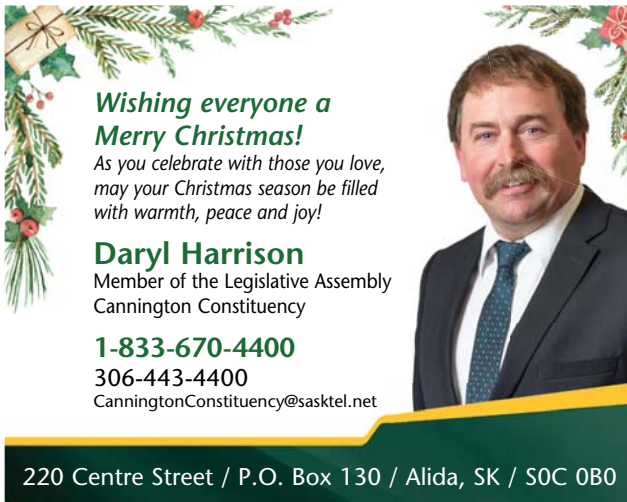


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*merry christmas*

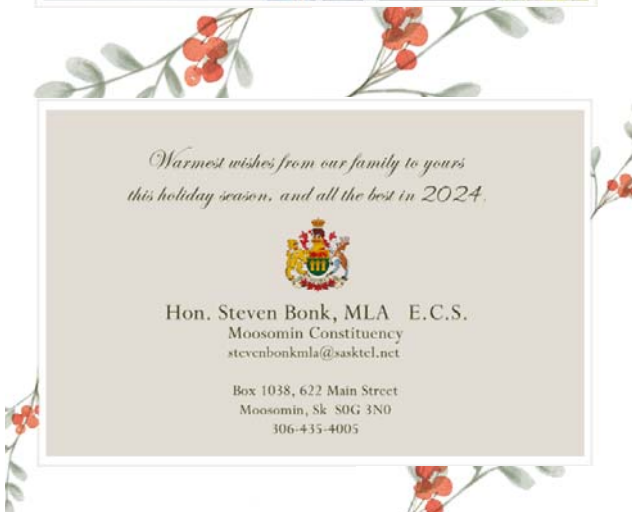
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Janice Bernier won \$1,000,000 on November 10.

## Lampman local wins one million dollars

Janice Bernier scanned her Western Max ticket and shouted in excitement: "I'm a millionaire!"

The Lampman local won \$1 million on the November 10 Western Max draw.

"I was immediately giddy!" she said at her prize claim interview. "I couldn't stop myself from yelling it out for the whole store to hear."

"My friend owns the store, so he came over to see what was going on," she continued. "I told him I won a million dollars, and he was like, 'You're full of bologna!' But it was true!"

The winner said she did take a moment afterward to make sure she was celebrating the right amount.

"I googled how many zeroes are in one million dollars," she laughed. "I had to make sure!"

Bernier said she has one very exciting plan for her windfall: "I'm going to buy a new truck," she said. "I've never had

a brand-new vehicle, and it's something I've always hoped to have one day!"

The new winner said she will also put some of the winnings toward retirement.

Bernier purchased her \$7 quick pick ticket from Lampman Service Station, located at 515 Main St. in Lampman. She won her million-dollar prize on one of Western Max's additional prize draws by matching the numbers 20, 21, 23, 40, 43, 44 and 49.

On how it feels to win a million dollars? "Oh, better than I ever imagined!" she said.

Western Max is drawn every Tuesday and Friday. Tickets are available until 9:30 pm in Saskatchewan on each draw day at all Lotto Spot locations, Subscription Spot and the Lotto Spot app.

Sask Lotteries is the main fundraiser for more than 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups in communities across Saskatchewan.



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- Anytime Fitness
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- Esterhazy Home Hardware

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FROM: VIRDEN RED APPLE

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**Moosomin town council:**

# Town commits \$150,000 for Visual Arts Centre

**Continued from page 5**  
 “We could make a three year commitment and revisit it each year,” said Davidson.

Crellin pointed out that the group will be holding an art and craft sale as a fundraiser as part of Moonlight Madness.

Mayor Larry Tomlinson asked about the capital budget for equipment.

“We need \$100,000 but we wouldn’t need it all right away,” said Crellin.

“We could start with pottery and cooking classes, and an after school program for not a lot of cost.”

Gray said a lot of work has been done to bring the project to this point.

“Your group should be credited for the time and energy you have put into this,” he said.

After meeting with the delegation, council discussed support for the arts centre.

“Why don’t we make the commitment of \$50,000 a year for three years,” said Davidson.

“If everyone sees the town is involved, it will make it easier to get donations.”

**Happy to see support**

In an interview after the meeting, Crellin and Grant said they were happy to see the support from the town.

“That’s great news,” said Crellin.

“We went into this fighting for the arts, so we weren’t really sure what

kind of reception we’d get. So to hear that they’re willing to support us by that amount, is great.”

The group is ready to move on to the next steps.

“We need to talk to our board and let everyone know what’s going on, we need to secure our location and start fundraising,” Grant said.

The whole process started with a letter from Crellin to the economic development committee in the spring, and Crellin says she didn’t realize where that would lead.

“I didn’t think that I’d get an answer at all, actually,” she says. “I thought that I was just throwing that idea out there and they’d be like, ‘Ah, no thanks.’ So to have it go this far, this quick, is great.”

The group is expecting strong support from the community after conducting an online poll about the need for an arts centre in Moosomin.

“The poll is a great indicator of interest and people seem excited about it,” said Crellin. “We had a lot of responses to that poll and a lot of people suggesting their own art classes that they were interested in, so it’s promising.”

Pottery and cooking classes may be some of the first to be offered.

“It depends on a lot of stuff but I think pottery was one of the most popular for sure, so I think that we’ll probably start that up if we have the space to do

that, and cooking classes were also a really popular thing on our poll, and that would be really easy to set up. Painting is another one that is easy to start up as well—painting and drawing and all those kinds of things that don’t require a lot of equipment.”

“There was interest in an after school program, so certainly we’d be looking into that right away too, to get that going pretty quickly.”

Crellin said there will be many aspects to the new arts centre.

“Hopefully we would have a gallery space for them to have a look at and then they can come in and work on any projects on their own or they can sign

up for classes. We hope to have a variety of classes, a few times a week.”

Grant said many classes could be going on at the same time in the centre.

“I would hope there would be activity happening in multiple spaces. In the clay space you could have a pottery class happening and there could be classes happening in the learning space,” he says.

Grant said he believes the centre will be important to Moosomin in the long run.

“I think it’s really important,” he said. “It’s been a long time coming and it’s been an unmet need for a lot of people. So I just hope that people actually, once we get it rolling, take advantage of it and use it.”

“I know from our board standpoint, we’re all very excited. Arts is a big part of our lives so it just makes sense for us to encourage it to be a part of other people’s lives.”

Crellin says she is excited. “As soon as you hear that

it’s a possibility and that the town is supporting it, all of the ideas start flowing and you get excited again after that. There are so many ideas.”

“So many ideas,” agreed Grant. “Now to put them into play.”



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# Sanheim living his lifelong dream in the NHL

**“I always thought as a kid I would play in the NHL, and I guess if you believe it enough and work hard at what you do, things like that can happen.”**

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Travis Sanheim, from Manson, Manitoba is living his dream of playing in the NHL.

Growing up in Manson, Sanheim always dreamed of playing in the NHL and now he is playing his seventh season as a defenceman with the Philadelphia Flyers.

He was selected by the Flyers as the number 17 pick in the 2014 NHL Draft and signed an entry-level contract with the Flyers in 2014.

He takes on many roles and works hard to strive for his ultimate goal of winning the Stanley Cup.

“Coming from a small town, making the NHL is something you don’t even imagine could happen to you,” he says. “It is a lifelong goal.”

“For the first few years it is kind of scary, you are going up against the guys you idolized as a kid. Sometimes it is hard. As the years have gone on, I have become much more comfortable, and it is an awesome experience.”

“I get to do what I love every day. I get to go to the rink and spend the day with my teammates and get to play in the NHL. It was a dream of mine and I get to continue to live out my dream. I am fortunate I get to do this.”

### Lifelong goal

“As a kid, it is something I always thought I was going to do. Looking back on my hockey career, I know how hard it is to get to playing in the NHL. Obviously, I didn’t realize that as a kid, but that’s also why you have dreams. I always thought as a kid I would play in the NHL, and I guess if you believe it enough and work hard at what you do, things like that can happen.”

Sanheim’s schedule varies depending on practice or game days.

“Depending on game day or practice day, my days vary. On a game day, I get up and head into the rink. I travel with Travis Konecny. We are neighbours so we always travel together to the rink. There are usually chefs at the rink, so we eat breakfast at the rink, try to get into the gym, get a warmup in, work with our strength coaches, and then usually we have a morning skate at some point. We also will go over some morning video on the team that we are playing that night. After our morning skate, we usually eat our pregame meal around noon then head back home. I try to get a nap in at some point usually for an hour or two if I can. Around 4 o’clock we will head to the rink and grab a Starbucks before we go. Then get to the rink around 4:30 for a 7pm game. We get ready for the game, warm up, go over some more video with the coaching staff, and prepare for that team we are playing that night.”



### Making his mark in the NHL

Travis Sanheim grew up in Manson, Manitoba, and is making his mark on the NHL. He was drafted by the Flyers in 2014, and is in his seventh season as a defenceman with the team.

### New season off to a good start

Sanheim plays many roles on his team and says this season has been off to a good start.

The 2022-23 season was a rough one, and there was some talk of him being traded over the summer, but he has had a very strong start to the 23-24 season and is proving his value to the Flyers.

Sanheim signed an eight-year, \$50 million contract with the Flyers in the fall of 2022.

“Currently, my roles continue to increase as my years have gone on. I think I have grown into this league, and I am at the point now where I am getting top minutes, playing against other teams best lines, and trying to chip in offensively when I can. This season has been off to a good start.”

“It has been really good. We made some off-season changes. Coming in, I knew there was an opportunity to increase my role and take advantage of that, and I feel like I have so far.”

“I want to continue that and from a team standpoint, we have got off to a good start. The expectations coming in I don’t think were too high, so I think we are doing really well so far and keep improving and getting better throughout the season.”

### Stanley Cup the ultimate goal

Sanheim’s goals have evolved since starting playing in the NHL, with his ultimate goal of winning the Stanley Cup. “If you would have asked me that my first few seasons, I would have said my goal would have been getting established in the NHL and just try to find a consistent role and play each and every night.”

“As the years have gone by, and now that I have established myself, I think there is only one goal left, and

that is to win the Stanley Cup.

“Obviously, each season every team’s goal is to win the Stanley Cup. I know it is a hard, but as a team we are working toward that and hopefully one day I can accomplish that ultimate goal.”

Sanheim has some advice for younger athletes working on making it to the NHL.

“My advice for any young athlete would be believe in yourself. That is the first and foremost thing that you need. You have to believe that you can do it and you can get there. Any dream is possible if you put in the work every day.”



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# Poillievre visits Saskatchewan

Federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poillievre was in Saskatchewan recently to address the Saskatchewan Party convention.

Editor Kevin Weedmark spoke to him about some of the issues facing the country. The full interview is below:

**So how did it feel addressing the crowd at the Sask Party convention?**

It was great to join the Common Sense Saskatchewanians in my effort to "axe the tax" and bring home lower prices. So I want thank Premier Scott Moe and other great Saskatchewanians for the chance and I can't wait to bring home lower costs and more powerful paycheques for the people.

**Judging by the polls, your message seems to be resonating with a lot of Canadians now. What's making the difference?**

Well people are fed up and they realize that Justin Trudeau and the NDP are not worth the cost and they want a Prime Minister who will bring home lower prices by axing the carbon tax and ending the inflationary deficits. They want to bring home powerful paycheques with lower income taxes that rewards hard work. They want to bring home our energy jobs by ending the unconstitutional C-69 so that we can produce more of our energy on our soil and keep our money here for our people.

**From the very beginning people have been pointing out what they see as some of the inconsistencies and contradictions on the carbon tax. Now with what's happened with the pause on home heating oil as it relates to carbon tax, has the federal government painted themselves into a corner here? Are the calls for a blanket exemption on home heating going to lead somewhere or where do you think that this is going to end?**

It's going to end when I become Prime Minister and I axe the tax, but in the meantime Trudeau is twisting himself into a pretzel trying to explain why he is pausing the paying for oil heat while ratcheting up the paying on people who use cleaner, natural gas and propane.

