

Plain & Valley

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Albert Kalamán: Whitewood's hockey connoisseur

Despite never playing the game—or even knowing how to skate—an 81-year-old resident of Whitewood is the community's biggest supporter of local hockey teams, regardless of their age or skill level.

BY CHRIS ISTANCE

Three degenerated discs in his back force him to use a walker to move around his home while a cane props him up as he slowly trudges to the grocery store or goes to play cribbage at the Whitewood Harmony Senior's Club. A sore shoulder—which was dislocated earlier this winter—makes doing menial tasks, like opening a car door, difficult.

"But I get by," says 81-year-old Whitewood resident Albert Kalamán.

It seems there is little that can quell Kalamán's zest for life. His cheery disposition and positive attitude are evident almost immediately upon meeting him. He has a ready smile and laughs often.

"I've always been like that," he says about his optimism during a conversation at his kitchen table on March 15.

It will also take a lot more than a sore back and wonky shoulder to keep Kalamán from his passion; the sport of hockey. Dozens of times a year, he will take the short, quarter-of-a-block walk from his home up Elsinore Street to the Whitewood Community Centre. If there's a game scheduled, it's almost guaranteed he'll be sitting in his seat in the lobby; front row of the left-side section, first one in from the centre aisle, right behind the net.

"I used to stand outside by one of the blue lines, but I like this spot better," he said. "You can't see the goals on the other end of the ice, but you can see the plays develop as they move towards you."

As of mid-March, Kalamán had attended a total of 53 games this season, but expected to see several more before the 2009-2010 hockey season is fully completed. He has attended most of the Whitewood Oriole Senior Hockey Club matches and didn't miss a contest played by the Midget "AA" Pipestone Valley Jets this season.

He's actually not really fussy about who is playing. If there is a Novice, Atom, Pee Wee or Bantam game on, he'll attend those, too.

Checking the Whitewood Community Centre calendar, he noted that there were three to four more exhibition games yet to be played the following week. If he goes, he may top his 2008-2009 total of 55. However, he is still short of the 70 games he attended the season before that.

"For the rest of the years, I didn't keep track, but I have

a rough idea," he said before announcing that he'd probably seen between 450 and 475 games since 2000, the year the Community Centre opened in place of the previous facility.

The Don McPhail Arena, which housed Whitewood's hockey and curling rinks since 1952, burned to the ground in October of 1999. Kalamán, who lives just across Third Avenue and three doors down Elsinore Street from the present and former rink's location, peered out his window that day and saw what he deemed to be a tragedy for the

As a youth and a young man, fastball was his game of choice. He played with the St. Luke's team for many years before "I'd hit a homerun and wasn't able to run around the bases anymore," he said. He also enjoyed cross-country skiing in the winter months.

Although he never played hockey—more due to a lack of opportunity to play in St. Luke than a lack of motivation—his involvement in the sport runs long and deep. He remembers watching the Whitewood Orioles Intermediate division team when it was established in the

1940s. At the time, he attended games in the first of the three rinks Whitewood has had in its 118-year history.

He and his family also regularly travelled to Yorkton to watch the senior division Yorkton Terriers play.

Later, he became a full-fledged Oriole booster, a membership he carries to this day. Now a senior team, the Orioles, play in the Triangle Hockey League alongside teams from Bredenbury, Churchbridge, Langenburg, Esterhazy, Rocanville and Moosomin.

In fact, although he'll watch almost any hockey taking place in Whitewood, the Orioles hold a special place in Kalamán's heart. Through the 1960s and 1970s, Kalamán served the team by driving players to road games. When he couldn't drive, he'd lend the team his car.

These were among his favorite seasons, when the team was led by long-time coach Don McPhail, the man who was honored with the re-naming of the previ-

ous Whitewood rink. Kalamán remembers McPhail pulling together a team of just 11 players—barely enough for two forward and two defensive lines—and finding success in the Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League.

His favorite memory concerned a provincial playoff battle with the Notre Dame Hounds in the mid-1960s. The Orioles were throttled 9-1 in Game 1 of the two-game-total-point series, but battled back to defeat the Hounds with a 12-1 victory in Whitewood, giving them a three-goal advantage.

"That was just unbelievable to see them come back," he said.

"They had some good players. They always had stars on the team and that used to really help them."



Chris Istance photo

Albert Kalamán sits in his favorite seat at the Whitewood Community Centre; front row, first seat in from the centre aisle of the lobby's left-side section. The 81-year-old has been a fixture at hockey games in Whitewood for the past six decades.

community.

"It was horrible," he said. "My sister phoned and asked me where I was going to watch my hockey that winter."

Minor and senior teams from Whitewood played their games at the Ochapowace First Nation during the 1999-2000 season. Kalamán did not attend any games that year, one of the very few winters in his life he wasn't able to take in any hockey.

In actuality, Kalamán—who never played the game and admits that he has never even learned to skate—has missed watching the game only a handful of times in the past six decades. He grew up near St. Luke, a tiny farming community that was once located near the Qu'Appelle Valley north of Whitewood. Kalamán began farming in that area in 1955, a career that ended a year after he moved into Whitewood in 1995.

Continued on page 2

Kalaman will be hockey fan until end of his days

☞ *Continued from front*

Only a handful of years before, Kalaman missed another season of hockey due to his employment as a lumberjack in northwestern Alberta. The life-long bachelor spent five winters there, the last in 1962.

Kalaman related a story of how he almost never returned to watch another game of hockey again.

"I was cutting a big tree and there was a deadfall leaning against it high above. When the tree I was cutting fell, the deadfall came down with it and knocked me down. It happened to land on the stump I just cut and it left me just enough room to crawl out from underneath to escape," he said.

"Something saved me; a spirit above; God."

Besides his long-time passion for hockey, Kalaman has always had a strong faith, beginning in St. Luke where his family attended Roman Catholic masses. He continues to attend church regularly in Whitewood to this day.

While his commitment to God hasn't changed since his youth, Kalaman's interest in the sport he loves has. Today, hockey for him is less about watching the "stars" than seeing who may be future professionals.

Throughout the past 20 years, Kalaman has enjoyed watching young players develop their skills while either playing for a local team, or visiting with a team from another town in the area. Several have gone on to play professionally. Among the many kids Kalaman followed, those who have moved up to the National Hockey League include Wapella's Brett Clark (Montreal Canadiens, Atlanta Thrashers, Colorado Avalanche); Wawota's Brooks Laich (Ottawa Senators, Washington Capitals); Stockholm's Chris Herperger (Chicago Blackhawks, Ottawa Senators, Atlanta Thrashers); Whitewood's Chris Armstrong (Minnesota Wild, Anaheim Ducks) and Brett Carson (Carolina Hurricanes), also from Whitewood.

"I've kind of followed them all," Ka-

laman said. "With Brett Carson, I've seen him a lot. I watch him skating on TV. Even now, I can still tell it is him by his style."

