

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Lawrence and Swiegers going to the Olympics

BY KARA KINNA

Local pairs skaters Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers are going to the Olympics.

After years of hard work, the pair—who hail from Kennedy and Kipling—were selected at the national championships in Ottawa on Saturday, Jan. 11 as one of three pairs to represent Canada at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"It's such a cliché answer, but it's a dream come true and right now I honestly can't wrap my head around the whole concept of the Olympics," said Lawrence.

"But I just know that I'm really, really happy, and I'm so thankful to be able to say that I have finally reached my goal. I am very excited and very thankful."

"It's a dream come true, and excitement is really the only word you can use to describe it, if you are going to even attempt it," said Swiegers.

Lawrence and Swiegers took bronze nationally at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships with a score of 176.31, behind fellow pairs skaters Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford who took gold with 213.62 points, and Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch who took silver with 209.44 points.

When asked what went through their heads when the announcement was made, Swiegers simply said "Woo-hoo!" with a laugh.

Lawrence said her emotions were mixed. The pair were not entirely happy with their short skate at nationals, and after finding out they placed third, they were still left waiting until Sunday for the official announcement on whether or not they had made the team.



The Canadian Press/Sean Kilpatrick

Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers compete in the Senior Pair Program at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships Friday, January 10 in Ottawa.

"We had such a tumultuous day," she said. "It was like a weight off your shoulders."

"At the moment of the announcement I just kind of nodded my head and was like alright—at that point in time I was so emotionally drained."

"And ever since then I have kind of been slowly getting more and more used to the idea of going and kind of wrapping my head around it a little more each time we have a

conversation about it."

"It has been such a big journey for us," said the pair's coach, Patty Hole, from Virden.

"At the end, when the announcement did come, it was like 'Oh my god.' We believed we could. I believed these kids could make it, so we just kept believing in them and it happened."

Both Swiegers and Lawrence say going to the Olympics is a dream come true.

"When you are young, and especially in the sport of figure skating, the Olympics is definitely the big show," said Swiegers. "That's kind of what you think of: 'Okay, I'm going to skate because I want to make it to the Olympics, I want to be an Olympian.' That's kind of that goal in the back of your mind. And as you get older, you see that goal come closer and closer and you see what it really means to be pushing and working towards that

goal, and you realize how much harder it becomes on a daily basis."

"For us we had Patty push us every day, and Patty has always held us at the highest level of training. Some days you just don't feel that you're there. And she pushes you because she knows and believes that you are capable of that—that's where you should be. It's totally, definitely a dream come true. It's unbelievable."

"I can remember the

very first time that I actually made it a goal to go to the Olympics," said Lawrence. "I made the goal and believed that I could do it. I was at a seminar. I think I was around 11 years old. And I remember listening to the Olympian guest speaker talk, and she was such a real person to me."

"She was telling stories about how she was just a regular little girl skating and training, and she grew up to be an Olympian, and it was like a light switch went off in my head. I was like 'Oh my gosh, she's just a regular person. If she could do it, why can't I?' Ever since that moment it has been a very prominent and realistic goal in my head. Ever since then it's been 'Okay, I want to go to the Olympics, that is why I'm skating.'"

The pair say their performances at the Canadian nationals did not reflect how well they can skate. Lawrence says she wants to show the world what they can do.

"We were very, very prepared coming into nationals and we were very confident in the programs, and we didn't skate either program to the ability and the potential that we have," she said.

"But there are also so many things about those programs that we are proud of. Despite the errors, there was our focus and how we managed to hang on and fight through everything, and still earn our spot on this Olympic team. It leaves me feeling very proud."

But I'm also very hungry, because I want to showcase what we can do and what we've been doing. It's a full circle. I'm disappointed, but I'm very proud and I want more."

Continued on Page 15

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Above: The Chelsea Carey rink celebrate their victory at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Virden on Sunday, Jan. 12. Carey won the tournament in a 6-2 victory over the Kerri Einarson rink at the tournament held at Tundra Oil and Gas Place in Virden on the weekend.

Kim Poole photos



Above: Kerri Einarson throws a rock in the final match.



Above: The Carey rink sweeping during the final match.

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A new food store—Moosomin Asian Food Mart—held its grand opening on Saturday, Jan. 11. The store is located on Main Street Moosomin in the basement of Sew Creative, and carries Asian foods, including foods from the Philippines, Korea, and India. From left are employee Erica Tall, Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson cutting the ribbon, store owner Heather Truman, and employee Khya Ingram.

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## From Many Nations, TO ONE HOME



Giselle Limaya, Michael Roussow and Dennis Remot all immigrated to Canada for different reasons, but call Moosomin home for the same reason: it became home for them.

## Immigrating to Moosomin: 'I feel sure that this is my place'

BY JULIA DIMA

Last year, 257,887 people became permanent Canadian residents. That number has risen by 30,000 in 10 years.

While much of the growth in citizenship has occurred through the temporary foreign worker program in Saskatchewan, some immigrants found their way here in the traditional sense. Giselle Limaya came with her two sons in tow from Cuba to provide them with opportunities they wouldn't have had in Cuba. Dennis Remot spent years as a missionary in the south Philippines where the rebel Abu Sayyaf Group were kidnapping and killing citizens before coming to Canada. Decades after

first finding a love for Canada in his history books, Michael Roussow fulfilled his goal of both coming to Canada, and experiencing full time parish work.

Different paths led the three to Moosomin, but all three say they're happy their journeys led them here.

In 2008, Giselle Limaya and her two sons left their home, Camaguey, Cuba, to find new opportunities in Saskatchewan.

"We spent two months in Cabri before a friend suggested we come to Moosomin because of more job opportunities," Limaya says.

In Cuba, Limaya was an English school teacher, and her first Canadian job was

cleaning shelves at a Co-op.

"It was very different for me, I had never done a job like that in Cuba, so it was sometimes hard to do physical work," she says.

"In Cuba, you finish university before you have any job, and here in Canada, people can start working when they are 15."

Limaya now works at Adair Farm Supply and The Red Barn, and teaches Spanish at the Regional College occasionally. Aside from the teaching, which is her background, she says every experience was brand new to her.

"In Cuba, we don't have advertising of any sort, so that was a culture shock for me. And now I work in

accounting, and we didn't even pay taxes in Cuba. So everything was different," Limaya says.