So none of it makes sense and it's all a scrambling, desperate Justin Trudeau flailing around and trying to dupe himself into power. He is only concerned with one thing and that is only keeping his job, as his other MPs are telling him that he's not worth the cost.

He's like, "Ok, I'll give you an exemption for a couple of years if you'll keep me around as leader." Canadians shouldn't have to pay for that. It's time to fire Justin Trudeau and bring in a common sense prime minister that will bring home lower prices.

**What was your first reaction when you first heard Gudie Hutchings' comment that people on the prairies need to elect more liberals if they want to be heard on this?**

That's funny and well, it's not a surprise.

This is the bloody divide and conquer strategy that Justin Trudeau has used to cling to power for eight, long years—dividing Canadians against each other and creating villains in one place in order to get votes in another.

We need to stop the divide and conquer and instead unite in common sense.

**In our area we've seen a lot of resource development in the last couple of decades. We have two of the largest potash mines in the world, here at Rocanville and Esterhazy, we have the TCPL and Enbridge mainlines right through our area and a lot of oil as well, but we see the lost potential—if Energy East would have gone ahead we would have had a million barrel tank farm right here and there would have been a feeder pipeline from the Bakken Oilfield that would have tied into it here that would reduce that Western Canada select differential. Can you foresee a scenario where devel-**



## Poillievre visits Saskatchewan

Conservative Party leader Pierre Poillievre addresses the Saskatchewan Party convention on November 4

**Comments like Energy East could be back on the table in this country?**

Well I supported Energy East and I think it would be fantastic.

We'd have to get a business willing to risk the time and treasure to push the project forward and I don't believe in government built pipelines—we're seeing how that's turning out with Trans Mountain.

But I will repeal Bill C-69 and signal to businesses that they will get sign off on major energy projects like Energy East and had I been prime minister, Energy East would have been completed and the world would be a much more secure place with access to Canadian oil.

We need a new prime minister to do all of that.

**Do you see potential for Canada to develop its natural gas resources further to lower coal use and other higher emitting fuels in other parts of the world?**

Yes, absolutely. We have 1,300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Canada and we also have the ability to produce it with the lowest emissions of any country on earth because our cold weather means that we don't have to cool it as much to turn it to liquid.

We have clean hydro electricity and in fact, Newfoundland and British Columbia, all coastal provinces that have ports or port locations from which the liquefied gas can be shipped, and we have the shortest shipping distances to both Europe and to Asia of any place in North America. So we absolutely can produce more and we had eighteen liquefaction projects proposed when Trudeau took office and not one has been completed.

The only one that is close is LNG Canada which Stephen Harper approved. That will be the single largest infrastructure project in Canadian history so that's the approach that I want to see more of.

We need like 12 of these LNG Canada projects and that's what we're going to have when I'm prime minister.

Trudeau, who would reverse all of the progress and destroy all that Saskatchewanians have built together.

**There's been a lot of division between different regions, different groups of people, different communities in Canada and I guess this latest carbon tax issue is the latest of it. If you become prime minister, where would you start to try to foster unity?**

I would unite the country with freedom, smaller government and bigger citizens.

People are free to chart their own course and they don't have to fight with each other for a share of a shrinking pie. Rather, I think that we can unite people around a big, open, free enterprise, low tax economy and a common sense government.

So let's unite the common people with common sense in our Commonwealth of Canada.

**Given the current state of the federal finances, if or when you become prime minister, what would it take to balance the budget? What would be your approach and how long will it take to get to a balanced budget?**

My common sense plan brings in a dollar for dollar law that requires government to find a dollar of savings for every new dollar of spending.

So that will force us to root out waste and mismanagement, to maximize use of scarce resources and to deliver more for less.

That's how my mother ran her household financially and it's the way a small business runs.

It's the way people budget and it's the way we should run the government.

**In our small area we see a lot of international workers coming in to fill positions that can't be filled any other way—in our small office we have a Ukrainian newcomer who came a year ago, we have a Chinese student who graduated from a Canadian university this year and we have an employee from South Africa who just became a Canadian citizen this year. But there are a lot of challenges bringing people from overseas and we have a lot of people here from overseas who have skills that they can't put to use. What's the solution to match up Canadian employees who need those skills and Canadians and foreigners who have those skills?**

Well let's start with the professions. It's very hard for immigrant professionals to get licensed and right now it's a very long and convoluted process to determine whether they are qualified.

I think we can simplify it. For example, we have a red seal standard for every regulated trade but we have no such standard for the professions.

*Continued on page 31* <sup>ESP</sup>

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# Saskatchewan to remove carbon tax from heating bills

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Gas bills will look a little lighter as the peak of winter hits after the provincial government has vowed to cease collecting the carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills. Effective Jan. 1, 2024, the move to axe the carbon tax is anticipated to save the average Saskatchewan family around \$400 throughout the coming calendar year with the Carbon Tax Fairness for Families Act.

"Our government is taking the necessary steps to protect Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter by removing the federal carbon tax from the natural gas bills of residential customers," said Dustin Duncan, the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy in a media release. "This legislation will give our government, and me as Minister, the sole authority and responsibility for decisions regarding the collection and remittance of the federal carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills while also providing protection for SaskEnergy employees and board members."

Premier Scott Moe made the announcement on Oct. 30, responding to a federal government decision that will cut the carbon tax on home heating oil. In Saskatchewan, an estimated 0.3 per cent of homes are heated using this method, and calls to slash the tax on all heating methods came from various places. Sources note that over the past year alone, SaskEnergy submitted \$172 million in carbon tax to the federal government, and a motion from the provincial legislature supporting a move to not remit the tax to Ottawa was passed unanimously in late October. Introduced in April, 2019, the carbon tax on natural gas began at \$20 per tonne (\$0.0391 per cubic metre) with annual increases to a projected \$110 per tonne (\$0.2097 per cubic metre) by April, 2026. The April, 2023 amount was \$65 per tonne (\$0.1239 per cubic metre) and while PST is not applicable to the tax, GST is tacked on.

"We still believe the federal government should remove the carbon tax on everything for everyone," Duncan said. "But until that happens, our government will ensure fairness for Saskatchewan families by taking the carbon tax off their SaskEnergy bills."

## Local MLAs weigh in

MLAs Warren Kaeding (Melville-Saltcoats) and Daryl Harrison (Cannington) answered a few of the World-Spectator's questions regarding the Carbon Tax Fairness for Families Act.

### What do you think of the whole carbon tax on heating issue?

**Warren Kaeding:** "What we introduced in this SaskEnergy Act is to try and provide a fairness. Because ultimately, how can you carve out one part of Canada and provide them a rebate or a concession and not allow that in the rest of Canada that's still used as a hydrocarbon for heating? That's the issue we've got is just the whole fairness part of this."

**Daryl Harrison:** "When the prime minister announced that they were pausing the carbon tax for three years on home heating oil, it primarily affected the Maritime Provinces. That was a clear indication that carbon tax is driving up the cost of living for Canadians and they chose to carve out basically a portion of the country and not the rest."

"There are more people that use wood than use home heating oil right now [in Saskatchewan] because we have a great natural gas network across the province. And going back to the 1980s when it was brought out to rural areas, it was promoted as a clean-burning fuel. People spent the money and bought into it and I don't think anyone has regrets for doing it."

### What are your hearing from constituents in your area about this issue?

**Warren Kaeding:** "They're totally all-in on our fight against the carbon tax because pretty well everyone sees that it's not the most effective way to reduce emissions. Like we talked about before, really everyone is into supporting innovation and supporting the companies that

are trying to make a difference through innovation and technology. Taxing us into compliance is definitely not an effective way and it's for these reasons that we're seeing all of a sudden now we get a carve out here, a carve out there, we don't get a carve out."

"We're really concerned about this Bill C-234. That was supposed to provide a carve out for using natural gas for heating barns and grain dryers. And ultimately now we'll probably see that bill dropped, just because the prime minister doesn't want to have any more carve outs."

**Daryl Harrison:** "I hear a lot that people want carbon dollars gone completely, but being that the prime minister has tipped his hand, as the carbon tax on home heating oil has raised the cost for people, that's a clear admission that the carbon tax is driving up the cost of living. I hear a lot of people that want it completely gone. And we did run a challenge all the way to the Supreme Court and we and we lost that. But this is an opportunity for us to do it through to this bill."

### How big of a difference do you think this will make to individuals, farmers and businesses?

**Warren Kaeding:** "It will save individuals, we've been able to quantify it is kind of in that \$250 to maybe \$500 a year for the average consumer of natural gas for home heating. So that is pretty significant when you when you look at it on a year to year basis."

**Daryl Harrison:** "It will reduce their cost of heating their homes and if the federal government comes to realize that this (the Carbon Tax) is hurting, families, farm,

urban and businesses, hopefully they will do the right thing and make the exemption wider than they did for the home heating oil primarily in the Maritimes.

### How do you think the Carbon Tax in general should be dealt with at this point?

**Warren Kaeding:** "It should be eliminated. I don't know how we're the only jurisdiction in the world now that is maintaining a carbon tax. Anybody else who tried it before, it was quickly dropped. It is just not a fair way to approach emissions reductions with that our goal here, and ultimately that's what we believe - our federal government wants to tax us to reduce emissions. Taxing it isn't going to isn't going to provide that."

"If you want to go down the route of fairness, they say you're almost making more in the rebates that they're providing people every quarter, well, maybe in some locations where freight and transportation doesn't factor a lot into your cost of living, but I would say Western Canada, we're definitely not getting anywhere close back to what we're being charged, if you extended all the way through the value chain. We continue to look back to this is one of the root causes of our issues with affordability."

**Daryl Harrison:** "I want to get rid of the car carbon tax and our government have stated or been opposed to the carbon tax from the beginning."

"I've always been opposed to it. Like I said, we took it all the way to the Supreme Court. It's just a really a regressive tax. And they always said that you would get back more than what you pay and that's just not true. It's not being applied fairly across the country."

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The spraying crew.



In some areas seed was applied wet, with a tackifier, to adhere to dry slopes.

# Post-construction field work complete for Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline project

The official record shows that construction of the Canadian portion of Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program (L3RP) was completed more than four years ago and that the new pipeline came into commercial service in December 2019.

But as the general public marked those milestones, small Enbridge construction crews readied to tackle a final series of tasks—ensuring full and final restoration of the 1,070-km pipeline's surface corridor to its pre-construction state.

"Most people thought we were done with Line 3 in 2019, but there's plenty of work that goes on in the field even after construction is complete and a new pipeline becomes operational," says Enbridge Construction Manager Allen Sawatzky. "With the last seed sown within the pipeline right-of-way (RoW) at the end of October, we can now say the job is truly complete."

Going forward, maintenance of the pipeline RoW will continue under the Enbridge Operations team.

At the time of its construction, L3RP was the largest Canadian pipeline project in more than a decade. It included installation of 36-inch-diameter, Canadian-made steel pipe over a vast stretch of the Prairies, three above-ground tanks capable of storing up to 1 million barrels of oil, and 18 pump stations to keep the product flowing. Construction took place over several seasons by a peak workforce of about 5,300.

Both during and after construction, Enbridge worked closely with landowners to identify patches of land that would require additional attention such as reseeding, noxious weed control or rearranging topsoil, among other measures. Aerial and ground surveys also helped pinpoint these areas.

By the start of 2023, a total of 84 items remained in need of some form of additional attention. With the support of subcontractors—Castle Oilfield Construction of Virden, Manitoba, and Neil Charteris Reclamation Services Inc. of Kerrobert, Sask.—this



Line 3 Construction Manager Allen Sawatzky (right) and contractor Brodie Charteris checking progress along the RoW.

final field work commenced in the spring and wrapped up in a snow-dusted field near Kerrobert on Oct. 29.

The full scope of work in 2023 involved:

- Reseeding pasture seed mixes following a third year of drought and poor germination in parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan;
- No-till drilling and hydro seed (applied wet with tackifier seed mix) to stick to steep, dry slopes;
- Rearranging topsoil and repairing settled ditch lines;
- Side-by-side chemical boom spraying, select hand spraying and mowing to control weeds; and,
- Tractor, skid steer and whipper snipper hand mowing.

"From the very beginning, Enbridge made a commitment that we would leave the land in as good or in better condition than it was before construction started," Sawatzky says, "and we can now say

we've done what we said we would do and made good on that promise."