None of these players were ever on the roster of his favorite NHL team, however. Kalaman is a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. He seems patient about them, but somewhat disgruntled.

"I guess they're not going anywhere again," he says with a laugh, referring to the team's failure to make the playoffs this season.

Through all the years of watching the game, Kalaman is particularly keen on the current version of the sport. He specifically likes how the game has become more wide open by the removal of the centre red line for two-line passes several years ago. This rule allows players to pass the puck to a teammate across two-thirds of the length of the rink. He enjoys how the rule change has increased the pace and action of hockey.

But there is one part of hockey that he doesn't enjoy.

"I don't like the fights," he said. "I know

there are a lot of people who say they like it, but I don't think it's good."

Kalaman says his years of being a spectator have also given him an education on the sport.

"I've seen so many games that I can pick out what teams are doing wrong," he says, then laughs. "They tell me I should be coaching. If I was younger, I might have."

He may never coach, but Kalaman will continue to be a fixture at the Whitewood Community Centre as long as his health allows. Considering his current physical condition—his sore back makes moving around unbearable some days—it appears it will take a far more serious tragedy to keep him from the rink.

"I'll keep going as long as I can," he said. "I don't know how many years I have left. When there are so many things wrong, I could be gone . . ."

But then, Kalaman's face brightens and his optimistic mindset returns.

"But I don't worry about it. I've always been like that. I'm not scared of anything."

Spy Hill, Fairlight planning centennial festivities

BY CHRIS JASTER

The villages of Fairlight, Sask. and Spy Hill, Sask. hope to be rocking in July and August, and they hope people will come a knocking.

Both villages are turning 100 years old this summer and committees in both communities are planning their celebrations, which they hope will be attended by past and present residents.

Fairlight's celebration kicks off on July 30 at 5 p.m. where people can register and have a few drinks before a hot dog roast starts at 7. The bar will be open until 11 and there will be a fireworks show that evening as well.

The second day will kick off with a parade down Main Street at 11 a.m. and a burger lunch at 11:30. Anyone interested in entering a float may contact Sherri Metz at 306-646-4488 or Tyler Adamson at 306-646-4462.

There will also be a tea in the afternoon and activities for the children before a supper and dance follow in the evening.

Fairlight's festivities will wrap up on August 1 with a church service and a farewell coffee.

Spy Hill's centennial celebration will be held the following weekend in conjunction with the Lions Club's Spy Hill Sports Days. The town decided to combine the events as they were concerned there wouldn't be enough volunteers to run two major events in August.

Spy Hill's celebration kicks off on August 6 with registration and a hamburger and hot dog meal. A family dance will also take place that night.

People attending the event will wake up to a pancake breakfast on the Saturday and a parade. There will be bounce tents

and other games in C. Duncan Construction's parking lot throughout the afternoon. There will also be slo-pitch and chuckwagon and chariot races during the day.

A pork and beef supper is planned for the evening followed by a cabaret and beer gardens.

The event will wrap up on Sunday with an interdenominational service, a brunch and birthday cake. Spy Hill Sports Days, however, will continue on into the evening with more activities and a chicken sup-

per on the Sunday.

People attending Spy Hill's centennial may also purchase a keepsake for themselves.

"We're selling banners to be hanging on the street posts and everyone can purchase one for \$250," said Melissa Moore, the secretary/treasurer for the Spy Hill centennial committee. "Your name is put on it and it has a picture of Spy Hill 100 years ago, and that's a keepsake for you after the weekend." People who purchase the banners may take them home after

the celebration.

Anyone interested in registering for Spy Hill's centennial celebration may find registration forms at

the town's grocery store, post office and village office.

Anyone interested in registering for Fairlight's

centennial weekend may contact Nadia Metz, the secretary for Fairlight's centennial committee at the village's town office.



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Keeping the convent

I understand the need to push them down, I really do.

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In my hometown, it was our former convent that was dismantled many years ago. While some of us cling to the brick or two that we managed to save from the historic structure, the rare building block is really all that is left.

So it is that I am totally inspired by the small community of Vibank, Sask. (population 375) which has managed to keep its 22,500-square-foot former convent in full use.

Sister Elaine Weisgerber was trained as a nun in the 87-year-old brick building, so she still has fond memories of her time there.

"The convent was a symbol of education and culture, so even before I thought of entering in 1952, I always perceived it as a glimpse of a wider world," says the Catholic Sister.

Today, Sister Elaine still admires the convent.

"It's got a future and it's such an integral part of the community."

The bright future that the Vibank nun speaks of was in serious jeopardy in the 1970s and 1980s as the convent was sold to several private owners, eventually being turned over to the Village of Vibank in 1992 for back taxes.

Thoughts turned to leveling the massive brick building and subdividing the land for lots. But a progressive town administrator, a determined council



Christalee Froese

and a keen postmaster decided to try to preserve this piece of Vibank's past.

The convent had once been an immaculate building with towering ceilings, glistening hardwood floors, elaborate crown mouldings, tinned ceilings and an abundance of woodwork. However, lack of upkeep had turned it into a massive cleanup project.

"The physical space was a mess—it was dirty, the walls had to be drywalled and repainted, so it took a lot of elbow grease," says Michelle Ecarnot, the Vibank postmaster who decided that she would spearhead the creation of a community daycare in the lower floor of the convent building.

The community's library, village office and post office were the first businesses to move in, followed by the daycare, a dance club, a judo club, a hair salon, an esthetics business, a massage therapy clinic, a Mexican restaurant and a craft business.

The sense of community in the renovated Vibank Heritage Centre is palpable as the daycare children file by the craft shop owner and give her a giant hug, and the esthetician carries her crock pot up the solid oak staircase to partake in the customary Wednesday potluck lunch.

"I love that people can come to this building and it's a one-stop shop," says

the owner of Daydream Esthetics and Tanning, Becky Olliver. "You can get your hair done, get your nails done, get the mail, come down for a coffee or lunch and pick the kids up from daycare."

The Vibank Daycare is now the focal point of the convent building, having started off with just 12 kids and three staff members. The prototype facility now accommodates 59 funded daycare spaces, employs 15 staff members, fills the entire ground level and has been chosen as a provincial model by the Ministry of Education.

"I couldn't have handled seeing this place torn down," says Ecarnot, who is now the daycare's director. "This building is not only a heritage site, it has become a meeting place that brings our whole community together."

Sister Elaine still stops by periodically, always bringing her fellow Sisters to Vibank when they happen to be in the area.

"I'm absolutely thrilled with what has happened to our building. Every time I see it, I have that sense of belonging."

I understand the need to push them down, I really do. But I'm glad Vibank didn't!

Christalee Froese welcomes comments at Lcfroese@sasktel.net or visit www.west-words.net.



