

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Roman Chernykh, left, and Roman Swed, right, at the Support Ukraine Fundraising Centre in Moosomin. Chernykh has started a bank account for donations and is accepting donations of items that will be sent to people in Ukraine in order to support their daily needs during the Russian invasion.



Ukrainian families from the community gathered together on February 26 to brainstorm ideas on how the community can help support family members in Ukraine suffering from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. From left are the Vitaliy family, Zasadatel family, Zahovona family, Cherevko family, Roman and Marina Chernykh and Tsymbal family.

Families from Moosomin area come together in support of Ukraine

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The local Ukrainian community has set up a Support Ukraine Fundraising Centre at 506 Main Street in Moosomin and have already seen a lot of support.

The centre was set up to provide support to Ukrainians suffering through the Russian invasion.

There was more than \$5,000 in cash donated in the first two days the centre was up and running, and the building quickly filled with donated supplies from local businesses and individuals. On March 7, 100 boxes of donated supplies were shipped from Moosomin to Ukraine.

The centre is open 10 am to 11 pm daily to accept donations of supplies and cash, and donations can also be transferred to sufc2022@gmail.com

Roman Chernykh and other members of the local Ukrainian community said it is important to take action here in Canada to support Ukraine.

"As members of this community and of course the people coming from Ukraine, it's our home, it's our home country," Chernykh said.

"Ukraine is our home, it's where our parents are from, where and our mothers and fathers are still living. We feel a strong connection to Ukraine and we feel that being outside and even far away from our home country, we can help them."

"We can help them by fundraising and by bringing more awareness to what's actually happening from first-hand experience. Our mothers and sisters are out there right now."

"We feel the help is strongly needed right now,

there's 40 million people in the country and people have lost their homes. Some have lost close members of their family, they lost their jobs, their income and everything. So we feel that the rest of the world needs to stand up and help Ukraine because they're fighting for their own freedom.

"Their freedom is our freedom too because they're being a really good example to show the rest of the world what freedom actually costs, how people are fighting for their freedom. They're losing half of their best people in their lives to get to their freedom, and losing great people, just to be free."

Although Chernykh has been in contact with his mother who is living in Ukraine, he said it has been hard to maintain stable communication with her.

"It's very hard to sustain a connection because every 30 minutes they have to jump into the bomb shelters. Right now, it's just 'hello, how are you doing, did you have food.' The shops are closed right now, all the pharmacies, just everything."

He spoke about the bomb shelters and underground metros that citizens are using for protection.

"People only have one route right now, from their homes to the bomb shelters, from the bomb shelters back to home, there's no work, no school, there's nothing. In big cities like Kyiv, Kharkiv, they have underground metros where people are hiding themselves in the metro just to survive at this point right now," he said.

"This event brought something that no one has seen before, which is people helping each other more than ever. You see people carrying older women into the

bomb shelters, just random people doing kind things for each other, just to help. You don't see that happening anywhere else, it just tells me that we all have the other side of humanity and we express it only in a situation like this."

Chernykh said because Ukraine's population is huge, there are about 200 to 400 people crammed into one bomb shelter at a time.

"Every highrise building has a bomb shelter built underground, every school has bomb shelters. The other day there were about 200 people in one bomb shelter. So, some people felt like they didn't have enough air, they decided to go outside for some fresh air to breathe and they've been shot, 20 people dead and 15 wounded. These are things that are happening every day—it's devastating, it's definitely scary."

Hearing about the catastrophe happening in Ukraine has directly affected Chernykh.

"It's made me feel, up until today, somewhat helpless because all I can do is just talk with my mother and brother at this point. But how can I help them? You're just so far away, there's no way of bringing them over here, there's no way to go there right now because it's a no fly zone and the only way we can really communicate is through the internet," said Chernykh.

"That's why we gathered all together to decide how we want to structure our help. At this point we want to create help as soon as possible."

Chernykh said he is trying to spread the message to the community of how they can help, in order to support families and individuals in Ukraine right now.

Continued on page 5



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Lack of support in rural areas for those facing addictions and mental health issues

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Shattered bodies, minds and souls.

That's what it has been like for Brenda Johnston and her family for the last six years of their lives.

After losing her brother and her niece in less than two years from overdose deaths, Johnston is calling for action to support those who are facing ongoing battles of addictions and mental health, in rural areas of Southeast Saskatchewan.

"It didn't start out this way. So many people have pre-conceived notions and it wasn't that way for 50 years with him," said Johnston who runs Red Market Barn in Kenosee.

Johnston said her brother, Jack, lived a normal life. That he was healthy individual, a farmer his whole life and grew up around family members who loved him.

"He was the youngest of the family on a farm, he had three oldest sisters, was kind, considerate. We talked to him every day because we just did, his three sisters," she said.

"We lost our mom when he would've been 20, so he definitely phoned all three sisters every day. He loved to talk on the phone, and was always checking to make sure he was doing things right, or what he was up to, because it was kind of the oil boom as he got older, when he first started. It was a really successful business, lots of physical work and he still farmed with my dad."

Johnston said during that time, her family experienced the unexpected loss of their sister, which had impacted the family but brought them closer.

"He was really hurt when my mom died and then my sister died quite suddenly in 2000. It was an adult crib death which I never heard of, but once it happens in your family then you start researching. She was 41, and left her three boys behind," Johnston said.

"You know, everyone suffers from mental health issues, as those things happen in families, but because he did so much physical work on the farm, he cut wood



Former nurse and teacher Brenda Johnston of Red Market Barn in Kenosee, shares her experience of losing her brother and niece to overdose deaths. She hopes what can come from her losses is to see change and more support for people in rural areas who are currently experiencing battles with mental health and addiction.

and he did lots of oil field work which was heavy physical work too."

After decades of working on the farm, Jack was prescribed pain killers to reduce the pain caused from his work of farming.

"He had a bad shoulder like me, and I truly believe his addiction probably started with him being given drugs. Then you get addicted, and you can't live without them."

Johnston said throughout the years of him suffering with addiction and mental health issues, her family tried their best to help him, but due to the lack of support in the area, there was only so much she and

her family could do for Jack.

"There is just no help, there is no hope. There's no services in rural Saskatchewan, our only outlet was to go to the RCMP a lot of the time. Some of them would be really good and some wouldn't," Johnston said.

"I came from health care initially, I have nurses training and I can't believe how people get treated. And in small towns it's probably worse because everyone knows everyone."

Johnston worked in health care for 20 years, as a nurse in doctors offices, as well as in acute and long term care. Currently, she has been working as an educational

assistant and librarian for the past 24 years.

Based on her brother's experience with addiction and mental health, Johnston said she was shocked to find out the lack of support the systems for people in rural areas.

Asking the government for support

In October 2019, a year after Jack passed from an overdose, Johnston wrote a letter to various government officials.

"The past four years, since October 2015 we have dealt with a family member with mental health issues, diagnosed with drug addiction and bipolar," she wrote.

"Four years ago we realized our 47 year old brother had developed a serious drug addiction to crystal meth. Until this time, my brother had lived a meaningful normal life farming, and had several successful oil related businesses over the years.

"He had injured himself and was given a variety of known drugs for pain that may have led to drug abuse. It's needless to say, it has devastated our whole family.

"We have lived the past four years how no one should have to live. As the addiction progressed and incidents accelerated, we struggled 24 hours a day, every day for four years. Our brother's health continued to deteriorate physically and mentally.

"There were numerous visits to health care facilities during this time. Episodes of psychosis increased and became more unpredictable and violent. Our 84 year old dad was in constant danger and lived under threats each day as they farmed together and lived in the same yard.

"We spoke with the local RCMP several times requesting help, but until there was an incident, no help was available. They had numerous reports of threats to community members, but no one would press charges.

"My family quickly realized that there was nothing we could do until the addiction caused criminal charges and jail time.

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Indian Head Museum honors former baseball team, The Rockets

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

This year in June, the Indian Head Museum will be opening an exhibit in honor of the 1950s all black baseball team—The Rockets.

A team that brought a lot of attention to the community of Indian Head and contributed to Saskatchewan's rich baseball heritage.

"Baseball was huge, I think it was even bigger than hockey in the early part of the last century. People appreciated when they got to see high class baseball," said Robyn Jensen, president of the Indian Head Museum.

She said explained why The Rockets are so significant to the community of Indian Head.

"Well if you think about what was going on in the States, from the history of the 1950s, there was still a lot

of racial segregation going on in the States. There was a lot of stuff going on there so a lot of the black players, they didn't get a lot of time to play in the major league (of baseball). There was Jackie Robinson, he was one of the few players that went on to play in the MLB, Elijah Jerry "Pumpsie" Greene, they got to play for the Cardinals and the Red Sox."

"But a lot of them played in the 'Negro Leagues' down in the States, and that's as far as they got and these players were Class A players, like unbelievable players. Imagine if Wayne Gretzky and his team came, and played at the rink in Indian Head, that's the caliber of baseball that came up to Canada, to Saskatchewan to Indian Head. We were getting rural class baseball in these small communities."

For a while now, the museum has been collaborating

with Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM) and the Society of Baseball Research (SABR) on collecting Rockets research and stories.

Jensen said she hopes the upcoming exhibit of The Rockets, teaches people about the history of the team.

"Well I think people need to understand what took place here. This is a story that needs to be told, people need to know that when this community got together they made things happen," she said.

"They (The Rockets) brought 25,000 to 30,000 people to the town. They brought in CP rail cars with sleeping cots to accommodate the extra visitors in town. Local garages would open up their space for sleeping, people would actually just say 'hey, do you want to come over to our house and sleep here?' They would bring in so much local economy, the money that was generated in this town during the tournaments were astronomical. It's a story of a little community that could, and then a story of the class of baseball that was brought to Saskatchewan that people had the opportunity to see."

The museum's vice-president, Janine Moses-Randle, said it is important for people to know the history of The Rockets.

"I think part of it is when you think back to what society was like in the 1950s and we still are, but there was a lot of racism, there was a lot of racial tension and the community (here) was able to look beyond their prejudices.

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The history of the all Black Indian Head Rockets are being inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and an exhibit about the team, will be opening in June 2022 at the Indian Head Museum. Photo courtesy of the Indian Head Museum.

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Families from Moosomin area come together in support of Ukraine

Continued from front
 “We plan to do a couple fundraising events in Moosomin and for the surrounding areas as well. We also want to have an information centre and a collective help centre here as well, which will happen as we go.”

Through fundraising and spreading awareness, Chernykh said he hopes individuals in the community become aware of what citizens in Ukraine are facing at this time.

“We’re hoping that we can bring the truth into the rest of the world—not scaring anyone, we don’t want to scare or create this image of burning houses—this is just what’s happening,” he said.

“We just want to bring to people a sense of understanding about what’s going on in Ukraine right now, to help people understand the meaning of freedom, what it is to be a free man.

“The first and most important thing is we are trying to do is get the finances if we can. That’s the main purpose. The second purpose is to prepare some humanitarian parcels to be sent to Ukraine.

“There are a couple of containers that are being collected in Regina and around Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan is so greatly

involved helping the Ukraine right now. Knowing that the roots and the heritage of many Saskatchewan people come from Ukraine, we get lots of response and lots of help from Saskatchewan and around the world as well.

“The most important is just to send the help as soon as we can because people need the help, people lost their houses, people lost their homes.”

He said he has been very worried about conditions back in Ukraine.

“We can’t even sleep at night. My wife and I take turns just watching the news. We are in constant connection with our families, but it’s pretty hard to keep that connection because every so often they have to run to the bomb shelters and they come back talking about how every 10 to 15 minutes they go back and they come back. It is impossible basically to imagine what’s going through our heads right now. It is really tough.”