"Everything was new for me, so I was very nervous about applying for jobs. You do it because you have no choice. You're also competing against Canadians who have job experience so that seemed scary too."

Limaya recalls it wasn't just the job hunting that was a shock for her. It was also the Saskatchewan snow that she had never seen before in her life.

"The first time I saw snow, I was nervous, I didn't know what to do or wear. I thought the snow might hurt me or something, I don't know what ideas I had," Limaya

laughs, "I remember at the beginning, I used to wear ski pants all the time and it took me a long time to stop doing that."

Limaya says that her nervousness about life in Canada helped her realize her own potential.

"Moosomin has allowed me to grow as a person. There were things in the past that I thought I could never do, I just do them now."

"So it shows how strong you are even if you feel weak on the outside," Limaya explains, "you miss home, and everything around you is so different, so inside you feel weak and scared, but you have to face it with a smile, and you have your sad moments,

but you get over it."

She adds that having co-workers and bosses that trusted her and helped her made her feel at home.

"My boss is my friend, and he's been really helpful, taught me a lot, and is supportive. My bosses work around my schedules, and my co-workers are great," Limaya says, "and the small town life is so friendly. I like that people in Moosomin always want to help. That is how Latin people are, so it made me feel at home."

She says she misses some things about Cuba, but has made home for her family in Moosomin.

"I still get homesick. But I've built a life here."

Continued on page 20

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# PotashCorp Rocanville meets with laid off miners to talk about job opportunities

BY KARA KINNA

In a bid to reach out and talk jobs with laid-off miners from the Cory and Lanigan mines, PotashCorp Rocanville held a number of meetings with those miners recently, in hopes of filling a number of job vacancies at the Rocanville mine site.

The meetings were held on December 9 and 10 at both Cory and Lanigan.

"We've got some vacancies here we need to fill at Rocanville, and obviously they have some employees who are going to be looking for spots," says Oliver Pask, PotashCorp Rocanville's human resources manager. "We thought we would prefer to talk to people who are already within the PotashCorp family versus people who aren't, so we went up there to talk to them about it and to see if people are interested in relocating."

Pask says there are about nine salaried positions available in Rocanville right now, plus a number mine operations positions. He says job opportunities will continue to be available at the mine into 2014.

"We are going to be continuing to ramp our manpower up for the expansion as we move through 2014 so, yes there will be some opportunity. There are some opportunities now and there will be opportunities as we move through our budget in Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4."

He says there has been some response from the Cory and Lanigan miners already.

"We've had some people send us resumes. In fact we are in the process of setting up some interviews, and then hopefully we will get some more interviews early in the new year."

"The big question for Rocanville from either Lanigan or Cory is 'are you willing to relocate?' And if the answer to that is yes, then we are interested in talking to you."

Pask says the meetings were positive.

"It was good to talk to some of those people, and I think they were happy to talk to us here—to actually get a chance to sort of talk to us face-to-face and discuss the vacancies and the spots we are looking to fill. I think they were very appreciative of it. And from our perspective, it was great to talk to these people, they are experienced. They know the kind of work we do and are already working for PotashCorp, just at a different site."

Ron Reed, who works at PotashCorp Rocanville, also attended the meetings on behalf of Rocanville town council after PotashCorp asked to have a representative from the town at the meetings.

He said some miners were interested in picking up and moving, while others were simply looking for rental accommodations for the time being.

"It was definitely a mix of people. Some were looking at renting somewhere, being able to work, and then going back home when they are not working, and other people were interested in lot prices, houses for sale, that kind of stuff."

"Personally I was thinking there would be more interest from Lanigan than Cory, but as it turned out, there was definitely more interest in relocation coming from the Cory mine, probably just because they are in a lot better situation in being able to resell their houses. Their houses hold a little bit more value."

Reed says he did his best to let the miners know about any available property in Rocanville.

"As far as the rental options go, there are a lot more rentals opening up being that a lot of the construction at the mine is winding down, and a lot of rental units are opening up."

Reed says he had pamphlets with lot prices on them,

and explained about the subdivision with modular homes being developed by Rise Developments.

"Lot prices in Rocanville, they may seem high, but the guys in Cory were looking at them like wow, this is an incredibly cheap place to live. There was definitely a lot of interest in the prices."

He says he hopes a few of the miners make Rocanville a permanent home.

"We've got pretty much everything you need here," he says. "It's small town living and we're fairly close to everything we need. We do have doctor service, a K-12 school, a golf course and a library."

"Personally I would like to see them move to Rocanville just to see the town grow."

Reed says he directed some of the workers to the town's website, where both rental accommodations and properties for sale are listed. He says he is hoping more people let the town know what is available so that the town can list it online for anyone interested.

In the end, he says the meetings were a bit of an eye opener.

"I kind of got the realization that if it was different situation and I had chosen a different place to go to work when I was settling down with a family, it very well could have been me sitting down in that room wondering why my future held."

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| 29 WEDNESDAY | REGULAR FEEDER SALE          | 9 A.M.  |
| 31 FRIDAY    | BRED COW SALE                | 11 A.M. |
| February     |                              |         |
| 3 MONDAY     | BUTCHER SALE                 | 9 A.M.  |
| 5 WEDNESDAY  | PRESORT FEEDER SALE          | 10 A.M. |
| 10 MONDAY    | BUTCHER SALE                 | 9 A.M.  |
| 12 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER SALE          | 10 A.M. |
| 16 SUNDAY    | BONCHUCK SIMMENTAL BULL SALE |         |
| 17 MONDAY    | CLOSED - LOUIS RIEL DAY      |         |
| 19 WEDNESDAY | REGULAR FEEDER SALE          | 9 A.M.  |
| 21 FRIDAY    | BRED COW SALE                | 11 A.M. |
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From Many Nations,  
**TO ONE HOME**

## Finding home in the land and the animals

BY JULIA DIMA

For some immigrants, coming to Canada means a completely fresh start. Some people come and pick up work completely different from what they did in their native countries, but for others, Saskatchewan is the perfect place to get a fresh start doing what they do best — farming.

Mark Humphries and his family immigrated to Southwest Manitoba from Yorkshire, England six years ago. They now own Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre near Kola, Manitoba.

"We had a mixed bag at home. We were farmers primarily, and my wife was a show jumper, so we diversified into riding schools and we also had a zoo, which was a full blown zoo license establishment. We were also college professors in animal science. It grew into the extent of being a bit of a prison sentence because we were always working," says Humphries.

