

Plain & Valley

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Putland heading to Burundi to teach

BY JULIA DIMA

Though she's retired from teaching and being the principal at MacLeod Elementary, Devona Putland continues to use her teaching skills to help others. Putland has already traveled to Mongolia and India to educate teachers and students in ESL (English as a second language) and best teaching practices, and now, she is planning a third international teaching trip, this time in Bujumbura, Burundi.

She will be teaching with an organization called the Tanbur African Aid Society (TAAS), a group of Alberta teachers who volunteer and raise funds for a few schools in Burundi and Tanzania in Southeast Africa.

Every year, TAAS sends volunteer educators from Canada to the two schools to work on English skills and teaching methodology with the teachers at the schools in Bujumbura and Same and Iringa in Tanzania. The organization also provides funds for classrooms as well as materials, school uniforms, and furnishings for the schools themselves.

Putland says that an email looking for volunteer piqued her interest, as international teaching was something she was familiar with.

"An e-mail came out, it must have been in May last year asking for anyone interested in volunteering. They were looking for volunteers and specifically, needed somebody for the fall . . . I knew I couldn't go that quickly, but I thought 'that sounds like something interesting,' so I contacted them, and they definitely were anxious to have anybody volunteer, because it's a demanding kind of thing. But I think the other part of that is that I've already done this type of thing in Mongolia and India. In Mongolia, big thing was ESL. In India, it was adult education for best practices—both of those will be part of this assignment," Putland says. "Every year, TAAS sends



Devona Putland is already gearing up to provide school supplies and other needed items for kids. Her home is filled with notebooks, crayons, erasers, notebooks, classroom supplies, and even flip flops to head to Burundi for the new school year.

over four volunteers, and two go in September to the end of November, two will go in January to March. I think it's going to definitely make a difference in this school."

Burundi used to be considered part of West Africa, which was colonized mostly by the French, so until recently, French was the second language. However, it later became more centrally associated, where English is the secondary language, and English language skills are still a challenge in the country.

"In order to promote the possibility for trade and commerce, English is very important. That was the impetus behind the school coming in," Putland.

At the time that the TAAS school was set up in Bujumbura, there was only one other school in the city, which had very high tuition cost, making

it accessible only to upper class children.

Though the annual tuition is lower for the Burundi English School established by TAAS, at \$1,000, that is still a high cost, Putland says, in one of the poorest countries in the world.

"It will at least give some of the middle class people an option for education their children. Only 10 per cent of boys in Burundi go past grade 8. So, when you think about how to make a difference in a country, education is definitely there. But more so, education for girls—it's 12 per cent less for girls when it comes to attending school."

In addition to providing supplies and education, TAAS also has a donation option that allows Canadians to sponsor the tuition for a school child for a year. Currently, 12 children at the school are able to attend because of Cana-

dian sponsorship.

The biggest barrier to education in developing countries is economics.

"In developing nations, as soon as children turn eight, a lot of them are helping do family chores, they are in the marketplace working, they are not able to stay in school," Putland says. "For example, in India, we toured a school, and 21 children were present—2 were girls. I thought it was a boys only class at first . . . for them, the girls were doing household chores, babysitting siblings while parents worked and doing other jobs. It's similar in other developing countries."

While at the Burundi English School, Putland's volunteer responsibilities will vary depending on needs, but there is a schedule. From 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. kids are in class, and Putland may spend the first

half of the day helping teachers model lessons, and providing mentorship in classrooms. However, from 1 to 3 p.m. during teacher preparation time, Putland's work begins.

"In that time, will work on lesson ideas, maybe new ways to instruct. Education systems in developing countries go back to traditional ways of education—the three Rs—remember, regurgitate, recite. We have come beyond that, so it's being able to show them practices that will engage the kids to learning," Putland says. "Children remain more attentive and learn quickly if they are engaged. So, to show them practices we've learned is beneficial to the development of kids."

There will also be a challenge, Putland says, in helping the new teachers become proficient and comfortable in English.

"When the school start-

ed, they hired keenest English speakers in the country. As program expands, some teachers available have weaker English. So, the students have had seven years English instruction, and are going into a classroom with teacher who maybe does not have as good English skills as they need to teach," Putland says. "So there is the challenge—making sure the teachers have enough confidence in their own English skills to keep furthering students' skills."

For Putland, volunteering in schools overseas puts into perspective the privilege of Canadian education.