The construction manager's words are borne out by a total of 61 formal field inspections conducted by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) dating to September 2017. While the focus of these inspections was environmental protection and reclamation, they also touched on erosion and sediment control, sites of Indigenous significance and general environmental compliance.

In keeping with commitments to landowners and Indigenous communities, the restoration crew also featured a monitor from the Canadian Association of Energy Pipeline & Landowner Associations (CAEPLA) as well as an Indigenous construction liaison.

"At the end of the day, the people who live along or in proximity to the pipeline right-of-way are Enbridge's neighbours and we have an obligation to continuously live up to the trust that they've placed in us," Sawatzky concludes. "That's really what drives us."



A map showing where the Pipeline Replacement Project Area is (green) and where Line 3 Pipeline is (yellow). There is an Enbridge Facility at every circle on the line.



For the restoration crew, each morning began early with a "tailgate" safety meeting to discuss the day's work.



No-till seeding near Stanraer, Saskatchewan.

# Mowbray credits Generals program with his success on the Rifles

BY ROBIN WARK

Driven by a passion for football developed in the Moosomin Generals program, this fall Xavier Mowbray earned the opportunity to compete at the junior football level with the Winnipeg Rifles.

The St. Lazare product earned a spot on the Prairie Football Conference squad as a receiver. He dressed for all of the team's home games. While Mowbray's time on the field was limited while he learned the ropes of the junior ranks, the coaching staff is excited for his future with the team.

"He improved a ton throughout the season," Winnipeg head coach Geordie Wilson said. "He's a big, athletic kid. I would expect him this year to push for work."

Mowbray got his start in football at the age of 10 in the Moosomin Generals program. He said he was initially drawn to football by the physicality of the game, from watching it on TV, and how it was different from sports like baseball and hockey, which he also plays.

"It's much more complicated than people think," Mowbray said. "A lot of people watch it and it's just hitting and stuff ... but there's definitely more to it. That's what I love about it."

While Mowbray split his final four years of school between Birtle and Russell's Major Pratt School, he stuck with playing football in Moosomin. He capped his time in the Generals program with helping the U18 squad win its first-ever Rural Manitoba Football League championship. Over the years, his passion for football only grew. Mowbray loves the team aspect of the game.

"It's a team game ... You have to win as a team ... If not everyone contributes, it doesn't work," he said. "Especially winning the championship in my senior season, I could really see it."



Winnipeg Rifles photo

Mowbray said winning a RFML championship "was definitely a moment for sure." He expressed appreciation for those involved with the Generals program. He said general manager/president Jason Schenn was "an all-around coach, always there for me."

It was Mowbray's former offensive coach Nathan Cugnet who "told me I could go far with the sport, encouraging me, and playing me lots." Generals coach Dexter Mondor told Mowbray about the Rifles and served as an inspiration.

Using his athleticism and the knowledge and experience he acquired through the Generals program as a base, this fall Mowbray strived to learn all he could about the junior level. It required some adjustments. He went from competing against teenagers to battling men as old as 22. Mowbray also had to adjust from playing nine-man football to the 12-man version. In Grade 12, he starred as a running back. The Rebels deployed him as a receiver. Wilson explained that at the slotback position Mowbray is counted on not only as a receiver but also as a blocker in the running game.

Mowbray said this past season was a big learning experience for him. He attained knowledge not only from his coaches but also his teammates—"just practicing and getting better and stronger."

Mowbray said he enjoyed the experience of playing at a high level of football. This offseason he is working on getting quicker and being better.

"The dial is pointing upward," Wilson said. "He has a pretty bright future ahead of him."

**Left:** Xavier Mowbray has completed his first season with the Winnipeg Rifles.



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# Plain & Valley

December 2023 • Page 21

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

## Kristjan Hebert: Local farmer to tell agriculture's story to the world at COP28

Kristjan Hebert, President of the Hebert Group, will head to COP28 in Dubai next week because he wants to let the world know that agriculture can be part of the solution to climate change, not the villain.

Hebert, who operates a grain and oilseed operation in southeast Saskatchewan, will speak on a number of different panels highlighting the work that's being done, some of it on his own farm, to help Canada's ag industry on its path to net zero.

The UN's Climate change conference aims to bring together leaders from government, business, NGOs and social organizations to help find concrete solutions to the pressing issue of climate change.

Hebert was invited by Premier Scott Moe to be part of the 40-member Saskatchewan delegation which includes several resource-based industries such as agriculture, mining, energy and forestry. He says his goal is to promote both Saskatchewan and Canada's agriculture industry as a whole.

Hebert Grain Ventures is one of 52 Saskatchewan organizations and companies that will be part of the Saskatchewan Pavilion at COP28. Others include the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, Nutrition, Mosaic and the Canada Alliance for Net-Zero Agriculture (CANZA), among many others.

"It is such a critical time for Canada's agriculture industry, I couldn't sit back and watch these discussions happen from afar. Canada's farmers need a voice; we grow healthy, low-carbon crops for the world. We also sequester carbon in the soil and are a big part of the solution, yet that never seems to be the story we hear coming out of these meetings," says Hebert.

Canada's agriculture industry is being called upon to increase food production while, at the same time, making progress towards net-zero targets. Hebert says agriculture and agri-food industries have the opportunity to be at the centre of this movement while helping Canada achieve its 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

The collaborative efforts of government, business, academics and farmers are moving this research in the right direction. Hebert's farm is part of the Canadian Alliance for Net Zero Agrifood (CANZA), a pilot project underway to study and design a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework to help farmers get paid for carbon they sequester. CANZA will be announced at COP28 on December 10 with representatives from Canada's Smart Prosperity Institute and Royal Bank.

Another key theme for Hebert is the economic viability of sustainability efforts and technologies.

As an accountant and agricultural finance expert, Hebert is well aware of the



Kristjan Hebert

associated costs of implementing new practices and scaling them across many acres.

"We can't go green if we're in the red," he says. "Our challenge is to keep pushing forward towards a net zero carbon economy, but it needs to make economic sense. We can't crater the industry in the process."

In addition to events with CANZA and the Saskatchewan delegation, Hebert will also participate in events as a representative of the Global Farmer Network, of which he is a lifetime member.

Knowledge sharing with other farmers from more vulnerable countries will be crucial to helping the world achieve fewer emissions.

"There are farmers in Africa and India who still don't know about the benefits of low till practices. The onus is on us to share our knowledge and teach others about what we've learned and help them along this journey," he says.

Here are the panels Hebert will be participating on:

- Dec. 6 - CANZA - Sustainable Agriculture for the Americas Pavilion
- Dec. 8 - CropLife International - "Working together to improve climate resilience on farm" - Sustainable Agriculture for the Americas Pavilion
- Dec. 9 - Saskatchewan Agriculture: Sustainable Food Production - SK Pavilion

- December 10 - Climate Smart Farming, CANZA Announcement - SK Pavilion

Editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Hebert about COP28. The full interview follows:

**Tell me first of all how this came about? How did you get selected to be a part of the Saskatchewan delegation?**

I think part of it was that our farm got chosen to be the first pilot project for CANZA which is Canadian Alliance for Net-Zero Agri-food, so I've been doing some collaboration with the U of S, RBC Royal Bank, Loblaw Companies Limited, McCain Foods, Maple Leaf, and Nutrien on a project there, which then led down the path of COP28. I've been in lots of discussions with the Saskatchewan government and specifically the Ag Minister and the Premier around what I see as the opportunities of Saskatchewan agriculture and Canadian agriculture.

I think, to be honest, we do a bad job globally telling everybody how good we are at it. We can improve, but I always feel like that's the story getting told globally. That's probably how it all got started, was those conversations.

**Tell me more about the pilot project and what it's all about.**

So really we're trying to create an MRV framework around carbon offsets, insets and emission reduction. We were doing a

study with the U of S around soil samples that we have going back to the early '90s and we can use current sampling methods and obviously a bunch of computing power that's significantly more powerful now than it was back then.

We did a bunch of hand-dug samples this fall to start figuring out exactly how much we've been able to improve organic matter and the methods through which we've done it through management so that hopefully we can come up with a simple MRV framework for farms in western Canada to be able to sell carbon—whether that be through an offset, an inset or management practices that reduce emissions.

**So how do you go about trying to scale that or spread that to other farms?**

The first is kind of to get the framework done on our farm and that's just because we did focus pretty heavily on collecting all of this data and verifying it. Then secondly, obviously, it has to go out to a whole bunch more acres. The first step was to get the framework built around the data we have and then widespread pilots on a bunch more acres to verify it across soil zones and regions. Each region is going to have specific practices that work there—it's not a one-brush across the country.

**So what's the main point that you're going to try to get across to people at COP28?**

You'll see here in the next day or two, the Global Institute of Food Security is going to release a report to show really how much more sustainable Saskatchewan and Canadian agriculture is compared to many of our competitors or partners around the world.

So my story is, let's make sure that we focus on everything that we're doing right. Zero till adoption in Western Canada leads the world and it's one of the biggest things when it comes to sustainability. So let's tell our story and be proud of what we've done—obviously we can be innovative and find out new ways. The cool part about Seed Hawk, SeedMaster, Borgault—all of those original zero till drills were made in Saskatchewan.

**That was a pretty big change when farmers went to zero till. Why was it adopted so easily here and why did you have people tinkering in places like Langbank trying to move it forward?**

I think we've always been pioneers and innovators in agriculture and we grow really big crops on ten inches or less of rain, so we knew that we needed to conserve moisture. Now the great side benefit of that is that we've grown organic matter and done great things for our soil in the 30 or 40 years since it's been adopted.

*Continued on page 32*

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# Davidson playing pro hockey in Denmark

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Dawson Davidson from Moosomin has dedicated his life to hockey and after four years of playing for the University of Alberta Golden Bears, he has decided to move across the ocean to play for Rungsted Seier in Denmark.

"I have been playing hockey for a while now. I played junior in Western Canada then played for the Golden Bears at the University of Alberta for four years," he said. "After that, I made the decision that I wanted to pursue hockey professionally, at least for the next year. The process starts with an agent, he reaches out to teams, and they reach out to him. I had a couple different opportunities in different countries here, but ultimately, I chose Denmark for a variety of reasons, and it has been good so far."

Dawson says it took some time getting used to many adjustments living in Denmark.

"It is like Canada in a lot of ways, but it also is different. The climate is a lot different but not as cold, a lot more rain and not as much sun. The grocery store was an adjustment. The language is sometimes a little bit of an adjustment, but the Danish people's English can be very good so that was easy to get used to."

"Hockeywise, it is a bigger ice surface than in Canada and is a lot more skating. It isn't as physical as Canadian hockey and lower scoring games."

Dawson is the only Western Canadian player on his team, and his coach is from Medicine Hat. He says the team is mostly made up of Danish players.

"I am the only Western Canadian player, but our coach is from Medicine Hat, Alberta. We only have an Ontario and U.S. player and other imports, like five Swedish players, and then the rest are Danes. We don't have too many North Americans."

"The league is called the Metal Ligaen. (Dansk Metal) is a sponsor. All the team names and logos are all sponsors, and it looks kind of crazy."

Dawson didn't ever think of playing internationally for professional hockey until attending university and hearing about other guys pursuing a career overseas.

"Not initially, not growing up, and not in junior hockey, but in university a lot of guys I knew played over here when they were done," he said. "As my university career was coming to an end, I knew it was a possibility playing here and if I wanted to pursue that route. My fiancé, Abby, is over here right now with me and sometimes we're just like 'what are we doing here?' We just ended up in a random country across the world and it is like 'how did we end up here?' It is a really good experience, and there have been a lot of lessons learned. I always joke, I will be very excited to get my feet back in Canada at the end of the season."

Dawson says the schedule is demanding.

"We usually are at the rink six days a week with one off day. Practice days are short, about four hours in the morning so it is not too bad. We usually train every practice day so we will train and then be on the ice for 10:30. Game days it depends, home games are seven o'clock, but tomorrow we have an away game. We play in Frederikshavn, it is very north, like the north tip of Denmark, and where I play is just on the outskirts of Copenhagen. That away game will be about a seven-hour road trip tomorrow and it is one of the longest ones. The nice part about this league is Denmark is

pretty small, not even half the size of Saskatchewan, so the travelling for games is shorter and it is nice."

He said the hockey season starts early in Denmark.