They decided to sell and move away from England, because legislation for farming in the country was restrictive.

"We wanted something more free and easy and go back to the basics of how we started, which was farming," he says. Despite plans to stay smaller than they were in England, Humphries says that with seven greenhouses, cattle and sheep farming, and a small zoo that is growing to include more exotic animals, their schedules are filling up again.

"We opened up a small petting zoo when we bought our greenhouses two years ago so that kids would have something to do when their parents were shopping, but that went down so well, that we shipped in some wallaroos, lemurs, and we're going to be getting zebras in the spring, and we'll be opening the zoo area in May."

He said that many farmers in the UK are tenant farmers, and few could afford to become full land owners, and so the prospect of being able to be landowners attracted the family to Manitoba.

He says that, as for many immigrants, the most shocking thing about the prairies was the first winter.

"In Yorkshire, the coldest week was down to minus four on a really bad day. So we weren't quite ready for our first winter here. But it was the first white Christmas my family has ever had, so we were absolutely thrilled with that part of it," he says.

He says that because the community was so welcoming, his family got caught up in community activities, and ended up busier than they were in the UK.

"I am a musician by trade, and it wasn't long before people found out about that, so now I'm involved in producing some shows for fundraisers, and I used to direct and produce musicals, so I directed the Wizard of Oz in Virden as well, and my son did technical work," Humphries says, "and my wife now teaches 4-H in Moosomin, she's been teaching lighthouse showjumping there, and she's involved with the Brandon Pony Club which our



Mark and Jill Humphries immigrated from England, and opened Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre. They farm sheep, and once zoo-owners back home, also have a petting zoo that is expanding into a zoo with more exotic animals like lemurs, spider monkeys, wallaroos, tortoise, and zebras.

daughter is involved in as well. We're quite busy now."

Humphries says that Canada felt like home almost as soon as they arrived, and fell in love with Canadian life. He says one strange moment was going to his first hockey game, a Wheat Kings game in Brandon when they first arrived.

"In England, we have soccer, and we would not have taken our kids to a soccer match in the UK because people can get violent and rude, and you can't sit on the wrong side, so we asked which side we sit on, and the woman at the toll box told us we can sit wherever we like, so we were nervous about a big sports event. We soon realized that everyone was all mixed up, people were pleasant, there was no screaming or swearing, and no policemen in the rink, and you started to realize that you could actually feel safe taking your kids to a big sports game," Humphries says.

He says that there's a unique friendliness in rural Manitoba.

"You appreciate getting a wave from a passing car on a gravel road, because you'd never get that in the UK. It may have been like that 30 years ago, but it's still going on here."

Humphries says that he mostly misses about home is fish and chips with mushy peas, but the family has become typical Canadian Tim Hortons addicts.

"We even ship Tim Hortons back to family who visited Canada, because they like the coffee and hot chocolate. And when we first landed in Canada and saw this great big line-up of people outside the Tim Hortons we wondered what it was, and it took us a few days to find out, and now we're all hooked the same, we don't often pass a Tims without stopping and getting a coffee."

Humphries says it's friendliness that has been the best part of prairie life.

"We've loved taking part in fundraisers, and it's fascinating to see how much money people raise when someone in the community needs help. I think if that behavior was transferred everywhere, the world would be a better place," he says.

Like the Humphries family, Gillian and John Wilson were involved in agriculture back home in Scotland, and were able to stay in agriculture coming to Saskatchewan, where they now farm grains near Fairlight.

"We immigrated in 2008 from the Sterling area where my husband was part of a family dairy farm. We wanted to move, but we still wanted to farm, and we saw that Lane Realty had an ad in our local farming paper, and John just went on the website and started looking for farms at Southeast Saskatchewan, and we didn't even look anywhere else in Canada," Gillian Wilson says.

She says that their immigration process was very quick, since they came through the Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program as business owners, so the process only took a few months. Now, they only farm grain, and no dairy farming.

"It was nice to get away from that commitment of dairy farming, and if my husband ever misses cattle farming, he just goes and visits the neighbors and helps with their cattle," she says.

With three kids, Wilson says that immigrating when they did was good for their eldest daughter, who was just starting high school, and already reluctant to leave Scotland, so leaving when their kids were still younger meant they could settle down easier in Saskatchewan.

"On the whole, we've got great neigh-

bors that helped us settle in and it ended up being such a positive experience, we are not looking back at all," Wilson says.

"Our accent gave us away as new, but people were so friendly, asking us about where we're from and about ourselves, and welcoming us to the town. The same thing happened when the children went to school, kids were interested about where they were from."

The biggest culture shock, Wilson says, was the winter.

"Our first winter here, it was minus fifty degrees in Yorkton one day, so that cold was shocking. Our cold is usually wet and damp. Here, it's frigid cold, but you can work in it. In the wet conditions, it goes right through you," Wilson says.

She says that farming in Saskatchewan is much more relaxed than it was in Scotland.

"You are much more laid back toward working here. It was more of a rat race in the UK, so we did notice that."

She adds that despite the chilly winters, a warm community prevented them from feeling homesick.

"People were very welcoming, and we are much more involved in community events than we ever would have been in the UK," Wilson says, "here, there's so many opportunities to get involved in various things. So, it felt like home not very long after we landed here."

While the family are still permanent residents, Wilson says they'll be applying for citizenship after their next residence renewal.

"I feel now that we are already part of Canada, and I suppose the citizenship will just be the icing on the cake for me," Wilson says.

For others, coming to farm in Saskatchewan offered opportunities that would not have existed in their home countries.

Johan Jacobs and his wife Mercia immigrated to Moosomin from South Africa nine years ago on work permits, Johan a farmer, and his wife a doctor.

They left to give their kids a future they could not have in South Africa.

"There's not a lot of opportunity, and there is no pension or old age support. As well, security. Much of South Africa is not safe, and we experienced some break-ins which was the last straw. We came to Canada to be free," Jacobs says. He adds that Canada has the cheapest land for farmers to own as well. For the first two years of being in Canada, when Jacobs could not own land, he worked in oil, as well as on other people's farms. Now he independently owns 4,000 acres of land.

Jacobs also helped other South African farmers come to Saskatchewan to farm.

"According to others, I was the first South African to farm in Saskatchewan, and then after me, I brought in other farmers through nomination, and now there are about 15 South African farmers between Regina and the Manitoba Border," he says.

