

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Cowesses bullrider living the dream

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

Raised on a Northern B.C. ranch, the slim, strong 24-year old has worked and rodeoed across Western Canada. Ranches, feedlots, sale yards, sawmills; "Everything's seasonal." Now, the confident and competent ranch hand is managing a 300-head cattle project on Cowesses First Nation.

Why all the hard work to pursue an ambition born in her childhood to become a professional bull rider?

Lynette Proulx is in every way an uncommon young woman. "That girl is all heart," is all her supervisor, Chip Taypotat, had to say about her.

She lives in a bare house on a knoll on the Cowesses First Nation. She gets around in a battered pick up truck. A look around her simple, functional dwelling, and you know she probably came here with two bags. And her horse.

Family pictures adorn the TV set, next to dusty piles of rodeo videos. Hanging on the wall are plaited halters. "I'm teaching myself how to braid," explains Proulx. "It passes the time."

Outside, in the yard, is a homemade drill barrel mounted on a heavy sawhorse. "It's my practice barrel" she says, "for practicing my dismounts."

Later, we haul the barrel downstairs into the basement, and Proulx gets on. She raises her body up and leans forward on the contraption, holding the barrel steady with her legs as she positions her hands high in the air.

She's leaning so far forward it's amazing she doesn't fall flat on her face. She performs this feat of core body strength with grace and ease, and explains what she's doing as she hooks one knee. "It looks like it would be hard to stay on the bull when he starts spinning around. But if you sit like this," she says as she shifts ever so slightly, "you stay right with him." For the first time I realize there is actually practiced technique to what looks like the pure madness of bull riding.

Proulx was born in Kamloops, B.C. Her family lost their ranch when she was about twelve years old, and moved to the Four Bar S Ranch in Barrier, 63 km north of Kamloops. Proulx lived and worked there until she was eighteen.

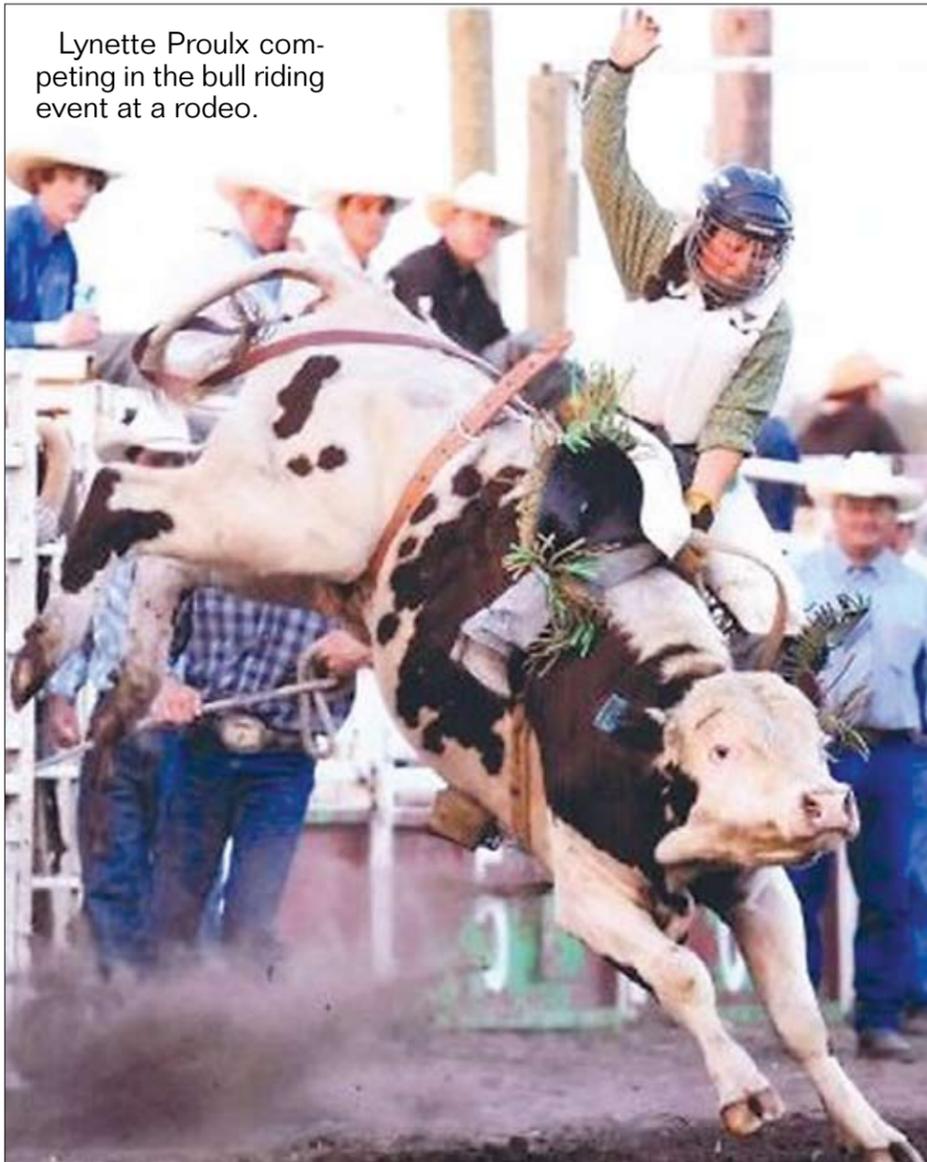
She has a lot of respect for the ranch where she spent her adolescence. "They ran sheep, colts, 150 cattle. They used a draft team to feed cattle, rake hay. Mixed farms make it a lot more interesting."

When it comes to doing things the hard way, she has had her share of first hand experiences.

"Barrier B.C. has the biggest small

"Girls don't ride bulls," she was told over and over again. And, "You're too pretty to do that."

Lynette Proulx competing in the bull riding event at a rodeo.



town fair in the world, pretty much," she remembers.

She always looked forward to bull riding events. "As soon as I heard the music, I'd be running," she says. Ever since she can remember, she wanted to ride bulls.

Did she receive much encouragement? "My uncle rode bulls; got a horn in the lungs. There's a bull rope over the fire-

place. He never talks about it."

"Girls don't ride bulls," she was told over and over again. And, "You're too pretty to do that."

"I don't think my mom really believed me until I started doing it. They thought it was just a little kid thing. My dad came to just one rodeo and that was it. Now I don't really mention it to them," Proulx

laughs. "My Aunt Dot was my supporter. She bought my helmet and my face guard. She backed me. She was the only one that supported me for a long time. I think it was she was kind of like me. She was a hunter. She would try to go with Pop and do anything other than stay in the house and become a lady. The last twenty years she lived on the water, going wherever she wanted along the coast of B.C. She was a free soul. Nothing held her back." Dorothy Lewis passed from ALS in 2006.

When she was about eighteen, Proulx heard about cow riding at Bridge Lake in B.C. "That's basically when I broke out," she says. How did she do? "Not very well!" she laughs. The following year she got back up on cows at Dead Man's Creek. At Pritchard, the British Columbia Rodeo Association told her she was over the age limit to ride cows, and "too small" to ride bulls.

"I was so mad!" she recalls. Then her friend Matt Bates, bull rider turned bare back rider, whom she met working at the stockyard in Kamloops, told her to enter the WIREA (Western Indian Rodeo and Exhibition Association) rodeo at Douglas Lake. "They'll let you ride," he said.

They did.

Douglas Lake consists of two one-day rodeos. Proulx entered as a bull rider, and pulled a bull named Strawberry bred by Ted Marchand. You see that bull over there?" teased Matt Bates, "the one about a foot taller than all the others? That's yours."

"It was an easy six seconds," Proulx says of her first ride. "I was halfway across the arena; I was just flying when I came off."

How did she feel about it?

"I was just so excited that it wasn't a cow. I hated getting up on those cows, to tell you the truth. It was the best feeling in the world, getting on that bull."

It's not a feeling she was, or is, willing to let go. She rode in every WIREA event in 2005. "It was all good," she says.

But it has been a struggle. Some rodeo associations don't allow women bull riders. "Nobody wants to see a woman get hurt," seems to be the fall back line. And Proulx has struggled to find teachers.

She has made friends and found her mentors, but she's also learned that not everyone is in her corner. She mentions a bullfighter, but refuses to divulge his name. "I thought he was my friend, but he literally let that bull come back and run me over twice. But that's not the way to keep me back."

*Continued on page 2*



# Proulx blazing a trail

Continued from front

Heroes are easier to find. "Kory Ginnis has so much talent," she says of the Grenfell native. And Kaila Mussell, the only female professional saddle bronc rider, is a personal hero. She hesitates to single anyone out. "There are so many good riders in the CCA."

Isn't she scared to get on a bull?

"Of course I'm terrified!" Proulx exclaims. "That's what makes it fun! If you're not scared, there's no edge to it. Sometimes you'll go to a rodeo, get on a bull, hop around a few times, and hit the dust. You think, 'What did I come out here for?' But the next time, you get the hunger back. You get the fear back. And it's fun!" "Sort of like the anticipation of a rollercoaster?" I ask her. Proulx shudders. "No way. I stay away from those things."

Proulx moved to Saskatchewan in June of 2007. She's not wild about the weather but she loves the rodeo culture. "More people are glad to see a girl riding," she says. "Out here there's more support. In B.C. I got a kick in the ass. It's part of what keeps me out here."

In 2008 Proulx attended bull riding school in Fort Qu'Appelle with Dale Claypool. "When he was teaching us to dismount, I was like, there's a way to get off!" She laughs.

"My best ride was King Kong at Eston," she says of last season. "Freedom's rank; but he was a great ride!" She drops the names of bulls, riders, breeders, and organizers the way some young women might talk about actors or clothing designers. Proulx rode in over 30 CCA events last season, and is looking forward to her 2010 year.

Bull riding is an expensive sport. She wears about \$2,400 worth of equipment. The annual association cards run between \$100 to \$200 each, and entry fees for each event are between \$70 and \$110.

"I guess what I really need is some sponsorship," she says soberly, and then laughs. "But it's pretty hard to find a sponsor when you haven't made time!"

Proulx isn't about to let that stand in her way either.

"You love it. It's your life," she says.

She pulls out a big black duffel bag. Dust from last summer's rodeos rises as she unzips it, and pulls out her prized possessions.

She twines the heavy bull rope around her small hands, showing the proper way to hold it so you don't get caught up. "It's custom made," she explains. "The guy had to use a smaller plait than usual, because I

can't get my hands around the regular one." Her jeans are dusty and ragged. "I don't wash them during the season," she confesses, "I guess I'm kinda superstitious." She pulls out a green plaid western shirt. "I always wear green," she says. But she'll need a new shirt; this one has a huge tear in it. She shows me the corresponding scar on one well-muscled arm, where she was stepped on by a bull at Esterhazy.