"It is a little different. We start very early here. My first game was September 1 and usually back home in Canada the season starts around October 1. It starts a month earlier and it ends on March 1, so quite early. The regular season ends March 1 and then three rounds of playoffs, depending on how far you go. The latest you could play is mid-April. It is kind of the same as North America except everything is shifted forward by one month."

The transition from student athlete to professional athlete was a change for Dawson, as well as the game style compared to North America hockey.

"It was different in a couple ways. I went from being a student athlete to just being an athlete," he says. "I can focus a little more on that aspect without schooling involved. The game styles are different. At U of A it is North American ice, and it is a more physical game and here it is a little bit more of a skill game. Obviously, being in Canada and in Edmonton and being comfortable there was nice. Here in the dressing room sometimes not much English is being spoken, so you feel like a foreigner and an import, but it is something I have gotten more and more used to over time. There are a lot of differences, but it is still hockey so there are a lot of similarities too."

Dawson has a one-year contract with the association and plans to see how the year goes before determining his hockey career for next season.

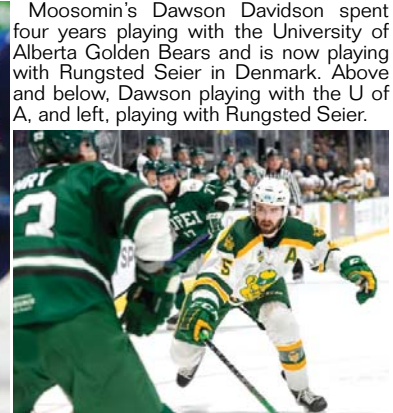
"This is my first year in Denmark. Right now, I am just taking it year by year. I am on a one-year contract. Abby and I are looking to experience Europe while we are here. We were just in Portugal for a little bit and then at the end of the year the team gives us a little bit of time, three weeks or so, to do some more travelling. I don't know what will happen next year, I will wait and see. I love playing hockey a lot, but a part of me does miss home a lot—Canada and all my family. I don't know exactly how long I will play here, but this year has been great so far and is a great experience."

Dawson encourages other North American players to pursue professional hockey in Europe for the life experiences, if given the opportunity.

"If you have the opportunity to play professional hockey and you have options to play in North America and in Europe, the best part about Europe that I have seen this year is it just such a good life experience."

"For myself, this is my first time coming to Europe. I have only been to the States a couple of times, Mexico and Canada, so you come here and one thing for me—it kind of opens your mind to a lot of cultures in the world and you realize the world is a big place."

"You kind of forget there is another world going on, on the other side of the Atlantic. I think for myself, I don't want to put too much pressure on myself thinking



Moosomin's Dawson Davidson spent four years playing with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and is now playing with Rungsted Seier in Denmark. Above and below, Dawson playing with the U of A, and left, playing with Rungsted Seier.

I have to play five or eight years here. I am taking it a year at a time and it is a great experience, so I definitely recommend for other players who have the opportunity to

come over here and play. It is a great way to make some money, especially while you are living here and get some expenses paid for."



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# Moosomin Food Share to build community fridge

## Local non-profit granted \$20,000 from FCC Initiative

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you see Moosomin Food Share Manager Samantha Campbell around town with a huge smile, there's a reason. Well, 20,000 reasons to be exact.

Recently, Campbell learned that the Moosomin Food Share is one of 86 groups across Canada that received a grant from the Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund. The grant of \$20,000 will be used to establish a community refrigerator just outside of the Food Share and Thrift Store building.

"It's a fridge located in a public space, a mutual aid project that enables food to be shared within the community," Campbell explained, adding that the motto of community fridges is 'take what you need, leave what you can.'

"Community fridges are a way to tackle food insecurity in our community," she continued. "After having our numbers increase month over month, I heard about the Farm Credit grants and thought Regina has one, Saskatoon has a couple, why couldn't we have one to help as many people out as possible in our community?"

The project - including the construction of a shed to protect from the elements - is anticipated to be completed this spring.

"Inside will be a fridge, an upright freezer and then shelving to act as a pantry where people can leave non-perishable food items," Campbell said. "It's open to everyone in the community and surrounding areas, it's not just for the Food Share, it's for everyone that needs a little help."

Local donations also helped make this project a reality, with everything from construction to stocking the fridge with food due to the generosity of various organizations.

"We also want to give a huge thank you to the Moosomin Kinettes and the Nutrien mine," said Campbell.

"They have already agreed to give us some money to stock the fridge for when



### Community Fridge planned for Moosomin

The Moosomin Food Share is planning a community fridge where people can freely leave or take food items, similar to this Community Fridge in Regina.

it's up and running. We will be able to make sure it's fully stocked for opening day. It's a great community, we cannot ask for anything more!"

### AgriSpirit Fund has helped for 20 years

Over the past year, the AgriSpirit Fund received around 700 applications. With an annual budget of \$1.5 million devoted to the fund, that meant 86 projects across Canada could be assisted with their requests. Part of what made the Moosomin ask stand out was how it aligned with some of FCC's values.

"The community fridge is a fantastic initiative," said Carla Warnyca, Manager of

Community Investment at FCC. "One of the things that was particularly compelling for us was that it is in food security."

Warnyca credited the Food Share on their application to the fund, praising the initiative.

"It sounds like they're going to be doing a lot of good work in terms of not only feeding people, but reducing food waste," she said.

The AgriSpirit Fund is marking its 20th year, having helped more than 1,600 community groups in that time.

"We're pretty excited to be a part of that many projects over the years," Warnyca said. "We're really humbled, honestly, to be a part of those projects and part of the great work that is being done across the country."

Each funding request ranges from \$5,000 to \$25,000 with the number of recipients obviously varying every year with the number of applications and the amounts requested.

The next application intake will be this coming spring, and Warnyca urges interested groups to visit the FCC AgriSpirit Fund website (fcc-fac.ca) for more details.

"It's pretty special to see the impact that's happening in those communities," she said.

### Food banks needed more than ever

Usage of food programs continues to increase across the country with an estimated 20 per cent of Canadians accessing a food bank. The Moosomin Food Share has also felt that rise in the need for their services.

"We're at 46 hampers. Within the last year or two, it's about double our hampers," Campbell noted.

While there are large fundraising drives during this time of year, she added that donations generally taper off after Christmas until the following October.

Campbell did point out that the donation bin at the Co-op Food Store has been helpful.

Some items the Food Share could really use in terms of donation include condiments (Cheez Whiz, syrup, spice, vinegar, etc.); baking ingredients such as flour and sugar; plus cleaning supplies, paper towel, toilet paper and facial tissue.

There are around 20 volunteers who actively work in the Thrift Store and two in the Food Share, plus Campbell noted high school student volunteers "have been a huge help."

"We just want to say thank you to Farm Credit for allowing us to go forward with our project," concluded Campbell. "If anyone would like to volunteer they can call, email, or stop in at our store."

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From left: Dr. Vijay Prabhu (Family Physician/Area Division Lead SE9), Tamara and Tara Brock present an update of events since the last town hall meeting in February, and Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison.

## Oxbow town-hall updates resident on local healthcare Two new doctors welcomed at Galloway Health Centre

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Concerned residents filled the gym at the Oxbow Memorial Hall on Nov. 20, anxious to hear the fate of local healthcare in their community. With frequent service disruptions in the emergency room and two doctors leaving town last year, many in attendance still had questions about what will happen to the Galloway Health Centre in Oxbow.

A similar meeting was held back in February in an attempt to assuage fears of the worst, and last week's meeting was a progress report on what has transpired since that time.

"We are sure some of you are wondering what has happened since our last town hall, which was held on Feb. 21," began Tamara Brock, reading from a status report. "You may be aware of some of the changes, but maybe not aware of all that has been happening since we last met."

In an effort to keep public in the information loop, a Facebook page was established after the February town hall.

"We felt that there should be a centre of information to come with our responses from the town hall, as well as a place to post any further information that would be relevant to the public," Brock said. "This is where you can find responses that we've received from the last town hall, the contact information for the various groups, disruptions, emergency services and other information."

She also pointed to the combined efforts of the Galloway Health Centre and Oxbow Health Care Auxiliary, which resulted in the reopening of the family area in the multi-purpose side of the facility, plus the donation of a new recliner in the palliative care room "for a loved one to be more comfortable during their stay."

Brock also shared that meetings between the Saskatchewan Health Authority, local municipalities, the Galloway Trust Committee and Southeast Healthcare Recruitment & Retention group have been positive.

"We have met three times now," she explained. "And the communication between our groups has been open and respectful."

Some big changes from those meetings included the reinstatement of Dr. Nic Botha, the inclusion of Oxbow in the Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive Program, and travelling nurses being added to the staff at the facility until levels improve.

"We are improving communication between SHA and our community," Brock assured. "There is some positive progress and we are all working together towards the same goal."

Sheena Grimes, Director of Primary Health Care SE9, was next at the podium to provide an update from SHA. Her first order of business was to share the positive news of two new doctors starting their practice in Oxbow.

"We are very fortunate that we have been able to fill the physician positions in Oxbow," she said. "Dr. Kaur and Dr. Hussain have now started their practice. We are also continuing our Registered Nurse recruitment, we were awarded three permanent full time RN positions as a result of the Health Human Resources Program. This will enable us to ensure that we have two RNs scheduled for all night shifts going forward."

Grimes explained that with the three permanent positions being posted, an internal shuffle occurred that saw some temporary positions ascending to full-time roles and ultimately leaving vacancies in the wake.

"What this means is that we are still recruiting," she said. "We do have two contract nurses that are in place right now."

Oxbow has been able to recruit one healthcare worker from outside Canada, whom Grimes explained should be ready in the New Year.

"One other success that we have had is as a result of



Erin Goodfellow, SHA Director - Workforce, Planning and Employment Strategies, spoke on recruitment.

the Philippines recruitment initiative, we've been able to secure one recruit from the Philippines, who will be starting their preceptorship in December and it should be ready to go by end of January," she said. "Our goal, which I think is the same purpose that everyone in this room has, is to get our ER open 24/7. So we're going to be working on staffing stabilization, continue to recruit registered nurses, work hard to retain the physicians that we do have in the community, and then we're going to be working with some progression to 24/7 physician coverage."

Grimes also spoke of the virtual physician program, which she stressed is an interim solution for physician shortages and not meant to replace a doctor.

"The virtual physician program really started as a way to help maintain emergency care in communities that were experiencing service disruptions with physicians," she said. "It's a way to make sure that the emergency rooms remain open and operational. The SHA started the virtual physician programming in Porcupine Plain in the beginning of July and then in Oxbow starting August 1. This initiative utilizes the 811 infrastructure that's in place."

Grimes walked through the process of the virtual physician visit, starting with when a patient presents to the emergency room. The on-duty nurse would triage the patient, then call the 811 HealthLine to connect with an ER-trained physician.

"The plan could either be treat and release, treat and transfer or treat and follow-up so that the follow-up would be an appointment with their family physician the next day," Grimes said. "This is strictly a temporary measure and has been implemented to address those interim periods of no physician coverage and we are still dedicated to maintaining and recruiting and retaining the physicians that we have in the community."

Another SHA representative—Erin Goodfellow, director of Workforce Planning and Employment Strategies—outlined some of the key points of the provincial Health Human Resources Action Plan and how it relates to the situation in Oxbow. She expanded on the Filipino healthcare worker recruitment plan, giving an update on some of the numbers to date.

"So far, there's been 411 conditional offers extended to Philippine recruits, and 85 of those are already in a nine-month bridging program," Goodfellow explained, adding that at the end of August, a 14-week bridging program began that saw 50 recruits actively involved. "So that'll allow us to get the Filipino recruits to Saskatchewan and working a lot faster."

Goodfellow also pointed to the successful recruitment of 710 new graduates retained in the province since Dec. 2022, plus the continued increase of rural and remote positions.

"So far, 210 positions have been hired to the 250 rural and remote positions that have been put in place by the government to stabilize staffing in rural and remote communities," she said. "Oxbow also was part of that initiative where positions were used to be able to get your second RN on nights."

At one point in the evening, Dr. Nazneen Hussain was acknowledged with her credentials read and a welcome to the community for her family. Dr. Jagjot Kaur was on shift while the meeting took place, but would have received the same warm welcome.

### Community voices concerns

As the floor opened to a general question and answer session, some of those in attendance stressed the need for services and gave examples of their own recent interactions with the healthcare system in Oxbow.

One such voice was an emergency responder who told of an incident just the day before the town hall meeting.