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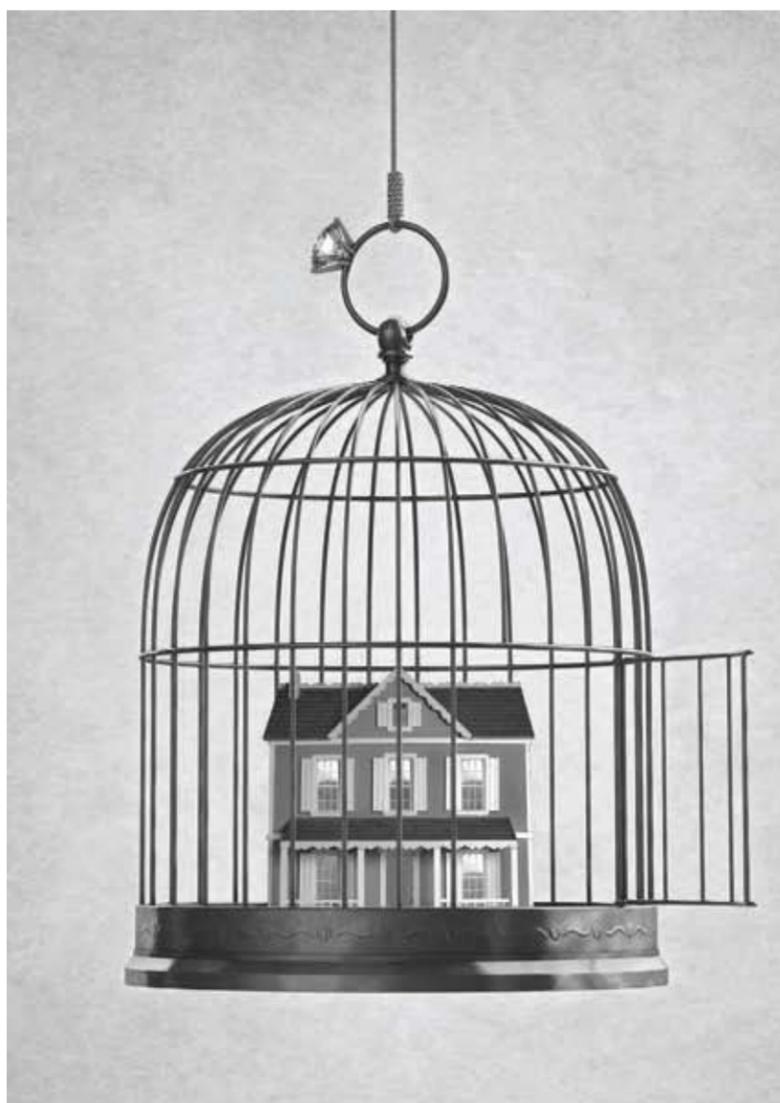
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BY HELEN SOLMES

Audrey Shackleton delights in telling the story of the pesky coyote that led a young aspiring fiddler to her door. Hers is a story that attests to the rich fibre of rural life—a story that speaks of how the love of music can bring people together and can be the basis of lifelong friendships.

One day, five years ago, while Audrey, her husband Phil, and the family dog were strolling on their acreage south of Moosomin, Sask. a coyote wandered uncomfortably close. Audrey called on her neighbor Brad Stephen to come and deal with the coyote.

"I didn't want him to shoot the animal, nor did I want him to trap it," she said. "I wanted him to perhaps fire his gun into the air and scare the animal away."

Brad Stephen arrived armed with his gun, but when he walked into the Shackleton's home and spotted a violin case in the corner, his focus shifted from the coyote to his deep yearning to learn to play the violin—a dream that he had harbored for years.

Stephen, a SaskTel employee, is a brother-in-law to Lorne Gough, one of the legendary Gough Brothers of Spy Hill, Sask., whose musical prowess in their younger days earned them the reputation as the "best house band for miles," and whose music continues to delight audiences. Stephen yearned to learn to play the violin and to be part of the Gough's world of making music.

Audrey, on the other hand, is an accomplished violinist. She describes herself as a senior senior



Helen Solmes photo

Gough Brothers (left to right) Ron, Lorne, and Ben accompany area musicians during one of the Sunday afternoon Spy Hill music jam sessions.

who has adapted her penchant for the classic violin that she learned as child growing up in Calgary to suit the tastes of her prairie audiences who love to hear her fiddle the old-time country and gospel tunes of the 1920s and '30s. It is a change that Audrey has willingly made for the love of music and of playing and bringing joy to others, be they senior seniors like herself, or younger seniors wherever they gather to socialize.

"It's all for the love of making music," she said, "and for the sake of keeping the old favorites alive."

Five years later, Stephen counts himself as one of many amateur fiddlers who come together once a month in Spy Hill during the monthly music jams thanks to Audrey's tutor-

ing and mentorship.

"Brad is an avid student," Audrey said. "He brings his violin with him on the road and practises every morning before work and every evening in his motel room."

Stephen's enthusiasm has been infectious. His three grandchildren—Tristin, Kayley and Aidan Lawless of Maryfield, Sask.—are learning to play the violin. Stephen takes lessons from Audrey during the weekend. The children travel to Carlyle once a week to take lessons from Michelle Amy. And together—Grandpa Stephen and his three grandchildren and the Shackletons—attend Amy's fiddling camp at Kenosee Lake each summer in August. Thirteen-year-old Tristin is now one of two youngsters to join in during the Spy Hill music jams, with a crowd of 25-50 skilled musicians who, combined, can count

thousands of years of experience as performers, and members of bands and choruses throughout southeastern Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Many travel to similar music jams in Virden, Man. every first Sunday of the month during the winter; to Binscarth, Man., on the second Sunday of each month, October to June; to Elkhorn, Man., every third Sunday October to April; Oak Lake, Man., for summer Sunday jams, June to September; Kenton, Man., once a month on Friday nights; and Melita, Man., every first and third Thursday, November to April.

There is no shortage of opportunities for the Shackletons, Stephen and his grandchildren, and others to gather in the tradition of their ancestors, to make music, for the love of it.

For Ron, Lorne, and Ben



Helen Solmes photo

Audrey Shackleton of Moosomin refers to herself as a senior senior who is devoted to keeping old-time country music favorites alive.

Gough, the monthly Spy Hill music jam is often the only chance the brothers have to get together to jam in the way they did as the children of very musical parents—Rose Gough (nee Mitten) and Bloom Gough—and as the cousins to another musical family, the Kellys of Rocanville, Sask.

Now that Jack Adams of Russell, Man., has overcome his stage fright, he too welcomes the opportunity to rekindle his love of singing, the way he and his brother and sister did as youngsters when, as he said, he would hear a Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, or George Jones tune from the 1950s and '60s "and they would play over and over again in my

head for days."

For Harry Boucher of Binscarth, the jam sessions are a way of keeping his love of music alive and building on his past performance career as one of the Binscarth Village Singers, a member of the JR Choir, a Russell Elks trumpeter and a Calgary Highlander piper.