She pulls on a pair of worn cowboy boots with deep slits down the front and back. "Looks like you need new boots too," I hazard. Proulx snorts at me and laughs. "No. These boots are great." She takes long leather straps, and shows me how she ties her boots on, so they're not knocked off while she's on the bull. She shows me her vest. "Just like a cop!" she says. The white leather vest is heavy; it's stuffed with Kevlar inserts, to protect the rider's heart and ribs. A scratched hockey helmet tops the ensemble.

Finally, the chaps. "I love white leather," she says softly, straightening the fringes. Stenciled on the strap that goes across the back is the name, "Dot". "That's my aunt Dot," Proulx says.

Out in the corral with the calves being weaned and the cull cows bound for auction is Little Rainmaker, which Proulx brought with her from B.C. "I call her that because the first three times I went out to

work with her, it just started pouring rain," Proulx confides. "She's for the most part rideable."

The horse, which Proulx refers to as 'Babes' while she's working with her, is dark, delicate, and strong. She has an intelligent face and is carefully observant. Like Proulx's, her story is a fascinating one.

There is a herd of wild horses that runs from Douglas Lake to Logan Lake, north of Kamloops. Traditionally, the First Nations would cull the herd. In 2007, the horses were causing enough trouble with the ranchers that the Ministry of Forestry rounded up as many as they could. They caught nineteen horses and packed them into two livestock trailers. Proulx's friend, Matt Bates, helped sort the horses. Proulx bought the dark little filly at about six months old for \$85.

The horse is quiet and obedient as Proulx mounts her bareback. "She's showing off for me," grins Proulx as she wheels the horse around the yard, "I've only been up on her maybe thirty times."

Proulx doesn't enjoy breaking horses. "I don't know why," she confides, "but I hate a bucking horse. I'll get up on any horse and put miles on any horse; just don't tell me he bucks!"

Proulx rides Feb 13 in Moose Jaw and on March 12 at the Brandon Keystone Centre.



Proulx out with the cattle on Cowessess First Nation.

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# Ordinary family, extraordinary challenges

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

It's dark and snowing softly outside, but inside Susan and Brian Beckett's modest duplex the lamps pool warm light over family pictures and children's storybooks. Susan serves steaming coffee and sits comfortably next to her husband on the couch. They smile at each other contentedly. "We're just pretty regular guys," they agree.

From a nearby bedroom comes the sound of one of their daughters, Jennifer, babbling easily to herself. Affectionately known as 'Jenny' to her friends and family, the storybooks belong to her. So do the sippy cups in the Becketts' cupboards and the wheelchair in the hall. Jenny is eighteen years old and was diagnosed at an early age with cerebral palsy and CHARGE syndrome.

Cerebral palsy is any of a number of neurological disorders which permanently affect body movement and muscle co-ordination but don't worsen over time. It isn't caused by problems in the muscles or nerves but by abnormalities in parts of the brain that control muscle movements. The majority of children with cerebral palsy are born with it, although it may not be detected immediately. The early signs of cerebral palsy usually appear before a child is three years old and can include a lack of muscle co-ordination, stiff or tight muscles, walking with one foot or leg dragging, walking on tip-toes, and muscle tone that is either too tight or too floppy. Cerebral palsy can't be cured, but the disability can be managed with tools, therapies and sometimes drugs. People diagnosed with cerebral palsy can lead very high quality lives.

CHARGE syndrome is extremely complex, involving extensive medical and physical difficulties. It is different for every child. Babies with CHARGE syndrome are often born with life-threatening birth defects, including heart defects and breathing problems. They usually require years of medical intervention and educational support. One of the hidden features of the syndrome is the determination and strong character CHARGE babies come to display.

Jenny is the third of the four Beckett children. She was born in Moosomin but after a 'blue spell' on the first eve of her life she was transferred to Brandon. There the doctors discovered a small hole in her heart. "They missed the big one," Susan says ruefully. The infant and her family returned home.

"I knew deep down something was wrong," confesses Susan. "But everyone kept telling us she was fine," remembers Brian. At six weeks of age baby Jenny contracted pneumonia which developed into RSV. The Becketts accompanied her to Regina where she was treated in intensive care and assigned a pediatrician.

They discovered that Jenny's bladder and kidneys weren't functioning properly. Her doctors performed an operation to allow her organs to continue to mature. "We had to re-learn diapering!" remembers Susan. The operation was reversed just before Jenny's third birthday.

In Regina the Becketts also learned that Jenny had a hole in the muscle that separates the right and left ventricles of the heart. Over time the VSD diminished on its own, and Jenny has never required surgery.

"We left on Feb. 11 and came home March 28," recalls Susan. "I don't remember a lot of dates but I do remember that."

"We pretty much begged in Regina," for chromosome testing, says Susan. "We left Regina with all of this new information on our new baby. We knew she had a lot of problems but we didn't know what we were dealing with." "You gotta fight for it," summarizes Brian of their battle for Jenny's diagnosis.

"Jenny was almost three before we saw a geneticist," continues Susan. The Becketts had an excellent pediatrician in Saskatoon, but once they were finally referred to the geneticist they were shocked to learn that he had seen Jenny as an infant all of those years ago in Regina. "We never even knew he had seen her," the couple says. "He had her written down in his charts as a possible CHARGE baby."

In the early years, "there's a lot of travel. We were in Regina and Saskatoon every month, if not more often. Cardiologist, urologist, neurologist, geneticist . . ." And that's just the medical side. Then you



Jennifer Beckett enjoys her bike outside her Moosomin home.

have the rehabilitative element of treating a child with disabilities.

"Wascana Rehab is fabulous," says Susan. "We've been so fortunate. I can count on one hand the number of therapists Jenny has had."

When Jenny was born, her older siblings were eight and ten years old. Susan and Brian began to wonder if Jenny wouldn't benefit from having someone closer to her own age to grow up with. "We put it in God's hands," Susan says of the Becketts' decision to conceive again. Megan was born, healthy, whole, and beautiful.

"Our life is still normal," the Becketts told themselves then and tell themselves now. "It's just a different normal."

The Becketts are very conscious of how their extended family and the community have contributed to their success as an intact, thriving family. Susan's parents live right next door. "Susan's mom looked after Jenny for so many years when she was young," says Brian. "I don't know where we'd be without them," continues Susan, shaking her head. "All of our children are very compassionate," says Susan proudly. "Our family is a really tight unit," she summarizes.

"Over the years our employers have been extremely understanding," says Brian, "and we've had the support of the community. The Elks bought her first wheelchair."

Jenny gives back.

"We go to church quite regularly. We're very involved with the Legion. I worked there for twenty years and Brian was recently president," says Susan. "There have probably been a lot of people around town, around the Legion, who have never had a chance to know someone with disabilities," says Brian. Jenny is well known and well loved in Moosomin.

While people used to stare and hesitate to ask questions, "Now the only people who stare are the little kids," says Brian. "And there's no malice in it."

"When all the little kids come over to our house," Susan says of their grandchildren, "they can't wait 'til Auntie Jenny gets on the floor so they can go for a spin" in her wheelchair. "They love her."

Jenny has always been in the school system in Moosomin. "It's pretty good," says Brian. "I think the biggest thing is you advocate. In the school, in the medical system, in the community."

Jenny's biggest challenge is that she's

non-verbal, so it's difficult to communicate with her. The Becketts need open lines with the other people in Jenny's life, like her teachers, so that they know what's going on. Jenny can't tell them. "It's frustrating, yes," says Susan of what can sometimes be a struggle to understand her daughter, "But it's more frustrating for Jenny."

"I'm Jenny's mum," Susan says simply, of her ongoing dedication to her daughter's health and quality of life.

Jenny will stay in school until she's 22. "She loves school," says Susan. "When she's done school she'll go to the Kin-Ability Centre. They're making some wonderful changes there." The Becketts have started the transition already. Jenny spends one afternoon a week there in a six-day cycle, building friendships with the other participants and the staff.

"We're just crossing that line now. It'll be a whole new ball game," the Becketts say of Jenny's transition from a childhood to being an adult. There is a vast difference in the services and funding accessible to children with disabilities as opposed to adults with disabilities.

The Becketts seem almost surprised that Jenny has grown up right before their eyes. "I don't know where the years have gone," Susan says incredulously. "We feel pretty blessed to be here in Moosomin. We have group homes. We can keep her here in the community. There will always be people here who know her. We can take her to the cottage in the summer and for walks in the evening."

Whether she would ever consider a group home for her daughter, she would have vehemently declared that it wasn't even a consideration. "But we've grown as well as Jenny," says Susan. "It's only fair to let her go out on her own and make friendships," continues Brian.

It is often challenging for parents with adult children with disabilities to plan for the future. Some opt to avoid planning at all. However, schedule, routine, and familiarity are often key components to a person's emotional and physical well-being. Gentle, well planned, supported transitions into a new lifestyle benefit men and women like Jenny. Being thrust into a new situation because of the sudden sickness or loss of a caregiver is unspeakably traumatizing.

Moosomin's annual production of Bethlehem Live is an excellent example of how

the Becketts can build on Jenny's previous experiences so she can get more enjoyment out of life and take on greater roles in the community. "The first year we participated was hard on Jenny," says Susan.

"She does not handle over-stimulation well," explains Brian.

"But she has a wonderful memory!" continues Susan. The next year Jenny was better prepared. "We're in the marketplace," explains Susan, "and now I can say, 'Look out, Jenny! It's going to get loud!' She knows what to expect."

In 2006, the Children's Wish Foundation sent the Becketts to DisneyWorld for a week. How was it? "Awesome," smiles Megan, their youngest daughter. "They were just so accommodating," remembers Susan. "We had special passes," explains Brian, "Jenny got to go to the front of the line."

"Usually our holidays are spent out at Moosomin Lake. That's one of Jenny's most favorite places to be," says Susan. Jenny has her own modified bike, and enjoys bike riding and swimming. "She loves being outside," says Susan. "We're inside very little in the summer."

Once again, however, the fact that Jenny is growing up is being impressed upon the Becketts. "Now that she's bigger and heavier I can't lift her," says Susan. It's obvious she's frustrated; she has been providing for her daughter's every need since birth, and coming up against something she can no longer do is not a gratifying feeling. "I can't put her on her bike or in the pool at the cottage; all of those things Jenny likes to do. I have wait for Brian." Brian smiles. "It's hard to learn to ask for help," he says, frankly, as they look into the future, "but you have to."

Jenny is sitting on the carpet. Her thick dark hair is neatly bobbed and she's wearing hot pink pajama bottoms and a black T-shirts. During our conversation she's asked for a drink, cuddled with her younger sister, and climbed into her mother's lap. She seems comfortable and content, and incredibly affectionate with her family. She keeps up a steady stream of chatter, and every now and again giggles effervescently. Her laughter is joyful and attractive.