"I don't think people realize how dire condition we're in," they began. "I went on a call yesterday south of Carnduff. I did get permission to discuss this. That call was six miles from Carnduff's base. From the timing of the phone [call] to 911 to when we had that guy on the STARS landing pad was 109 minutes. I don't think the community understands: we're in trouble."

Others shared their frustration in the limited notice of the Nov. 20 meeting, that they were simply not made aware.

"At different times, I've said 'how did you find out about these meetings?' I was still told 'on Facebook,'" said one lady. "Not everybody has Facebook, not everybody has a computer. You gotta maybe advertise more places than that. This is the first meeting that I knew was happening."

Brock answered the question, acknowledging the limitations of effectively spreading word to the masses.

"We understand that Facebook isn't the best option," she said, adding that posters were placed around Oxbow. "But unfortunately, right now, that's the only thing that we can come up with, where we can reach a lot of people. We are very open to any suggestions."

Fran Paszkowski—a self-proclaimed "frequent flyer" at the Galloway Health Centre—relayed her experiences in Oxbow as compared to other hospitals in Regina. Pleased with the care she received in Oxbow, Paszkowski noted "we're so lucky to have this hospital." She also raised the importance of the entire community rallying together to support it.

"We need everybody on board because we're an aging community," she said.

The meeting was unfortunately cut short due to a sudden power outage with the hall soon filled with points of light courtesy of cell phones, floating like lanterns as everyone navigated their way outside.

Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison was also part of the panel assembled to answer questions, made up of Goodfellow, Grimes, Dr. Vijay Prabhu (Family Physician/Area Division Lead SE9), and Prince Albert-Northcote MLA Alana Ross. He emphasized how the quest to find and keep doctors in a problem not just found in Oxbow.

"It's an ongoing effort and we've certainly increased our training seats, recruiting hard and we're offering some incentives to stay and work in the province—specifically in rural areas," Harrison said. "It is certainly made nationwide, but it's also across the U.S. as well."

He pointed to neighbours south of the border in Bismarck, ND as also having issues with attracting RNs in their community.

"So they are in demand; it is certainly a good career path," he concluded.



# Farm equipment sales anticipated to slow in 2024

With higher interest rates, increased equipment prices and a decline in commodity prices, farm equipment sales are anticipated to slow going into 2024, according to Farm Credit Canada's (FCC) 2024 outlook for the Canadian farm equipment market. But an aging equipment fleet could make the slowdown short-lived.

The farm equipment market saw strong sales at the start of 2023 as inventory levels of new equipment rebounded and farmers recorded record-high cash receipts. Canadian implement manufacturing dollar sales are also expected to finish higher in 2023 due to price inflation on raw material used in manufacturing. But with drought in western Canada and tighter revenues for the hog and dairy sectors in eastern Canada, combined with high interest rates, producers are expected to be more cautious entering 2024.

"Farm revenue is a main driver in equipment sales," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief economist. "Record-high crop receipts in 2022 and the first half of 2023 put many Canadian farmers in a strong financial position to absorb the rising interest rates and equipment prices. We saw more cash purchases. This year, the drought in western Canada has impacted overall production, reducing cash flow for some producers."

A slowing of equipment sales means new inventory levels will continue to increase, returning closer to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023, inventory of new equipment rebounded and is now in line with the five-year average

for most categories. Air drills and 4WD tractors are some of the few equipment categories where sales growth is anticipated in 2024 as delivery issues and low inventory in prior years drive sales up.

However, strong equipment sales be-

tween 2008 and 2014 and longer replacement cycles indicate that Canadian farm equipment fleets are starting to age.

"Producers will be weighing the efficiency gains of newer equipment compared to the costs of repairing their

current fleet," explained Gervais. "This creates an opportunity for equipment dealers to sell new and used machines, as well as sell parts and offer services to maintain older fleets. This is a trend to watch in 2024."



Air drills and 4WD tractors are some of the few equipment categories where sales growth is anticipated in 2024 as delivery issues and low inventory in prior years drive sales up.

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SCAN ME

# The short season after harvest and before snow

What an autumn season! Well, until it wasn't. Over the space of a good week or more a few short weeks ago, we enjoyed some awesome days and great temperatures that allowed us to get the combines cleaned up and vacuumed and put away. Vehicles too were wiped down and vacuumed out, not in my usual nine hour detailing process, but they were given at least a cursory clean. In fact, the hopeful-that-we-would-soon-be-done feeling that I had on that last day of harvest in mid-October saw me madly cleaning the farm half-ton before I took the final meal in the field out.

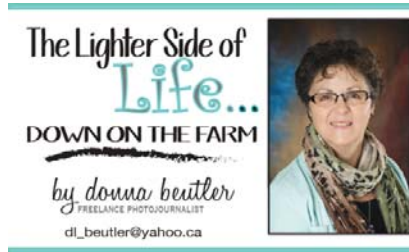
That nice weather allowed hubby and I to quickly make a bit of an enclosed cat pen for a couple of new-to-the-farm kittens. Some 2x4s and chicken wire joined to the insulated cat house allowed the two little fellows a safe space before they were transferred to the greenhouse. As we worked, we noticed a bit of damage to the roof of the cat house which technically looks like an A-framed dog house with a much smaller entry door. The twins and I had built the cat house out of scrap lumber during Covid and had used old red barnwood boards for the roof. Upon closer inspection, hubby says to me, "Looks like this piece here didn't break off, looks more like it was cut with a saw."

That prompted me to take a closer look as well and lo and behold, not only was one of the roof boards "broken" off, but there was another piece in the middle of the roof that lifted out and had clearly been cut as well.

When I saw the twins (12) the next day, I asked why there were boards cut out of the roof of the cat house. "Oh we were trying to put straw in there and the door is tiny so we thought we could put it through the roof." Okay, so now I am laughing. I mean, really laughing. "We didn't know it was insulated up in the roof," they added. And so off we went to round up a replacement board to seal it back up. I love that they were so determined to make a warm, safe space for the kittens that they attempted to find a solution to the tiny door problem. I am sure you'll hear me chuckling every time I walk past that cat house from now on though as I think of the holes that the boys had cut in the roof. Also I'll be wondering if I should take one end wall off and make a large hinged front door for easy access to the inside.

The twins have been faithfully caring for their kittens but the time is soon coming for them to make the transition from the greenhouse to the 'warm room' in the barn. That term is a bit of misnomer in that it doesn't feel all that warm in there to me when it's 'cow-less.' Anyhow the twins asked if I could somehow close in the gate of the warm room so no raccoons can get in. And so it was that on a beautiful November day a week or two ago, hubby and I could be found closing in the gate with corral so the kids can eventually get their kittens settled in the barn. Don't tell the twins, but I am fairly certain it's not particularly raccoon-proof.

The beautiful fall season saw us still watering flower pots until the middle of October (now that's rare) and it all seemed a bit surreal. The grass was green, the flowers were



still looking quite lovely and just two days before that first snow fall, I gave a final cut to the lawn (more to chew up the leaves, to be honest). I hung up my weed-whacker one day and pulled out my show shovel the next. And just like that, winter had arrived and along with it, cool enough temperatures to see me making good use of my scarf and mitts.

My middle-aged calico cat was somewhat taken aback and would go out the front door and into the snow and promptly walk around the house and want in the back door. A hundred times a day. The younger tabby on the other hand would go to the front door but not step a foot outside when I opened the door. I presume she thought the weather out back would be better because she would promptly go to the back door and I would go through the same process: open the door and watch as she sat and looked outdoors, never venturing a single cat paw into the snow though. Repeat one hour later and pretty much every hour all day long. "Really?" I finally said to her, "It's going to be like this for six months. Worse, even. Get used to it!" Three weeks later and she still hasn't got it figured out.

With the arrival of the snow came the opportunity to find 10 consecutive 'free' days that we could get out to the mountains to visit family. Normally I would call it our post-harvest getaway, a chance to refresh and recharge. I have to admit though that I really didn't feel like I deserved a 'break' as I feel like I didn't carry any of the burden of the harvest season. I didn't run for parts (not very often anyhow), I didn't run a combine (straight-cutting is not for me), and I only hauled what seemed like a few suppers to the field. Short days in the field can result in less meals having to be hauled out as our end of September/early part of October days were indeed short ones. Nevertheless, hubby was looking forward to the break from the farm and off we went.

There is nothing quite like the anticipation of seeing the mountains—well, usually there isn't. This time around, a bout with Covid caused me to barely be able to keep my eyes open as we drove from Calgary to Banff. And so, as

luck would have it, hubby and I fought off the nasty cold for several days—in a hotel room in Canmore. Fortunately for us, we had booked a one-bedroom suite complete with kitchen, laundry, living room, fireplace, outdoor deck with BBQ and an outdoor hot tub. And so, along with a little Buckley's or perhaps it was NyQuil, I'm not sure, some cough candies and a tub of ice cream (oh woe was me—that sore throat was nasty), we survived and were glad we had taken along enough groceries for our week there.

Despite feeling mostly miserable, I walked miles around Canmore, stayed away from the stores (hubby was delighted that the credit card was on hiatus), and took some time to read and look online for a few winter-time projects. Perhaps a re-do of the bedrooms this year? Or build a wall? How about some ceiling tile in the basement? I just know there's a project out there waiting for me!! And hubby is already groaning and thinking what I "didn't" spend in the mountains, I will be making up for as winter settles in and his better half gets building up, ripping out or changing up. (I have had some reminders from said hubby: "The house isn't even 10 years old yet. It needs nothing." Oh ... but doesn't it?)

On a gorgeous November day (as in about a week ago if I have press day correct in my mind as I write this), hubby and I ventured out to our happy place at the creek, roasted hot dogs and enjoyed the sunshine and the view. Presumably the bears are all comfortably enjoying their long winter's nap so I didn't need to be constantly looking over my shoulder. The hills and valleys seemed to stretch on forever as we took in the scenic view from our lawn chairs around the campfire. It never fails to amaze me that such beauty exists right in our own backyard, no matter what time of year. And right here in Saskatchewan to boot!

As we approach the end of November with barely a month left before Christmas, it's time to get the gifts purchased. Oh, and the decorations put up. And the tree set up. And the Christmas photo order done. The Christmas letters written. The baking done. The turkey purchased. Okay, now that's overwhelming just thinking of it. And just when I feel a tad overwhelmed, I am reminded of the reason for the season and why His great love for us is worth getting excited about.

Just recently, several kids and adults met at our church to pack shoebox gifts for those less fortunate in other parts of the world. This year the boxes we packed will be going to Ukraine to help bring some of the wonder of the season to those living in tough times. In some ways, it seems like such a little thing that we are doing by packing up little gift boxes, but it is our way of spreading Christ's love and to share some Christmas joy. And speaking of joy, here's hoping all our farmer friends and all of our newspaper readers have survived the busy fall season and are looking ahead with delight to enjoying (surviving?) the Christmas season. Until next time...



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A photo of the Canadian Light Source experimental facility at the University of Saskatchewan from above. See more photos on Page C3.

## Adding calcium to soils can help increase organic matter, trap more carbon

Researchers from Cornell University, Purdue University have identified a previously undiscovered mechanism triggered by calcium when it's added to soil.

BY GREG BASKY

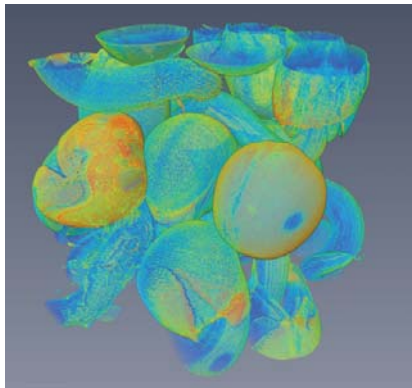
Farmers add calcium to their soil for many reasons related to increasing crop yields—including regulating pH and improving soil structure.

Using the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan, scientists from Cornell University and Purdue University have identified a previously undiscovered mechanism triggered by calcium when it's added to soil. Their finding could lead to more strategic use of the mineral in agriculture.

Researchers already knew that calcium impacts the way organic matter is stabilized in soil. What wasn't known was whether calcium had an effect on which microbes were involved and how they acted. Microbes are microscopic organisms that live in the air, soil, and water; in soil, they process soil organic matter and help promote plant growth.

"We showed that by adding calcium to soil, we changed the community of microbes in the soil and the way they process organic matter," says lead researcher Itamar Shabtai, an assistant scientist with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. "They processed it in a more efficient manner—more carbon was retained in the soil and less was lost to the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>."