He said it feels good to see the support from the community.

“It feels great because it means people are understanding what is going on. It just shows people supporting my country, people supporting my people, and that feels great. I can’t believe how much support there has been already.”

What’s needed most

Some of the most in demand items for humanitarian relief in Ukraine include:

- Non-perishable food, for which there is a big demand.
- New clothes and footwear for men, women, and children. No used clothing will be accepted.
- Thermal underwear
- Hygiene products (women’s products, diapers, etc.)
- Blankets

- Bedding
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MSRP: \$106,106.00

CARLYLE RV PRICE: \$94,449

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Sask leads country in manufacturing and wholesale growth

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan's economy is leading the country in year-over-year growth in manufacturing sales and wholesale trade.

Saskatchewan's manufacturing sales increased 35.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted) between December 2020 and December 2021, while wholesale trade increased 32 per cent (seasonally adjusted) between December 2020 and December 2021.

"This significant growth shows the strength of Saskatchewan's economy and that we are creating wealth and good jobs for communities across the province," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "With one of Canada's most competitive business environments, we will continue to increase exports and attract investment to support this economic growth."

The sectors that had the highest increases in manufacturing sales between December 2020 and December 2021 were chemical manufacturing (94 per cent), food manufacturing (16 per cent), and fabricated metal products (13 per cent).

Three of the top performing sectors that drove the year-over-year growth in wholesale trade were building materials and supplies, motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories, and machinery and equipment. Between December 2020 and December 2021, they increased by 19 per cent, 16 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively.

In December 2021, the total value of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan was more than \$3.2 billion, while the total value of manufacturing shipments was more than \$1.7 billion.

The World-Spectator reached out to Saskatchewan's Ministry of Export and Trade Development, Jeremy Harrison.

Following are questions and answers on this issue.

What are some of the factors that have led to the increases in manufacturing sales and wholesale trade?

The nation-leading growth in these indicators is the result of Saskatchewan's competitive business environment and our government's continued focus on increasing exports and attracting investment.

The sectors that drove the year-over-year growth in manufacturing sales between December 2020 and December 2021 were chemical manufacturing, food manufacturing and fabricated metal products, which increased by 94 per cent, 16 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. The sectors that drove the year-over-year growth in wholesale trade over that same period were building materials and supplies, motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories and machinery and equipment, which increased by 19 per cent, 16 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively.

We have seen a lot of investment in agriculture processing and in mining. What future do you see for the manufacturing industry in this province?

Manufacturing will continue to be an important sector for economic growth and diversification for Saskatchewan. Our manufacturing sector's strong record of growth is a good sign for the future. Between 2010 and 2020, Saskatchewan's manufacturing exports grew at an average annual rate of 3.8 per cent, third highest in Canada.

We have seen a surge of capital investment recently with more than \$12 billion of capital investment announced for the province in the last year, including FCL's announcement to construct a new Integrated Agriculture Complex in Regina and Clean Seed Capital Group's new seeder manufacturing facility in Saskatoon. We are also seeing growth in Indigenous-owned businesses in our manufacturing sector with companies like Kihew Fabco Ltd., which has opened a fabrication facility in Melville.

In our area of the province, we have a significant manufacturing base, with companies like Vaderstad, IJACK, Goodman Steel, and Bridgeview Manufacturing producing products for export and for our oil, agriculture, and mining industries. What is the province doing to ensure Saskatchewan manufacturers remain competitive?

The Saskatchewan Research and Development Tax Credit and the Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive are two programs designed to encourage Saskatchewan manufacturers to commercialize new technology and remain competitive. Other provincial programs Saskatchewan manufacturers can utilize include the Manufacturing and Processing Exporter Tax Incentive, Manufacturing and Processing Profits Tax Reduction, and Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit.

The manufacturing sector will also benefit from the



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government of Saskatchewan's network of eight International Trade and Investment Offices which will create export opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses and attract investment to the province.

With strength in these sectors and major investments in developing future production capacity in canola crushing, biodiesel, and mining, what kind of growth rate does the government expect in the provincial economy in the coming years?

The government of Saskatchewan will continue to attract investment and opportunities that will grow the economy and build a better Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's status as a global leader in sustainable practices will help grow our core sectors of agriculture and agri-value, energy, mining, and manufacturing.

As outlined in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030, the government of Saskatchewan has set a number of ambitious goals to achieve by 2030 that will grow the economy including: increasing the value of manufacturing exports by 50 per cent, growing private investment in Saskatchewan to \$16 billion annually, growing agri-food exports to \$20 billion and creating 100,000 new jobs.

Is there anything the province needs to do or can do to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the potash industry, one of the major export industries? Some in that industry are worried Saskatchewan is losing its competitive edge.

2021 was a record year for Saskatchewan potash, with production reaching 14.2 million K20 tonnes and sales of \$7.6 billion, both all-time highs. Our potash industry is well-positioned for continued growth and to surpass \$9 billion in annual sales by 2030 which is a key goal in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030.

Saskatchewan has been recognized by the Fraser Institute as being Canada's most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment and the third-most attractive globally. The government of Saskatchewan is committed to maintaining a competitive investment environment for the potash sector.

There is considerable growth expected in the need for

potash in countries all over the world, and this certainly represents an opportunity. To take advantage of it, our producers will have to remain competitive in bringing our sustainable mineral products to global customers, which will require maintaining a reliable transportation network as well as a predictable and efficient regulatory environment.

The investments made by the potash producers in our province show the future for Saskatchewan potash is bright. Over the last 15 years, capital commitments to construct new Saskatchewan potash capacity from existing potash producers, Nutrien, Mosaic, and K+S; as well as from the BHP Group for the new Jansen project, total over \$30 billion.

What else can Saskatchewan do to ensure that our industries remain competitive into the future?

The Ministry of Trade and Export Development will continue to prioritize fostering a competitive business environment, growing export markets and opportunities for Saskatchewan exporters, and attracting investment to our province.



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Plan for Ukrainian refugees to be discussed at Moosomin chamber

The Tuesday, March 15 meeting of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce will feature Ukrainian food prepared by the local Ukrainian community, a proposal to welcome Ukrainian refugees to Moosomin, a premiere of the new Moosomin promotional video, and a couple of important presentations for Chamber members.

Normally the Chamber has a local restaurant cater the meal for the lunch-time Chamber meeting, but for this meeting the Ukrainian community will prepare a home-made Ukrainian meal and the Chamber will donate to the local Ukrainian community's efforts to support Ukraine.

At the meeting:
• Roman Chernykh and Josef Tesar will make a presentation on welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Moosomin. Tesar is willing to invest the money to renovate more of his hotel rooms at Motel 6 to accommodate refugee families for their initial stay (there are 16 kitchenette suites now, he is willing to increase that to 40), the local Ukrainian community is willing to do what it takes to make

the refugees feel welcome and ensure they have what they need. The two believe there are a lot of advantages for hosting refugees in Moosomin—there are lots of jobs available, there is an established Ukrainian community, and there are English as an Additional Language classes available through Southeast College, which is something most rural communities do not have. Tesar, who came to Canada as a refugee from Czechoslovakia during the Cold War and now owns the Motel 6 in Moosomin and other properties across Canada, believes from his experience that a small community is the best place for an immigrant to Canada to start out.

• Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk will attend the meeting to explain what the province is doing to support Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees.
• A new video promoting Moosomin will be screened. Alyssa Nosterud and Greg Gillespie were the creative forces behind the video.
• Chamber members will be hearing from Hub Insurance on their Group Insurance Options.



Within the first few days of operation, the Support Ukraine Fundraising Centre in Moosomin collected more than 100 boxes of supplies to ship to Ukraine. The first shipment left Moosomin for Ukraine March 7.

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Indian Head Museum honors former baseball team—The Rockets

Continued from page 4

They welcomed these young boys into their homes and into their community, so I feel like it's a story that we can all learn from," she said.

"Those young boys, I'm sure they weren't sure how they were going to be perceived up here, coming from down in the States, but everyone embraced them, and why can't we do that nowadays, to look beyond that."

"The community saw them as young boys, they saw them as baseball players, they welcomed them into their homes. I think it's something we can all learn from, we need to accept people for who they are and not judge them by the color of their skin," said Moses-Randle.

This year The Rockets will also be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame, in Battleford.

Jensen said the story of The Rockets is significant to the month of February—Black History Month.

"Well, we're working with the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum and Carol La Fayette-Boyd said, 'a lot of people just don't know that this happened, being part of Black History Month is to just share their story. To say this happened and that they were here, they contributed to the history of baseball in Saskatchewan and in Western Canada. It just needs to be remembered.'"

"I think it's one of those things because it happened 70 years ago, it's kind of that precipice where the story could get lost to the fans of that time," Jensen said.

The Rockets originally came from Jacksonville, Florida to Indian Head Saskatchewan in the 1950s. Jensen said one of the players from the team Nat Bates, is still alive.

"I think Janine and I both felt that we need to collect as much information as we can now, because Nat Bates, who was a pitcher in 1952, I mean he's 91 years old. We didn't think that we would ever find someone to talk to that was a Rocket, we were so blessed and grateful that we could actually connect with him."

Jensen said sharing the history of The Rockets is important to the community of Saskatchewan.

"We're trying to work with the high schools, when kids are young it's good for them to see and hear these stories. For them to know that you can do this, you can do this as an individual, you can do this as a community, and you can do this as a baseball player," she said.

"The ball players that came up here, they came from adversity in the States and they pursued their passion of baseball, regardless of the unknown. Like Janine said, they didn't know what it was going to happen when they came up here but something fantastic happened and they just pushed through all those insecurities and just kept going."

"As a community you know if you can get a group of people together, magical things can happen and that's what happened in this town. The Rockets all pulled together and they brought in world class baseball and 25,000 to 30,000 people into this town. It's an incredible story."

Jensen said digging into research about The Rockets, has been a learning experience.

"I've learned a lot, I've been talking with people all across Canada in pursuit of information for the exhibit and everyone I talk to is just absolutely fascinated with the story, and people want to hear more about it. People said please let us know what you find, it really is a story that is attracting a lot of interest and attention."

"There's just incredibly kind people out there who just genuinely want to help you."

Janine Moses-Randle said the exhibit of The Rockets at the Indian Head Museum should be open by the last weekend in June of this year.

"The town when we have our parade day, we'll be doing an opening of the exhibit that weekend."



Between 25,000 and 30,000 people would travel to the community of Indian Head in order to watch the baseball games of the 1950s all Black baseball team, The Rockets. Photo courtesy of the Indian Head Museum.



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An aerial view of the Nutrien Rocanville mine site.

Nutrien has record potash sales in 2021, expects new record in 2022

Nutrien had record sales of 13.6 million tonnes of potash in 2021, and the company says it expects to set another record in 2022, ranging from 13.7 to 14.3 million tonnes.

"The advantages of Nutrien's integrated business were demonstrated in 2021 as we delivered record financial results and made significant progress on our long-term strategic targets, including our key sustainability priorities. We utilized the scale and reliability of our world-class supply chain and the strong execution of our teams to ensure customers had the products and services they needed, when they needed them," commented Ken Seitz, Nutrien's Interim President and CEO.

"The outlook for global agriculture and crop input markets is very strong and we are well positioned to deliver significant growth in earnings and free cash flow in 2022. We will continue to advance our strategic priorities and maintain a disciplined approach to deploying capital, using our strong financial position to grow the business and return significant cash to shareholders," added Seitz.