"Raising a child with special needs is pretty rewarding," Susan beams as she looks at her daughter, "If you're having a bad day and Jenny starts to giggle, how can you help but giggle along? It's infectious. The smallest things make Jenny happy. Music. She loves music. Right now she's crazy about Anne Murray." Everyone in the living room laughs.

What would the Becketts say to a couple who has just learned they must raise a child with serious disabilities?

"The first two years are the worse; you're coming to grips with this child, with all these needs, navigating the system; things will get better."

"As rewarding as it is raising a child with special needs, the fact is you're doing all of that basic care — changing diapers, dressing, bathing, feeding — forever. Plus the fun stuff." Susan pauses to reflect. "You're a teacher. You're a nurse. I've done things for Jenny I'd never thought I'd be able to do."

The Becketts have excellent things to say about ECIP; the Early Childhood Intervention Program.

"You have to be involved," says Susan. "We used to run a summer program for Jenny and the other kids. Everyone always brought all of their kids, we brought all of ours. It was great."

"Burn out is really high in families with special needs," Susan says seriously.

"We share everything. We take turns," says Brian of trips to the doctors, trips to rehab, supporting Jenny through her many sleepless nights. "We've always had the family support and the work support."

"We have a lot of faith," Susan says. "Faith has gotten us through. We haven't always been regular churchgoers but we have always lived in faith."

Jenny has manoeuvred next to her mother's knees, and is resting her head on her mom's lap, grinning like someone with a secret. "You never give up hope," Susan says softly, her hand in Jenny's hair. "I accept now that Jenny won't walk. But Jenny's eighteen years old—and every night you tuck her in and you say 'love, love, love . . .' and you think, one day, she'll say it back."

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Christalee Froese photo

Logan Froese, left, and Tristin Hoffarth enjoy a view of the Shell River Valley from the top of the Asessippie ski hill.



Christalee Froese photo

Left to right: Taylor Johnson, April Johnson and Jenna Harold prepare to exit the Squirrel Quad chairlift at the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort.

# Asessippi offers Prairie Alpine ski experience

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE

The winter white landscape stretches out before us, extending as far as the eye can see. With flat Prairie fields on our left, and a map that shows a ski hill on our right, we assume we are lost.

Just as we're about to turn around on the narrow gravel road, we spot something that appears to be a ski helmet. Then we spot the entire skier who has just exited a ski lift which is perched on top of a wind-swept piece of open Prairie. As we descend into the Shell River Valley, we see that a 25-run ski resort is unexpectedly tucked into the valley carved into this Manitoba landscape.

Reaching the valley floor and looking up, 25 downhill runs rise above us, with some having vertical drops of 150 metres and lengths of up to 700 metres.

And while we are still somewhat apprehensive about what this Prairie downhill experience might be like, our first few runs put all of our reservations to rest. With a quad chairlift and two triple chairs, the lineups are short and the runs are satisfying. While it's not the mountains, Manitoba's Asessippi Ski Area and Resort offers visitors an alpine-like experience that actually has some advantages over larger resorts.

"It's a non-intimidating environment that has something for every skill level," says Roz Pulo, director of marketing. "Families and groups like that their kids have the freedom to venture around the whole hill and they don't have to worry about them getting into trouble on a run they can't handle."

After exploring Asessippi's five green runs, 13 blue, four black and three terrain parks, we decide it's safe to set the 10- and 11-year-old kids in our group free on the hill. In the mountains, this wouldn't be an option.

"We had a family from Regina that booked an entire week spring break in Fernie, B.C., but after visiting Asessippi they decided to cancel their reservation and come here," says Pulo. "My jaw dropped when I heard that story, but it's true that this is plenty of resort for most families and it offers that freedom for the

kids that a mountain resort just can't."

Established in 1999 by a group of local investors, the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort attracts up to 100,000 visitors each winter. With a capacity to handle 1,800 skiers per day, the resort is the playground of choice for many Manitoba and Saskatchewan skiers and boarders.

Pulo says that when most people plan a ski trip, they immediately think of Rocky Mountain ski hills in Alberta, or the more publicized resorts in B.C. and Quebec. However, skiers and boarders who try Asessippi are always pleasantly surprised to find a first-class resort in Manitoba.

"Over and over again we hear how shocked people are that we have created such a great ski experience right here," says the Asessippi marketing director. "I go out on the chair lifts a lot and talk to people and I always hear how people can't believe that we have this awesome full-service resort where they didn't expect it."

Located in the middle of the Asessippi Provincial Park, the ski hill overlooks the southeastern end of the 42-km-long Lake of the

Prairies. Being about 300 kms from Regina, and just 30 kms from Langenburg, the resort gets many Saskatchewan visitors and has a real Saskatchewan flavor. Pulo says many staff members are from Saskatchewan, and being that Prairie people are famous for their hospitality, the resort offers customer service that is second to none.

"Because we are a smaller centre, our staff has time to stop and talk and to give you the individual help that you don't always find in larger centres. I really look at Asessippi as being a comfortable place where you can feel right at home."

As we pit in at the base chalet, we are indeed at home. Hooking up for lunch with our kids, we find the food court fast and reasonably priced. With a choice of KFC, Pizza Hut, the Asessippi Grill, and Tokyo Sushi, we are all satisfied as we head back out onto the slopes.

For those returning to Asessippi this winter, Pulo says skiers will find the same amenities and service, but they may notice a number of staff members who have accents. A recent recruiting trip to Australia

and New Zealand netted the resort 35 new staff members who complement the 115 or so full- and part-time local employees who work at the hill.

"They've brought such a flair to the resort because, for them, it's a working holiday so they're having fun and they're eager to greet you and pass on the excitement they have," says Pulo, adding that the recruitment trip overseas involved a lot of explaining about what a Prairie ski resort is all about. "We tried not to sugarcoat our sales pitch, so we'd explain that it's cold and we're not

close to the mountains, but really, how do you explain -40C?"

Many Australians and New Zealanders weren't frightened off by the cold temperatures, choosing to spend their winter at this Manitoba ski hill that could pass as a mountain resort, minus the triple black diamond runs and the steep price tag.

Pulo says many people come to Asessippi because lift tickets are about half the price and accommodations in the nearby communities of Russell, Inglis, Lake of the Prairies, Roblin and Langenburg are typi-

cally cheaper as well.

"What I find is that when I ski in the mountains, I don't use the top half of places like Whistler any way, but yet I'm charged the same price," says Pulo, pointing out that one-day lift passes at Asessippi run from \$33.70 to \$44, with discounts being applied to lesson and rental packages.

As we wind up our three-day adventure in Asessippi, we vow to tell others that just a short drive away, they can find a little piece of skiing paradise that the kids will talk about for years to come.

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# Perreux says Haiti experience has marked him

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

When he was growing up in the tiny community of Bellegarde, Saskatchewan, not far from Redvers, there were certain journalists Les Perreux admired.

He loved reading Bob Hughes' column on page two of the *Leader-Post*, and he loved watching the reports from CBC foreign correspondents such as Ann Medina and Anna Maria Tremonti.

Now Perreux is a journalist with the *Globe and Mail* and his latest foreign assignment—in Haiti—is reminding him why he wanted a career in the media.

"It definitely reminds you why you're a journalist," he says. "I'm based in Montreal and I cover Quebec politics, I cover the day-to-day politics and the language issues, and it often seems to be the same issues again and again. They're important, but sometimes you wonder what the point is."

"I don't think that I'm in the same class as those CBC foreign correspondents I admired growing up, but I honestly think in this case I helped people understand. I think everyone who was there covering it contributed to helping people understand."

"You see people organizing spontaneous fundraising drives back in Canada because they know the needs, and you know you've contributed to that by telling the story. I can't tell you how much money was raised because the *Globe and Mail* was covering Haiti, but hopefully it helped."

Perreux has covered many international conflicts and natural disasters, but he said in an interview from Brazil last week—where he is vacationing, following his stint covering the earthquake—that nothing compares with the destruction he saw in Haiti.

"I covered the earthquake in Pakistan five years ago, and it certainly was bad, but Kashmir is not downtown Port-au-Prince," he said. "In Pakistan, some big towns really got devastated. But in Haiti there are eight million people and four million of those are in Port-au-Prince. When a city like that gets devastated, it's really the entire country that's devastated."

Perreux was on the ground in Haiti 24 hours after the earthquake hit.

"I got the call within an hour of the earthquake," he said. "Our foreign editor, Steven Northfield, gave me a buzz. Within three hours I was on a plane to Toronto. The first thing the next morning I was in the Dominican Republic. It took 20 hours of travel to get from home to the border of Haiti. I did the last hour and a half by truck to get to Port-au-Prince. I was in Port-au-Prince within 24 hours of the quake."

Getting to Port-au-Prince required some creativity. "It was tricky," Perreux said. "Different people tried different methods. Some people went to Miami to get a flight with military or on an aid flight. If you could charter a plane, better yet. But once the American military took control of the airport in Port-au-Prince, that suddenly wasn't an option."

Perreux says he will never forget his first sight of Port-au-Prince.

"That initial sunrise drive into Port-au-Prince was devastating," he said. "Every block had numerous bodies on it, sometimes in the middle of the street. There was barely a building that wasn't seriously damaged in some way."

"The bodies are a huge shock, but to see the presidential palace and the cathedral—to see how these massive structures, the seats of power of the church and the government were absolutely flattened was just devastating. You see the human drama. Everyone was in shock. The city was in shock. People were walking around like zombies. People were wide-eyed, wandering the streets in a shuffle. You have the human drama then you see the institutions that would normally help people out—you see them completely flattened—and it's hard to see how these people are going to get any help."

Slowly, however, the country struggled to its feet and the aid started to arrive. "It was a gradual process over two or three days," he said. "You started seeing people selling things in the street again, or taking what they could and heading out of town. There was about a five day window there when it went from zombie mode to some kind of normalcy."

When he first arrived in Port-au-Prince, Perreux said the journalists far outnumbered the aid workers. "It took three or four days to see much sign that the world was responding to the disaster," he said. "Among the first group were several dozen Cuban doctors and nurses. That was the first sign of an international presence. They were there the first night. The international groups that normally have a presence in Haiti were worried about their own missing and dead and weren't able to function right after the earthquake."

"It took several days to sense there was a huge international effort to help Haiti. It was really hard to see the signs on the Sunday and Monday after the quake, but by Tuesday there were aid distribution centres being set up."

He said the logistical and infrastructure shortcomings slowed the start of the aid pipeline.

"There was me with a credit card and a mandate from my employer to get there, and I'm just one person, so I was there, but for trying to bring aid in, the challenges would be huge."

"It was frustrating to see how slow the aid was arriving, but it's hard to see how it could be faster. The airport in Port-au-Prince is not as organized as the Regina Airport. The Regina Airport has five times the pavement that Port-au-Prince has. The airport there has one runway."