Continued on page 17

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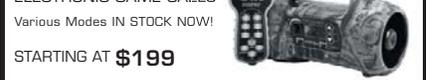
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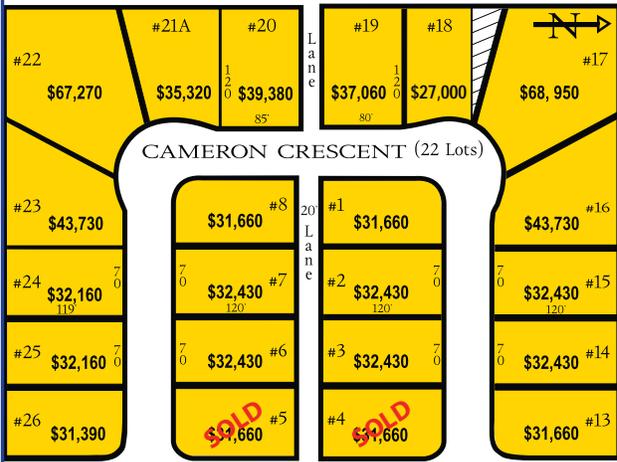
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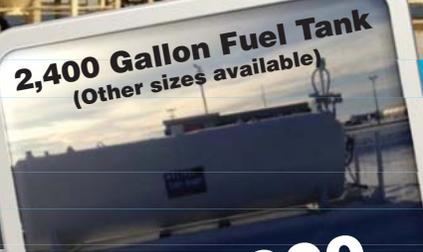
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**Above and right:** Scenes from the annual Lake of the Prairie ice fishing derby, which attracts close to 1,000 people each year.

**Below:** Fishermen participating in the Prairie Classic catch and release walleye tournament held on Lake of the Prairies ever year.



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# Fishing on Lake of the Prairies

## Two fishing derbies raise funds for area

BY KARA KINNA

Lake of the Prairies, located in Manitoba's Assessippi Provincial Park, is known for good fishing, and the area knows just how to take advantage of that.

Every year, two large fishing derbies in the area act as major fundraisers, with hundreds of people from around Canada and the northern U.S. heading to Lake of the Prairies for a few good days of fishing and the chance to win some major prizes.

The first fishing derby of the year is the annual Lake of the Prairies Ice Fishing Derby, which will take place on Feb. 22 this year. This is the fifth year for the event, and Cynthia Nerbas, the Executive Director for Assessippi Parkland Tourism, says the event has seen as many as 940 fishermen, and raises between \$20,000 and \$30,000 each year—money that goes toward further promoting the area.

"We have one big fundraiser instead of doing a bunch of smaller things, and it enables us to promote our area and help develop products," says Nerbas.

"It's a fundraiser for Assessippi Parkland Tourism to do tourism promotion and develop projects in the area, and we also put some of it back into projects like improving the docks down at the lake."

Nerbas says funds from the tournament allow them to do things like put out a visitors' guide, a walking tour guide, a local coloring book, and attend trade shows to promote the area.

Other than one year, when it was bitterly cold outside, and only 500 people attended, Nerbas says the number of people who attend is closer to between 800 and 900, and it would be great to crack the 1,000 mark this year.

"We have a limit of 1,500 but we would like to reach 1,000 people. A thousand would be nice," she says.

Nerbas says they've had people come from as far away as B.C. to attend the derby, and it's not uncommon for people from the northern U.S. to attend as well. However most of the people come from around Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

"As ice fishing tournaments go, I don't know if it's bigger than others, but these are die-hard fishermen, and some go from one tournament to another, and they go every weekend. We have guys lined up at six in the morning, but we don't even open until seven, but they want to get out there and pick a hole."

Nerbas says the prize payout at the tournament makes it a popular event. This year first prize for the longest fish is \$10,000 and there are over \$20,000 of prizes on offer, including a Yamaha Viking, a Lund boat motor and trailer, a Yamaha nitrous snowmobile, and a John Deere Gator.

"It's lot of fun," says Nerbas. "There are great prizes.



A team shows off a large walleye during the annual Prairie Classic catch and release walleye tournament held on Lake of the Prairies ever year.

Mostly the fishermen come for the prizes and the sport of fishing."

Nerbas says planning for the ice fishing derby starts as early as August each year, and it takes a ton of volunteers to pull it off.

"We have 70 to 80 volunteers out there the day of the derby, and there are volunteers out there the day before, setting up, and drilling holes."

She says the ice is groomed using the groomer from the Assessippi ski hill each year.

"It's lots of work, but there are lots of great people we work with. It's fun, and it turns out well, and it's a good fundraiser for us. Before this, we didn't have the money to do the things we do now."

The other major fishing derby held at Lake of the Prairies every year is the annual Prairie Classic Catch and Release Walleye Tournament. Held June 7 and 8 this year, this is the largest walleye fishing derby in Manitoba.

"We have 115 teams of two, and as a matter of fact we were full as of Dec. 31," says Terry Rolfe, who co-chairs the planning committee for the derby, which is put on by the Russell Lions Club each year.

The derby has been taking place for 23 years, but the Lions Club took it over 10 years ago.

"We thought it would be a good deal for tourism and maybe a moneymaking deal for the Lions Club, so we took it over," says Rolfe.

"It all goes to local needs, whether it be for kids or seniors or different projects locally that the Lions might be involved in."

Rolfe says it was tough at first to know just how well the derby would fly, but since Lake of the Prairies boasts prime walleye fishing, he says the derby has

become a major success, and for the last few years has been the largest walleye derby in Manitoba.

"Lake of the Prairies is an excellent walleye fishery and we pay out some excellent prizes," says Rolfe.

"First place is \$25,000 there is in excess of \$50,000 in prize money and prizes given out each year.

"If you talk to any of the fishermen this is probably the premier lake in the province (for walleye fish-

ing). Not that they are huge in size, but they are very plentiful."

Rolfe says a few years ago, conservation fish biologists worked in the area to enhance the fish populations in the lake, and ensure

that the lake was not being overfished. As a result, the lake has a plentiful walleye population.

Rolfe says people come from as far away as the northern U.S., Calgary and Kenora, Ontario to fish in the derby.

"Again, the prize money, and the fishery itself are the attraction," he says.

He says the Lions Club does what it can to promote the derby far and wide every year, as it acts as the club's main fundraiser each year, as opposed to holding numerous smaller fundraisers.

"We've only got a membership of 27 members, but our spouses help out and we make a call out to citizens in the area and they come out and help us in whatever capacity that they can," he says.