Carbon, which makes up about half of the organic matter in soil, is incredibly important to almost all soil properties, says Shabtai, who carried out the research as part of his postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell. "Soils that contain more carbon are generally healthier. They are better able to hold on to water in drought conditions. Soils with higher amounts of organic carbon are also able to deliver nutrients more efficiently to plants and promote plant



A computed tomography scan of canola seeds in the middle of germination. The emerging plants can be seen breaking through the shells of the seeds to search for water and nutrients.

growth, and they're more resistant to erosion."

From a global point of view, soils contain significant amounts of carbon, more than plants and the atmosphere

combined, says Shabtai, so holding on to that carbon can help address climate change. "If we can increase carbon in soil, we can perhaps make a dent in the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> that we're seeing."

The researchers used the SGM beamline at the CLS to measure the amount of plant matter decomposed following the addition of calcium, while the Mid-IR beamline enabled them to identify and quantify the stabilized carbon in the soil—data impossible to gather in any other way, says Shabtai.

Their findings can potentially benefit agricultural producers by giving them another tool to help maintain and improve the organic matter in their soils. "Now that we have a better understanding of how calcium can impact how microbes improve soil carbon, we can perhaps use soil amendments that contain calcium and are already being used by farmers—such as lime and gypsum—in a way that can benefit soil organic matter."

The Canadian Light Source (CLS) is a national research facility of the University of Saskatchewan and one of the largest science projects in Canada's history. More than 1,000 academic, government and industry scientists from around the world use the CLS every year in innovative health, agriculture, environment, and advanced materials research.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the University of Saskatchewan fund CLS operations.

See more photos on page 29 



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### Adding calcium to soils

Photos continued from page C1 on how, using the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan, scientists from Cornell University and Purdue University have identified a previously undiscovered mechanism triggered by calcium when it's added to soil. Their finding could lead to more strategic use of the mineral in agriculture.

**Right:** Research on the IDEAS beamline at the CLS with industrial staff scientists Jigang Zhou and Toby Bond.

**Below right:** Storage Ring



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# Poillievre visits Saskatchewan

Continued from page 15

My common sense plan is to bring in a blue seal testing and licensing standard for every regulated profession in Canada and it would allow an immigrant doctor or nurse to take the exam, prove that they're qualified and get to work in 60 days and get a blue seal that is recognized in every province and territory.

That would be a simple solution. Eighty-five per cent of Filipino nurses are blocked from working in Canada but they can go to the States to write an exam, an international nursing exam, and get licensed within a few weeks.

I want the same simplicity and directness to get our immigrant professionals powerful paycheques in their field.

The other thing is that our immigration system needs to be streamlined to make it easier for employers to decide who comes to Canada and who doesn't.

If the government picks people, it often mismatches the skill set of the labourer with the jobs that are out there.

So I say, let the employers get more control over those who comes by allowing them to quickly sponsor people who can fill jobs that cannot be filled by Canadians and then create a direct path for them to get the language skills to become citizens.

Many years ago, I was working in Afghanistan and when I wanted to take a trip to Islamabad and when I talked to the Pakistani Ambassador there, he gave me a free, unrestricted visa on the spot because of the respect of what Canada was doing in the region at the time. I don't know if that would happen now with Canada's reputation around the world—how does Canada go about rebuilding its international standing?

Well, we need a serious, professional prime minister. Justin Trudeau is seen as a clown around the world—whether it's dancing around in costumes in India or dressing up in hideous, racist, blackface or getting drunk and yodelling away in the hotel lobby during the Queen's funeral or inviting a Nazi to be honoured in front of the Ukrainian president or in Parliament.

Every day, in every way, Justin Trudeau is a colossal, global embarrassment. We need to get rid of him.

We also need to marshal our strengths and that means selling our resources to displace dirty dictators on global energy markets.

It means rebuilding our armed forces so that we have the muscle behind our words.

Those are the ways that we'll be respected as a serious and strong nation and that's what I will bring home.

Here in Saskatchewan our provincial government is



Pierre Poillievre with Premier Scott Moe.

fairly responsive when an issue is raised. In the spring we had a Ukrainian student come to us and point out that under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, students were being forced to pay international student fees. We spoke to the provincial minister about this and within two weeks he announced that Saskatchewan would ensure Ukrainian newcomers would be treated the same as Canadians. Two weeks after that, the Prime Minister was in Ukraine speaking to the Parliament in Kyiv and spoke about that specific student, Viktoriia, who came to us, as an example of how welcoming Canada is to Ukrainian newcomers because Saskatchewan had made that difference. And that's typical of the type of responsiveness we see at the provincial level but not at the federal level. If there's a change of government, how do you go about creating a culture of responsiveness at the federal level?

I think that we need to stay close to the ground and stay in touch with the people. I think when you become an ivory tower elitist looking down on the world, you lose a sense of common sense and so I like to stay close to the people, hearing their stories, listening to their concerns and then acting on them quickly. So that's how I'm going to govern and the way I've always led my political career. It's the way you respond and deliver on the behalf of your people.

Our newspaper, like a lot of independent media, is in a different situation than a lot of the corporate media, in that we're a strong and growing business. Part of the reason that we've been able to grow is some of

the exposure we get through social media that drives people to our print product. With Bill C-18 we've had some media companies that had agreements with Meta and those agreements have been torn up—actually I just hired an additional reporter because he had been laid off by one of the larger corporations because they were losing funding as a result of C-18. In our case we didn't generate any real revenue from Facebook but if we put out posts about something important it would get tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of views and now we've lost all of that. What do you think should happen with Bill C-18?

I would repeal C-18. It's doing exactly the opposite of what it said that it was going to do.

It was going to get all of this money for media and what has it done? They're getting less money from social media companies and now they've lost their audiences so it's a disaster. A disaster.

If I could ask you one more question. For six months, from July of 2021 to January of 2022, I worked very hard and we tried to bring over the interpreter who worked with me in Afghanistan over to Canada. I worked for the Canadian International Development Agency as well as reporting over there so he was indirectly an employee of the government and he was approved for travel to Canada but it was an incredible effort—there were a lot of people on this side working on his behalf to get him over here and he and his family are safely in Canada now. But if it wasn't for people working here and if it wasn't for having a lot of resources at his disposal, he wouldn't be here today. There are still Afghans over there who had worked on behalf of the Canadian government who have been abandoned and are still waiting to get over here. Do you think there should be more of an effort to bring those people over who served Canada?

Absolutely. If you don't, then the next time we go into battles in some dangerous place and we ask for the help of locals, they'll say, "Forget it. Why would we help you when you didn't reciprocate for the Afghan interpreters that helped during the war?"

These people obviously took an incredible risk to help Canadian combatants during the fight against the Taliban and you know that the Taliban is going to come back for vengeance later on, so you must have real courage to do that and we should reciprocate that courage with an open door to them.

That's what we've been saying about their service now for about four years since it came to light how many interpreters were left behind.



## 'Tis the season to say thank you

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# Kristjan Hebert to tell agriculture's story

Continued from page 21

But at the same time, we need to tell that story globally and we need to continue to innovate. To our own government, we need to know that we should be rewarded for how good we've done up until now and I call that a payment for ecosystem services. Where right now anything in the world of carbon that we talk about federally is like, "Congratulations for what you've done in the past but there isn't going to be any benefit to it—just what you do in the future."

So I think that's kind of handcuffing your leaders in agriculture. So I want to tell that story.

My definition of sustainability is that we need to leave the land, the financial statements, the community and the industry in a better state each generation. So land, obviously everybody agrees with and that's where sustainability comes in, but as a farmer, if I do a bad job of taking care of my land, the only people I'm actually harming is my grandkids, which I don't think anybody wants to do. If we're not financially stable, we can't do it. It's really tough to go green if you're in the red.

Communities are very important—how are we going to have people work on farms if nobody wants to live in rural Saskatchewan or rural Canada? So those are all things that we need to focus on.

The last piece is, there's billions of dollars in the ESG and climate space and I truly believe that if you put billions of dollars in the same room as smart people, great innovation can come out of that. If we don't put some people from agriculture in that room, we'd better not be surprised if it goes against us.

So I'd like to go be in the room and tell everybody what we're doing and how agriculture, in my mind, can be the solution that they're looking for when it comes to climate—not the villain. I think right now you hear a lot of villain stories, not solution stories.

So is there a lot of good data available on how farming practice on the prairies contributes to carbon sequestration? Is

there data on that or does it make a big difference farm to farm on the individual practices?

Regionally it is very different. I have good friends in Ontario that grow corn and beans and it's really hard to zero till compared to a canola/wheat rotation. I have good friends in Brazil, if they don't have a cover crop, it's the worst thing they could ever have for their soil but they also don't have eight feet of frost and three feet of snow. We do have a pretty good white cover crop. The U of S and the Global Institute of Food Security both have some really good data on it. APAS has done some research on it. Back in 1981, we were definitely an emitter and now it's showing Western Canada somewhere between a four and a forty million metric ton sequester and that's just a change in management practices. It's things like zero till, treating our nitrogen, sectional control and variable rate technology that's all come in and that we've implemented, not only to be better business people, but because it truly is better for our soil.

Why do you think Saskatchewan is different? Why do you think that things like zero till have been adopted so quickly—what is different here than other places?

Part of it is definitely soil type and crop mix, but you and I see it even in the town of Moosomin, that Saskatchewan is based on rural roots and we're problem solvers. We're not complainers in general and so I think we spent a lot more time trying to find solutions instead of complaining to others that they need to bring us solutions. We do a good job of that as a province, we do a good job of that as a region, as a community and as an area. That's really what Saskatchewan does. We do find a way to work together to make things better and it leads right back to agriculture when it comes to the innovation we've seen in history.

What kind of opportunities are you going to have at COP28 to take that message to the world?

Well originally I think I was supposed to be on four panels, but I looked at my schedule this morning and I think I'm up to nine or ten. I'm on panels for both the province of Saskatchewan but also the Canadian Pavilion, so for the Government of Canada. I'm on a couple for Crop Life International and the panels are all from sustainable agriculture and innovative agriculture—I'm really starting to see a trend on natural resources banding together to tell the story globally. The data that you're going to see come out in the future is that Saskatchewan and Canada have some of the most sustainable crops, potash, oil, natural gas etc. I think it's a huge opportunity for us to say that it would be wrong of us to limit our output of natural resources to the world, because there are a lot of places in the world who emit way more than we do, so I think that climate activists need to focus on global emissions, not specific countries.

We need to tell that story and I think it needs to be told, not just in front of Saskatchewan people and not just in front of agriculture people. So that would be the reason that I've decided to go to COP28 because it's a world crowd. There's a lot of people in government and in finance, that tend to make a lot of the decisions for all industries, and in Saskatchewan we export the majority of everything we make, and so if we don't spend time talking to our clients and our consumers we aren't going to have revenue. So I think we have to spend some time doing it.

Why make yourself available and why take the time for something like this? You're taking time off of your own operation. Why give your time to something like this? Why do you do it and what's your motivation?

I've always believed that there's value in network, in knowing people and knowing people from all around the world and in learning at these events from other people that are doing interesting things.

Secondly is that part of my job is to ensure that the industry and our operation can have success for generations to come. I always joke that I want to give the kids

the opportunity to go to Harvard but I want to build something cool enough that if they get a job offer from Goldman Sachs and Facebook, that the Hebert Group is on the kitchen table beside it. If they decide that they don't want to do that, it's fine, but if it's not even in the running, then that was my fault.

That means that I have to have some focus on the industry and not just on our own operation. I'm pretty proud of what Canadian and Saskatchewan agriculture do and I've been pretty humbled with some of the opportunities I've had when it comes to speaking about it globally, and I guess it just kind of feels like a bit of onus is on me when it comes to the next generation, not only on our farm, but in our industry too.

If we all just sit back and complain and not do anything about it, then nothing changes. So the easiest thing to do is not complain and go do something about it and hope that others follow.

How do you evaluate the success of something like this? How do you know if, "Yes I made an impact" or "Yes, that was worthwhile."

There's the fundamental ways and hopefully—we've got crazy ideas that one day we can sell containers of barley directly to some country that I met at COP28 and they can take a picture of the Q code on the side of their beer can and see my kids running through my crop. That shows directly into revenue.

Secondly though, I think it's just that today's business world is getting smaller and smaller the way that technology and the internet works and we can have direct access to our customers and suppliers. So hopefully we have a number of companies and governments that agree with our message for both the province and for our operation and that leads to them thinking about us in future endeavours which hopefully opens doors. Some people think I'm crazy, but the movie Fields of Dreams was "If you build it, they will come." And sometimes you just gotta have a dream and enough guts to follow it.