"And the road between Santo Domingo (in the Dominican Republic) and Port-au-Prince can't handle much. The border post literally looks like the entrance into a junkyard. There's a little dirt trail that has sunk into the ocean in places. It looks like if you were going to an auto wrecker to get a set of rims or something. It took us eight

hours to get 240 km."

Perreux said there is one memory of Haiti that will haunt him for a long time. "At a clinic run by the Cubans there was a girl who was brought in four or five days after the quake," he says. "It's not clear why it took that long to get there—if she had been waiting at a regional clinic or what—but this girl had two seriously broken legs and a broken arm. She was eight. The way she was crying and screaming, it's going to echo in my head for a long, long time. They finally found some painkiller to give her, but I won't forget that sound for a long time."

He said he was also very disturbed to see the bodies of young children who had been killed. "In the early days you saw them all over in the streets," he said. "If you've covered enough conflicts or disasters, you've seen more than your share of bodies, but to see so many kids, that was tough."

In the face of such pain and suffering, Perreux did what he could to help.

"It's overwhelming to see the need all around you, but I did what I could," he said. "Communication with the outside world was tough, and I had a satellite phone, so I let people use it to call loved ones overseas and let them know they were alright. I gave people rides, I did whatever I could."

"It was frustrating because you could do so little. The scale of the disaster is off the charts. You feel like there's nothing you can do without an aircraft carrier full of supplies. You always feel you could do more. Should you use the precious gallon of gas your driver has to get people to the hospital?"

Conditions in Port-au-Prince made it difficult for Perreux to do his job. "It was difficult to hire a guy with a car to take you across town," he said. "With no electricity, the gas stations weren't running. One of my colleagues, he's worked covering this area off and on for years, and it took him four days to find out where the president was. With no cell phone coverage it was difficult."

"There was never any question I could file my stories. We have two systems—a satellite phone, in a pinch you could read in your story from there, and also a satellite uplink for data, which gets you onto the internet. That was one of the main ways we operated. Some of the hotels have satellite internet, but you couldn't rely on it. I discovered that a laptop and a satellite uplink can run off a car battery for several days. Everyone had their own way of doing things. The *New York Times* guys flew right in with a generator that they checked as baggage."

Perreux said he learned a lot about Haiti during the assignment.

"I had a lot of preconceived notions about Haiti, and I blame myself and my industry for that—the place only gets covered during disasters and uprisings, so I had an image of a really violent place. We were very nervous going in. We heard so many bad things—we

heard that the roads are dangerous, banditry is a common thing. "When we got to Port-au-Prince, we went to this old hotel—it's made out of wood, which is why it withstood the quake. Wood flexes and outperforms concrete in an earthquake. There were a lot of old Haiti hands there—journalists and business owners, people who had been around for a while. I chatted with a few of them and I asked about security, and one guy just got mad. He said 'just go for a walk.' I spent all day walking around downtown Port-Au-Prince. I used to feel safe walking the streets of big Pakistani cities but I don't anymore. But I felt safe in Port-au-Prince. People were more than hospitable. You look around and people are injured everywhere and doctors are doing amputations under tarps."

"The part that amazed me is how welcoming and open Haitians were in spite of everything that was happening all around them and what they've been through."

"When you go to earthquakes you expect to see horrible injuries, but what I found surprising is I actually got a sense that the Haitian people were really pulling together. I don't know if they have a term for it, but they have a system of self-policing with a community spirit aspect to it—I saw it again and again."

"Several nights, women were singing all through the night, and it was like that all over town. They would be singing church songs all through the night. I assume it was comforting for them, but part of it was to encourage people who were still trapped in the debris. People were getting together to sing these songs to offer some comfort to people who were still trapped."

"Another thing I saw was people taking off after looters to stop them. There was more looting a few days after the quake, but it was surprisingly rare."

Perreux's career has taken him many places but he doesn't think he will ever forget his time in Haiti.

"In terms of memorable experiences it would certainly be up there," he said. "It was really horrible—it's something that is going to stay with me."

"Haiti has marked me more than Afghanistan, but I still think Afghanistan is the bigger story in terms of its position in Canadian history books. Afghanistan will be remembered."

What's the most important thing he has taken away from his experience in Haiti?

"I learned that Haitians are just amazing people," he says. "I'm amazed at how they just keep going in the face of a disaster like that. You saw the smiles on people's faces coming back a few days after the quake."

"I don't think we would react the same way in those horrible circumstances. Of the whole population in Port-au-Prince, five per cent were killed, and 10 per cent were injured, so pretty much everyone in Haiti has lost someone or is close to someone who is severely handicapped for the rest of their lives, but by the end of the week people were sharing smiles and jokes. "I really wonder if the same thing happened in Montreal or Winnipeg, if we would react the same way."

# Politicians say response triggered by compassion

by Kevin Weedmark

Moosomin MLA Don Toth and Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki say the outpouring of support by Canadians for Haitian relief efforts is an example of how people respond when they see a need.

"Canadians have seen how devastating this tragedy is and they want to respond," said Komarnicki. "People are touched, and they want to get behind it in a big way. People who would normally give \$100 when they hear of tragedy or famine are giving \$500, and people who do not normally give are opening their wallets."

"Events like this are extraordinary, the fact that media can bring it home helps a lot. The media has done a great job of bringing it home. I think if you didn't have that kind of coverage you might not be affected the same way. The images, the stories, all of those things work together and create human compassion. You'll see a different kind of giving than you would otherwise."

Is the federal government doing enough to help the devastated country?

"I'm sure there's always more you can do but I think we did quite well," said Komarnicki. "The federal government gave the initial \$5 million, then added \$80 million to that, and the government said they will match all Canadians' contributions with no limit."

"The government has already responded with emergency aid, we have the navy, we have troops on the ground, we have our DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) there. We hosted an international conference to look at Haiti's future and how the world can help."

"Canada has taken a fairly active role. The Prime Minister said that rebuilding Haiti was a 10-year project. We want to make sure the money is being spent on people who need it."

Komarnicki said the world has to work together to bring Haiti back to normalcy. "The conference we hosted in Montreal is the kind of thing that needs to happen," he said. "If it's done right, it can set a new pathway to the future for the Haitian people. I see our finance minister was calling on nations to forgive Haiti's debts, which Canada has already done."

"You've got a lot of international interest, a lot of emotional interest, so now is the time to get people working together and help Haiti rebuild for the future. I think something good will come of all of this. We need to do some due diligence, but this could be a potential good."

Komarnicki said politicians from all parties are working together on the Haiti relief effort.

"All the leaders are saying they are supportive. There has been a desire on behalf of the opposition not to politicize this issue. I think everybody thinks international aid is important, but when you have something that is extraordinary and people are devastated, it really comes to the forefront."

Moosomin MLA and speaker of the Legislative Assembly Don Toth said the province has done what it can for the people of Haiti.

"The province put \$250,000 in," he said. The provincial funding will be funnelled through the Red Cross. "I think everyone wants to do everything they can. Canadians have contributed \$82 million and I wouldn't be surprised if that's a lot higher by the time it's done."

"We've got churches, community groups, students doing everything they can. We've seen in our own constituency what people have done."

There have been a few fundraisers around the Moosomin riding. In Moosomin, the Anglican Sunday School organized a toy sale to raise money for Haitian relief, and in Whitehead, students are organizing a raffle of donated items for February.

"I would be surprised not to see an outpouring of support," Toth said. "It's the Saskatchewan way. We're pretty good at opening our wallets to help. I think as Saskatchewan people we can be proud of the way we have responded when people have been in need."

He said he believes there are religious underpinnings to people's generosity. "In the second commandment, the Lord said we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who's our neighbor? Anyone who is in need who we can provide some assistance to, and that includes the people of Haiti."

Toth said many local groups are working with many aid organizations to ensure that the Haitians' needs are met.

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# Financing in place for Moosomin's Kin Place II

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The pieces are falling into place for Phase II of the Kin Place life-lease 55-plus housing development in Moosomin.

The Kin Place board has been exploring options to build a second phase, which would be a mirror image of the existing building built immediately to the south, facing Wright Road.

The land is owned by Kin Place, financing arrangements are in place, solid cost estimates have been secured for construction, and organizers have planned a public meeting for Wednesday, Feb. 17 to explain the life-lease model and show prospective tenants the current Kin Place.

"We've been waiting on hard numbers and we've needed to get some financing in place so we could come up with a target construction date and a projected tenant move-in date," said Kin Place manager Jeff Cole. "According to our contractor, T. L. Penner from Kola, they figure they could get going on construction in early May and tenants could move in early in 2011."

Flexible financing will be available for the facility, so that the more equity tenants put into their suites, the less their monthly costs will be. For example, for an 887 square foot unit, residents can put \$92,000 equity into the life-lease and pay monthly costs of \$1,521, or put \$162,000 in and reduce their monthly costs to less than \$1,300.

Under the life-lease mod-



Kin Place on Henry Street in Moosomin

el, tenants recover their equity when they leave the building.

Allowing people to invest more than the minimum to reduce their monthly costs is something prospective tenants had been asking for. "The flexible financing will really help," said Cole. "When we can tell our people now some hard numbers, I think they will be fairly receptive."

He said he believes this is a good time to build. "Interest rates won't get any better, and construction costs with lumber right now will never be better. There are some pretty good advantages to going right now. Hopefully we'll have a good indicator after that meeting on the 17th if we have enough interest to go ahead."

Kin Place II can go ahead as soon as agreements are in place for nine of the 12 units. Several prospective tenants have already put initial deposits down on the units.

Cole said he's optimistic the project will go ahead. "Right now, if you look at the services we have in town, and the hospital, we might have the best loca-

tion. And a lot of people are telling us they like the fact that it includes a garage. Some people are looking at that, at the fact that there's no grass to mow, no snow to shovel and really taking a serious look at this."

The board will approach Moosomin town council about a tax abatement for the project. The town granted a five-year municipal property tax abatement to Caleb Group, which is planning a 94-unit seniors complex between Wright Road and Henry Street, north of Lloyd Bradley Park.

The plan for Kin Place II is a mirror image of the first Kin Place, facing onto Wright Road. The building will include an activity room and a heated garage.

The area between the two buildings will be developed as a landscaped courtyard.

Kin Place chair Tyler Thorn said he is happy with the progress of the project. "I would hope we can have the papers signed and be ready to start digging a hole by the first of May," he said. "I think it's possible."

He believes there is room for both Kin Place and the Caleb Group project. "I think there's room for both," Thorn said. "I think they cater to two different groups. They're two different styles of living."

"I just think there's a need for the type of living that we offer. We're aiming more at that 55 to 70 age group—retiring farmers selling their farm who don't want to move away, but want to live in Moosomin. Here they can have the freedom to travel and not worry about the house. I think it's a good opportunity for a lot of people. People have to remember it's not a nursing home, it's a 55-plus condominium."