"It's great for the lake, it's great for the area. The area benefits greatly. The guys who fish don't just show up a day before. Some are here two weeks in advance checking for their favorite spots. When they come here, they are often here from Wednesday to Sunday."

"Bob Ross and I have been the co-chairs of this project ever since we took it over, and it has been a really good fundraiser for us. We've certainly done a lot of good with the money. It's our major project every year, and it's the largest one we have."

*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles!"* Doug Larson



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# Lawrence, Swiegers to cherish Olympic experience

**Continued from front**  
 "The key word for me for the Canadians was just fight," said Swiegers. "We put out a program that we were really proud of, but it wasn't up to our potential. And then going into the long program and just fighting through everything and ending up with a really good feeling at the end of it, that's kind of how I feel about nationals."  
 "It's not what we were expecting. Sometimes you expect perfection, sometimes you expect something else, but the experience we had is something I'm going to cherish for the rest of my life. It was great."

Hole said the goal now will be to get home, and in the few short weeks before the Olympics, simply maintain their level of training and stay organized.  
 "Going harder is not the plan," she said, "but we will continue to still train our three hours a day, and make sure we keep healthy and rested, because it's going to be a long trip to get over there."  
 "I do believe that we can be better than what we were at Canadians, and that will be our goal, to actually get a chance to go and perform two clean programs at Russia."  
 Will they be nervous?

"If we didn't have nerve then we wouldn't care," said Lawrence. "Nerves are just an expression of emotion, and I'm going to the Olympics, so bring on the nerves."  
 Both Swiegers and Lawrence say there are some particular moments they are planning to cherish at the Olympics.  
 "Obviously the skating is going to be an experience in itself," said Swiegers. "One of the things I'm most excited about is I've always heard of the atmosphere during the opening ceremony and the march into the stadium, and looking up into the stacked crowds

and just the flashes of all the cameras. That's something I've thought of for many years, and I'm going to be able to experience it within that as an Olympic moment for myself."  
 "I think as myself, representing and being part of the Canadian team is huge," said Hole. "These guys now are in the elite group of the leading athletes in the world, which is the Olympic team. So you can't get much greater than that. That to me as a coach is just wow. And now to be part of that elite team, I don't think we believe it. But you don't get much

better than being an Olympian—it doesn't get much better than that."  
 Lawrence and Swiegers have been skating together since 2005. They competed at the senior national championships for the first time in 2009, finishing fourth. They went on to also finish fourth at the 2009 World Junior Championships.  
 Lawrence and Swiegers won three straight bronze medals at the Canadian championships from 2011 to 2013. They competed at the ISU Four Continents Championships all three of those years, earning the bronze medal in 2011.

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# Virden RCMP make two arrests to end Prairie-wide crime spree

A long string of vehicle thefts, from Kathryn, Alberta to Oak Lake, Manitoba, ended when Virden RCMP made an arrest Thursday.

At approximately 3:00 am on New Year's Day, Morse RCMP were notified of a Dodge Ram pickup truck stolen from the town of Milestone. Two persons were observed in the stolen Dodge pickup truck. The same two people had been seen previously rummaging through the inside of a Semi Tractor Unit. It is unknown at this time if anything was taken from the semi unit.

Later that afternoon, Morse RCMP located an abandoned Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck from Kathryn, Alberta, which had been left in the ditch near the entrance to the community just off Highway 1. Checks on the Alberta vehicle revealed that it had been stolen on New Year's Eve.

The Dodge Ram pickup was recovered in Moose Jaw later that morning by Moose Jaw Police Service who advised that a Ford Escape was stolen from the city. The description of the subjects were similar to those observed in Morse.

At 6:13 am January 2, the Indian Head RCMP received a call of an intrusion alarm at a local gas station within the community of Sintuluta. A second call came in moments later from a witness who reported seeing a silver Ford Escape that had driven, in reverse, into the overhead garage bay door belonging to the business.

Upon police arrival at the business, it appeared as though the driver was attempting to gain entry into the business by ramming the vehicle through the door. No entry was gained and when the suspect saw the witness, the vehicle sped off Eastbound on Highway 1. Further examination at the scene located several broken parts which had fallen off the rear of the Ford Escape.

At 7:30 a.m. Thursday, the Moosomin RCMP attended to a complaint of a stolen

vehicle from a business in Wapella. From this business, a Chevy Silverado was taken. The Ford Escape was abandoned and located on Highway 1 just east of Wapella.

Later Thursday morning, a complaint was received from a resident of Moosomin, that his Dodge Ram pickup was stolen. The Chevy Silverado stolen from Wapella was located a short distance from where the Dodge pickup was stolen in Moosomin.

The stolen Moosomin truck was recovered by Virden RCMP in Manitoba

Shortly before 9 am Thursday, Virden RCMP responded to suspects driving a stolen vehicle from Elkhorn.

Police quickly discovered that the theft was related to a string of stolen vehicles and break-ins that had occurred in Moose Jaw, Indian Head, Wapella and Moosomin, Saskatchewan, as well as Lethbridge, Alberta.

And they discovered the truck stolen from Moosomin was abandoned in Elkhorn when the vehicle was stolen from that community.

On the highway east of Virden, the stolen vehicle clipped another vehicle, causing minor damage and no injuries.

RCMP officers attempted to initiate a pursuit, but for the safety of all involved, called it off.

The stolen vehicle from Elkhorn was abandoned and another stolen from the Oak Lake area. The suspects proceeded to drive toward Brandon. Brandon Police Service was alerted and assisted the RCMP in pursuing the stolen vehicle through the city.

When exiting the east side of Brandon, the suspect vehicle attempted to overtake another vehicle, and clipped it, sending both vehicles into the ditch. Brandon Police Service officers were able to take the two suspects into custody.

Charges are pending against a 42-year-old male and a 33-year-old female, both from Calgary. They appeared in Brandon Provincial Court on Friday.

From Many Nations,  
**TO ONE HOME**



# Finding home in the land and the animals

Continued from page 8

Along with their two children, aged 5 and 9, the Jacobs family also brought over Mercia's parents, Chris and Susan Van Jaarsveld through a sponsorship program.

"They stopped the nominee program that we originally brought them in on, so now they are on Super Visas, so they can stay in the country for 10 years, but have to travel home every two years, but that is okay, because they still have family back home. Hopefully, by the first of January they will have the nominee program sorted out, and we can get that back into that program to stay here permanently," Jacobs says.