Potash adjusted EBITDA surpassed \$1 billion in the fourth quarter and increased 130 percent in the full year of 2021 to \$2.7 billion.

"We achieved record sales volumes of 13.6 million tonnes in 2021 due to our capability to quickly ramp up production from our flexible, low-cost network of six mines," Nutrien said.

Global potash prices increased in response to record global demand of 70 million in 2021 and tightness of supply

due to mine flooding, new project delays and uncertainty around sanctions imposed on Belarus by the US and Europe.

"We believe that many of these supply issues will continue into 2022, including additional restrictions imposed on Belarus potash transported through Lithuania," Nutrien said. "We estimate 2022 global shipments in a range of 68 to 71 million tonnes."

Nutrien expects record potash sales volumes between 13.7 to 14.3 million tonnes in 2022. This forecast assumes sanctions on Belarus have a temporary impact on global supply.

If there was a more significant long-term impact on

global supply, Nutrien said it has the capability to further ramp up production by hiring additional employees and incurring some small incremental capital expenditures.

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Construction is under way on Cobblestone House on Wright Road in Moosomin. The 42-unit building will include long-term care beds and assisted living units.

Construction begins on Cobblestone House

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

With investments and financing in place, construction has begun at the site of Cobblestone House.

Cobblestone House is a 42-unit long-term care/assisted living facility being built next to Pipestone Villas on Wright Road in Moosomin. The facility will include both long-term care units similar to a nursing home and assisted living units, and will provide 15 FTE jobs.

The building is being constructed by a partnership of Bridge Road Construction, Kohr Capital, Care by Design and local investors. The construction of Cobblestone House began a few weeks ago now that construction financing has been approved.

An official sod-turning was held Wednesday, March 9.

The construction of Cobblestone House has begun, with piles being driven into the ground last week. It is expected that framing will begin in April.

Due to supply chain issues, the forecasted construction costs have increased approximately \$700,000 from the original estimate.

"Piles will probably take a couple of weeks which will then be followed by our concrete crew that will be doing grade beams as well as the floor slab," Travis Penner of Bridge Road Construction said.

"Concrete work will probably take us through the rest of March and into April and then following that will be our elevator shaft and framing to start probably mid-April. Things are moving forward."

Penner said the project will take about a year to complete.

"We would anticipate 12 months of construction. So we're anticipating construction to wrap up at the beginning of next March."

He said there have been some hurdles to overcome up to this point.

With costs coming in higher than antici-

pated, the cost of constructing the building will cost about \$9 million to construct, up from the \$8.3 million originally planned.

Moosomin mayor Larry Tomlinson said the building is an important addition to the community.

"We are very pleased that this project is going forward in our community and shows what can happen and be accomplished when everybody works together." This project will create and employ about 15 people for full time jobs. This is a great addition to our community and a big thanks to all that contributed to make this come to fruition and happen and will be a great asset to the town. We already have two buildings there with Pipestone Villas, and the third building will be assisted living, which is something we need in Moosomin. It's going to create some jobs, which is a good thing, but the most important thing is the difference it will make for families. Lots of people have had to go away because of assisted living, and now they will be able to stay in their own community.

"A lot of people see Moosomin as a good place to retire because we have the hospital, we have the doctors, we have good housing, and now we have this as one more option."

Penner said it is exciting to see the project moving forward.

"It's very exciting," said Penner. "Bridge Road, has been a part of the Moosomin community for nearly 11 years now and it's exciting to see the circle close on that campus of buildings and be able to offer not only independent living there, but now also care, including end of life care. We're excited to be a part of that, we're excited for the town of Moosomin to be able to offer this to its residents, and we can't wait to get started."

Once construction is well under way, work will begin on filling the units.

"Due to the level of care of some of these units, there's a certain number of them that will not be marketed until a little bit later in the project just due to the level of care required," said Penner. "Often that's required on a shorter notice than six to 12 months out, but in the coming months we're going to begin marketing the upper two floors. We're planning for that and getting materials ready for that launch."

"Based on the experience of Heather and Jim at Care by Design, we're anticipat-

ing six to 12 months after opening that we should be fully leased."

However, those with an interest in living in the building can contact the builders.

"The waitlist is already started," said Larry Scammell of Kohr Capital. "There's only two or three names on it but it has started. So definitely anybody who is interested, even though it's a year or so away, definitely contact us and express that interest and we'll get their contact info and they will hear more when the leasing process begins."



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The architect's drawing of Cobblestone House, a 42-unit long-term care and assisted living facility that will create 15 full-time equivalent positions.



Pierre Poilievre making an announcement in Regina, left, and speaking at a rally with 1,000 people, right, on March 4.

Poilievre promises repeal of C-48, C-69 if elected

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Pierre Poilievre, the first declared candidate in the Conservative leadership race, was in Saskatchewan March 4, where he promised to repeal the carbon tax and repeal Bills C-48 and C-69 which make it more difficult to build energy infrastructure like pipelines, and make it impossible to export oil from Canada's West Coast.

"As we look out at these country roads that we're driving on yesterday, remember how much rural people have to spend to travel from place to place with gas now heading close to \$1.60 a litre," Poilievre told reporters. "That's why yesterday I announced that a Poilievre government will repeal the federal carbon tax and make life more affordable for consumers and make it possible for businesses to redirect that money to hiring more workers and reducing consumer prices."

"I believe a dollar in the hands of the person who earned it will always be better spent than a dollar in the hands of a politician who taxed it, and under my leadership taxes will only ever go down."

"But people need incomes in the first place and that means jobs. Right now we have anti-energy laws in this country that are preventing people from harvesting our resources and bringing them responsibly to market. Bill C-69, the no new pipelines bill, makes it practically impossible to get a pipeline approved in this country. What is the result of that? It means we continue to import millions of barrels of oil from dirty dictatorships from around the world giving revenues to Maduro in Venezuela or Putin in Russia."

"In the 24 hours after Putin announced that he was going to try to divide up Ukraine, the United States of America spent \$700,000,000 buying Russian oil. And Europe was unable to forcibly confront Putin before the invasion because they of course rely on Russia for the natural gas to heat their homes and power their industries. This is a major geopolitical problem for the world, it is an international security threat."

"The irony is that we have the energy here at home to fix this problem. We have

1,300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and back in 2014 there were 18 liquefied natural gas projects under consideration. Fast forward to today, zero have been built.

"South of the border they've built over half a dozen in exactly the same time which means that the Americans are going to be the ones taking advantage of the natural gas opportunity."

"We should be exporting our natural gas to displace dirty foreign coal and reduce global emissions by rapidly approving the construction of liquifaction facilities."

"You know what you need to liquefy natural gas? Cold. You know what we have in Canada? Lots of cold. In fact, it is our most abundant natural resource if you look out the window. We could be liquefying natural gas in Newfoundland which has a proposal to do that and ship that natural gas to Europe in order to break the European dependence on Russia."

"We could be shipping Canadian natural gas to Asia to shut down dirty coal and reduce greenhouse gases there. We could be harvesting our oil here to meet global markets but also to reduce the cost of energy for consumers here at home."

Poilievre promises to repeal two bills

"I am announcing today that a Poilievre government will repeal Justin Trudeau's anti-energy laws to allow us to build Canadian pipelines with Canadian workers using Canadian steel to bring Canadian energy to Canadian consumers," Poilievre said.

"Furthermore we will repeal C-69, we will also repeal C-48. C-48 bans us from shipping Canadian energy off the Northwest coast of British Columbia."

"Let's be clear, it doesn't ban shipping in the Pacific. Foreign vessels can take foreign oil and transport it all around the Pacific seas but we can't export oil energy even though it is the most ethically produced. This policy has prevented First Nations from building a pipeline that would benefit them, think of Northern Gateway which had the support of 32 of 40 First Nations communities along its route. Justin Trudeau vetoed that

and prevented it from being re-initiated by banning the shipping of our energy off the Northwest coast."

"I am announcing today that I will repeal Bill C-48 as well. I will replace these anti-energy laws with new laws that protect the environment, consult First Nations and provide them with pay cheques and give quick decisions on proposed energy projects. Here we are at a great business that is not a petroleum business, this is the irony."

"There are so many industries that rely secondarily on the energy sector. We have the machinery here to lay down pipelines, we have a powerful steel industry in Regina, we have the steel sector in central Canada. We should be using our great steel workers in Hamilton and other parts of Canada to provide the steel to build the pipelines of the future. We should provide affordable energy to Canadian consumers and bigger paycheques to our people."

"As Prime Minister I will put Canadians back in charge of their lives, remove the gatekeepers that are blocking opportunity, allow First Nations to continue to work hard to escape poverty and have a brighter more prosperous future and make Canada the freest country on Earth."

Poilievre calls for expulsion of Russian ambassador

The World-Spectator asked Poilievre at the media event "is there anything else you think the federal government should be doing right now in terms of sanctions against Russia or any other action against Russia?"

"I think we should kick the Russian ambassador out of Ottawa and we should bring home Canada's ambassador from Russia," Poilievre said.

"I also think we should open our doors to Ukrainian refugees, Saskatchewan, Alberta and many other parts of this country were largely built by the hard working industrious people who came here from Ukraine over so many years."

"I think there's been over 1,000,000 Ukrainians who came to Canada over the last century. We are stronger for it and we should open our

doors as we always have to invite those people who are desperate for freedom to partake in our freedom and our bounty and I call on the government to expedite the refugee process to bring more people here."

Poilievre said he will make affordability the cornerstone of his campaign. "We will win the next election by proposing to make life more affordable for people and allowing them to fulfill their dreams. Look, right now, young people can't even afford a house. You've got a 32-year-old man living in their mom's basement because it costs over a million dollars for the average home. You've got single mothers who are anxiously walking down

grocery aisles because they have to cut their kids' nutrition in order to afford their grocery bill and you've got people who don't know how they're going to be able to drive to work with gas at \$2 a litre. Justin Trudeau's inflationary policies, big deficits and high taxes are

causing this cost of living crisis and only my low tax, fiscally responsible plan will reverse this inflation. That's Justinflation and it's just unacceptable. I will put an end to it with low taxes, returning to a balanced budget and making life more affordable for Canadians."



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East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre says it's important to welcome and include newcomers into the community

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre aims to help newcomers, immigrants and refugees in East Central Saskatchewan and works with many newcomers in the Moosomin area.

By providing services and information to newcomers, the organization strives to make the transition of individuals who are new to Canada, a welcoming and helpful experience.

Executive director of the agency, Edith Montesclaros, said the main purpose of the agency is assist newcomers in connecting with the community.

"There's a history of newcomers spending two years in one small community, then they leave for a bigger city because they claim that bigger cities have more to offer, but there are so many things that smaller communities can offer to newcomers," she said.

"We want for them to be retained in our region because that's what we really want, is for them to stay. We really want them to stay because they can contribute to a lot of things and we know that because they have so many talents."

Montesclaros said it is important for the organization to help new Canadians connect with the community so that they feel they are welcomed.

"For example, someone who may be going through depression because of the winter, long nights and having no family members around, might make them feel isolated. So we try to provide the services to alleviate some of those challenges, and provide information to them, as it's the most important thing. It's sometimes difficult to find information when you don't know what you're looking for."

The program officially started in 2018, but Edith said the settlement services offered by the government to help immigrants, refugees and non-permanent residents, have been going on since 2008.

People who can benefit from the organization may include immigrants, refugees, temporary workers, international students and permanent residents in Canada.