The advertisement features a festive winter theme. On the left, the text "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" is written in a large, elegant, blue cursive font. In the center, a white snowman with a green hat and scarf stands next to a stack of wrapped gifts in gold, teal, and white. The background is a light blue with falling snowflakes. In the top right corner, the Western Ag logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized flame or plant inside a circle with a root system below it. Below the logo, the text "WESTERN AG" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "PROFESSIONAL AGRONOMY" in a smaller font underneath. At the bottom left, the website "www.GrowMoreProfit.com" is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

# To know your markets, lean on your network

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN, FCC

## The value of relationships

Building relationships and monitoring commodity prices are key components of marketing farm production.

Frederic Castonguay, FCC territory relationship specialist, comes from a sales background where he learned the importance of establishing strong and long-lasting relationships. Those come with knowing your customers, what matters to them and what you can provide them, showing them that you understand their needs and long-term goals, and adding value, he says.

Chad Berry of Over the Hill Farms and Under the Hill Farms near Cypress River, Manitoba, has honed great relationships with colleagues, even holding a golf tournament to show appreciation for their farm suppliers. Berry says farmers should talk to anyone that can benefit from their opportunities to market commodities at premium values. That includes other farmers.

"They've often been exposed to something that you have not," he says.

It also pays off to extend long-term relationships with buyers.

"If they're in a bind looking for something to fill a void, the people they know and trust will get that opportunity," Berry says.

Neil Blue, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's crop market analyst, also sees value in cultivating relationships with a network of contacts for following prices and obtaining market commentary.

"Doing so helps a producer have more confidence in making sales decisions," Blue says. "Alternatively, some producers do not enjoy making their own marketing decisions and instead rely on subscription-based marketing services to provide advice on when and how much to price."

## Follow futures markets

Once you have others' perspectives and have a sense of how to price your products, it's obviously important to find out if you're getting a fair deal. One way is to follow futures markets and use those prices as a guide.

"Producers can follow futures markets for information that relates to their products," Blue says. "In doing so, it's useful for a producer to have some knowledge of the relation between a specific futures price and the value of their commodity, that is, the basis for that commodity."

The basis is the difference between the prices of the cash—the actual physical commodity—and futures.

Canola is the only crop with Canadian dollar-denominated futures, although farmers can still access U.S. dollar-denominated markets.

"It's useful to be at least aware of exchange rates and their effect on prices of one's commodities to market, particularly for the exchange rate between Canada and the U.S.," Blue says.

When tracking futures, western Canadian spring wheat growers focus on the Minneapolis Grain Exchange's hard red spring wheat, but in Ontario, where the bulk of the crop is soft red winter wheat, producers look to the Chicago Board of Trade's corresponding wheat market.

Additional U.S. dollar-denominated futures of use to Canadian producers include oats, corn, soybeans and soybean products, and cattle and hogs.

## Futures vs. local prices

Because barley doesn't have its own futures contract, growers will monitor the direction of Chicago corn futures.

But the correlation isn't consistent from year to year, says Blue. During years of heavier-than-usual corn imports from the U.S., the barley-to-corn futures relationship becomes more relevant, he says.

Price discovery gets even murkier for commodities without any kind of corresponding futures markets.

"If a producer only has the cash market available for a product, they should know their costs of production and understand the factors affecting each of those commodities," Blue says.

For instance, there isn't much that pulse and special crops growers can look at that correlates consistently, Blue says.

That means it's even more necessary for growers to check local market conditions and pursue current bids from buyers.

## Sell or hold?

So now that you've talked with people in your networks, taken in all your price data, and considered bids from buyers, what do you do with this information? Some say to compare prices to those of six to 12 months ago, while others urge making a sale whenever it's profitable. No one, however, recommends waiting for market highs, which are high impossible to predict. "Because nobody knows what prices will do in advance, it's generally a good strategy to price commodities incrementally over a period of time," Blue says.

The timing of sales will differ between grain growers and cattle and hog producers.



"A crop producer with a storable product can more easily spread the sales commitments out over time,"

Blue says. "Livestock producers may need to deliver their product within a narrow time frame."

Cattle and hog producers, however, do have some forward-pricing alternatives to consider using, such as the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, forward contracts with buyers and the U.S. livestock futures markets, he notes.

Another general rule is to mind seasonal patterns, such as how a great deal of cattle and grain gets brought to market in the fall. Marketing outside of those traditional marketing seasons, as well as forward pricing, can be significant advantages.

A forward contract is a means of reducing price risk by locking in a price well ahead of the expected purchase date. Blue notes many producers who forward-price also do so to meet their cash flow needs.

From an AgriSuccess article.





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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:00<sup>am</sup> to MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00<sup>am</sup>**  
 CONTACT: REG HOOKENSON 306-457-7091



**RM OF BROCK #64 HELEN PERSSON TIMED ONLINE LAND AUCTION**  
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# Business Risk Management Programs continue to protect through \$2 billion in forecasted payouts for Saskatchewan producers

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan have announced forecasted payments under the suite of Business Risk Management Programs, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

"Producers faced another challenging year and have had to make tough decisions in the face of extreme weather. We are working closely with our provincial counterparts to ensure producers have access to the full range of business risk management programs," said federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay. "We will continue to work together to ensure farmers have access to the tools they need to continue to feed Canada and the world."

"We recognize it's been another challenging year in some areas of our province," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Our suite of Business Risk Management Programs continues to respond to support farmers and ranchers. With a forecast of nearly \$2 billion in support, I continue to encourage all producers to continually reassess options available through the full suite of Business Risk Management Programs."

With approximately 30 per cent of the 2023 Crop Insurance Program claim payouts already paid to producers; forecasts indicate that total program payments may reach \$1.85 billion. Most producers are eligible for advance payments on claims, allowing money to flow to producers before claims are completely verified. Total Crop Insurance claim payouts remain a forecast as the deadline for Crop Insurance customers to report their detailed net production and register a claim is November 15, 2023.

Throughout the growing season, additional supports were announced through SCIC's full suite of Business Risk Management Programs:

In July, the federal and provincial governments announced a supplemental freight adjustment to support producers who experienced over-winter wildlife damage to their stacked forage. The announcement also included provincial-wide support with changes to the existing prevention program.

In August, as dry conditions negatively impacted crop yields, including forage crops, SCIC doubled the low yield appraisal thresholds, working with producers as they made on-farm decisions to salvage grain crops for livestock feed.

In September, the federal and provincial governments announced over 90 per cent of insured Forage Rainfall Insurance Program (FRIP) acres received a payout for 2023. The total



The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced forecasted payments under the suite of Business Risk Management Programs, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

2023 FRIP indemnity paid was \$60 million.

Effective for the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent - providing a benefit payment of 80 cents

for every dollar of decline below the trigger point. Due to this compensation rate increase, producers with an eligible margin decline will receive larger AgriStability benefits. Producers are forecast-

ed to receive \$115 million in the form of matching government contributions through the AgriInvest Program in 2023. As of October 2023, Saskatchewan producers collectively have over \$1 billion

in their individual AgriInvest accounts

An additional \$147 million in federal/provincial

support is now flowing through the 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program (\$77 million federal and \$70 million provincial). Producers can submit their applications, review eligibility and additional details online at [www.scic.ca](http://www.scic.ca).

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP), producers can access support provided by the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan. AgriStability protects Canadian producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs, and market conditions. Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-producer cost-shared program that helps producers manage production and quality losses. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from disaster situations. AgriRecovery initiatives are cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the federal government and participating provinces or territories.



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Santa met with children and handed out treats at the tree lighting after the grant was announced.



Santa poses with the fire truck after riding around Carievale in it.

## Argyle Fire Department receives \$22,000 grant

BY JARED PHAIR, FIRE CAPTAIN

The Argyle Fire Department is pleased to announce that they have received a grant for \$22,000 from the Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Ag Spirit Fund.

The funds will be used to complete building maintenance and upgrades to the fire hall in Gainsborough.

The maintenance and upgrades to be completed in-

clude replacing windows, doors and the overhead door.

The Argyle Fire Department provides fire services to the RM of Argyle, Village of Carievale and Village of Gainsborough and operates out of fire halls in both Carievale and Gainsborough.

The grant was announced at the Christmas Tree Lighting in Carievale on Thursday, November 23. Following

the announcement of the grant, RM of Argyle Reeve John Ryckman made brief comments thanking both FCC and members of the fire department.

Also at the tree lighting, Santa made an appearance traveling to the tree lighting and around Carievale on the fire truck. Santa met with the children in attendance and handed out treats.

## Three ways to create personal income from a farm corporation

BY LANCE STOCKBRUGGER, FCC

Running your farming operation as a corporation is increasingly common, so it's important to understand how this structure affects your personal spending for plans like retirement and wind-down of your farming career. Methods used decades ago by previous generations will not have the same success in today's complex tax system.

Understanding that a corporation is only a tax deferral is key to reducing your overall business and personal taxes. Paying the low corporate tax rates on the business is important to enabling your operation to reinvest larger after-tax profits on equipment, land or livestock. Taking the money out of the corporation for personal spending on groceries, personal vehicles, and recreation is where the tax deferral of a corporation ends. Taking funds out to cover these personal spending needs requires paying personal tax rates.

Personal tax brackets are graduated with higher rates assessed on higher income levels. To reduce overall personal taxes, paying personal tax annually must be implemented sooner rather than later, regardless of your current annual personal spending. Every year, each taxpayer has a set of tax brackets that range from 0% to approximately 50%, depending on the province. Utilizing the low tax brackets annually is key to reducing your overall long-term personal taxes.

A strategy I encourage taxpayers to use every year, regardless of their spending, is to declare enough personal income to utilize the first two tax brackets for every shareholder of the corporation. This equates to approximately \$100,000 (depending on your province) of before-tax income. A corporation with four shareholders would mean \$400,000 of income to be extracted from the business. Some argue that they live a modest lifestyle and don't need that much personal income to live, and the money

can be more effectively used in the business to expand or pay down debt. This is where the shareholders' loan comes into the equation.

Any funds not required to cover personal spending and personal taxes can be lent back to your corporation as a shareholders' loan. The operation can then use these extra funds for business purposes. Funds not withdrawn for personal use will increase the shareholders' loan. Typically, the shareholders' loan has no interest or repayment terms. It simply ebbs and flows to cover the personal spending of the shareholders.

Building this loan over a period of years will reduce your personal taxes over time, regardless of the level of personal cash needed in any year. For instance, the shareholders' loan could be used to fund a large personal purchase in the future, like a retirement home. Building up a loan to cover most or all of the funds needed over a period of years will allow you to take a large sum at once without affecting your income taxes. Since income taxes increase substantially as your income

increases, this will more than cover any time value of money concerns with paying personal taxes early.

Here are three ways to create personal income from your corporation:

1. If the corporation needs a deduction from its taxable income, a wage could be declared on which the shareholder will pay personal taxes and Canada Pension Plan premiums.

2. If the shareholder personally owns land farmed by the corporation, land rent can be paid. This will not require Canada Pension Plan premiums to be paid, but Goods and Services Tax must be assessed and paid on it.

3. A dividend could be declared from the corporation's after-tax profits. That means it's not a deduction for the corporation, but the shareholders will get credit for the corporate taxes already paid by the corporation. A dividend must be paid to all shareholders of the same class, so it might take some extra planning if some shareholders have or want other types of income.

Regardless of how you earn

the income from your corporation, paying taxes over time and utilizing the lower rate taxes available to you every year will reduce your taxes and provide more flexibility for future personal spending on your retirement.



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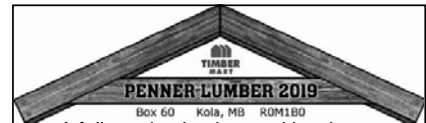
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# AgBio graduate explores soil health and legume biodiversity

Warren McAuley's thesis research focused on how the inclusion of faba beans within an intercrop can increase soil health indicators.

BY BRETT MAKULOWICH

Healthy soil is more resilient to drought, increases nutritional density of food, fosters biodiversity, absorbs and filters more water, and helps fight climate change by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Since soil is a non-renewable resource, it is vital to increase soil health around the world.

For University of Saskatchewan (USask) student Warren McAuley, it is important to research practical ways producers can improve soil health via the crops they plant.