For Jacobs, farming in Canada is entirely different from South Africa, where farming happened year round.

"We have a summer season where we seed corn, peanuts, cotton, sunflowers, and in our winters, we would do wheat, barley, peas, oats, those crops. We would be doing twice as much there," he says.

Jacobs says the small farming community is what he was used to at home, so farming near Moosomin is familiar. Jacobs says the cold winters don't faze him because, while chilly, Saskatchewan is safe.

"You just learn how to wear the right clothes, so there was a lot of things to learn, but I would rather be safe and cold than warm and unsafe. For Canadians who were born and raised here, they don't really understand what freedom is because they have always had it. Those of us that come here really appreciate having it," he says.

Jacobs says that because he and his wife spoke English, they found it easy to meet people, and because they came with jobs, it was easy to integrate into the community.

"The people are immigrant-friendly

here, they accept them much easier than people in Australia and England do, in my experience. People accepted us a lot easier. That is why we get our kids so involved in the community as well, through church and sports. Because we are Canadians first, and then South Africans. We came here to be Canadians."

A big difference for Jacobs is the slow pace of farming in Saskatchewan with only one farming season.

"We never stop in South Africa, we work constantly to keep up. In South Africa, I would have to work 6 a.m. to 10 at night, but now, here in Canada, it's the afternoon, and I've fed the cows, and I have time to relax. It's a better quality of life, because you can earn enough on your farm in the summer, that in the winter, you can afford to relax," he says.

Jacobs says that coming to Canada changed the lives of him and his family.

"I don't want to know what life would be like if we did not come to Canada. This is where we are building our future, so I don't worry about what would have happened," he says.

"The best part of Canada is that everybody has opportunity here. There is no law or rules that prohibits anybody who wants to work here from working. It all comes back to seeing that in Canada, as long as you follow the rules and laws, you're free, and you have all the opportunity in the world."

Jacobs, like Wilson, is not yet a Canadian citizen on paper, but feels like a true Canadian.

"For me, as a farmer when you see your crops grow, it grows on you, and when the Roughriders win and you're cheering, and when you're cheering with fellow Canadians when your team wins a game, that means you're a Canadian to me."



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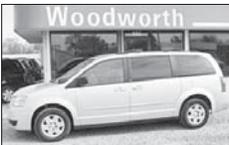
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In Rocanville:

# Kelly retires after 11 years of service

BY JULIA DIMA

Delta Kelly never had any plans to be a priest, but 11 years after becoming a locally ordained priest, she's looking back on a career of providing religious services to Rocanville, Moosomin, Welwyn, McAuley, and other communities.

Kelly's family moved from Lumsden to Tantalton when she was four. She stayed and studied in Tantalton until graduating high school, and going to college to become a teacher. Kelly taught in Neudorf for one year, and Millwood for three years before getting married, and working on the farm with her husband, raising five sons. The loss of her husband steered Kelly closer to the church, and her most recent career as a priest.

"I didn't really decide to become a minister, but rather, it was God that decided that I needed to do this work," Kelly explains, "I was married for 27 years, and my husband passed away from cancer, and I still had one son at home in grade 11, and my husband didn't have life insurance, so I needed to earn a living. After five years of being widowed, I heard God's call.

"The Anglican Church has a program called 'local ordination' where each congregation chose one person that they felt would be a good sacramental minister, and Rocanville chose me. I was the lay reader, and was studying some theology at the time. So after some more theology training, I was ordained as a priest on November 2, 2002."

Then something unlikely happened. St. Paul's United Church in Rocanville was in need of a minister, and asked Kelly if she would consider doing services for the United Church. Being an Anglican priest, Kelly was hesitant about preaching in the United Church. But as with her decision to become locally ordained, Kelly says God pushed her in the right direction.

"The board had asked me to pray about it before I made my final decision about their offer. I told them, of course



Delta Kelly has been an Anglican Priest serving the Anglican and United Churches in Rocanville for 11 years.

I will, and at the time, I was more apt to tell God what I wanted, than to ask for his guidance. So, I did pray, but in that format the night before I went to sleep. When I woke up in the morning, I had words going through my head over and over. The words were 'denominations are unimportant. You have my word for the people in the pews. Go and give it to them.' I knew this was a sign of God, and so I took that advice from God, and accepted the offer," says Kelly.

She says that the acceptance and unity that's been brought between the two denominations in Rocanville since she took the job reinforces that message.

"The congregation has always been accepting of my background and my beliefs to the point that the congregations work together very often. Part of the agreement was that there will be a joint service on the first Sunday of every month, and each month will switch from the regular United Church liturgy to the Anglican prayer book. The congregations have gotten to the point where they don't think any different. It doesn't matter what the background is.

"When I had Wapella in the mix, and was trying to do Christmas Eve services, I had two lay-people working with me, but it was still difficult to cover all the churches, and in the Anglican faith, having Christmas communion is one of the musts for the faith. So, always, I was needing to make sure St. Thomas had that service. It was making it difficult to get three congregations covered. And this congregation, because of the commitment to making this

work, and because of their concern for me and my well being, they came to me, and said 'this is not right. Why don't you come and do the Anglican service with us on our Christmas Eve service, so that is what we've been doing,'" she says.

Kelly says that it's taught her that faith is about God, and not about denominations.

"I think that working together as parishes means the Church community in Rocanville has a louder voice. Whenever there is an opportunity to work as a church body, not as denominations, but as all churches, we have done that, and it has made the church voice stronger.

"If everyone is wanting God's message to be the most important thing in our life as a church, then these things work out, because of God's plan. For me, when you accept Christ and become committed to Christianity, one of the directives is to trust God to take care of you, that is part of our faith. It takes a lot of faith to be able to let go and let God do that, but for me, in these last 11 years of working in this situation, this has been proven over and over again. These people care for me, and they've made that abundantly clear."

Kelly recalls that the two occasions she had to have hip surgery, both congregations were there for her, working around her hospital stays, and eager for her to come home. She jokes that if she weren't having her operations in Saskatoon, she'd have done Sunday services in the hospital.

After 11 years serving, it's concern for her health that has led Kelly to make the reluctant choice to retire from being a full-time priest.