Each singer and musician who joins in during these music jams brings with them a wide variety of musical experiences, but the one common denominator that intertwines and binds them is a simple, deep-rooted desire to make music for the love of it.

All jam sessions are open to new performers and to the public.

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- Knowledge of safety practices and procedures.
- Ability to perform repairs on pumps and water and wastewater distribution.
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- Ability to remain calm during emergency situations.
- Ability to deal tactfully and communicate effectively with other employees and the public.
- Physical ability to perform the assigned duties.
- Willing to accept training, (ex. operating procedures, equipment operation and safety, and staff meetings, as required).

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New development:

Caleb hopes to make decision soon

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Caleb Group is hoping to speak to everyone who might be interested in a condo in Caleb Village Moosomin over the next month, and to be in a position to make a decision on whether to move forward with the project in May.

"There's interest out there," Rene Doucette, director of residence services with Caleb Group, said in an interview last week.

"We're still getting calls. A lot of the calls we're getting are coming from B.C., from Alberta, from Western Manitoba. We're hearing from people who have heard we have been looking at something in Moosomin. A lot of these are people who are from the Moosomin area originally and are looking to move back. We even have one lady in California who is interested."

Caleb Group has developed seniors' communities in Prairie towns and cities including Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Kindersley, Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Yorkton. The group was invited by the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce and the town of Moosomin to consider a development in Moosomin.

The company held two public meetings in Moosomin in December, and is following up with people who expressed interest at those meetings, and who have contacted the company since then.

"Our plan is to get back in contact with people as soon as possible and determine if there is enough interest to proceed."

The 94-unit Caleb Village Moosomin would include both rental units and condo units.

Caleb has come to an

agreement with the town on a five-year municipal property tax abatement on the development, and were given an option to purchase a 2.5 acre parcel of land between Henry Street and Wright Road, across from Lloyd Bradley Park.

Caleb Group officials hope to sell 30 condo units in the building before construction starts. It may go ahead if it is close to the target of 30 sales, but there seems to be strong interest. Caleb received contact information from 90 people at the meetings in December.

"I have been asked to give my recommendation for a go or no go by the first week of May," said Doucette, who is hoping to make contact with new potential buyers at the Home, Farm, and Leisure Show April 30 and May 1.

"We know there's another interested party for the land, so we want to make a decision as soon as possible."

The company continues to receive a lot of inquiries about the Moosomin project. "On average there are one to two calls a week coming out of Moosomin. There are a lot of people who have a strong interest, but are not ready to commit."

However, Caleb does have some committed buyers, and is hoping their neighbors and friends start to follow suit.

"To get the first number of sales together, it takes some work, and after that, they come much easier," said Doucette.

"People need to see the information, analyze it, we present them with all the facts, at the end of the day the decision becomes theirs. Once they know



The 94-unit Caleb Village Moosomin is being proposed for a site between Henry Street and Wright Road, across from Lloyd Bradley Park. The Caleb Group was invited to the community by the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce and the town council. The company has an option to purchase the 2.5 acre site from the town of Moosomin, and has signed a five-year municipal property tax abatement agreement with the town.

some of their neighbors and friends will be in the building, it makes the decision easier.

Rental units in the building, including meals, housekeeping, and linen service, will begin at \$1,450 per month. Condo units will begin at \$110,000.

The \$15 million development will include more than 30,000 square feet of common areas, including a dining room, library, exer-

cise room, multi-purpose games and activity area and coffee bistro.

Caleb Village will offer residents nutritious meals, a coffee bistro and snack bar, housekeeping, linen and towel service, a 24-hour emergency response system, transportation, and recreational activities.

Residents will have the option of purchasing or leasing a residence in Caleb Village. Renters will

have all services included in their monthly rent, while purchasers will have the option of purchasing lifestyle packages including meals, housekeeping and laundry that are customized to their indi-

vidual requirements. Each residence will be fully self-contained, with in-suite laundry and a full kitchen.

The four storey building will contain 95,000 square feet of space. Individual suites will range from studio units to two-bedroom suites, and will range in size from about 400 square feet to more than 1,200 square feet.

Caleb Village will create 50-75 construction jobs during the 15-month construction period, and will provide 30-40 permanent jobs when it opens.

The project is expected to create \$9 million of economic spinoff during construction and should contribute \$1 million a year to the local economy after opening.

Information on Caleb Group and its retirement communities is available at www.calebgroup.ca or by calling 1-866-352-2532.

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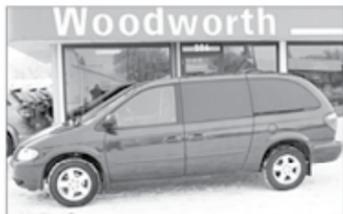
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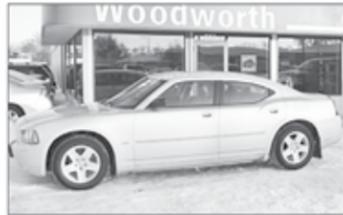
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September
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August
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September
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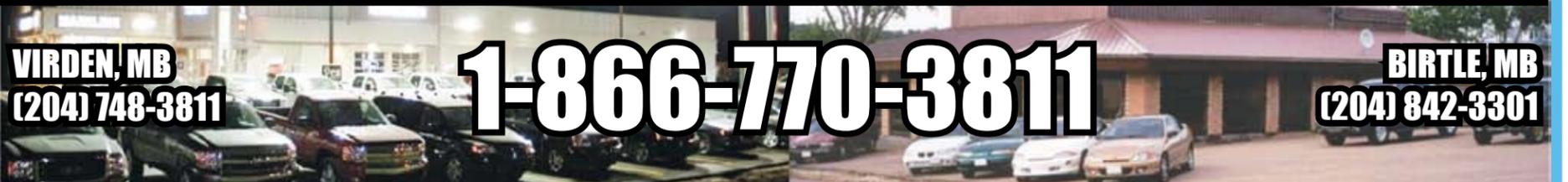
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Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party gearing up for fifth year

BY MONIQUE MCKAY
 2010 looks like it's going to be another stellar year for the annual Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party, which will be held for the fifth time on the shores of Kenosee Lake at Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

The unique music camp is geared towards musicians of all ages and abilities who wish to immerse themselves and their families in a week of jamming, learning, and recreation.

The camp boasts some of Saskatchewan's top musicians who are on hand in both structured and informal settings to teach enthusiasts of the piano,

guitar, banjo, fiddle, and mandolin.

This year's line-up includes John Arcand, Kar-nell Sawitsky, Shamma Sabir, Ken Jeffersen, Anthony Kelly, and Daniel Koulack.

The camp boasts homemade food by Father Banga and his staff of the Kenosee Boys and Girls Camp, nightly campfire jams, lots of dancing, and the grand finale, where the entire camp collaborates in a final show.

Each evening also features instructor performances, and the Kitchen Party may be the premier opportunity for even the non-musical to take in so

much Saskatchewan talent in one locale.