Montesclaros said there is no limit to how long individuals can use the services that are offered from East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre.

"Years ago we were told it should be two to five years, but we had this gentleman who was 83 years old. He came to us, he just discovered he was just a permanent resident and not a Canadian citizen, so we helped him," she said.



The East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre provides free settlement services to newcomers within the east central area. Members of the agency are (left) Babatunde Olaleye, Shanley Allard, Freda Balan, Leah Lutz, Anshu Raina, Scott Sharpe, Edith Montesclaros, Poonam Kaur and Jeisel Tolentino.

"He's been here for more than 50 years and thought he was a permanent resident, who would help him? Service Canada couldn't help him so we helped him because he needed it. So whoever needs help, we're here. If a newcomer is independent we don't have a problem if they do their own thing, but if someone needs help we're here to help them for as long as they need. To me, that's my take on the service."

Between the 10 staff members, Montesclaros said individuals can communicate with newcomers through a total of 10 languages. Some languages include Filipino, Cebuano, Ukrainian, Russian, a Nigerian dialect of English, Punjabi and more.

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In partnership between the Town of Moosomin, the R.M. of Moosomin No. 121, and the Community Builders Alliance (CBA), the Moosomin Economic Development Committee is now accepting resumes for the position of a Full-Time "Economic Development Officer" (EDO).

Reporting to the Economic Development Committee, the EDO is responsible for the overall function of Economic development. In general, this includes office duties, attending and facilitating meetings, budgeting and financial reporting, identifying/pursuing/exploring opportunities for economic development, and promotional activities, with the complete job description available online at www.moosomin.com.

The desired candidate will have relevant post-secondary education with a minimum of (2) years of administrative experience in a related economic or business development position. This experience shall include related aspects of budget control and demonstrate effective communication skills. Knowledge of municipal (zoning regulations), and provincial and federal legislation (ie. codes, etc.), as it pertains to development of property would be an asset.

A valid Saskatchewan Class 5 drivers license is required, and applicant must also provide a Criminal Record check from the R.C.M.P., acceptable to the committee.

Interested persons are asked to submit a complete and current resume with references, and expected salary, until April 8th, 2022, however, this time period may be extended until such time as a suitable applicant is chosen.

The Economic Development Committee thanks all those that apply, however, only candidates being considered for the position will be further contacted.

Applications may be mailed, delivered, faxed, or e-mailed to the Town of Moosomin at the following address:

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RCMP name the puppy contest on until March 17

It is that time of year again. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) needs help in naming the puppies that will become Canada's future RCMP Police Dogs.

The Police Dog Service Training Centre (PDSTC) in Innisfail, Alberta is asking young Canadians to suggest names for 13 German Shepherd puppies that will be born at the Centre in 2022.

Children are encouraged to be original and imaginative in finding names that will serve these puppies well in their careers with Canada's national police force.

When thinking of names, it is important to keep in mind that these are working police dogs, not pets.

Winning names will be chosen by the PDSTC staff. A draw will determine the winning entry in the event of multiple submissions of the same puppy name.

Although there can be only 13 winners, names not selected for the contest will be considered for other puppies born during the year.

Prizes

The 13 whose names are selected will each receive a laminated 8x10-inch photo of the pup they name, a plush dog named Justice and an RCMP water bottle.

Contest rules are simple:

- Contestants can suggest only one name (one entry per person)
- The name may be for a male or a female pup
- The name must start with the letter "R"

- The name must have no more than nine letters
- The name must be one or two syllables
- Contestants must be 4 to 14 years old
- Contestants must live in Canada
- Entries must be received by March 17, 2022

Enter online

To enter the contest, visit us online: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/policedogs-chienspoliciers/name-the-puppy-nomme-chiot-eng.htm>.

Important dates

The deadline for entries is March 17, 2022. Contest winners and prizes will be announced on April 13, 2022.

Submitting artwork

The RCMP no longer accept entries sent through the mail. However, they still love receiving drawings and paintings!

After entering online, children have the option to enter their artwork to the Police Dog Service Training Centre at puppy-chiot@rcmp-grc.gc.ca. All contest entries must be submitted online.



About the Police Dog Service Training Centre

The PDSTC is home to the RCMP national police dog training program and is a part of RCMP Depot Division. The Centre has earned a great reputation for breeding top quality working German Shepherds and for training dogs with outstanding searching and tracking abilities.



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East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre says it's important to welcome and include newcomers into the community



Edith Montesclaros, executive director of East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc., said it's important for newcomers to become aware of the resources that is offered to new Canadians, that assist with their transition into East Central communities.

Continued from page 13

Many services offered

Montesclaros said the clientele the agency usually receives, are referred by family members who are already present in the community. However, she hopes to expand awareness of the agency, so that more people can benefit from its services.

"People who come here for help have different statuses, the most common status we have now is permanent resident through the family unification, meaning that a permanent resident who's already here, decided to sponsor their family members like a spouse, the children or the parents, so that's the family reunification program."

The non-profit agency offers its services to a variety of different people, Montesclaros said.

"People are referred through the college, like international students of the college. The college usually refers their students to us and we provide services to them. At one point, Parkland College had the largest number of international students referred to us. This was pre-Covid, but after Covid the numbers got affected because of restrictions for international students to attend in-person classes."

"We also have temporary workers who were hired by the hospitality sec-

tor, that includes Tim Hortons, McDonald's, and they were hired directly or from recruiters to come here. Those individuals usually hear about us and would come to our office if they need something," she said.

"We have permanent residents, naturalized citizens, non-permanent residents which include international students and temporary workers, so that's our target population."

Because the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc. is a non-profit organization, its services are free of charge. Children, parents and families can benefit from the services that assist them in adapting to the community.

Montesclaros said the agency's newest program, the Local Immigration Partnership, connects stakeholders and people in the community to work together.

"Our new program targets stakeholders and volunteers in the community, in trying to make our region a welcoming place. Let's face it no community is perfect, so they have these 17 characteristics of a welcoming community and we haven't met at least half of those characteristics," she said.

"But it has to be identified by the immigrants, so stakeholders are brought at the table and we try to figure out how to develop a welcoming community for newcomers. I

It's all about the newcomers and stakeholders, so we discuss what can we do about it, is it fixable or solvable, how can we adjust those challenges. It has to be the community who decides what's prioritized and how are we going to go about it, if it's really fixable and stuff like that, but we need to have a discussion on it."

Another program the agency offers—The Settlement Worker in Schools Program (SWIS)—is directed for helping parents and students from two school boards in the East Central region.

"We have an agreement with Good Spirit School Division and Christ the Teacher School Division, so we cover all of their schools and community needs," Montesclaros said.

"We help students and families because sometimes the students are referred to us by the school, and it's actually the parents who need help, so we

help the parents as well."

"We've been around for years but of course not everyone has heard about us, that's why we've been trying to promote our services because we're here to help. Our services are at no cost, we're funded by the government. Our volunteers have a good heart because they try and help people with their settlement and other things that are needed of assistance."

Montesclaros said she and her team are proud to be part of an organization that helps newcomers connect within their communities.

"We always talk about it. We're just so proud, especially when we started working with someone and they started

out as a temporary resident, and then become a citizen. We're just so proud when they leave and they're so happy because they had their oath taking for Canadian citizenship."

"You're just so satisfied that you have provided services to individuals and they finally got their main objective of becoming a citizen."

The East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc. offers its services within 150 km radius around Yorkton. The agency's office is located at Unit H, 132 Broadway Street West in Yorkton. They can be reached at 1 (306) 783-2777, or at ecnwcinfo@ecnwc.ca, along with their website: www.EastCentralNewcomer-Centre.ca.



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Kim Poole photo

VCI performs Frozen Jr.

The Virden Collegiate Performing Arts Program presented a performance of Disney's Frozen Jr. on March 2 and March 4 at the Aud Theatre in Virden. Above is the cast on stage during the March 2 performance. Below are some scenes from the musical.

The cast included Kendall Charles as Young Anna, Daelyn Fechak as Anna, Quincy Smith as Young Elsa, Keira Peters as Elsa, Nathan Archambault as King Agnarr, Felicia Pringle as Queen Iduna, Natalie Draper as Pabbie, Hannah Tinant as Bulda, Cody Thiessen as Bishop, Evan Terin as Kristoff, Kyle Krieser as Sven, Dylan Southam as Hans, Jamie Thiessen as Duke of Weselton, Brynn McGrath as Olaf, Cody Thiessen as Oaken and the Oaken's Family of Sam Andrew, Elizabeth Anderson, Lucy Boynton, Kendall Charles, Natalie Draper, Sarah Keown, Felicia Pringle, Quincy Smith and Hannah Tinant.



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Local artist hosting first-ever artist retreat in Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

Local artist Jacqui Beckett will be hosting Moosomin's first-ever artist retreat this summer from July 11 to July 15.

The retreat will see around 30 artists in Moosomin that week, and while it will be a non-instructional retreat, impromptu demonstrations, mini lessons, and collaborations will be welcomed and encouraged.

Artists in any medium are welcome to attend the retreat, which will be held at the Conexus Convention Centre, with a show and sale open to the public on Thursday, July 14 from 7-9 pm.

Beckett—who is an established artist herself in painting, pottery, and silk painting—says artist retreats are not only a good way for artists to get together to create, collaborate and communicate with each other, but the retreat will also be a way to bring more of the arts to Moosomin.

"I know from my own experience going to all the different retreats that I've been to that it's very inspiring as an artist and we have so much fun together and we learn together, and I would really like to see that happening in Moosomin," she says. "Moosomin's a great town for sports, and kudos to everybody that volunteers and to (rec director) Mike (Schwean). It's a great sports town and I love this town, but I just would really love to see the arts in the picture a little bit more."

Beckett has been an artist in Moosomin since the 1980s and says that while she's been to many artist retreats over the years, she doesn't ever recall Moosomin having one, so it would be a first. She hopes the retreat can become an annual event.

"It's a non-instructional retreat. So there are no workshops planned. So artists come and they bring their supplies and whatever they want to work on for the entire week," she says. "Just about every retreat that I've been to, there's been pop-up little demonstrations. If I'm working on some project and someone's interested in how I do it, there's a little demonstration or impromptu workshop going on.



Moosomin artist Jacqui Beckett at home with one of her paintings and her paints. Beckett is hosting Moosomin's first-ever artist retreat in July.

close at night. So people can come and go as they please or take a break, come downtown and shop or whatever they like to do."

Beckett says artist retreats are always a great experience for both experienced and new or budding artists. "You learn so much from other artists just by watching them," she says. "Just about everybody I've been around at a retreat is certainly willing to show somebody what to do. So as a young artist or a new artist or a shy artist, just come and bring what you do and there's lots of people who will help you.

"I think that it's very inspiring and you leave just really uplifted and wanting to do more art or even wanting to do different art, maybe try something different than what you've been doing for 10 or 20 years. It's inspiring.

"I've always been a painter and then at an artist retreat that's when I got inspired to do my silk work and started working with that. There's so many different techniques for visual art especially. I've been to retreats where they've had musicians come to write or poets, or writers have come. They're certainly welcome to come. Sculptors, carvers,

anyone is welcome.

"Any medium is welcome to come. There's all kinds of makers out there.

"You make really long lasting friendships and connections with people, and you widen your knowledge of different mediums and you find out about different artists that have been in your area forever and then you can maybe get together again sometime.

"A lot of artists are quite shy. I found on my first retreat that I felt so intimidated to go there, but as soon as you're there, it's just fun and relaxing and really joyful. I get quite excited about going to them."