The meeting is set for Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. in the common room at Kin Place on Henry Street in Moosomin.

## Tried and True Recipes

by Sandra Johnson



### Drop Jam Jams

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 Tbsp syrup
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup margarine
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt

Cream margarine, add sugars, eggs and syrup and beat well. Add dry ingredients, mix well and drop by level tablespoons onto cookie sheet. Make a depression in center and fill with raspberry jam. Put half teaspoonfuls of dough on top. Bake at 350° until golden brown.

### Greek Lemon Roasted Potatoes

- 6 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tbsp Greek seasoning
- 4 tbsp chicken soup mix (Chicken-In-A-Mug)

Mix all together and place in roaster. Cover. Bake at 375° F for 60 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Remove cover for last 15 minutes for the potatoes to brown.

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# MOOSOMIN KIN PLACE PHASE II LIFE-LEASE CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

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Heat .....	Included
Lights.....	Included
Water/Sewer/Garbage/Fire.....	Included
Snow Removal/Lawn Care.....	Included
Phone Line .....	Included
Regular Repair and Maintenance .....	Included
(painting, appliance repair, etc.)	
Periodic Major Repair .....	Included
(roof, plumbing, heating, fridge, stove, dishwasher, air conditioner, water softener, washer and dryer)	
Required Equity and Condo Fee.....	See Chart
Monthly Fee .....	at Right

#### MOOSOMIN KIN PLACE INC. PHASE II LIFE LEASE CONDOMINIUM/SUITE PRICES

Condo/Suite Square Footage	Base Entrance Fee	Base Rent				
1000	\$101,507	\$1,670				
887	\$92,467	\$1,521				
	Additional Equity Level 1		Additional Equity Level 2		Additional Equity Level 3	
Condo/Suite Square Footage	Equity	Rent	Equity	Rent	Equity	Rent
1000	\$126,884	\$1,600	\$152,260	\$1,530	\$177,637	\$1,460
887	\$115,584	\$1,458	\$138,700	\$1,362	\$161,817	\$1,299

Note: The pricing indicators above are for marketing purposes only. Tenants have input into what financial equity contribution works best for them and prices subject to change by the developer

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## Ravishing bridal gowns in a crescendo of cascades

A bridal gown, the splendor of which relies on a skirt trimmed with multilayered flounces, recalls the feminine fashions of the years 1845 to 1860. But the bride of 2010 wears the volume, the shape and savoir-faire of that era with style, marrying absolute femininity with today's confidence and independence.

The visual impact of the multilayered dress, with its cascading effect in the skirt, is a major theme in bridal salons this year. Designers propose romantic gowns adorned with foamy fabrics of voluminous proportions. These outfits are reserved for modern women who have no fear of the great classics.

An absolute monument of fabric, the skirt is often independent of the bodice, which is a whalebone corset, low-cut and of simple design. So

the skirt is what makes the gown. However, as all the volume is over the under-skirt rather than underneath, the preferred fabrics are light and filmy. Transparent voile is often used as well as tulle for an even more exaggerated effect.

And since this cascading effect is found in the lower part of the bride's silhouette, many designers have been tempted by graduated colors; provocative glimpses of pink and black. The dress of course is white but the border of each flounce is colored. This inspiration probably comes from the gown designed by John Galiano for Dior and worn divinely by Gwen Stefani for her wedding in 2003. But celebrity or not, the 2010 version of the bicolored skirt, is a rustling, divinely feminine work of art.



Above: A voluminous, multilayered skirt with a simple bodice is the ultimate in femininity.

## It's all in the details!

Deciding on the seating arrangements is one of the most complex steps in the planning of a wedding reception. It requires patience, intuition and diplomacy. Who sits where? This depends on etiquette and several other considerations.

First of all, the positioning of the tables in the room must be thought of. For example, tables in a U-shape are ideal for a buffet as guests are at liberty to move around their table as they wish. However, for a sit-down affair, the guests are obliged to stay seated for long periods of time. In this case they should always be able to see the bride and groom. For this reason a single rectangular table is becoming very popular, especially for intimate weddings of less than 50 people. Another variation which can be interesting is an oval table large enough to seat all the guests together.

As far as the head table is concerned, etiquette still dictates the configuration of the table plan. In keeping with tradition, this table is often still placed lengthwise at the front of the room. Some kind of backdrop is placed behind the table to frame the bridal couple, the focal point of the evening. And who will sit at the head table? The bride and groom and their relatives: even with reconstituted families, this tradition still remains the norm. However, take care to separate remarried parents with brothers or sisters in order to ensure a smooth flow to the evening.



The organization of the room and the tables requires a lot of thought.



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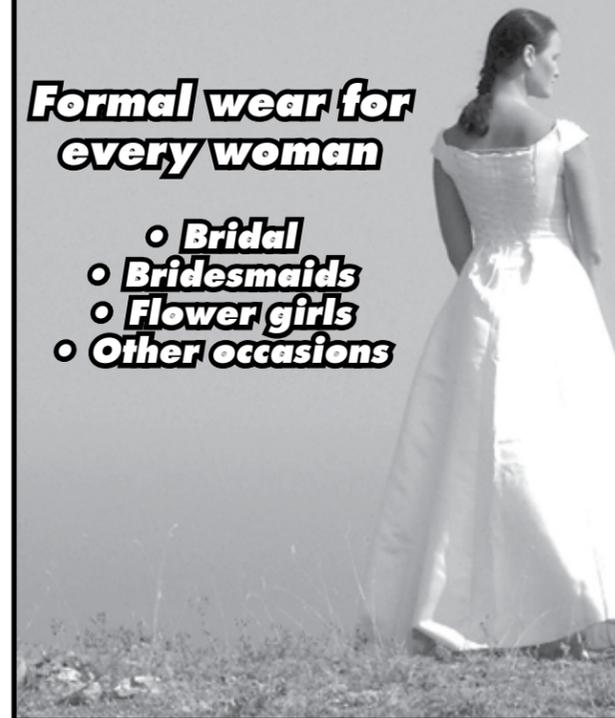
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## Ten things to consider when choosing a wedding photographer

SUBMITTED BY  
KRISTA CRELLIN

### STYLE

It is important that you find a photographer with a style that matches your own so that you end up with images that you will love forever. Ask yourself the following questions:

Does the photographer have an identifiable style?

Does their style match or complement the style of my wedding?

Do their images attract my attention or evoke emotion?

Can I imagine myself in their photographs?

### PERSONALITY

You will be spending a great deal of time with your photographer on your wedding day and a personality clash could ruin a perfect day so it is important that you find a photographer whose personality is compatible with your own.

Do you feel comfortable and relaxed around them? Are they fun to be around? Can they take control of a large group and keep everything running smoothly? Do they understand and appreciate what is important to you on your day? Set up a consultation or engagement session to make sure that you like working with them.

### BUDGET

Your wedding portraits are one of the few things that will last long after the wedding day. A wedding album is the first family heirloom of a brand new family. It will be handed down to your children and grandchildren.

In order to decide what percentage of your budget should be allocated to photography you need to decide how important it is to you to have beautiful wedding portraits. Professional photography fees can range from \$1,500 to \$15,000. This fee is usually based on experience, education, equipment and products offered. Photography is definitely an area where you get what you pay for.

### SKILL LEVEL AND EXPERIENCE

It is a good idea to meet with a photographer and ask to see images from several different weddings as well as all of the images from a single wedding. This will allow you to see if the quality remains the same throughout their work. You should also find out how many weddings they have photographed. Do they understand lighting and composition? How strong are their Photoshop and design skills?

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Does the photographer belong to any professional organizations? Professional organizations ensure that their members adhere to a strict code of ethics. They also provide support and educational opportunities. It is great to know that your photographer has a group of peers that can help them if they are in a bind by lending equipment in case of malfunctions or filling in on a wedding because of an unexpected accident. The Professional Photographers of Canada is one such organization. You can find a photographer at [www.pvoc.ca](http://www.pvoc.ca).

### PACKAGES AND PRODUCTS OFFERED

Wedding photography packages vary as greatly as price and style so it is difficult to know what package is right for you.

You need to be clear about what you're getting. How many prints? What about an album? Do I get to choose my album images? Is everything retouched? Can I add on extra time or products?

Some photographers offer a CD of images only.



Your wedding photos will last long after your wedding, making the right photographer an important aspect of your wedding day.

If that is what you are looking for make sure that you have the time and creativity needed to put those images on display in a beautiful album. You may also want to make sure that all of the images are retouched.

### CONTRACT

A contract protects you as well as the photographer. It also states exactly what you are paying for so you can refer back to it if any problems arise.

### REFERENCES

Ask for references from past clients. They can give you an idea of the photographer's personality and professionalism on the wedding day as well as how they were to work with after. Did they get everything they paid for? Was it a positive experience working with the photographer?

### EQUIPMENT

Every photographer has different equipment. You need to know that they use professional equipment. Imagine if your photographer showed up at your wedding with a point-and-shoot camera! You should also find out if they have back-ups of all necessary equipment so that they aren't stuck without on your wedding day.

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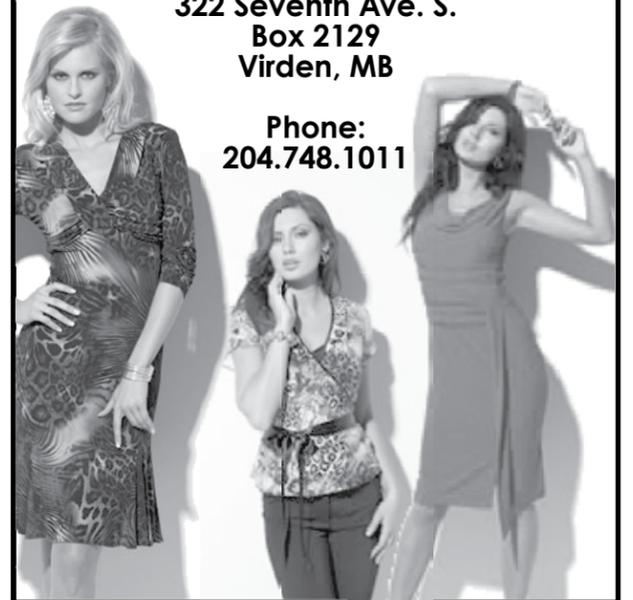
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## A destination wedding—is it for you?

Would you like to get married on your honeymoon?

Destination weddings are becoming more and more popular with couples who are eager to skip the fuss of a traditional wedding and jump right into the fun. Whether the special day involves just the two of you or whether you'll be inviting friends and relatives to join in the occasion, a destination wedding can be a way to create wonderful memories.

Destination weddings aren't for everyone. If you're in love with the idea of a large wedding with all your friends and family, you might want to skip this idea. Even with a year of planning, it's just about impossible to get everyone's schedules coordinated for this kind of event.

But many couples are saying "I do" to the idea of destination weddings not only as a way to make the occasion more special, but also as a means of simplifying the whole process.