New this year is a four-day Kids Camp from July 31-Aug. 3 for children nine years old or older.

Conceived by Michele Amy and Will Elliot of Carlyle as an extension of what they enjoy around their kitchen table with their musician friends, the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party is becoming a Saskatchewan summer staple for professional musicians and novice players alike.

For more information or to register, visit www.kenoseekitchenparty.ca or call Michele Amy at 453-6366.



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Interpretive exhibits for Bell Barn are in the works

Denis Beauchesne has been contracted by the Bell Barn Society to produce the interpretive exhibits for the historic Bell Barn at Indian Head.

With the donation level as it stands and now with Beauchesne on board, the Society is confident that the exhibits will be complete and in place by the time of the grand opening of the site, which was recently re-scheduled to July 24.

Beauchesne's background, experience, and expertise are a perfect fit for the Bell Barn job. Born and raised in the Gravelbourg area, he received his education in graphic arts in Winnipeg and has been running his exhibit design and fabrication business, Beauchesne and Company, out of a Regina office and shop since 1980. Although he has done projects all over Western Canada, he is particularly proud of his Saskatchewan projects.

Examples of his interpretive exhibits in the province are the Saskatchewan Potash Interpretive Centre in Esterhazy and some of the exhibits and displays at the Saskatchewan Science Centre and the RCMP Heritage Cen-



Denis Beauchesne at work on the interpretive exhibits for the Bell Barn.

tre in Regina.

For the Bell Barn project, Beauchesne will be subcontracting Bill Armstrong of Regina to handle the required copywriting.

Armstrong has been an advisor to the Society's board of directors for several years and is a writer by profession.

Beauchesne also brings

additional enthusiasm to the project.

"The fact that the Bell Barn and its stories are being kept alive through this project is amazing," he said in a recent interview. "The reconstructed fieldstone barn is a unique facility for an interpretive centre that will teach current and future generations about this important chapter in our history."

Earlier this year, Beauchesne developed an "interpretive exhibit plan" for the Bell Barn based on ideas generated at a workshop with the Society's board members and advisors. The resulting report met with approval, and now his job will be to make the themes and stories presented in that report come to life.

"The next steps for us will be to refine the graphic concepts, research and write the stories, finalize the exhibit sequence within the barn, and then actually produce the exhibits and displays and install them at the site," explained Beauchesne. "With an expected completion date of the end of June, the timelines will be tight, but as long as all those involved in the project keep on schedule we'll make it."

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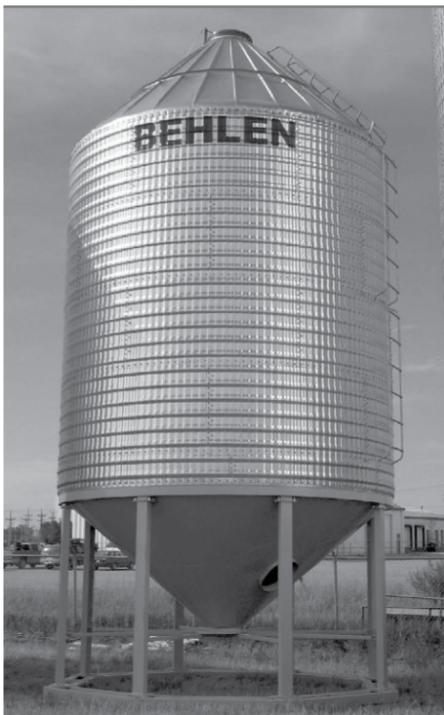
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Prairie farm leaders meet in Winnipeg

The presidents of the three major farm groups across the Prairies emerged from a forum April 9 with a renewed focus on the issues facing prairie agriculture.

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) President Ian Wishart, Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) President Greg Marshall, and Wild Rose Agricultural Producers (WRAP) President Humphrey Banack identified major priorities and developed an action plan to move these issues forward in the coming year.

PRODUCER PAYMENT SECURITY MECHANISM
The Prairie Farm Leaders stress that farmers must have an adequate and financially viable option to

cover their risks related to grain delivery. The leaders reviewed the Producer Payment Security Mechanism report and discussed the insurance and fund based approaches. KAP, APAS, and WRAP are calling on the federal government again to delay any decisions on bonding until farm organizations have had time to examine the implications of the insurance and fund based approaches.

INCREASING USE OF TECHNICAL TRADE BARRIERS
Farmers are facing price uncertainty and substantial losses due to international market access issues with commodities such as flax and canola. KAP, APAS and WRAP ask for federal trade negotiators to include

a process to resolve these increasingly frequent non-tariff barriers as part of any new trade agreement.

ADDRESSING RAIL TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
All three leaders are pleased to see that the Federal Rail Freight Service Review submission deadline has been established. They hope the development and implementation of recommendations from the service review panel will be completed in the near future. The leaders discussed the importance of having

the federal government introduce a costing review mechanism into the revenue cap program. Western Canadian grain farmers have not benefitted from rail operation consolidation and efficiency gains made over the past decade due to the lack of competition in the rail freight industry. KAP, APAS and WRAP continue to be concerned over the lack of government action regarding the 53 rail siding sites that CN Rail delisted in 2009. These sites must be protected to support the

growing use of producer cars on the Prairies and to allow for rural development opportunities in the future.

YOUNG AND BEGINNING FARMERS
The farm leaders discussed challenges faced by young and beginning farmers and the need for engagement in farm organizations. A key factor in preparing farmers to take over their family operations is ensuring that adequate succession planning is in place, and this is one area in which governments

can show leadership. The leaders reviewed and provided recommendations on "Strategies and Recommendations for New Entrant and Intergenerational Transfer Program Needs," a study by Al Sholz of A.N Sholz and Associates commissioned by APAS. KAP, APAS and WRAP emphasized the need for programming to encourage new entrants into the agriculture sector and the groups will continue to lobby all levels of government on this issue.

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Announcement

It is my pleasure to announce that Curtis Langford will be joining our company on April 12, 2010 in the position of Precision Ag/Product Specialist.

Curtis has been involved in precision ag for several years in various capacities. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in this field to our team. In addition to his precision ag/product specialist duties, Curtis will be joining our wholegoods sales team as a Sales Representative.

Curtis can be contacted in the following ways 306-735-2300 ext.227 (office), 306-735-7662 (cell), or curtis@whitesag.com.

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Boredom has some purpose

Everyone is bored sometimes. You find yourself at loose ends, with nothing to read, nobody to talk to, and maybe not even anything interesting to look at . . . driving alone from Regina to Saskatoon, for example.

Yet science has carried out relatively little research on boredom. About four years ago, Richard Ralley, a lecturer in psychology at Edge Hill University in England, set out to change that. Ralley believes that boredom must serve a useful purpose, or it wouldn't have evolved. He suspects it may be a matter of energy conservation: boredom is the brain's way of telling the body it's time to rest, that the task it's engaged in isn't worth the expenditure of energy.