Registration for the retreat in Moosomin opened as of March 1. Beckett says she has already had interest from artists in local communities like Moosomin, Maryfield, Wawota, Rocanville, Elkhorn, and Virden, and even as far away as Regina, Moose Jaw, Shoal Lake and Hamiota.

"That's my goal, to spread the arts and culture a little bit more in our town," she says. "Or get the ones that are shy coming out."

Anyone wishing to register for the retreat can contact Beckett at jacquibeckett@gmail.com or 306-434-7090.

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Governments remain committed to supporting producers through 2022 Crop Insurance program

On Feb. 22, Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the 2022 Crop Insurance Program.

"The resilience and determination that prairie producers have shown through this incredibly challenging year is an inspiration to all Canadians," said Bibeau. "The drought of 2021 demonstrated the value in risk management programs, such as Saskatchewan's Crop Insurance, to ensure producers have the best coverage to meet their needs. I encourage producers to continue to subscribe to government programs and private insurance that will protect their crops against ongoing climate-related challenges."

"Reflected through the historically high claim year, the challenges Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers faced during the 2021 growing season reinforces the importance of our Business Risk Management Programs," Marit said. "The Crop Insurance Program remains an actuarial sound program, with strong funding. Producers can continue to rely on the support, coverage and flexibility of the Crop Insurance Program, as they work toward the future of their operation."

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues to provide relevant pricing and coverage levels. Average coverage will reach a record level of \$405 per acre, due to higher commodity prices and increased yield coverage. Due to this year's 48 per cent increase in coverage, the average total premium is higher, at \$12.05 per acre, compared to \$8.59 in 2021. The average premium rate is lower, due to the strong production in 2020. As there is a one-year lag when calculating premium rates, 2021 production is not used until 2023.

"We appreciate the changes to these programs for 2022-23," SARM President Ray Orb said. "SARM has always valued working with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture to make programs better for our producers and looks forward to that continued collaboration in the future."

Last year, producers faced a provincial-wide drought, resulting in reduced available moisture to pasture and hay land. In response to experiencing extreme heat temperatures and dry growing conditions, a heat adjustment factor was added to rainfall data used in claim calculations for the Forage and Corn Rainfall Insurance programs. When temperatures reach 31 degrees Celsius or higher, precipitation amounts are now reduced in the 'monthly per cent of normal' calculation. This adjustment

helps recognize the impact of extreme heat on forage and corn yields.

"Business risk management programs are critical tools for producers to address market volatility and severe weather conditions," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Kelyc Elford said. "We appreciate SCIC responding to producers needs to make coverage levels more reflective of increased forage costs and to adjust for moisture loss due to extreme heat."

With the Contract Price Option, producers can use their contract prices to blend with the Crop Insurance base price for higher coverage. This allows producers to establish an insured price reflective of the actual market value they would receive for their production. New for 2022, this price option is available on all commercial crops. New crops added include fababeans, Khorasan wheat, fall and spring rye, sunflowers, triticale, winter wheat, extra strong wheat, hard white wheat, all classes of chickpeas, caraway, irrigated dry beans and soybeans. Producers can select the crops they want covered under the Contract Price Option by March 31, 2022, and submit their contracts to SCIC by May 31, 2022.

"We appreciate the changes SCIC has made to the Contract Price Option," Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Chair Shaun Dyrland said. "It could be an attractive option for pulse growers with the new inclusion of chickpeas, soybeans and fababeans."

March 31, 2022, is the deadline to apply, reinstate or cancel their Crop Insurance contract. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date. Producers can speak to their local SCIC office to make any changes or coverage will remain the same as the previous year.

SCIC provides a diverse and relevant suite of risk management programs: AgriStability, Crop Insurance and Livestock Price Insurance. Producers can reduce their risk by reviewing all SCIC options to find the right insurance and coverage package for their operation. For more information, contact a local SCIC office, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit scic.ca.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-territorial Business Risk Management program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan. Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.



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Manitoba Association of Watersheds leads partnership on AAFC's on-farm climate action fund

Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW) is a successful recipient of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) On Farm Climate Action Fund Project. The MAW-led project, which was supported by 38 organizations throughout the region, will receive up to \$40 million over the two-year project to be delivered throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan around three key farming practices that benefit climate resiliency in agriculture: rotational grazing, nitrogen management, and cover crops.

"The fight against climate change is not only about reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, but also helping farmers to innovate and adopt more sustainable farming practices," said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "We will continue to do what is necessary to protect our environment and provide farmers with the support needed to make their operations more sustainable for future generations. The On-Farm Climate Action Fund builds on the work already underway by our Government to lower greenhouse gas emissions and help improve long-term climate resiliency in the agriculture sector."

"We are ecstatic to receive this news," said Lynda Nicol, MAW executive director. "The project partners we are aligned with all have long history of producer-focused project delivery and producer outreach, which are key components of the project proposal's success."

Nicol said the AAFC project will be overseen by a steering committee led by MAW, and including Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW), Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA), Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC), Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), and Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP), in addition to representatives from watershed districts in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The project partners will be fully engaged in planning, outreach, mentorship, and producer engagement.

"We are taking a grass-roots, regional approach to addressing issues related to climate change in agriculture," said Garry Wasylowski, MAW board chair. "Supporting farmers to implement BMPs related to nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and cover cropping will have a posi-

itive impact on Canadian agriculture. We are proud to have the opportunity to deliver this programming in Manitoba and Saskatchewan thanks to AAFC."

Nicol pointed out the front-end work of the

MFGA in the organizing of the regional group's discussions around the proposal opportunity and says the framework and respective group networks, including conservation interests and agriculture groups, are in

place to allow the group to move forward quickly under MAW's leadership.

"This is a project for producers and has been since our very first steps together as a group," said Nicol. "We are intent on

producers seeing the great impacts they can make on their farmlands via this project and are confident in the strength of our delivery partners to move this project forward to communicate, mentor and en-

gage producers efficiently while delivering the on farm climate actions identified by AAFC that are so paramount to this project. We expect more program details will be released in March."



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Sask ag exports hit record in 2021

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan exported a record value of agriculture exports in 2021 as higher prices more than made up for lower production due to drought conditions.

Saskatchewan's agricultural exports were worth \$17.5 billion in 2021, which set another new record for the province.

The 2021 total was an increase of almost seven per cent over the record of \$16.4 billion set in 2020, which itself surpassed the previous year by 27 per cent.

Leading agri-food export commodities in 2021 continue to be canola seed, canola oil, non-durum wheat, lentils, durum and dry peas, with top international market destinations including the United States, China, Japan and Mexico.

"These record export numbers show Saskatchewan is in a strong position to continue producing and supplying the world-class agricultural products a growing world wants and needs," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said.

"Our growing export base is creating economic opportunity, good jobs and generating investment for communities across the province."

Agri-food exports represented nearly half of Saskatchewan exports in 2021, valued at \$37.1 billion. Saskatchewan overcame challenges including infrastructure disruptions due to adverse weather events in British Columbia to remain one of Canada's leading agri-food exporters, with a global reputation as a consistent supplier of safe, high quality, sustainability-produced agri-food products.

Saskatchewan exported more than \$2.6 billion in each of its key crop product sectors—cereal grains, oilseeds, pulses and edible oils—in 2021.

Compared to 2020, canola oil saw an increase of over 50 per cent, with exports



Farmers volunteer to harvest a crop for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank at the Harvest for Hope near Moosomin in the fall of 2021. Saskatchewan exported a record value of agriculture products in 2021, as higher prices more than made up for lower production due to drought conditions.

to the United States increasing 72 per cent from \$1.1 billion to \$1.9 billion.

Canola oil to South Korea also experienced a dramatic increase of 106 per cent from \$71 million to \$146 million.

"Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is, and has always been, a significant part of our economy - with an impact that extends far beyond our provincial borders," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

"Our producers have fed the world for generations, and we continue to enable the innovation necessary to keep feeding the world's growing population, expected to be 10 billion people by 2050. These export figures prove once again

that we're up to that challenge and well on the way to meeting the future goals we've set."

Saskatchewan has grown its agricultural exports by more than 56 per cent since 2012.

The province's ongoing international market expansion plans are progressing with the establishment of new trade and investment offices in the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Mexico and Vietnam in addition to existing offices in Japan, India, China and Singapore.

The value-added processing and agriculture sectors are major components of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goals, which include increasing crop produc-

tion to 45 million tonnes, agriculture exports to \$20 billion, and value-added revenue to \$10 billion by the end of this decade.

The most recent example of progress toward these targets includes the announcement by Federated Co-operatives Ltd. of their plans to develop a renewable diesel facility as well as a canola crushing plant in Regina, in partnership with AGT Foods, with a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes and combined economic benefits estimated at \$4.5 billion.

Saskatchewan has the second-highest GDP per capita in Canada, second only to Alberta.

Minister Marit spoke about what he expects the records of crops to be like in the future.

"We're hoping to achieve very significant numbers, our growth strategy is we want to hit 45 metric tonnes by 2030. When you look at that number alone just on the food production side and the livestock side of things, you'll see \$3 billion there as well," said Marit.

"When you see those numbers of production of the livestock side as well, you're obviously going to see an increase in the value of that trend, so you'll see those dollars increase as well."

"What it really means is that agriculture always has and always will be a leading industry in this province. When you look at what global companies are doing and the record investments they made into this province, these are significant investment dollars that these companies are making in this province, to increase value added production."

"I think what it recognizes is that global companies and countries around the world, have recognized that there's a huge opportunity in the food production side from the province of Saskatchewan, that's what it tells me."

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Twin Valley

SARM looking for more volunteers to join Rural Crime Watch initiative to reduce crime in RMs

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In February, the Saskatchewan Rural Crime Watch Association (SRCWA) announced that they are seeking more volunteers to join their Rural Crime Watch initiative, in order to reduce crime in rural municipalities across the province.

"Rural municipal landowners have been keeping a watchful eye over their land for years because the risk of crime happening and going unnoticed in remote areas is a reality they live with," said Ray Orb, SARM President.

"So this idea of a Rural Crime Watch Association is exactly what we need for our residents. The only way we will find success with our recently established Saskatchewan Rural Crime Watch Association (SRCWA) is by members joining together to volunteer."

SARM's call to action is for more residents in their 296

RMs to join as volunteers with local crime watch groups.

"We're really pushing this out to the public to make sure as many RMs as possible can join the Rural Crime Watch network. At the same time we're asking rural residents to take part in this as well, because we need lots of volunteers out there," Orb said.

"We really need people to join Rural Crime Watch because of the fact that they need to be the eyes and ears out there, and they need to help the local RCMP detachments, to do surveillance, to watch for things that the RCMP reports, but also to provide information back to the RCMP."

"Because of that network and the collaboration that goes with it, we're hoping we can reduce the rural crime that's still prevalent out there. Its numbers are increasing from time to time, and we would like to lower those numbers."

Although rural crime slowed down for a bit, Orb said criminal activity in rural areas has increased over the last year.

"There's still property crimes on the rise, mostly because of break ins and theft. There are lots of areas out there that are remote, places where there might not be people living, those are the areas where crime seems to occur. It's still a problem that's for sure," said Orb.

He said local volunteers will help in reducing overall rural crime, as police are not always able to be present in rural areas.