"I've had two hip operations, which were not my first operations, and the doctors cannot do anymore, so I am in pain in my back and hips, and I don't feel like I can give the congregation the best care that they need any longer. I am hoping that I can still help in smaller ways, but if I continue with this full load, I am afraid I will be in a wheelchair quite quickly," she says. "Am I totally finished with God's work? I doubt it. I will still continue doing services in the Anglican church, perhaps only one a month. I have told the United church congregation that I will do one service a month until the end of June, and that will be my official end date."

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# Kelly retiring after 11 years of service

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Kelly says she is hoping to take on new endeavors in her retirement.

"The one thing I had thought I'd want to do, and my family has been saying, is that they want me to write the family history so they can remember that. So, I think, yes, I will write our family history, and since I decided that, two people, who are totally unconnected to each other, have both told me that I need to write, so perhaps God is giving me a sign to write," she says.

Kelly also hopes to spend much of her retirement being with her family. She says that being a mother has helped her as a priest as well.

"Motherhood teaches you much. Compassion, patience, love. They are also part of being a priest," she says. "and my family is very important to me. I am blessed to have a large family supporting me. And I have a large congregation that supports me too when I need support."

Looking back at her time serving as a priest, Kelly says her greatest reward is seeing that she has made a difference in the church.

"It's feeling the growth of the spirit at work within the people is the best feeling, and I have witnessed that. As well as being able to help others. If I can help people make their lives easier, that is a great satisfaction for me. Life has taken on a fast pace and is so much more stressful, and church has become a place that you go when you need help, it's no longer a part of everyday life. People get themselves into a lot of difficulty, so if there is some way I have been able to help them ease the stress, that is what I find most satisfying.

"The most difficult thing is working with people on their personal issues when they come to me for counselling. That has been the most challenging because you lose a little bit of yourself in helping them, and you worry you didn't do a good enough job helping them. I think it's possibly because my main ministry is often funerals and helping those through grief, every time you do that, you lose a little bit of yourself. I don't know how to do it any differently."

After being that counsellor for so long, Kelly will be missed by her congregations.

"Many have a feeling of consternation. They say 'what are we going to do?' When they realized I was retiring, I think they were worried about who will come and be

willing to allow the work to continue that we have built the base for. Because all ministers don't agree with the way that we do things here with our two congregations," Kelly says.

Kelly says that putting her faith in God to show her the right path has always been integral to her faith, and has helped shape the course of her life. She says that the most valuable lesson she has learned through her faith is to be compassionate.

"I've learned to view others by putting myself in their shoes, and trying to understand what living their life would be like. God has taught me to be non-judgemental.

"Compassion is the only word I can use to describe it. I've learned that not everything is what it appears on the outside, and you have to learn to view life from the point of view of your congregation. What I always come back to is to ask myself what Jesus would do. I have been the voice and the hands of God in this community, so I have to be true to his theology and his word. That is what I base my treatment of others on."

She adds that watching the Church community grow has given her pride in the work she's done over the past 11 years.

"It has all just been so amazing that it's worked so easily, and it has been such a good experience. It's amazed me how everyone has seen God at work, and grown from that. When I began here, this church had an issue in the past that had created division, and because I lived in the community, and watched that, we could deal compassionately with it, and the healing has begun. I'm so proud of the people, they are past that, and have realized that the hurt is not important, life is important, God's vision is important. It's given me tremendous joy to watch them work through that."

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## From Many Nations, TO ONE HOME

# Immigrating to Moosomin: 'I feel sure that this is my place'

**Continued from page 6**  
Dennis Remot grew up the youngest of nine children south of Manila, Philippines. He spent eleven years of his life after school in seminary to become a Catholic priest, and after seminary, he was asked to go as a missionary to a southern island close to the Malaysian border.

"During that time, it was a dangerous area because of Islamic extremists. There were Al Qaeda cells there, a terrorist organization called

the Abu Sayyaf Group. When I was assigned there, most of the priests vacated the area because the group did target religious leaders. One of the priests was kidnapped and killed. Kidnapping at this time was tremendous in the Philippines," Remot says, "You cannot be weak, because as a missionary, you are the shock absorber for the people. But even if you are very tough, this experience will influence you. I found that I became very distrust-

ful because the Abu Sayyaf was attacking priests, so I found that I was distrustful of anyone I did not know. There was also a malaria epidemic, and this is when the government began bombing the areas where the Abu Sayyaf had camps. So after three years, I was asked to take a break and pulled out."

After this, Remot went on another mission south of Manila where he established a small church out of a shanty. He stayed here for nine months before being asked to go abroad. Remot's first assignment was at two parishes in Cranbrook, British Columbia.

"I had two parishes that were one kilometre apart, so I would walk from parish to parish beside the trees. It was beautiful," Remot says.

Remot also joined the Toastmasters Club and he says this helped him learn about Canadian life, culture, and politics.

Remot then was moved to Fernie where he developed a love for skiing and outdoor sports. When there was a request looking for a priest to move to Southeast Saskatchewan, where eight Catholic parishes did not have a priest for four months, Remot was hesitant to leave his ski hills and friends. But seeing the need, Remot agreed to relocate.

"I stayed first in Regina

for two weeks. I asked for a vacation so I could do my research about Saskatchewan and explore the province," Remot says.

His vacation was cut short.

"I got an emergency call that there was a funeral in Moosomin and they had nobody to officiate the funeral, so I made my way to Moosomin. That day I came for the funeral was my birthday," Remot says, "But as soon as I saw Moosomin and St. Mary's, I had a feeling that this was my place. I am not a thinking person, I am more feeling, and I just had this feeling inside that Moosomin was home. So, after the funeral, I just stayed in Moosomin instead of finishing my vacation. After a year, I felt for sure that this is my place."

Remot says discovering the generosity of Moosomin surprised him.

"People are generous, and they do not propagate it, they are very private. People donate money and then don't want to be mentioned. For example, with the disaster in the Philippines, I received a \$1,000 donation for the relief effort, and it was just left in an envelope at the door. I admire that. There is a lot of goodness in the people here," Remot says.

At this point, Remot says that his experience in Moosomin has been his

most fruitful experience as a priest.

"I am secure, appreciated, and affirmed here. The sad part of being a priest is you don't know if you're going to be relocated. Moosomin taught me so much, it was very much a training ground for me and thanks to the tools of running a parish I've gained here, I can do a good job wherever I am sent next," he says. "I hope to spend time in all four corners of Saskatchewan, in the far east where I am now, the west, and the south and north, so that when a Canadian asks me about Saskatchewan, I can be proud knowing so much about Saskatchewan."