"Just say the word, and we'll take care of everything," explains Ava Burke-Thompson, director of guest services at a resort in the Bahamas. "We can arrange for the marriage license; minister, priest or rabbi; the florist and the photographer; the wedding cake and champagne; and the rehearsal dinner and wedding reception."

At resorts like these, on site wedding coordinators take care of every last detail, some with just a one day notice. "We do it all the time," says Burke-Thompson. "It's now legally possible to get married in the Bahamas with 24 hours' notice."



### POPULARITY OF DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Destination weddings have caught on for several reasons. According to hotels and resorts around the world, they're especially popular with:

- Couples on a budget who don't want the expense of an elaborate wedding.
- Couples who don't want the fuss of a wedding and all that goes with it at home.
- Couples on their second marriage looking for something a little different.
- Those on their second marriage who'll need to bring along children on the honeymoon. The children's programs at many resorts offer privacy for the couple and a chance to enjoy a vacation with their new family.
- Couples who are bringing a small wedding party. Sometimes the bride and

groom stay at one resort and the wedding party at a neighboring resort, giving everyone privacy.

• Couples who are bringing a sizable wedding party and would like to take over a resort. Many small resorts offer groups the option of taking over the entire property. This type of stay must be arranged far in advance. The wedding party has the run of the resort for their stay, with plenty of room to party and play.

### DETAILS, DETAILS

Before you say "I do," plan to do a little research into the "dos"— and "don'ts"— of the local marriage laws. Many countries have loosened their marriage regulations, making it easier for foreigners to tie the knot. Even so, you'll need to do some research.

"The reason some couples have prob-

lems with their overseas wedding is that they are unfamiliar with the marriage laws, rules and regulations of where they want to be wed," explains Ruth Keusch, coowner of an inn located in the Caribbean federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. In researching your destination wedding, Keusch recommends that couples make sure they learn:

- If their home country will recognize a wedding in the designated country as valid.
  - The minimum residency period before the marriage can be performed.
  - What paperwork you'll need to bring from your hometown house of worship if you're planning a religious ceremony.
  - What proof is required if you're divorced or widowed.
  - If blood tests are required and, if so, if you can bring them from your home doctor or if they must be performed locally.
  - If there will be English speaking staff members available to assist you
  - Costs and fees.
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## For the love of jewelry

Of all the jewelry worn by the bride on her wedding day, the necklace is, without doubt, the most visible. For this reason, it cannot be considered as just another accessory, but must be seen as a precious object reflecting the bride's identity.

Whether it's a string of diamonds, of pearls or crystal, a carefully chosen necklace can make all the difference

in highlighting the wedding gown.

### PEARLS

Pearls are very much the tradition for the bride. The future bride is often advised to wear a single strand of pearls, a classic for weddings. In white or golden varieties, the pearls of Tahiti or Australia represent the peak of perfection among cultured pearls.

They are sought after for their large size, their high lustre as well as for their unique reflection of light.

### DIAMONDS

The ultimate incarnation of love, the diamond has long been associated with eternity. These prestigious stones can often be found in works of art which shine around the bride's neck.

### CRYSTAL

Gleaming and lustrous, this unique glass reflects light, playing on the bride's dress, veil and hair ornaments. If you love this effect, the new iridescent colors from some brands are sure to please you. Here is a delightful change to the more traditional, transparent crystal . . . what a marvellous way to be that little bit different!



The necklace is usually the most visible piece of jewelry on a bride.

## What it takes to get great wedding photographs

BY TATUM DURYBA  
PAPER MOON PHOTOGRAPHY

The ring has been bought, the date has been set and all of the planning has been set in motion. There are so many things to think about now!

If you've chosen a professional photographer to capture the moments of one of the most important days of your life, you're off to a good start. A professional photographer is going to be able to preserve all of those memories you will make on that special day. When the flowers have dried up, all the wine has been consumed, and the dress has been put into storage, what will be left are the images that have been captured by your photographer. When your children are grown, you will pull these little pieces of memory gold out and you will show them where their story began . . . If you want to make sure that things run smoothly for photographs on the day of the wedding, there are a few things that you should take into consideration when planning the day's events. Consulting your photographer is the first step! Let him or her give you an idea of what they expect of you, and what you can expect of them. If you follow a few simple rules, you are going to be much happier with your photographs in the long run.

### TRY TO BE ON TIME

It's always hard to keep on schedule the day of a wedding, but the closer you can stick to the plan, the easier it will be for your photographer to get the important shots that you request. If you are running behind, don't expect your photographer to get everything you have in mind. A good guideline for the pictures following the ceremony (family pictures, wedding party and couple along) is around two hours. Anything less than this will be very rushed, and you are going to regret not taking the extra time to enjoy yourselves, and create beautiful imagery of your day.

### GET A PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP ARTIST

You want to look your absolute best on your wedding

day, and a professional makeup artist will know how to enhance your features best. Makeup on your wedding day should be a little more dramatic than what you would normally wear. Even false eyelashes are a nice touch. Be sure to get a trial run done before hand, just as you would for your hair. The last thing you want on your wedding day is to end up looking like a circus performer, if the makeup is a lot more than what you're used to!

### LEAVE THE ALCOHOL UNTIL THE RECEPTION

Although everyone is in a celebratory mood at a wedding, it's best to not provide the wedding party with too much alcohol after the ceremony. Most likely, no one has eaten a good meal, and on a hot afternoon, a little alcohol can make you tipsy fairly quickly. There's nothing worse than that groomsman who's acting like a 16-year-old boy at a bush party! Not cool. Make sure bottles of water are available, and even some small finger foods. This will hold everyone over until supper, and will give the wedding party something to do when you sneak off with your photographer to get your romantic couple shots.

### TRUST YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

Get to know the professional that you've hired, and make sure they are someone you feel comfortable with, and have faith in. Familiarize yourself with their portfolio and artistic work, so that you know that what you will be getting is the style that you prefer.

If you don't like traditional, don't book a photographer that has a traditional style and then expect them to create more modern images. As well, if you aren't crazy about the more urban style photography, don't hire someone who will want to get the more artsy type of shots. If you mesh well with the professional you've hired, you will be more willing to give them total control of your time together.

In conclusion, a photographer with experience is going to be your best friend at a wedding. They will help the groomsmen put on their corsages, fix out-of-place hair, straighten ties, as well as make you and your wedding party and family feel at ease, and look your best. If you give yourself fully to your photographer, and are willing to be creative with your session, you will be rewarded with an end product that will last a lifetime!

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# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Jenna Gall on her trip to Antarctica and the Arctic with Students On Ice. At right are photos of walrus and polar bears—some of the wildlife Gall saw on the trip.

## Montmartre student travels from one end of the earth to the other

BY ANNIE SAVAGE

Anyone who feels that teens today lack drive and passion hasn't met Jenna Gall.

The grade 12 student from Montmartre recently travelled to the Arctic and Antarctica with Students on Ice, a program that takes young people to the ends of the earth to help them gain a better understanding and appreciation of the world.

Gall first heard about the Students on Ice program when she stumbled upon their website, and was instantly attracted to the idea.

"I was just blown away by the opportunity. I had never heard of anything like it before," Gall said.

She has always been interested in science, and was thrilled at the thought of travelling alongside up to 50 scientists and 65 other like-minded youths from all around the globe.

"Plus the fact that I love the outdoors, and I love nature, and I love adventure and I love travelling—so

that added to it too," she said.

After a lengthy application process, she was accepted to the program, but there was still the matter of raising funds for the trip, which amounted to around \$8,500.

Gall managed to raise the funds herself, by writing corporate sponsorship letters to local, provincial and national businesses.

She also put on numerous local fundraisers, including a polar dip, in which people paid money to nominate someone to jump into a pool of ice-cold water. It took about a year-and-a-half to raise the money she needed.

"It was a lot of work, but it was so, so worth it in the end. It opened an incredible amount of opportunities for me," Gall said.

The Arctic expedition was from July 29 to August 14, and included Baffin Island and northern Quebec. She had previous knowledge of the location, but still learned a number of



Jenna Gall on the boat during her trip to the Arctic and Antarctica.

things that surprised her. "I think the most stun-

ning thing I learned was about the culture, and how

climate change and the environmental issues are really affecting the people of the north and their culture," she said.

Gall made such an impression on her Arctic expedition that she received the honor of being the only "student on ice" to be asked to return, this time for a voyage to Antarctica from December 25 to January 13. She feels honored to have been able to take part in such a rare adventure.

"There is a very, very small fraction of people on the planet who ever get to see Antarctica," she said, adding that nothing could have prepared her for the reality of actually being there.

"It's so vast and so diverse. I guess you don't even really imagine it, and it's a continent that's kind of separated out of your mind—so it was incredible to see."

Between the two expeditions, Gall has met students from Australia, Monaco, England, Taiwan and Ja-

pan, the United States, Portugal, Chile, Singapore and Columbia. With so many people sharing the same vessel, and sharing such similar interests, she says they quickly grew into one big family.

"By the end of it you were crying, because you had to leave people. You become very close. You meet friends from all over the world—people you can contact and stay in touch with and discuss your ideas and your initiatives with."

Each day featured a shore landing, and two lectures conducted by the scientists, but that is where the routine ended—everything else on the trips was pretty much up in the air.

"If one day we ran into thick ice conditions, we detoured and stopped at another place. If one day we ran into whales, we would just anchor there and stop at an island and check out the whales," Gall explained.

*Continued on page 18*

# Trip has widened Gall's horizons

☞ *Continued from page 17*

"The expedition leader's favorite thing to say was 'flexibility is the key' because it really is when you're on an expedition. You have no idea where you're going next, which is kind of the fun of it."

On both the Arctic and Antarctic expeditions, Gall had the rare opportunity to observe whales in their natural habitat.

"I don't think it would matter how many times I see a whale—when they come out of the water it takes your breath away—it's absolutely incredible. They're just a massive animal, and I think it puts it into perspective how (small) humans really are, and how insignificant we really are."

Polar bears, seals, walrus and countless penguins were also among the vast array of wildlife spotted on the trips.

On top of the wonderful time that Gall

had on the two voyages, Students on Ice has also widened her horizons more than she could have imagined.

Not only have they offered her a job recruiting for the program, she also feels the experience will help immensely in her search for the ideal university.

"The reference letters I got from the people I worked with on both expeditions is just incredible," she said excitedly.

After university, Gall hopes to make it back to Antarctica, where she would like to work for about a year. In the future, she hopes she can play a part in helping young people to understand the importance of science and the environment.

"My ultimate goal is to have enough experience in a variety of science fields to be effective in speaking to youth and educating them on why it's important."



Blue water meets white snow in this photo from Jenna Gall's trip to the Arctic and Antarctica.



Jenna Gall poses for a picture with the penguins.