Continued on page 24

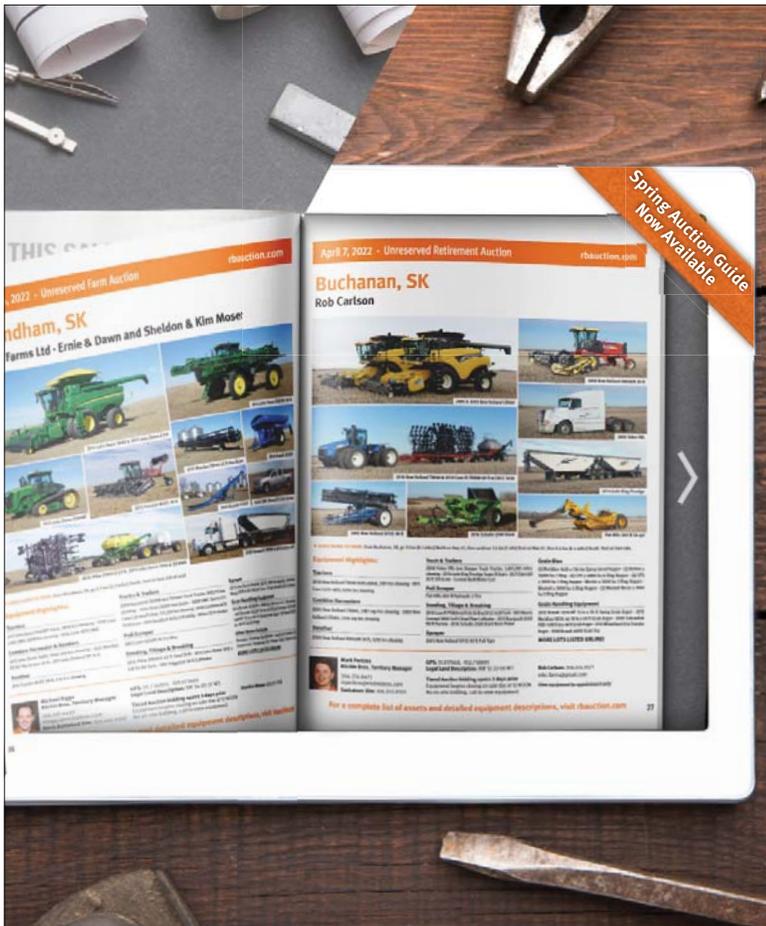


SARM is calling on people to volunteer with local crime watch groups in a bid to reduce rural crime overall.

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SARM looking for more volunteers to join Rural Crime Watch initiative to reduce crime in RMs

Continued from page 23

"Local people can help because they'll be getting information from the RCMP. One example is the RCMP may be looking for a certain vehicle that was involved with a break in or theft, and people can watch for that vehicle," Orb said.

"They can make a model of that vehicle or its license plate, so if they see that, they can report it. It really saves the RCMP a lot of time and it also brings a lot more people into the network, that can watch for the same thing and report on it."

"It's a pretty efficient system and certainly makes a difference."

How RMs and residents can volunteer for Rural Crime Watch

Volunteers can sign up to be a part of the Rural Crime Watch Association by contacting their local RCMP officer.

"People can contact their local RCMP detachment and in most cases it's going to be the RM local assigned to initiate this, so they will get a list of volunteers of people who are interested in joining," said Orb.

"Then they will get a criminal record check from

the RCMP, and then the person will most likely have a meeting with their RM council or the RCMP. They'll lay out the ground rules for what that person will need to do and how things will actually work."

Orb said the call for action for volunteers to help in rural areas has been an ongoing project.

"We've had this provincial wide association in effect for less than a year, and I think things have slowed down a little bit."

"We have about 13 RMs that belong to this provincial association, but we have some operating independently so we would like to bring them all in under a new umbrella," said Orb.

"Also we would like new RMs, because eventually we want all RMs to join. We're pushing this harder now and bringing attention to the RMs and the general public, to let them know that our convention is coming up in Regina in less than a month."

He said if any RMs or rural residents have any questions about the Rural Crime Watch Association, they can contact SRCWA at the upcoming SARM convention in March.

"We have Rural Crime Watch on our agenda because rural crime is always an issue, and we also have our association in the trade show so that people will be able to stop by and ask for information, and talk about how they can sign up."

The Saskatchewan Rural Crime Watch Association (SRCWA) brings efforts to combat rural crime together, under one provincial umbrella. The non-profit association is led by SARM, SUMA, Rural Crime Watch members, the RCMP, and the Ministry of Corrections and Policing.

It's a community-led and police-supported program dedicated to preventing and reducing criminal behavior.

"This newly formed collaboration is underway with SARM, but the call for more of our members to join the initiative continues."

"Volunteers work together in their RMs to report suspicious activity immediately to the RCMP or 911. The need for volunteers shouldn't go unnoticed, RMs need these volunteers' knowledge of the land and their eyes and ears for local police when they may not be in their area."



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Manitoba's plan to become world leader in sustainable protein gains momentum



Manitoba's quest to become a global leader in the development and production of sustainable protein has gained further momentum through Project Accelerating Sustainable Protein Impact and Results (ASPIRE), an industry-led, concerted and co-ordinated team effort toward advancing the Manitoba Protein Advantage Strategy, Agriculture Minister Derek Johnson announced recently.

"This plan represents tremendous opportunity for our province's industry and economic future," said Johnson. "Our government appreciates the shared expertise that has led to this pivotal development."

The release of Project ASPIRE was to be a key high-

light of the third annual Manitoba Protein Summit, a virtual conference slated for Feb. 22 to 23. This major industry conference has attracted more than 650 attendees from around the world, with "Sustainable Protein Food Systems" as this year's theme.

"The Manitoba Protein Advantage Strategy was released in 2019 to sustainably grow Manitoba's plant and animal protein industry through innovation and value chain collaboration," said Johnson. "To date, Manitoba's protein industry has attracted new investments valued at \$753 million, creating 840 jobs and surpassing 50 per cent of the strategy's \$1.5-billion target in new investments through

2025."

The Manitoba Protein Consortium, an industry committee appointed by cabinet, has transitioned the strategy from a government-led initiative to an industry-led strategy through the establishment of a strategic advisory body of 18 industry leaders to lead the implementation of Project ASPIRE.

"Project ASPIRE is a comprehensive plan focused on realizing the province's potential to produce protein that is diverse, high-quality, healthy and increasingly sustainable," said Dickson Gould, chair of the Manitoba Consortium and president of The Progressive Group. "We are very pleased to appoint David Wiens, the chair of Dairy Farmers of Manitoba and Chris Anderson, the chief technology officer at Protein Industries Canada to co-chair the strategic advisory body. Together, we want to accelerate sector leadership to make Manitoba a globally sustainable protein hub for plant, animal and alternative protein

development, as well as increase the economic opportunities for our producers and protein manufacturers."

"We have established roundtables to bring action to key pillars in the strategy, such as workforce, water and wastewa-

ter infrastructure and sustainable protein research. Other priority areas will be determined within the next few months," said David Wiens, chair, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba and co-chair of the strategic advisory body.

"Our Workforce Round-

table will ensure that we have the right skills in Manitoba to sustainably grow our protein industry," said Ron Koslowsky, chair, Workforce Roundtable and head of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Manitoba.

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17	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale 10 a.m.
		Sheep & Goat 5 p.m.
		Tack 7 p.m.
		Horses 9 a.m.
21	Monday	Butcher Cattle Sale 9 a.m.
23	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale/Show List 9 a.m.
24	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale
30	Wednesday	Presort Sale 11 a.m.
31	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale
- APRIL 2022 -		
4	Monday	Butcher Cattle Sale 9 a.m.
6	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale 9 a.m.
7	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale 10 a.m.
		Sheep & Goat 5 p.m.
		Tack 7 p.m.
		Horses 12 Noon
9	Saturday	Special Bred Cow/Heifer & Pair Sale
		Open Replacement Heifers
13	Wednesday	Presort Sale 11 a.m.
14	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale
18	Monday	Butcher Cattle Sale 9 a.m.
20	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale 9 a.m.
21	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale
23	Saturday	Exotic/Poultry & Small Animal Auction 12 Noon
27	Wednesday	Presort Sale 11 a.m.
28	Thursday	DLMS Internet Sale
30	Saturday	Heartland Spring Steer & Heifer Show

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Sask spring runoff expected to recharge moisture

The Water Security Agency (WSA) has released the preliminary spring runoff outlook for 2022.

Runoff potential is determined based on the conditions at freeze-up, the snowfall received to date and that further precipitation will be average between now and spring melt.

The report shows most of southern Saskatchewan with below normal snowmelt runoff potential. The central areas, with above normal snowpack, can expect an above normal snowmelt response and near normal conditions are currently projected for the far north.

Much of the southern areas of Saskatchewan experienced very dry conditions through the summer and into fall last year. The exception is an area just east of Moose Jaw through Weyburn, Indian Head and Regina, where wetter fall conditions and near normal snowfall have projected a near normal snowmelt. The snowpack is generally above to well above normal to date in the central areas; however, flooding is not expected despite the predicted above normal runoff response. The far north, encompassing the areas of Uranium City, Stony Rapids and Cluff Lake are anticipated to experience a near normal runoff event.

The melt rate is expected to have a significant impact on runoff yields across the south. With depleted subsoil moisture, a slow melt will likely result in the bulk of the snowpack recharging the soil column. A rapid melt is likely needed to result in an improvement to surface water supplies. The current snowpack is not sufficient to satisfy both. Without additional snowfall, surface water supply issues are likely to occur in southwestern Saskatchewan in 2022.

The spring runoff outlook could change as there is potentially another eight to 10 weeks of winter remaining.

Despite lots of snow in the southeast, spring runoff is not expected to cause flooding, but to recharge moisture levels.

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March is Agriculture Literacy Month

Ag in the Classroom connects students to their food

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed March as Agriculture Literacy Month. Agriculture Literacy Month connects students across the province to agriculture through engaging presentations by industry volunteers.

"Educating youth about agriculture is an important part of strengthening the industry through understanding and connection," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Presentations and sharing personal experiences help children understand the work that goes into producing the food we eat and creates an appreciation for the dedicated people that are part of the robust supply chain."

For many years, Agriculture in the Classroom Canada has worked to bring agriculture education into classrooms across the nation.

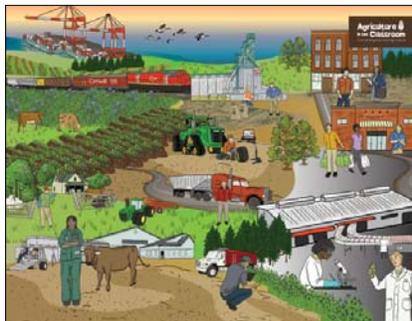
"Agriculture Literacy Month provides Saskatchewan students with an important opportunity to learn about agriculture's significant contribution to our province," Education Minister Dustin Duncan said. "Agriculture plays a critical role in keeping our communities fed, maintaining a strong economy and providing future employment opportunities for students in a wide-range of areas."

This year, the theme Connections in Agriculture will help students see how we are all connected to agriculture. Students will be encouraged to discover the countless people, from farm to table, that work in the world of agriculture to produce our food. Industry volunteers, including farmers, ranchers and professionals, will join classrooms to share presentations and personal experiences to help students realize how they are also connected to agriculture.

"We know that kids have questions about agriculture," Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan Executive Director Sara Shymko said. "Students are curious about where their food comes from, and we are so pleased to have volunteers from across the province getting involved and sharing their agriculture stories and experiences in classrooms. Together we are building personal connections and providing hands-on learning to help create an exciting and memorable learning experience for students."