Some positive aspects of boredom have been identified in previous research, which has shown that business people who take time off to relax during the day perform better than those who spend 12 hours at a time at their desk.

It's also been found that being bored at work can motivate people to develop themselves professionally.

Ralley's research is ongoing, as far as I can tell. He had the idea to research boredom in 1999, he started his research in 2006, and the last mention I could find of it was from 2008. There haven't been any results published. Maybe he's bored with the whole thing.

Still, Ralley's suggestion that boredom may actually be good for us has gotten some traction. A long column by Carolyn Y. Johnson in the *Boston Globe* from March 2008 points out that we live in a society where we've done everything we can to banish boredom. Find yourself at loose ends for five minutes? You whip out your cell phone and play a quick game, or text somebody. Boredom is so feared that you're practically forced to watch television everywhere you go, from banks to pubs.

But, writes Johnson, "We are most human when we feel dull. Lolling around in a state of restlessness is one of life's greatest luxuries—one not available



Edward Willett

to creatures that spend all their time pursuing mere survival. To be bored is to stop reacting to the external world, and to explore the internal one. It is in these times of reflection that people often discover something new, whether it is an epiphany about a relationship or a new theory about the way the universe works."

She quotes Dr. Edward Hallowell, a Sudbury psychiatrist and author of the book *CrazyBusy*: "If you think of boredom as the prelude to creativity, and loneliness as the prelude to engagement of the imagination, then they are good things. They are doorways to something better, as opposed to something to be abhorred and eradicated immediately."

In this view, creativity is the brain's internal defense against boredom. Like a kid who, in the absence of a toy, amuses herself by playing with the silverware, bored people have no choice but to busy themselves with their own thoughts.

There's certainly some truth to that. I've plotted more than one novel in my

head while driving on Saskatchewan's highways.

But now comes the disturbing news that bored people die younger than less-bored people. Annie Britton and Martin J. Shipley of University College London followed up on a survey of boredom levels in more than 7,500 civil servants between the ages of 35 and 55, carried out between 1985 and 1988, to determine how many were still alive as of last April.

They found that those who had high levels of boredom in the original survey (about 10 per cent reported being bored within the previous month, women, younger workers

and people with menial jobs being the most bored) were 37 per cent more likely to be dead.

Were they literally bored to death? Probably not: the scientists suspect bored people are more likely to adopt unhealthy habits such as smoking, drugs or drinking.

So it seems boredom can be either a good thing or a bad thing, depending on how you deal with it.

Which puts the quest to abolish it into perspective, I suppose. Better you should deal with boredom by playing games on your cell phone than by drinking yourself into an early grave.

Should you be feeling especially bored right about now as this column finally winds down, I hope you'll keep that in mind.

Edward Willett is a freelance science writer in Regina, Saskatchewan.




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Children hold up their reusable metal water bottles given out on the World Day of Water.

Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District

World Day of water celebrated in numerous local schools

On March 22 the Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District visited area schools to help celebrate World Water Day. Presentations were given to Grade 5 classes focusing on the importance of water and need to conserve and protect it.

Canada is fortunate to have an abundance of clean water that we often take for granted, and we use on average 400 litres per person each day, a fact that even surprised some

of the teachers.

Some other interesting facts the students learned were:

- We need clean water to live as our bodies consist of 60-65 per cent water;
- Water improves our quality of life by providing us with conveniences and comforts;
- Everything we consume or use, be it food, toys, automobiles, video games, cell phones and so on, need water to be

grown, manufactured or transported;

- It requires 125 litres of water to get one litre of Coke, Pepsi or similar soft drink to the final consumer.

A very informative video on the Hydrologic Cycle, produced by PFRA, was then viewed and discussed. A water survey was sent home with the children to see how much water their family uses and to see how they could possibly reduce

the water they use. A small appreciation gift, a reusable metal water bottle, was presented to all students and they were encouraged to reuse it often.

As we move into the spring season the Conservation District welcomes all schools, organizations and individuals to contact them to assist with any projects, ideas or presentations that are related to conservation or create environmental awareness.

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A short ode to April

What a glorious month of April this has been! The snow is gone from all but the deepest ravines. The river and sloughs are open. The geese and eagles are back and the pelicans will soon follow. The pussy willows are out and the crocuses too. Calving season is in full swing.

Contrary to the most skeptical of skeptics, the return of the crows did not spell a relapse into wintery weather. The first frogs have been heard, yet the long-range forecast is an open window.

So much for old wives' tales. Admittedly, much could happen between now and the end of April. We won't be seeding anytime soon, be it large scale farming or backyard gardening.

For many, April is the month to make ready for summer, to pack away winter gear, to set out garden tools, and to rake, and clean and plan for May's long work projects.

But I for one have never viewed the month of April as a waiting period. There



Helen Solmes

is never anything stopping me from donning an extra pair of socks and rubber boots and wading through mud and the last traces of snow, all for the sake of celebrating whatever this month of transition can afford. And I am not alone, judging by the throngs of evening walkers, bikers and rollerbladers daily since mid-March, and the drone of ATVs on weekends.

Can spring really be happening? They—the old wives, that is—say that spring is here when the leaves on a pecan tree are as

big as the ears on a mouse. They—the old wives, again—say that spring is here when the rattle snakes appear, but neither rattle snakes nor the size of the leaves on either a pecan tree or a mouse have anything to do with spring in Saskatchewan.

Say what they may, the old wives are wrong. Their tales do not ring true this year, as charming and mystifying as they might sound. These past few weeks have been exceptional and I am placing my bet on the obvious—spring is truly here.

Manitoba minimum wage to increase

Manitoba will increase the minimum wage by 50 cents to \$9.50 an hour on Oct. 1.

The minimum wage rate last increased by 25 cents to \$9 per hour on Oct. 1, 2009, following an additional 25-cent increase on May 1, 2009.

The Labour Management Review Committee (LMRC), composed of equal representatives from labor and business organizations, reviewed the minimum wage and submitted a non-consensus report with recommendations ranging from a 30-cent increase to be effective Oct. 1 to a 75-cent increase to be effective April 1.

The timing of the increase is sensitive to employer concerns about the effect of increasing costs during the recovery from the recession. The LMRC also concluded that historically minimum wage increases have not been the predominant factor causing unemployment in Manitoba.

"While minimum wage increases do raise costs for business, it is important to keep in mind that tax decreases since 1999 will save Manitoba firms \$422 million annually," said Labour and Immigration Minister Jennifer Howard. "In December, Manitoba will be the first province to have eliminated its small business tax."

With this increase to the minimum wage, Manitoba will maintain its position near the middle of Canadian rates.