"My research builds upon the Saskatchewan Assessment of Soil Health (Wu and Congreves, 2021) to see how changes in cropping systems and species impact soil health in a one-year period," said McAuley.

McAuley will officially receive his Master of Science in Soil Science at USask Fall Convocation, taking place on November 8 at Merlis Belsher Place.

In May 2023, he successfully defended his master's thesis, Effect of Intercropping with Faba Bean on Land Equivalency Ratio and Soil Health in Saskatchewan. McAuley was co-supervised by Dr. Maryse Bourgault (PhD) and Dr. Kate Congreves (PhD). Bourgault is an assistant professor in the Departments of Plant Sciences and Soil Science in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio), and the Western Grains Research Foundation Integrated Agronomy Research Chair. Congreves is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences.

McAuley conducted his research over two field seasons at USask Kernen Crop Research Farm. Both intercrops (when multiple crops are grown together such as legume and non-legume) and monocrops (a single crop) were grown. The soil



Warren McAuley will receive his MSc in Soil Science at 2023 USask Fall Convocation.

samples from the crops were analyzed in three different labs in AgBio.

"The results of my research showed that intercropping with faba beans can be a viable option for having a land equivalency ratio (LER) greater than one for producers, showing increased productivity over a monocrop," said McAuley.

LER is a measurement of what the crop yield advantage is for producers to plant intercrops versus monocrops.

McAuley's research also looked at how intercropping affected soil health indicators. Soil health indicators from the Saskatchewan Assessment of Soil Health include total nitrogen, soil protein, organic carbon, active carbon, and total phospho-

rus.

"Over a one-year period, the short-term soil health indicator of active carbon increased in the legume over the nonlegume monocrops," said McAuley. "This is indicative of a greater soil microbial population. The longer-term indicators of soil total nitrogen and organic carbon showed no difference over a one-year period, although both soil protein and active carbon contribute to total nitrogen and organic carbon in the longer-term."

"The real-world application of this research provides a better understanding of what impacts short-term soil health indicators, and how soil health can be increased via the inclusion of legumes

within a cropping system," said McAuley. "It was very practical to see what changes soil health underwent in a field setting."

McAuley's research was funded by Western Grains Research Foundation. McAuley excelled academically and received the following scholarships during his master's degree: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Graduate Scholarship, the Canadian Foundations for Food and Agriculture Education Dr. Karl C. Ivarson Agriculture Scholarship, and the Dollie Hantelman Scholarship and the Education Enhancement Travel Scholarship from AgBio.

Originally from Vermilion, Alta., McAuley chose USask for bachelor's and master's degrees in soil science "because it is the most dedicated soil science program in Canada."

"The College of Agriculture and Bioresources is such a welcoming place. You can knock on any professor's door, and they are able to lend you some of their vast experience," said McAuley. "There is a great community of students that you feel accepted by and supported by each other."

Now that his master's degree is complete, McAuley is working as the northwest director at the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds. The organization leads projects and programs to improve and protect ground and surface water resources. McAuley would like to continue to work in the non-profit field in the future.

"I'd like to take the regenerative practices that I've learned and be able to teach in the developing world how to improve agricultural practices while focusing on what nature can provide for us within a food production system."

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## FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Tender for two quarter-sections of land in the RM of Two-Borders. Bids will be accepted on one or both quarters and can include or exclude the yard site (subject to subdivision completion). No mineral rights are included in the sale.

### LAND DESCRIPTIONS:

**Parcel 1: SW ¼ 36-5-29 WPM** – 110 acres of cultivated land & 50 acres of pastureland with spring feed dugout;

**Parcel 2: NW ¼ 36-5-29 WPM** – 96 cultivated acres, 44 acres of pastureland, and 20-acre yard-site.

A package of information on the land and yard-site is available from the law office by email request to [jess@mhrlaw.ca](mailto:jess@mhrlaw.ca). Persons tendering are advised to conduct their own due diligence and verify all information and title status.

Tenders are to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the law office of McNeill Harasymchuk McConnell, Box 520, 243 Raglan Street W., Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0, Attn: Jessica Humphries; accompanied by a cheque for 5% of tender payable in trust to the law firm to form the deposit on any successful tenders. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Cheques for unsuccessful tenders will be returned. Please include name, mailing address and phone number. The successful bidder(s) will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale. Please note "Two-Borders Tender" on envelope.

Tenders close **Friday, January 19, at 12:00 noon.**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

- Closing to be on or before April 1, 2024 for tenders submitted that do not require subdivision completion. If subdivision is required, closing shall be within 60 days of the completion of the subdivision and the purchaser shall be required to cover the cost of the subdivision.
- In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before closing. If the balance is not paid by closing or on terms acceptable to the Vendor, the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Purchasers will be responsible for municipal taxes after December 31, 2023.
- Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.

## FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders to purchase the crop land in the Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester and described below will be received by:

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Attention: Warren G. Barber, Q.C.

### LAND DESCRIPTION:

- PARCEL ONE:** SW ¼ 1-5-21 WPM – Municipality of Grassland \*160.10 acres  
**PARCEL TWO:** SE ¼ 2-5-21 WPM – Municipality of Grassland \*160.10 acres  
**PARCEL THREE:** SW ¼ 2-5-21 WPM – Municipality of Grassland \*160.17 acres  
**PARCEL FOUR:** NE ¼ 35-4-21 WPM – Municipality of Boissevain-Morton \*160.08 acres
- \* all acreages shown are taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Reports

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received at or before noon on December 15th, 2023.
- Tenders may be submitted for the purchase of one or more parcels. Any tender to purchase more than one parcel must clearly stipulate:
  - The price tendered for each parcel;
  - Whether acceptance must be for all parcels tendered on, or;
  - Whether acceptance can be for one or more but not necessarily all of the parcels tendered on.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the closing date which shall be January 15, 2024. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid by the date specified, or evidence provided that the balance will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2024.
- Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.

For further information or an appointment to view contact  
**Donnie Vandoorne at 204-305-0003 or [donnievandoorne10@gmail.com](mailto:donnievandoorne10@gmail.com)**

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# Are you estimating your overheads well?

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN, FCC

As a farm operator, you need to keep a close eye on overheads for an accurate picture of your profitability.

Alberta cattle rancher Ryan Copithorne suspects many cattle producers aren't accurately measuring their overhead costs. And this likely translates to other types of farming operations as well.

"Most ranchers think they operate at \$1 per day grass costs in the summer and \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day wintering costs, but if they properly valued their overheads, they would find it is much, much higher," he says.

Overhead is another way of saying fixed costs, which when combined with variable costs, measures cost of production.

Fixed or overhead costs exist no matter what is produced on the farm. Rent is a good example.

"Cows can't afford to pay rent – in most cases, it's difficult to turn a profit on cows if you're paying land rent," says Copithorne, who also owns market analysis and risk management firm Cows in Control. "Land expense can be 20 per cent of the operating cost of a cow. You're competing against older operators who own their land outright and don't have this expense. This has been the challenge for young people."

### Fully account for overheads

Justin Shepherd, senior economist with FCC, says that failing to fully account for overhead costs leads to inaccurate profit calculations and a false sense of how your farm operation is performing.

"Future investments always have a degree of uncertainty, so starting with incorrect data magnifies the risk," he says.

### Get on top of it

Shepherd says financial literacy continues to grow among farm operators, who may even run into challenges from an overabundance of information when selecting systems that work best for their



operations.

"Like all things in agriculture, there is a wide range of measurement and awareness of fixed costs. While there are slightly different methods used for calculating cost of production, the key is that a farmer has a consistent process so that they can compare current and future years' cost of production against their historical records," Shepherd says.

### Overhead costs to watch

- Property taxes
- Mortgage or rent
- Insurance
- Utilities
- Maintenance
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# Sharing a love of Canadian agriculture worldwide

BY JENNIFER GLENNEY, FCC

After leaving her corporate agriculture career to raise her children and be more active on the family's ever-growing ranch in Ituna, Saskatchewan, Adrienne Ivey wanted to keep a foot in the agriculture industry. Sharing her family's story with the public was an opportunity that suited her perfectly.

Adrienne's communication journey began after she and her husband were named Saskatchewan's Outstanding Young Farmers in 2014. When mainstream media requests began pouring in, Adrienne realized how much people want to hear stories straight from the farm.

What began as a heightened presence on social media has now grown into YouTube video production, TEDx Talks, podcasts and international travel to share her story, and the stories of other Canadian farmers and the Canadian agriculture industry.



Adrienne Ivey of Ituna, Saskatchewan left her corporate agriculture career to raise her children and be more active on the family's ranch. Adrienne's communication journey began after she and her husband were named Saskatchewan's Outstanding Young Farmers in 2014.

## Why I talk about agriculture

This business venture really began after I realized the need for people to speak up for agriculture. It was during a period when there was so much misinformation about Canadian agriculture online and people were inexperienced with social media and separating what's true from what isn't. Even the idea that correct and incorrect information was being shared online was not yet widely acknowledged. This was about 15 years ago. I felt it was important to put accurate information out there to help balance any falsehoods or misleading stories.

People from other walks of life don't have the privilege of seeing all the things we do on our cattle ranch. So, I share it with them openly.

## Build intentional relationships

Once I'd built a name for myself in the industry through Twitter and blogging, I became involved in the wider agriculture community such as Ag in the Classroom, industry boards and agricultural organizations. This led to deeper learning and creating meaningful relationships with others in agriculture. I also cultivated many purposeful relationships with mainstream journalists in Saskatchewan and across Canada; I became their point of contact for agriculture-related articles. Even if I didn't have much knowledge on a specific topic, I was able to connect them with someone who did.

## Try different outlets

There are many methods of communication to reach the public, so I feel it's important to continue pushing myself to try different avenues of speaking. The biggest thing is to be open to opportunities and brave enough to put myself into situations that are unknown to me.

For example, I was asked to do a TEDx Talk, which was a fantastic way of reaching audiences outside of agriculture. Over the years, schools and public libraries have run events that I spoke at. Continuing to put myself out there and being open to these opportunities is important.

## Share with different audiences

Topics and the vocabulary I use differ based on who my audience is. When sharing with an agriculture-based crowd, there's not much of a point in telling them how awesome agriculture is – they already know. Instead, I focus on inspiring them to share their stories and offer tricks to do so, including how to be effective in their communication.

For example, focus your efforts where you can make the most impact. When speaking with an audience without an agriculture background, I share the good news about Canadian agriculture, what farmers are doing to reduce their carbon footprints, how they are involved in their local communities and the impacts of agriculture on the Canadian economy. This helps them relate the giant agriculture industry to the food on their tables while connecting all the dots along the way.

## Connect with the consumer

Some tough conversations come along with this journey, but the benefits tend to outweigh the negative side of sharing our farm's story. There's no other feeling

"I'm nothing special," I say. "Our family is just doing what all the other farming and ranching families across Canada are doing." Seeing that realization on their faces is my favourite part of all.

## Support each other

The largest challenge I have faced is seeing farmers disagree on the "right way" to share our stories, and what they consider to be the "right" or "wrong" way of farming. I expected backlash from activists, especially on more controversial topics such as animal agriculture and GMOs, but it's very disheartening to see farmers disagreeing. When farmers support each other on this journey, we get further in terms of public trust.

Diversity in farms, and voices, is our strength and something we should be supporting.

## Seek and accept opportunities

It's hard to say what I most look forward to next. I've had some great opportunities in this venture, such as the TEDx Talk, and being invited to the McDonald's worldwide conference to speak with restaurant owners about the sustainability of beef and raising beef cattle in Canada. I'm looking forward to the amazing opportunities that are to come.

*From an AgriSuccess article.*

quite like seeing that light bulb moment when someone who has no connection to agriculture understands that every single farming family across Canada cares greatly.

When I start talking about the cool things we're doing, I make sure they know I'm just an average farmer:

worldwide conference to speak with restaurant owners about the sustainability of beef and raising beef cattle in Canada. I'm looking forward to the amazing opportunities that are to come.



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| 3 Slides, New Awning & Flooring, One Owner.....                   |           |
| NO GST 2008 Escalade by KZ 36KSB                                  | \$35,900  |
| 3 slides, 5th wheel hitch (no Rails).....                         |           |
| 2006 Cougar 281ERS  | \$15,500  |
| 1 Slide.....  |           |
| <b>MOTOR HOME</b>   |           |
| NO GST 2015 Coachman Concord 300DS                                |           |

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