Shymko talks about the importance of making those connections, educating students

"Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month is actually a Canada-wide initiative that focuses on connecting kids to the people working in agriculture primarily," says Shym-



Above: A volunteer teaching children about Canadian agriculture. **Left:** An illustration that is part of the "connection in agriculture" resource used by teachers.

ko. "So in Saskatchewan we co-ordinate classroom presentations with volunteers from the agriculture industry and students from all across the province.

"This year we are offering both virtual and in-person

presentations because there are still some restrictions in place. So as a part of that program we always develop a resource that's unique and special for Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month and this year we focus really on the inter-connections of agriculture and looking at all of the different people and the wide variety of careers that help make agriculture, the food on your plate, possible.

"That's the focus of the resource and we have three different versions of it for the really young students, for the kids in Grades 3 to 5, and then Grades 6 to 8. So that's one big part of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month.

"The second part is the Great Canadian Farm Tour which is 11 virtual farm tours happening throughout the month of March all across Canada."

Shymko says children this year will be learning about how agriculture connects us all.

"They'll learn about how soil is connected to the plants that are growing, to the food that they're eating, and how researchers at the universities are connected to doing the research for the plants that the farmers grow that a processor makes. So it's really focused at looking at the web of inter-connections in agriculture."

Shymko says volunteers from the ag industry are the ones who help with the program each year.

"We have a number of actual farmers and ranchers from around the province who go into the classrooms and share this information, and then there's a number of business people who work with different businesses within the agriculture sector," she says.

Continued on Page 30

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Left: Verticillium stripe, like blackleg, will cause discoloration inside the stem. Blackleg infection (centre) tends to be darker with distinct wedge shapes. Verticillium stripe tends to cause grey discoloration throughout the stem cross section (left).

Right: Verticillium stripe symptoms are easiest to see at harvest. Look for brittle stems with a peeling outer layer. Some stems may be lodged or broken. Tiny dark specks called microscleteria form under the peeling skin.



Look closely for verticillium stripe in 2022

By CLINT JURKE

Verticillium stripe caused yield loss in some canola fields in 2020 and 2021, and probably will again in 2022. The disease can be confused with blackleg, sclerotinia stem rot and lodging, and—unlike these other common problems—verticillium stripe tends to be worse in dry conditions.

Verticillium stripe, caused by the pathogen *Verticillium longisporum*, was first detected in canola Manitoba in 2014, and surveys in 2015 found the pathogen's DNA all across the Prairies. It seems to be getting worse—likely because it is still establishing itself. The bottom line: It's here and we want people to know about it. That is why SaskCanola held a verticillium workshop in February. A video recording of the workshop is posted at www.youtube.com/canolaCouncil.

Identification

Symptoms are easiest to see at harvest. Look for brittle stems with a peeling outer layer. Some stems may be lodged or broken. Tiny specks called microscleteria form under the peeling skin.

Verticillium stripe, like blackleg, will cause discoloration inside the stem. Blackleg stem infection tends to be darker and moderate levels of infection cause distinct wedge shapes of black. (Severe blackleg will leave the stem completely black and dead.) Verticillium stripe tends to cause grey discoloration throughout

the stem cross section, getting continually darker as microscleteria build up.

At the workshop, Yixiao Wang, a University of Alberta PhD student researching verticillium stripe, shared another way to distinguish blackleg from verticillium. Blackleg stem infection is concentrated in the crown—the point at ground level where root and stem meet. Verticillium darkening can extend well up the stem. Using a knife to split stems longitudinally, Wang discovered she could distinguish the two diseases based on how far the darkening extended up the stem.

Management

We don't have a fungicide option, so management comes down to genetics and rotation. Unfortunately we don't have confirmed recommendations for either of those options.

All four presenters at the workshop are researching genetics, and they have found clear differences. Some canola breeding lines are quite resistant. Some are very susceptible. But we don't know the level of resistance in commercial cultivars in Canada, and we don't have an official method to rate this resistance.

For rotation, anecdotal evidence suggests that longer breaks between canola crops may help to reduce disease severity. It certainly works for blackleg and clubroot. We need more research to tell us how long a break will provide an effective re-

duction in soil inoculum levels of the verticillium pathogen.

The good news is that research continues in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These studies will help us learn more about the pathogen and the disease. The Canola Research Hub at canolaresearch.ca has updates for ongoing and completed projects. Enter "verticillium" in the keyword search.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for verticillium stripe in your canola in 2022. For more images, identification tips and a lifecycle graphic, please see the verticillium stripe chapter in the Diseases section at canolaencyclopedia.ca.

Clint Jurke is agronomy director for the Canola Council of Canada. Email clint.jurke@canolaCouncil.org.

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DUTIES:

The Diversification Technician provides field operations and technical support to applied crop production and agricultural land management research at Diversification Centres. Responsibilities are to prepare for & execute field experiments in agricultural crops. Activities include file management, land preparation and maintenance, equipment operation & maintenance and crop husbandry related to crop seeding, maintenance, harvest and storage. Activities also include plot data collection, data entry, and assisting with report writing, communication and administrative functions.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Physically capable of working outdoors in various environmental conditions.
- Able to work extended or flexible hours during peak periods (growing and harvest seasons).
- Must possess and maintain a valid Manitoba class 5F driver's license. Class 5F is an asset.
- Access to a personal vehicle for business purposes.
- This position requires registration with the Agrologists Institute in Manitoba

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma or Degree in Agriculture or a combination of relevant education and experience in field research
- Experience operating and maintaining farm equipment
- Knowledge of crop husbandry practices
- Strong organizational skills and record keeping & proficiency with Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint)
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to pay attention to detail and ensure accuracy
- Excellent written & verbal communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to build and maintain positive working relationships with internal and external stakeholders

DESIRED:

- Experience supervising staff
- Experience in statistical analysis interpretation
- Experience using auto steer technologies, GPS, RTK guidance systems
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CLOSING DATE: MARCH 31, 2022

Email Cover Letter and Resume to:

Scott Chalmers, Applied Research Specialist | scott.chalmers@gov.mb.ca

Questions: Cell: 204-522-5415 | Website: www.mbdiversificationcentres.ca



Federal and provincial partnership funds innovative research in agriculture and agri-food sector

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are investing \$326,688 in research projects aimed at strengthening the agriculture and agri-food industries through the Ag Action Manitoba program.

"Research projects like those announced today allow agriculture and agri-food businesses in Manitoba to stay strong and prosperous," said Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau Bibeau.

"Our government's investments will ensure the sector's sustainable growth and competitiveness."

"Funding available from Ag Action Manitoba supports the vital work of our research community in advancing our province's priorities for the agriculture sector," said Johnson.

"This support for research and innovation is the key that opens the door to new discoveries, novel approaches and technologies, ensuring Manitoba's continued success in the national and global agriculture markets."

The Ag Action Manitoba program for research and innovation offers two streams of funding—basic and applied research and

development activities, and investment related to capacity-building.

Applications are received for projects in four focus areas, including climate change adaptation, environmental sustainability, food, diet and health, and sustainable feed grains supply and utilization.

This announcement includes funding for promising projects focused on grain innovation and crop production. They include:

- Manitoba Pulse and Soybean Growers Inc.—development and evaluation of a fully automated, made-in-Manitoba rover for the rapid collection of environmental data to improve soybean adaptation to drought conditions, purchase of specialized lab equipment for crop protein research, development of the carbon footprint of typical pulse and soybean production in Manitoba and assessment of alternatives to reduce carbon intensity;
- Ducks Unlimited—maximizing the potential of high-yielding winter wheat in Manitoba;
- Manitoba Crop Alliance

Inc.—grain dryer efficiency;

• Manitoba Horticulture Productivity Enhancement Centre Inc.—improvements to the soils of Manitoba's potato industry through decreasing wind erosion and variable rate irrigation; and

• University of Manitoba—noxious Amaranthus weed (pigweed) identification using molecular markers and genome editing of functional genes in Brassica napus to advance plant resistance to environmental conditions. adfaasfd



The funding for this research comes through the Ag Action Manitoba program.

Risk of moderate to major flooding in Manitoba

Manitoba's Hydrologic Forecast Centre's spring flood outlook reports the risk of moderate to major flooding in most southern Manitoba basins is dependent on weather conditions from now until the spring melt, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Doyle Piwniuk said.

"Our government continuously monitors all watershed conditions across the province to remain vigilant and ready to respond to ensure that all Manitobans are protected should there be a risk for flood conditions," said Piwniuk. "The Hydrologic Forecast Centre monitors river flows and lake levels daily throughout the year, and we work in collaboration with municipalities and communities to best prepare for potential flood mitigation operations."

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre advises that, while there is a risk of

major flooding along the Red River and its tributaries, including the Roseau, Rat and Pembina rivers, water levels are expected to remain below community flood protection levels at all locations. There is also a risk of moderate flooding for most other southern Manitoba basins including the Assiniboine and Souris rivers and the Whiteshell lakes area. The risk of spring flooding is low for the Interlake region and northern Manitoba regions.

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre also reports that operation of the Red River Floodway is expected this spring to reduce water levels within the city of Winnipeg with some operation of the Portage Diversion anticipated to prevent ice jamming on the Assiniboine River, the minister noted.

The next flood outlook will be released late March.

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Better days ahead

Despite this nasty cold weather we have had to endure, one thing is certain—the days are getting longer and that is so, so sweet. When we check the cows before the sun sets, it's such a treat to see the calves bouncing around the corral without a worry in the world. Well, except for that one special little fellow who, when he sees my hubby coming with or without the bottle, is sure to run up to him and follow him around.

I am reminded, when I see this calf—a twin whose momma loves him to bits but can't quite feed two calves—of how our twin grandsons (10) told us when the calves were born that it was “good money” to have two at once. Uh-huh, I thought at the time, even before the first bag of milk replacer was purchased. We can totally relate to the Beutlers down the road who had triplets born (unassisted and all fine no less) a couple of weeks ago and who are supplementing by bottle feeding as well. It's such a novelty, but also an added chore every day. But farmers, bless their resilient and persistent hearts, do everything in their power to take the best care they can of babies and mommas alike.

With all the snow we have had this year, I doubt our bottlefed calf is going to be able to supplement his daily nutrition requirements with fresh shoots of green grass anytime soon. In fact, you have to wonder if we'll still be under a foot or two of snow in May! Let's hope not, right?

It's been quite the winter for everyone but of course my heart always goes out to the cattle farmers at this time of year as they fight mountains of snow and bitterly cold temperatures. I was watching Quick Dick McDick the other day in “You get my Drift?” and could not help but laugh at his hilarious video on “types” of Saskatchewan snowdrifts—something we Saskatchewan folk can totally relate to.

At this point in time—February 2022—we have reached (at least at the moment of this writing) the end of vaccination passports and masks. At least for the time being considering we are also at this point in time facing the highest numbers of Covid hospitalizations in two entire years. That's not meant to be a statement for or against any viewpoint, nor is it a veiled political statement. It's



simply a statement of fact, and I am hoping for better days ahead.

Of course, better days ahead is definitely what I am personally hoping for as I have just learned I have been in close contact with someone who tested positive. What a long haul it's been with this whole pandemic. Our youngest granddaughter (five) was preparing to go for her first shot back a month or two ago (Regina) and I heard her mom telling her they would go shopping for a little something after she got her shot. Her little eyes lit up as she ran back into the living room and plopped herself on the couch. She looked at her Grandpa and I and said, “I'm getting an iPad after I get my needle!” We looked at each other, both wondering if we should burst her bubble then or just let her mom burst it later. We chose the latter. And she was perfectly happy with that little toy puppy on a leash.