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COMBINES

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

COMBINE HEADERS

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

SWATHERS

1999	SEED HAWK	357	44', 12" spacing, onboard seed and fertilizer, shedded Seed Hawk and Morris Pre-Sell programs on now!!	\$72,500
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SEEDING & TILLAGE

2010	Versatile	SX275	275 hp, 90' boom	In Stock
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SPRAYERS

2008	MF	1756	5x6, auto tie, demo	BLOWOUT
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh wrap	\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto	\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6	\$13,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6, auto tie	\$14,900
2000	NH	688	5x6 baler	\$15,500
2008	MF	9125	18' hay hdr, loaded	SOLD
2006	Hesston	9040	16' hay hdr, advanced double	\$19,900
2007	MF	1476	16', s/s rollers	\$26,900
2002	Hesston	1275	16' s/s, reverser	\$20,900
2004	Frontier	MC1216	16' s/s same as MacDon 5020	\$19,900
1999	MacDon	5000	16', s/s rollers	\$12,500
2005	Bale King	3100	rh discharge, fine cut	\$10,900
2004	Morris	1400	Hay Hiker	\$21,000
2008	MF	3743	manure spreader, 430 bu.	SOLD

HAY TOOLS

2010	MF	GC2400L	24hp diesel, hydro, fwa	In Stock
2010	MF	ZT29	29hp diesel, zero turn mower, 72" deck **Compact attachments in stock now**	Call

COMPACT TRACTORS AND LAWN AND GARDEN

2010	MF	GC2400L	24hp diesel, hydro, fwa	In Stock
2010	MF	ZT29	29hp diesel, zero turn mower, 72" deck **Compact attachments in stock now**	Call

MISCELLANEOUS

2010	Farm King	1050	10" x 50' swing auger	\$4,800
2010	Sakundiak	TL10-1200	10" x 39', 35 hp, SP kit, loaded	Call
2010	Sakundiak	HD8-1400	8" x 46' auger, 27hp, SP kit, loaded	In Stock
2009	Spray Air	4385	13" x 85' swing away	In Stock
2009	Farm King (Conveyair)	6640	grain vac	Call
2003	Bergen	3600	header trailer, torflex suspension, light kit	SOLD

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2007 JEEP COMPASS

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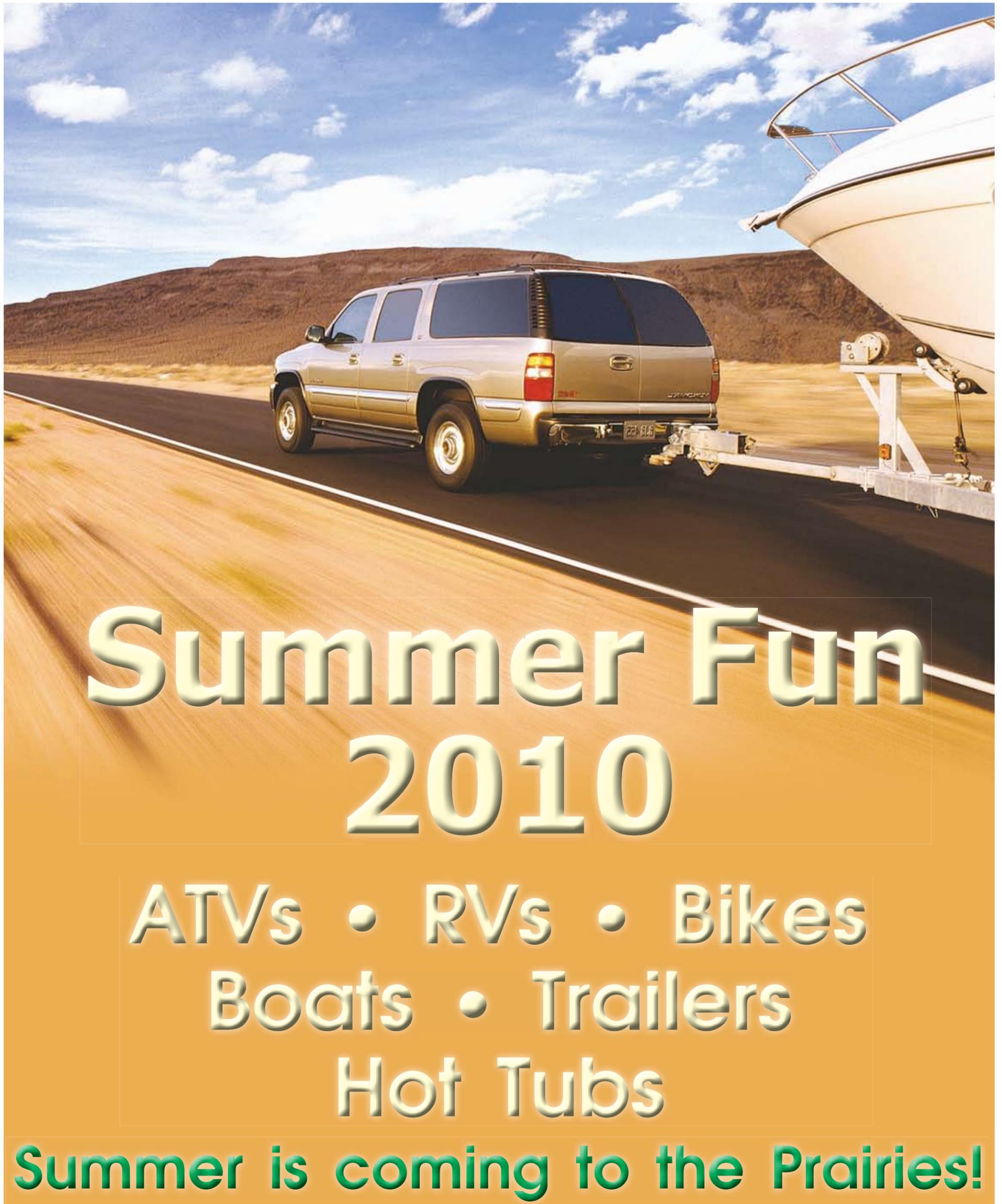
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April 2010 • Page 21



Summer Fun 2010

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Summer is coming to the Prairies!



Owning a trailer or RV is like camping without the work

Buying a travel trailer will undoubtedly change the way you travel.

You will no longer have to worry about paying exorbitant prices for the only vacant hotel room in town. What's more, you'll never have to drive around looking for a decent restaurant again.

Instead, the next time you feel like having a snack, all you'll have to do is pull over to the side of the road. Assuming you stocked up on groceries, that is.

But these mundane tasks aside, is there any wonder why so many people have fallen in love with travelling in a trailer?

Another advantage of trailers is that they can accommodate your regular habits.

Do you hate to constantly pack and unpack your luggage? There's no need to when you

travel with a trailer.

Sick of lugging your suitcases up and down tight staircases and cramped elevators? No problem. In fact, trailers take the "lugging" out of luggage.

Today's modern trailers offer both comfort and convenience.

Equipment can run on either gas or electricity, and bathrooms come equipped with a septic reservoir that allows for worry-free travelling. There's no longer any need to rush frantically to the nearest service station!