Remot says that no matter where he goes, Moosomin will stay in his heart.

"Moosomin is special for me. For my family's homes back in the Philippines, I bought lots of paintings and souvenirs of Moosomin. I have all these things that reflect what Moosomin is about," he says, "Sometimes, because I am alone here, I get homesick. But now, I feel like this town is my family. As a priest, you become a member of every family."

Like Remot, Reverend Michael Roussow says his Canadian starting point of Moosomin will stay with him wherever he goes in his future as a priest.

Roussow was born in South Africa and says he knew as a teenager that he wanted to become a priest. But the Bishop proposed Roussow explore other ventures first, leading him to a career in teaching that lasted until just three years ago.

In 2001, Roussow went to Thailand to teach at an international school.

"Teaching there was enjoyable, because teachers in Southeast Asia are very well respected, and families were very welcoming," Roussow says.

In 2002, Roussow accepted a teaching position in Rangoon, Burma. There, he gained his Deacon's orders and worked as a deacon at the small church in Rangoon, where worshippers of all backgrounds gathered.

"It was so lovely to hear the Eucharist song being sung in Burmese, Tamil, Hindi and English at the same time."

Roussow eventually ended up in the Philippines, where he worked in Brent International School, an Episcopal school. There, he became ordained, got married and had a son.

Roussow says he always wanted to do full time parish work, and since his youth, wanted to come to Canada. So when he found an advertisement for an Anglican priest in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, he took it.

"I had an interview on skype, and two weeks later I was on a plane. I arrived in Regina at 10:30 at night in May, 2012 and met the Archdeacon. The next day, I had a small meeting with the Bishop, was picked up in Regina by Anthony Kel-

ly and was in Moosomin by lunch," Roussow says, "On the first drive through the prairies, I thought it was very vast. It reminded me of farms in South Africa, but much larger, and mechanized. In Saskatchewan, farming is such a vast business, and this is what struck me, was the huge, vast, open spaces."

Like Remot, Roussow was struck by the generosity and community spirit in Moosomin and in his new congregation.

"My congregation is lovely. Very open and welcoming and I am very fortunate and blessed by them. I am so impressed that all the churches in town have community involvement—there are joint efforts, all the churches support meals on wheels, the food bank, the long term care centre. There is such good spirit between the different churches," Roussow says. "I think it's interesting here that people work together. You don't find that in bigger cities. In a big city, if you are knocked down, people will literally walk over you in the road or pretend they don't see you. But in Moosomin, people are caring and communal. There's been instances where people raise money for individuals in the community who need help, and I have never seen this in a community before. And this has really made me feel that this is what makes this community very special."

Roussow says he felt a sense of home this past Remembrance Day.

"I took part for my second service at Fleming for Remembrance Day, and I felt as we sang the national anthem, I felt, 'yes, I'm here now. This is home.' I don't know how to explain it, but I felt something within me saying 'you're here now.' Just as many died in the wars in South Africa, Canada too has sacrificed its men and women for peace. You feel a sense of pride when you see the RCMP in red serge. It was a small thing, but when I sang the anthem, I felt that I am meant to be here."

Roussow says Canada will truly feel like home when his immigration papers are approved and his wife and son can join him.

"I skype with my wife and son almost twice a day. I showed my son some of the things I had and I showed him a poppy, and he said, 'Ooh, daddy, flower!' and I said, 'yes, a very special flower' and he can't understand the reason why it's special right now, but he will," Roussow says, "I took the tablet to the window and pointed the camera to the outside, and he asked 'what is all that white stuff?' I told him it was snow and that it was very cold. But I am sure when he gets here, he'll be throwing snowballs with the other children in no time. I look forward to that."

Roussow says he hopes he can settle in Moosomin, but if he cannot, he will be taking the prairies with him.

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Pro-Drill Industries is currently seeking a **Production/Mechanical Labourer** to begin immediately in our Virden, Manitoba manufacturing facility.

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Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 50/50 tickets @ \$20 each  
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Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: (Make cheque – no post-dated cheques please – or money order payable to Moosomin Kinsmen Club)

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (enclosed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order |
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Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Lotto 365 on track for another sellout

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
The Moosomin Kinsmen Club's Lotto 365 is on track for another sellout.

"I would say we're on par for where we normally are at this point," said Ryan Thorn of the Moosomin Kinsmen Club, which runs the annual lottery.

"These tickets really sell themselves. In one day, I had one guy drive from Welwyn and one from Watota just to buy tickets."

"It just tells you how important Lotto 365 is in the community."

"It's amazing to me when people start asking about it in the summer. It means a lot to people to be part of it each year. There's one guy who was going away and wanted to make sure he got a ticket. He said it wasn't about winning, he just appreciates what we do."

"To be appreciated like that is awesome. It makes you do the extra work for the lotto. You're part of something special."

Lotto 365 has put more than \$450,000 into the community over the last 11 years, and organizers are hoping to top the half million dollar mark once the 12th annual lottery is completed this winter.

Lotto 365 started more than a decade ago with the idea of allowing the winner to live free for a year.

The prize consists of \$1,000 a week for 52 weeks—enough to cover most people's bills for the year.

The lottery ran virtually unchanged for the first 10 years, but for the first time last year a second component was added—a 50/50 draw.

When someone buys a \$100 lottery ticket, they can get a 50/50 ticket for another \$20. The winner of the 50/50 draw takes half of what goes into the 50/50 pot, and the rest goes to the

community.

The Kinsmen had a success with the addition of the 50/50 draw last year—\$11,000 went to the winner.

Funds from Lotto 365 have supported many different community projects over the years, from health care to recreation.

A lot of support has gone to the Southeast Integrated Care Centre over the years, and one of the main beneficiaries of last year's proceeds was a portable ultrasound machine for the emergency department at the SEICC.

If this year's lottery sells out, \$30,000 of the proceeds will go toward renovations and improvements at Moosomin's swimming pool, \$7,500 will go to the Moosomin Curling Club, \$7,500 will go to the Pipestone Hills Golf Club, and the proceeds of the 50/50 will go to the Kinsmen's ball diamond improvement project at Lloyd Bradley Park.

The Kinsmen are extensively redeveloping one diamond, including underground sprinklers and overhead lights.



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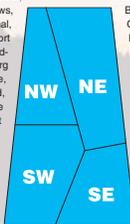
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