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Taylor Brown, a Grade 12 student at McNaughton High School in Moosomin, is battling Hodgkins Lymphoma. A fundraiser is planned for March 20.

## Fundraiser planned for Taylor Brown

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
Taylor Brown is spending her final year of high school fighting a fight she shouldn't have to. The 17-year-old Moosomin McNaughton High School student is battling cancer.

"What was supposed to be a year filled with parties, friends, and finding the perfect grad dress is going to be spent in the hospital," she says.

Taylor has Hodgkins Lymphoma, a cancer that affects lymph nodes, small glands throughout the human body.

"What happened was a bunch of cancer cells in a lymph node in my chest started to grow, creating a mass," says Taylor.

She has given her cancer a name.

"Francis the mass has managed to grow from a tiny bean into a mass that took up the whole right side of my chest. To treat it, I'm getting a series of chemo treatments. Yeah, it sucks."

She says support of her friends and family is helping her deal with her cancer.

"With the help of my awesome family, friends, and community, I'm going to kick

this thing to the curb."

Neil and Carol Russell, the Borderland Co-op staff and some of the Browns' friends are planning a fundraiser to help with some of the costs associated with Taylor's treatment. The fundraiser is set for March 20 at the Moosomin Community Hall.

The evening fundraiser will include a silent auction, beef on a bun, salads and dessert. After supper there will be live entertainment provided by Lorne Frapé's band. Frapé's family benefited from a fundraiser organized by the Russells, and he has been a staunch volunteer at every fundraiser since.

Silent auction items will be on display at the Co-op for a week before the event, and Taylor Trucking will supply a

trailer to store the silent auction items.

The Russells, who organize a number of such fundraisers every year, are trying to establish a formal organization to oversee the fundraising.

A Moosomin Community Fundraisers account is in place at Conexus Credit Union. "We're hoping to get our main committee organized soon," Neil said.

"We've spoken to the Ministry of Justice. We're dealing with them to get non-profit status. It would be nice to set something up permanently so we're not starting from scratch every time."

The individual fundraisers always turn out to be a success, however. "It's amazing how many people open up as soon as they see

a picture in the paper," says Neil. "Any of our fundraisers have almost become like a social event. Everyone wants to come, whether they just want to come for their beef on a bun, or to show their support, or whatever."

"For this one we've already had a lot of support. Doug Marshall's trucking company has donated the meat, the Co-op donated supplies, and a lot of people have said they have things for the auction."

Anyone who wants to support the fundraiser can contact Neil or Carol Russell at 435-3365 or Marlyne Primrose at 435-3047 or send cheques to Moosomin Community Fundraisers, Box 1612 Moosomin, or drop them off at Conexus Credit Union in Moosomin.

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Canadians are allowed to carry forward unused RRSP contribution room, and to make contributions to personal RRSPs until the end of the year they reach age 71. So, if you didn't maximize your RRSP contributions in the

past, you have the opportunity to fast forward your retirement plan by investing the full amount of your contribution limit, which includes all of your unused contribution room.

Not only will you be saving for your retirement, but you may also receive a large tax deduction, all at the same time.

For example, if the Canada Revenue Agency

Notice of Assessment that you received after filing your previous year's tax return advised that you could contribute \$13,000 for the current tax year, but you only contributed \$3,000, you can still contribute the remaining \$10,000 at any time.

Just consider for a moment that if you make up for lost RRSP time sooner, how much further ahead your retirement plan

could be:

- Assuming you have 20 years left to retirement, the \$10,000 additional contribution could grow to \$46,600 on a pre-tax basis (assuming an average annual rate of return of eight per cent).

- Plus, if your marginal tax rate is 40 per cent, your \$10,000 contribution will generate immediate tax savings of \$4,000. Reinvest these tax savings in a

Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) or use the savings to pay down debt and you will be even farther ahead financially.

Although it may seem difficult to find the money to catch-up, there are a number of strategies to consider that can help fast-forward your retirement plan.

First, there may be tax benefits associated with transferring money you currently have in savings accounts or other investments into your RRSP.

Second, it may make sense to consider the benefits of an RRSP loan to take full advantage of the contribution room you have available.

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advantage of industry competitive RRSP loans that can help you make use of available contribution room and fast-forward your retirement planning. This strategy is usually most effective when the tax refund generated by your extra contribution is used to pay down the loan.

Together, you and your financial advisor can explore the immediate tax savings and the potential for long-term tax-deferred growth through maximizing your RRSP contributions now, and the appropriate strategy that makes sense for your own life.

Submitted by Donna Worley, Investors Group Consultant.

## An RRSP is good for you

When it comes to investing and saving on taxes, you have options. Within your financial planning process, you should look at all of them and select those that work best for your unique situation. But there is one investment option that's a no-brainer. The Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), since being introduced 53 years ago, has become the basic foundation of almost every financial plan. RRSPs have stood the test of time as the best tax-saving, income-building vehicle for most Canadians.

Here are the keys to making the most of your RRSP opportunity.

- Contribute to the max. Always make your maximum allowable contribution each taxation year to get the most in immediate tax savings and to maximize the potential long-term growth of your RRSP investments. You've still

got some time to contribute for 2009—the deadline is March 1, 2010—and you'll find your maximum allowable contribution room on the Notice of Assessment sent to you from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) after filing last year's income taxes.

- Contribute regularly. Making automatic monthly contributions to your RRSP is much more rewarding than contributing a lump sum once a year. Here's how: By investing \$250 regularly each month at a compound rate of return of eight per cent, you'll have \$372,590 in your retirement nest egg 30 years from now.\* But if you wait until the end of each year to invest a \$3,000 lump sum, you'll have only \$339,850. By investing monthly, you've added \$32,740 at retirement without contributing a dollar more.

- Play catch (up). If you have unused contribution

room, fill it up as soon as possible for additional tax savings and longer-term tax-deferred, compound growth. You can fill your unused contribution room in a single year or over a number of years until you reach age 71.

- Borrow to save. An RRSP loan can be a smart way to maximize this year's contribution or to play catch up on your past contributions—but you must get the loan at a low interest rate and pay it back as quickly as possible. A best practice: Use your RRSP tax savings to pay off the loan.

- Spousal savings. A higher-earning spouse can contribute to an RRSP for the benefit of his or her partner and enjoy a tax reduction on the contributions.

There are other RRSP strategies that can work for you—the right ones, incorporated into your overall

financial plan, will help you save on taxes every year, retire with more and enhance your estate. Talk to your professional advisor about what's best for you.

\* The rate of return is used only to illustrate the effects of the compound growth rate and is not intended to indicate future returns on investment.

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  - 2 - 2010 F6 Sno Pro's
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  - 4 - 2010 Crossfire 800R
  - 1 - 2010 Crossfire 800LE • 1.375" track
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  - 2 - 2010 Crossfire 800 S/P • 141" track
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  - 1 - 2010 M6 • 153" track
  - 4 - 2010 M8 • 153" track
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- 1 - 2009 ZX1 1100 Turbo LXR
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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	SOLD
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	\$349,000 SOLD
2006	MF	9790	chopper, cs, swathmaster, 382 hrs, warranty	\$164,900
2003	MF	9790	MAV, lat tilt, swathmaster	\$109,500
1999	CaseIH	2388	chopper, spreaders, swathmaster	\$64,500
1997	NH	TX66	Chopper, pu	\$48,000
1994	MF	8570	Chopper, cs, swathmaster	\$22,500
1986	Gleaner	R50	PU, chopper, spreaders	\$2,500
1983	MF	852	Chopper, pu	\$2,500

### COMBINE HEADERS

2003	Case IH	1010	30' rigid, PUR, fore/aft	\$14,900
1995	Case IH	1020	30', flex, PUR, fore/aft	\$14,900
1996	NH	973	30', flex, PUR	\$12,500
1994	MF	9700	30' PUR	\$11,000
1991	MacDon	960	25' PUR	\$10,000
1994	Gleaner	400	25', PUR	\$9,500
1987	Gleaner	330	30', batt & air reel	\$7,500
1983	Gleaner	324	24', batt reel, fits L3	\$2,500

### TRACTORS

1984	Steiger	CM325	325hp, duals, Atom Jet Hyd	\$34,500
1986	JD	4450	140hp, 18.4x34, powershift	\$31,900
1983	MF	4880	300hp, duals, pto	\$23,900
1989	Deutz Allis	9130	135hp, fwa, 18 sp ps	\$15,000
1984	Ford	TW5	106 hp, 16 speed, 3 remotes, Allied loader	\$12,500
1984	Ford	TW15	121 hp, 16 speed, 3 remotes	\$12,500
2008	MF	6480	145hp, loaded	RENTAL RETURN
2005	Fendt	818	180hp, 730 hrs, front 3pt/pto, 755 loader/grapple, loaded	Call
2003	Fendt	926	260hp, 750 hrs, 855 loader, loaded	Call

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2007	MF	9435	36', U2, skid shoes, gauge wheels	\$94,900
2005	Hesston	9240	30', U2, gauge wheels	\$74,900
2000	MF	220 II	30', p/u reel, gauge wheels, sch drive	\$48,500
1999	MF	220 II	26' DS, PU reel, sch drive	\$46,500

### HAY TOOLS

2008	MF	1756	5x6, auto tie, demo	BLOWOUT
2008	MF	3743	manure spreader, 430 bu., loaded	MUST GO
2008	MF	9125	18' hay hdr, loaded	DEMO
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh wrap	\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto	\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6	\$13,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6, auto tie	\$14,900
2007	MF	1476	16', s/s rollers	\$26,900
2000	NH	688	5x6 baler	\$15,500
2002	Hesston	1275	16' s/s, reverser	\$20,900
1999	MacDon	5000	16', s/s rollers	\$12,500
2005	Highline	7000	lh discharge	\$8,500
2004	Bale King	3100	rh discharge	\$7,700
2005	Bale King	3100	rh discharge, fine cut	\$10,900
2004	Morris	1400	Hay Hiker	\$21,000

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1996	Flexi Coil	5000	39'w/9" spacing, double shoot 2320 cart, loading auger	SOLD

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2010	Versatile	SX275	275 hp, 90' boom	Call for Details
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2010	Sakundiak	TL10-1200	10" x 39.5' belt drive	Call
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2003	Bergen	3600	header trailer, torflex suspension, light kit	\$3,500
2010	Farm King	Y960	96" snowblower, hyd chute	Call



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# Bell Barn project enters new phase

Now that the required funding has been secured for the construction phase of the Bell Barn and adjacent Bell Cottage wash-room building, near Indian Head, board members of the Bell Barn Society of Indian Head are turning their attention to raising funds for the development of the interpretive facilities at the site.

Donations from the federal and provincial governments and from a number of corporations, along with business and individual donations and profits from fundraising events, has enabled construction to proceed since late July of 2009. So far, contractors have completed their work within the scheduled times, and board members are looking forward to the grand opening of the site on July 17, 2010, the same day as the Society's 4th annual dinner auction.