Meanwhile back at home, we were spending some time with the twins (the human kind). At 10, they are both interested in the great outdoors, the farm and all the things little farm boys tend to gravitate to. I decided to ask them what their passion was, what the thing was that they loved to do more than anything else. “The main three,” they responded. As if I knew what the main three even remotely were. “Farmin', fishin' and huntin'” they

explained in their “men-of-few-words” way. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised because that likely covers it all.

“Well, what about me?” I asked them. “What do you think my passion is?” They see me often enough, typing away at the computer and saying I need to get a story or column off to “the paper,” so there was part of me that thought they might answer my question with “writing.” And they would be oh so right. But no, that's not at all what they said. Two sets of eyes looked back at me and they said: “Combinin'?” Ahhhh, now why didn't I suspect that's what they would say, considering the countless hours they have spent with me on that machine, complete with car seats and coolers of baby bottles back in the day right up to more current times when packed lunches, snacks galore and frozen bottles of water accompany us to our perches in the big green machine. Yup, what other than combinin' could Grandma's passion be!

There's a huge part of me that cannot wait for spring/summer just as I am sure it is for you all. Much as the snow is so pretty when it's falling, it's sure created some interesting travel days and downright impossible travel days. And after seeing nothing but white since the middle of November at least, I am ready to see green one of these days. Our “creek” days, much loved last winter when there was little snow and the temperatures were quite balmy, came to a complete and sudden halt late last fall once the snow began to accumulate. So, yeah, I am ready for green grass, green leaves and some much-needed creekside gatherings where roasting weiners and marshmallows and watching the wildlife below has become the best stress-relieving spot on earth for these not-yet-retired-but-should-be-retired folks!

As we venture into spring in the next few weeks, I can't wait for the warmth of the sunshine, the first signs of spring growth and the chance to once again sit outdoors free of snow boots, hot shots and head gear. Here's hoping your spring wish list has started coming true by the time the next month passes by. And in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, I hope you can say, “I do not believe there was ever a life more attractive than life on a cattle farm.”

March is Agriculture Literacy Month Ag in the Classroom connects students to their food

Continued from Page 27

“Through this program there will be a presentation that the ag producer introduces and does an activity with the students to help them learn about the connections. They also share their personal story and then the teacher follows up with additional activities that are in the ‘connections in agriculture’ resource in the classroom after the volunteer leaves.”

Shymko says this program is invaluable in that it teaches kids that their food doesn't just happen without real people behind it, and lots of technology.

“I think one of the biggest things that kids learn is that there are real people behind the food that they're eating and food doesn't come from the grocery store. There is a lot of amazement about the technology that's involved in agriculture. Initially some students don't even think that computers are used on farms. So they get pretty amazed when they see just how much technology and innovation is in there.”

“Maybe the most important learning or realization that comes from Canadian Agriculture Literacy month is that the people really care about the animals, they care about the land that they're growing on, they want to leave the land and their farm for their kids, for their grandkids, and so it really helps. I think, kids realize stewardship, sustainability, these kinds of

words that are out there, it puts a meaning behind those words and what that does is it increases the value of food and appreciation of farmers and all of the other people who are working really hard all across our province to grow food for us.

“It builds the foundation for interest and excitement for further investigation into some of these really complex issues that are out there, like food security. It encourages kids when they're older to consider careers in agriculture. No student is ever going to consider going to the U of S and studying ag bio if they have no idea what is involved in agriculture.”

Shymko says she's excited about the number of students reached by Agriculture in the Classroom.

“Between the Great Canadian Farm Tour and the Saskatchewan presentations, there are over 12,000 students in Saskatchewan that are going to be participating in Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month this year, and I think that's pretty exciting to have so many students from so many different schools, and teachers who are excited about bringing this opportunity into the classroom.”

Over the last 10 years, Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month has reached over 42,000 students in over 1,500 schools in Saskatchewan with help from more than 2,000 volunteers.



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Lack of support in rural areas for those facing addictions and mental health issues

Continued from Page 3

"Several times he was arrested for violent episodes and threats. Several times he was held for 72 hours and then released.

"He was assessed at North Battleford during his first incarceration for only a few days. He was incarcerated several times for various crimes during the four years."

"The last incarceration being the past year, August 2018- August 2019 for one year. It took over seven months for him to even contact us. Before the addition we spoke daily on the phone or visited. This is why I strongly feel it takes months for many addicts to even function somewhat normally as they did before addiction."

"He was sent to Pine Lodge to finish his sentence. My sister, niece and I picked him up August 20, 2019 from Pine Lodge. He was very much his old self and had many plans in the days ahead."

"On that evening, August 20, 2019, he passed away. We are still waiting for the autopsy result."

Johnston did everything she could, but needed help beyond her control

After she sent a letter to Saskatchewan's premier and the ministry of health, Johnston said the response she received did not acknowledge how severe Jack's experience with addiction was.

"I wrote a letter to the government after my brother died, responses were pitiful. They were sorry and stated they were doing so much," she said.

"I was very hurt and angry from their cold responses that I threw them in the garbage."

She said she could not believe the way the government handled situations like these.

"So I have addicts incapable of making the right choice, and if they had Alzheimers or dementia, there are supports and help for individuals to be looked after when they are no longer capable, not so much for people with mental health and addiction issues."

Johnston said families of individuals who are experiencing addiction and mental health issues should have the same access to help for their loved ones, just as families who do, for those experiencing other mental conditions, such as Alzheimer's.

Throughout the four years Jack suffered from his addiction, Johnston said she and her family could legally not enrol him into rehabilitation programs without his consent.

"The only thing they (the law) can do, unless something criminal actually happens, is the police can charge them to get some help or get them committed, then they can be legally held for 72 hours and that's it."

"So he would be taken to a psych centre, a mental health centre and then they would keep them in there, for three days. During their psychotic episodes, there is no help other than the police."

The options for individuals who want to help a family member or friend who does not realize that he or she needs help, are:

- Contact their family physician
- Contact their mental health clinic
- Call HealthLine at 811; or
- Call 911 if someone is at risk or harming themselves or others

Within those four years of Jack's episodes and need for help, Johnston followed the system's public guide-

"We require active treatment. There are times of crisis. If they are physical and you have a heart attack, you get taken care of, but if it's mental health, depression or suicide, there isn't emergency care."

—Brenda Johnston

lines and it still was not enough to get the help that Jack needed.

She said she took her brother to a psychiatrist a year before his passing, and the doctor disregarded Jack's need for professional help.

"The last one we went to before my brother went to jail for a year, we went to Weyburn. We met with a psychiatrist and the nurse in the facility and he looks at me and says, there's nothing wrong with your brother, you just have to tell him no."

Johnston said during that same week, is when Jack had almost burned down their father's house, during one of his psychotic episodes. However the police could not arrest him until her father laid charges.

She said her and her family tried everything they could within the four years of Jack's constant battles with addiction and mental health, but were out of options.

Johnston said the day Jack was released from jail, was the same day he overdosed.

"We picked him up in the morning from Yorkton from a half way house, and he had been in jail for a year but he had so many plans and just everything."

She said when someone passes away from an overdose, it sometimes takes three to six months for the families to get an autopsy report back.

Mourning the loss of her niece

A year and a half after Johnston's brother passed away, she experienced the loss of her niece to an overdose.

"My niece died in December of last year during Covid, and she came from Alberta and we got her treatment," said Johnston.

Johnston's niece, Emily Bryce passed away at the age of 26.

Johnston said when her niece wanted to get better, they took her to a doctor and had to wait almost nine hours before the doctor assessed her.

After she was eventually admitted, Emily was on the wait list for eight weeks before being placed in a treatment center in Regina, due to the shortage of space.

"This summer it will be two and a half years since my brother died, and it doesn't ever leave you. Because you think you should have done more."

"At least with Emily if I had walked away and not listened to that doctor, and said we would just wait for a phone call, but I have more peace at least with her, because we were able to get her help."

"She willingly went, and she did not get to the point of where the addictions had destroyed her nearly as bad as my brother."

After Emily spent a couple of weeks in treatment, she was able to get a home for herself in Regina. Yet, Johnston said there were no follow up programs for her to stay on that path.

"That's why it takes months to undo all of those things, you have to give your body time to heal," she said.

"I know she was utilizing homeless shelters and different things because we could contact her sometimes, or we would hear from her sometimes through that."

"Still ultimately, they found her in the freezing cold, frozen to death in the street."

"Even with treatment, yes people are going to overdose or do this, but my concern is that more people have died from overdoses because of Covid," said Johnston.

"There needs to be indefinite support groups, and part of the problem is that it's rural. I mean with my niece, she had no car and it's rural so how does she even get to somewhere for help?"

"There needs to be better support groups, there needs to be caring, feeling, in person I mean all this online stuff, it gets no where. It's just about driven everyone over the edge with Covid. That's not the answer. It needs to be more, and yes she did fail but I mean you at least have to try. You might fail, but you at least have to try and I don't feel like we're doing that."

Johnston said the urgency of follow up treatment programs are crucial to helping people who are experiencing mental health and addiction issues.

"My whole point of what my brother went through, cost the government a tenfold of what providing treatment may have cost."

Overdose deaths have become higher in the province

Unfortunately Johnston's loss of her two family members connects to a bigger issue across the province.

According to Saskatchewan's Coroners Service, there were 464 confirmed and suspected overdose deaths in 2021, an immense record.

Since Johnston lost her brother Jack pre-Covid and her expressing her concerns with the government about more support systems needing to be in place to prevent his loss, the number of overdoses skyrocketed during the pandemic.

"I think our society has changed, as society evolves different problems come up and we have to learn to deal with them as they come up."

Johnston said the stigma behind mental health and addictions, needs to be changed by society as a whole.

"We have to deal with these problems, they're not going to go away. Unless you have a family member anything regarding addictions, anything is derogatory. They just don't understand it's beyond a persons' control," said Johnston.

"I'm advocating for change that families need to get help, that our processes are so long and we can't wait until they ask for help because that's probably not going to happen."

"As a family you should be able to get help and a judge should be able to say, I order you for treatment. Like in all these cases, why did we have to wait for something criminal to happen? Why couldn't he have been court ordered to go for treatment? But the idea is, unless they want to go it's not going to happen, but my point is that we at least have to try."

"I mean we have to change laws and try to get them help but they make it so hard for them to try and get help. The only break we got in those five years, was that year my brother was in jail, mentally for us," said Johnston.

"We individuals in society at least have to try. At this point this is not happening, we treat all medical conditions but not mental health and addiction issues."

"If I went to the doctor and said I had cancer I would get treated, if I had a broken leg I would get treated but if it's mental health and addictions then nothing happens."

"In rural Saskatchewan there really isn't anything, you can go to an AA meeting for support, but that's it. Any type of mental health, it's so lacking. I think you can see mental health counsellors in Carlyle from 9 a.m to 5 p.m, Monday to Friday but to get into them and actually get help is tough, we require more."

"We require active treatment. There are times of crisis. If they are physical and you have a heart attack you get taken care of but if it's mental health, depression or suicide, there isn't emergency care," she said.

"We have to at least try and if they have go to rehab then we need way more mental health beds and rural services because they don't exist. They need follow-up programs as well."

Johnston said there is a lot more needed to be done from the government, in order to support individuals with mental health and addiction needs in rural areas.

"We don't have the services and the laws to get help I guess, because there are really good health care workers out there and there's really bad ones just like any profession, but we don't have the laws and services that families require to deal with an addict. We don't have the support, we don't have the system to at least attempt to get them help."

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