With meticulous finishing, modern trailers and RVs—whether light, travel, hitched or parked models—offer a home away from home.

You can decorate your trailer to suit your needs and tastes.

Try an RV or travel trailer and get the most out of summer!



A travel trailer or RV is a great way to make the best of a Prairie summer








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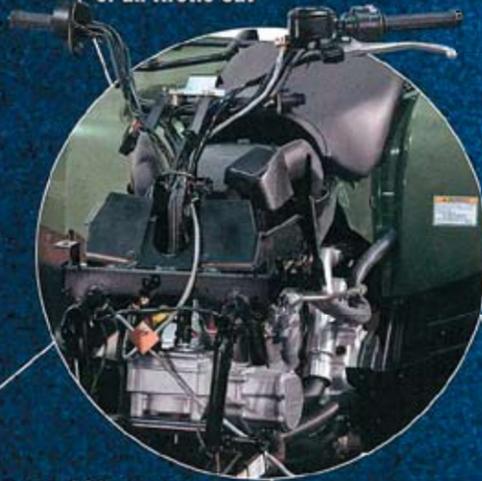
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If a picture is worth a thousand words, then one ride on a TRV 700 is worth about a billion. And you'll say just about all of 'em when you get a hold of its liquid-cooled 695 cc 4-stroke engine, on-the-fly 2WD/4WD and durable Duro tires.



550^S

Take a leave of absence from the daily grind with the 550's sturdy 4-stroke liquid-cooled EFI 545cc engine. While you're out there, check out the Ride-In suspension, sporty body styling and Duramatic auto transmission.



TRV 550^S GT

Experience 2-up trail riding the way it should be. With a liquid-cooled 545cc 4-stroke engine, fully independent suspension and front differential lock, the ride out to wherever just got a lot more fun.

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Class A motorhomes are some of the largest on the road



Lots of terms unique to the RV industry

Your brother-in-law can't stop talking about his fifth wheel? Your friend invites you to spend the weekend with her in her tent-trailer? You're starting your retirement this summer and you're dreaming of visiting the country in a brand new motor home?

Here are a few facts which will enable you to quickly identify the main types of recreational vehicles.

A **fifth wheel** is a type of travel trailer which has to be pulled by a truck equipped with a specialized hitch. This type of trailer is often much more spacious than a regular travel trailer, or caravan, and can include a place for cooking, a refrigerator, heating and air-conditioning systems, a flush toilet, a propane tank and a separate electrical system. They have enough space for several people.

The **tent-trailer**, or folding tent-trailer, is the least expensive of the recreational vehicles. Light, economical, easy to pull, easy to put up and dismantle, the tent-trailer is perfect for young families and can accommodate up to six people. Its basic equipment includes a place for cooking, a water system and a source of propane. Some models also include a heating system and a separate electrical system.

As its name indicates, the **motor home** doesn't need to be pulled because of having its own engine.

Class A motorhomes are the top of the

line in the world of recreational vehicles, reproducing all the comforts of home and big enough to accommodate several people. They are constructed on either a commercial truck chassis, a specially designed motor vehicle chassis, or a commercial bus chassis. The addition of slide-outs, first appearing in 1989, dramatically changed the industry, as they allow a wider room than would fit on the road

A **Bus Conversion** is a commercial passenger bus that has been converted into an RV. Highly customized with luxury components, bus conversions are typically the largest motorhomes available.

Class B campervans are built using a conventional van, to which either a raised roof has been added or had the back replaced by a low-profile body (aka coach-built). Even though they are more modest, they are more versatile and much easier to handle.

Class C motorhomes are built on a truck chassis with an attached cab section, which is usually van based. Class C motorhomes are often based of the popular Ford E450 engine, chassis, and cabs. Dodge and Chevy are other popular choices. A large Class C, typically a toy hauler, may be based off a larger truck, such as a Ford F650. They are characterized by a distinctive cab-over profile, the "cab-over" containing a bed or an "entertainment" centre.

Boating safety a shared responsibility

With the return of the nice weather, many boaters have already launched their boats into the water.

All summer, our waterways are invaded by boats of all sizes. Safe Boating Awareness Week, coming up in May, aims to remind boaters of just how important water safety is at all times for those who practice this summer activity.

In Canada, we count some eight million pleasure boaters each summer. The Office of Water Safety of the Canadian Coast Guard collaborates closely with all shore communities and different partners across the country to promote safe boating practices. With some 6,000 accidents and 150 deaths each year on Canadian waters, it is imperative that all boaters respect the water regulations, everywhere and at all times.

Water safety is a shared responsibility and boaters must play an active role. The Coast Guard strongly recommends that all boat operators follow an approved boating safety course to obtain their operator card.

As for personal flotation jackets, there remains a lot of work to be done. Each year, more than 500 people drown, 70 per cent of whom were not wearing a lifejacket.

Wearing a lifejacket is so simple and it could save your life!

In Canada, Safe Boating Awareness Week is held from during the May long

weekend; however, safety on the water must be a priority throughout boating season.

We wish all boaters a great boating season!

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Financing offers may be subject to credit review. For your safety, avoid operating Polaris ATVs or Snowmobiles on paved surfaces or public roads. Riders and passengers should always wear a helmet, eye protection, protective clothing, and a seat belt on ATVs. Snowmobiles should be used on snow-covered terrain only. Snowmobiles should never be used on roads. Polaris ATVs are for riders age 16 and older. Drivers of Snowmobiles must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license. All ATV riders should take a safety training course. For ATV safety and training information see your local Polaris dealer. ©2010 Polaris Industries Inc.

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From Oak Lake to Lake of the Prairies to Round Lake to Moosomin Lake to Boundary Dam and Rafferty, boating is a great way to spend summer days in southeast Saskatchewan and western Manitoba.

Buying your first boat with confidence

Are you thinking of buying your first boat and of all the pleasures of water sports and boating that follow?

Since buying a new or pre-owned boat constitutes a substantial investment, it is worth establishing your needs before you invest.

To buy with confidence, first you must know what you want.

First, picture yourself enjoying your boat; imagine the activities you'd like to enjoy with your family and friends. This process will help you to more accurately define the type of boat you will need.

Also consider where you are planning to use your boat. Boating conditions in coastal areas are not at all the same as they are on a quiet river or a small lake!

For your safety and that of your passengers, your future boat will have to be chosen according to where you are plan-

ning to do your boating.

Along with different nautical activities there are various types of boats.

Therefore a whole variety of specialized boats exists on the market, in answer to a great variety of needs, such as fishing, diving, water skiing, wake boarding or surfing, day cruising, weekend getaways, etc.

Some models are more versatile than others and will allow the combination of several activities. A good example of a multi-purpose boat is the 17 to 22 foot, open deck runabout. This type of boat is especially interesting for the first time buyer whose main interests are day cruising, water skiing or wakeboarding.

Moreover, since open-deck boats are very popular, their market value is relatively stable, which limits the risks of purchasing this type of craft.

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