Based on an exhibit plan formulated recently by Beauchesne & Company of Regina, the Society estimates that reasonable interpretive facilities will cost at least \$150,000. This will include a basic inter-



Board members of the Society look on as Denis Beauchesne points out features of the interpretive plan on a tabletop model of the Bell Barn.

pretive display outside the building and a number of interpretive modules inside the building. "We want to inform visitors to the Bell Barn of the story of Major William

Bell and the story of the Bell Farm and its significant contribution to our agricultural heritage in Saskatchewan," explains Frank Korvemaker, chair of the Society. "We also

want the site to be a place that encourages community involvement and promotes the town of Indian Head and the surrounding communities."

Due to a very tight timeline, the Board cannot promise that all of the planned interpretive exhibits will be ready for the grand opening in July. The development of the interpretive facilities will depend on how quickly the Society is able to raise the additional funds. The fundraising committee is already at work acquiring donations to ensure visitors to the site will have an informative and aesthetically pleasing experience. "The development of the interpretive exhibits is going to be an exciting phase of our project where we bring together the reconstruction work and the legacy of the Bell Farm experience," adds Korvemaker.

Donations designated for use in development of interpretive exhibits may be sent to The Bell Barn Society, P.O. Box 1882, Indian Head, Saskatchewan S0G 2K0.

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# Lots of options for cross country skiing in SE Sask

BY HELEN SOLMES

Cross-country skiing has never been as good as it is now that the days are growing longer and the temperatures are moderating. February and March can be the best months for skiing, and with all of the snow this winter, cross-country skiing is as good as it gets.

Three local ski clubs have all points covered for cross-country enthusiasts in Southeast Saskatchewan—Grenfell to the west, Esterhazy in the north and Rocanville at the centre.

All three are reporting excellent trail conditions for a quick ski after work or a social gathering on weekends and days off. All three groups welcome newcomers and are always keen to host visitors from other clubs.

A core group of six

cross-country skiers maintain approximately 20 kilometres of trails on a quarter section of wildlife preserve near Grenfell. They each pay a \$20 membership to supplement a small grant that they have been fortunate enough to receive each year to help offset the cost of grooming the trails.

The warm-up shack is "humble" says skier Ken Dobra, but it serves the purpose.

The trails are south of Highway No. 1 and to the east of Highway 47.

Like Grenfell, the Esterhazy Cross-Country Ski Club is the success that it is due to a committed group of skiers and volunteers. The club is growing evermore proud of the club's trails and facilities, including skis, boots and poles for use free-of-charge.

The club maintains 30 kilometres of novice, intermediate, and expert trails on the scenic golf course in the Kaposvar Valley and across private property nearby in a poplar grove northeast of the town, including eight kilometres of skate-ski trails. Memberships are available for both individuals and families and include insurance under Cross-Country Saskatchewan (CCS).

The club hosts a variety of activities to promote the camaraderie of the sport. Members gather once a month during the full moon for a moonlight ski and wiener roast, and special hearts ski outings for special needs children and their families.

In January, the club hosts an ever-popular annual loppet that drew more than 130 skiers, including 79 out-of-town skiers, this year. They also host

a jack-rabbit program for children.

Rocanville's cross-country ski trails are located south of the town on four quarters of private land. There are 10 kilometres of groomed trails for use and equipment to rent for 30-40 skiers. The trails are in top shape, according to Joan Hack, and the warm-up shack is open, with a good supply of cocoa.

For those who prefer the solitude and individualistic aspects of cross-country skiing, any of the Grenfell, Esterhazy or Rocanville trails will provide perfect settings to stretch out and be alone in the winter stillness.

For those who prefer the social side of the sport, the camaraderie, the group outings, the heat of a wood stove and steaming cup of cocoa at the end of the trail, you won't be disappointed.



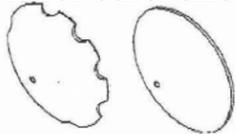
P.J. Gillen School students during their weekly after-school ski session on the Esterhazy Cross-country Ski Club's trails.

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# Montmartre Folk Festival looking for musicians

The first annual Montmartre Folk Festival, July 16 to 18, is expected to give Saskatchewan musicians a place to showcase their talent and get their careers off the ground.

"We're going to be bringing in headline acts, but one of our major focuses is on supporting local musicians and giving them a place to play," says Marie Anne Fournier, one of the lead organizers for the 2010 Montmartre All Folk'd Up Festival. "We'll be featuring an amateur stage that will showcase young talent, new talent and local performers who want to entertain the crowds with their unique styles."

With a deadline of Feb. 20 for musical applications, organizers have already received many inquiries and are now focused on letting Saskatchewan musicians know they are invited to apply for a spot on one of the three main stages.

"We've received some very exciting applications from performers throughout Canada, as well as some from overseas. We expect our main stage, our amateur stage and our children's stage to be filled with an interesting mix of world, folk and acoustic rock music that has something for everyone."

Sideshow Sid, a well-known Saskatchewan children's performer, will be the highlight of the kids' stage, as he has agreed to perform and emcee for all three days of the festival.

Montmartre's All Folk'd Up Festival will be a three-day event, with the volunteer organizers capping ticket sales at 1,000. Early bird weekend passes (before April 30) are \$45, \$20 for ages 6-12, and under five are free. Weekend passes increase to \$55 after April 30. Day passes are \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday and \$30 for Sunday.

"We've decided to keep the prices affordable, especially the weekend pass, so that everyone in Saskatchewan can come out and enjoy the music, the art, the food and the fellowship over the course of all three days," says Fournier.

"Montmartre's Kemosa Regional Park is the perfect setting, we have lots of amazing talent and our great local organizations know what hosting a crowd is all about, so all of the elements are there for a great event every July."

The folk festival committee is also looking for sponsors. A sponsorship program has been set up which allows groups, companies or individuals to donate \$200 to \$5,000 to help fund the festival. Each sponsor level provides donors with advertising, festival tickets and tax receipts.

Fournier says regional crafters, artists and food vendors should also consider being part of the All Folk'd Up Festival.

"In terms of vendors, we're looking for all kinds of arts and crafts people to

set up booths, as the festival will provide good exposure for their products," says Fournier. "We're looking for food vendors as well, as there will be many hungry people to

feed over the course of the three-day festival."

For more information or to apply to perform, visit [www.allfolkedupinmontmartre.yolasite.com](http://www.allfolkedupinmontmartre.yolasite.com) or call Marie Anne at 424-2950.

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10:00 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 19  
Bred Cow Sale  
11:00 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 22  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 24  
Presort Feeder Cattle Sale  
10:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 1  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 3  
Internet Presort Feeder Cattle Sale  
10:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 8  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 10  
Presort Feeder Cattle Sale  
10:00 a.m.

Friday, Mar. 12  
Bred Cow Sale  
11:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 15  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 17  
Feeder Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Saturday, Mar. 20  
Pleasant Dawn  
Charolais Bull Sale  
1:00 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 22  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 24  
Presort Feeder Cattle Sale  
10:00 a.m.

Thursday, Mar. 25  
Sheep Sale  
12:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 28  
Classic All Breed Bull Sale  
1:00 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 29  
Butcher Cattle Sale  
9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 30  
Horse Sale  
1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 31  
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- steep roof pitch design prevents standing precipitation
- incomparable bin clean-out (no inside stiffeners combined with BEHLEN'S galvanized waffle-style panel ensures no grain or product hang-up)
- 12-gauge bottom panel provides structural strength at bin to cone connection
- 27" cap and remote opener
- safety ladder features drop rungs and raised rails for safe and easy access



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## Sask unemployment still lowest

Saskatchewan's January unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent (seasonally adjusted) is once again the lowest in Canada—well below the national rate of 8.3 per cent. Saskatchewan has now held the lowest rate in Canada for eight months.

"While we still have work to do, Saskatchewan's economy is showing resilience and promise," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said. "Our unemployment rate is the lowest in Canada, our pop-

ulation is higher than ever and Saskatchewan workers are earning more than ever."

There were 511,000 people working in Saskatchewan in January, a decrease of 1,600 compared to January 2009. Despite the decrease, full-time employment saw an increase of 7,200 over the past year.

Saskatoon and Regina (tied at 4.8 per cent) hold the second lowest unemployment rates among major Canadian cities (behind Quebec City at 4.5 per

cent). Saskatoon saw an increase of 2,700 jobs over last year.

Norris pointed to the more than 6,000 vacancies

currently on SaskJobs.ca as a sign that Saskatchewan is the place to be in Canada for skilled workers looking for employment.

## Building permits end on positive note in 2009

Building permit statistics for December 2009 were released by Statistics Canada last week and indicate Saskatchewan had the highest monthly percentage increase among the provinces on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Building permits increased by 21.7 per cent between November 2009 and December 2009 in Saskatchewan, the highest increase in the nation and well above the 2.4 per cent posted on a national front.

"The jump in permits at the end of 2009 is definitely encouraging, and will be important in boosting confidence for business and future investment," Enterprise Saskatchewan Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "The positive numbers for construction exceed our expectations for what turned out to be an excellent year for the Saskatchewan economy."

For December 2009, building permits in the province totalled \$150.6 million, a 21.7 per cent increase over November 2009, and the highest percentage increase among the provinces on a seasonally adjusted basis.

On a seasonally unadjusted basis, Saskatchewan's December building permits were up 19.2 per cent in December 2009 compared to December 2008, fourth among the provinces.

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Moosomin Chamber



of Commerce

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**Panel 2 (2-26):** Snow globe 1: "DEVIATED SEPTUM."

**Panel 3 (2-25):** Moose 1: "MAYBE WE JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO TEXT."

**Panel 4 (2-24):** Contractor: "CONTRACTOR PROBLEMS OF THE ARCTIC." Polar bear: "THEY SAID THEY'D BE BACK IN THE SPRING."

**Panel 5 (2-23):** Rhino 1: "MINE'S A HYBRID."

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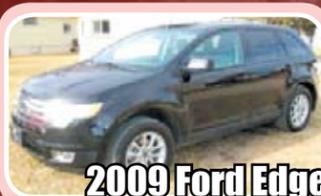
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GT, convertible,  
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BACK, BE  
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supercrew,  
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ZTS, Local car  
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23,000 kms  
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Limited, 4x4,  
15,000 kms  
**FUN TO DRIVE**

**2009 Ford Escape**

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\$149/week



XLT,  
Supercrew,  
4x4, local trade

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\$99/week



Limited,  
28,000 kms  
**GREAT ON GAS**

**2009 Ford Escape**

**\$32,900**  
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2 dr., sport  
**FUN TO DRIVE  
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Limited, V8,  
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spoiler,  
89,000 kms

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LS, 4 dr.,  
191,000 kms  
**ONE OWNER**

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supercab  
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