"There is so much we have been given by birthright in Canada, and I think by going to developing countries, you get a taste of other people's reality, and gain a new respect and thankfulness for the abundance we've been given. Birth chance alone is the reason that we have what we have. I could just as easily be one of those children living in India, or Africa," she says. "I think part of it is the realization of how blessed we are with abundance, and how I think everybody's been given something in order to share—it is something I do, teaching is my passion. The kids here (in Moosomin) have had their turn, I've had my 30 years with them, and now it's time to go elsewhere while I am still able."

Putland will be living in Burundi from September until December. There is a home provided for volunteers, but electricity and hot water are intermittent luxuries, as is bandwidth. Along with getting her plane ticket, applying for a visa and getting vaccinations for yellow and typhoid fever, Putland has also stocked up on some Folgers coffee—a taste of home for the three months away.

"I'll be missing some parts of home, you take your creature comforts," she says.

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Were the Broadview Buffaloes the first integrated team?

BY DANIEL WYATT

Where's Broadview? Who are the Buffaloes? Little did I know that a casual conversation with my father in 1975 would lead to a huge fact-finding undertaking on my part. At that time, my wife Bonnie and I were newly-married a few months and living in Regina, Saskatchewan. That September I went cross-town to visit my father. We were sitting at the kitchen table over a beer, and somehow got on the conversation of integration in the major leagues, and Jackie Robinson, when out of the blue my father said, "Did you know Broadview had an integrated ball team back in the 1930s? They were pretty good, too."

What! Broadview was my birth place, as was my father's. For those of you unfamiliar with the area, Broadview is a town of less than 1,000 people ninety miles east of Regina on the southern CPR line. But Broadview, how could they have fielded an integrated baseball team? It turned out, my father knew one of the locals named Chris Edwards who had played third base for the Buffaloes. Later that day, I found Edwards' phone number through information. My wife and I drove to Broadview a week later, met Edwards, and a friend of his named Bus Conn, who had also played on the team. Thanks to Edwards, I got in touch with an elderly woman, Edie Maynard, a few days later. She, along with husband Frank, ran a Broadview hotel on the CPR line and helped to bankroll the team during the 1930s. At her house in Regina, Mrs. Maynard showed us the



1937 Broadview Buffaloes Photo taken in front of the Broadview CPR station, 1937.

Back row (left to right): Buck Eaton, John Isaacson (both pitchers from Winnipeg), Chris Edwards, Dick Webb, Gene Bremer, Mack Sinclair. Front row: Lionel Decuir, Red Boguille, Roy Scheppert, Kitchie Bates, Ronnie Bates (manager). (Photo by Thora Anderson, Broadview)

books she had kept for the team as its treasurer. One interesting expense was a \$1,000 bond that the team had to pay at the international border to bring up the black players each year to play in Canada. It was then refundable

upon return of the same players at season's end.

After what I had discovered then and many years later, leading up to 2013, the Broadview Buffaloes were probably not only the first fully-integrated baseball team in Canada, but a powerhouse on the prairies, a good decade before Jackie Robinson appeared on the scene.

Pre-1930, there were many documented cases of imported African-American ringers who came to Canada from the US to play here. In those cases, it was pitchers only, such as the legendary lefty John Donaldson, who had thrown for semi-pro teams in the Saskatchewan centers of Moose Jaw and Radville. One black pitcher, the rest were white seemed to be common.

Thanks to the many contacts over the past few years who have helped me in acquiring information, I never would have been able to put this article together. My father, Chris Edwards, Edie Maynard, Bus Conn and others were very accommodating. The icing on the cake was Jay-Dell Mah's outstanding website dedicated to baseball on the western provinces. Many of his accounts are from local newspaper archives. Try it at www.attheplate.com. Warning to all baseball historians...it contains a pile of interesting reading that could take you hours. And the site keeps getting larger by the week.

To start off, the Buffaloes were a semi-pro squad, meaning the black imports were paid, while most of the local amateurs (who were still good ball players in their own right) weren't. Competition on Western Canada ball fields was tough back then. Every town and city wanted to win. And, from what I heard, side bets were very common. Broadview senior ball dates back to 1934 and 1935, when the town fielded an all-white team called the Red Sox. Independent of any league, they played the lucrative tournament circuit, as lucrative as prairie ball during the Great Depression could be. By 1936, still as independents, they took aboard twenty-one-year old, right-handed pitcher Gene Bremer and his catcher Lionel Decuir, two Negro League players who had come up with their Shreveport Acme Giants teammates to Winnipeg in 1935 for an exhibition series against future-Hall-of-Famer pitching great Satchel Paige and his Bismarck Churchills, a fully-integrated team across the border in Bismarck, North Dakota. Between 1936-1938, the Broadview roster saw Decuir, Bremer and other blacks from the Negro Leagues, including pitchers Jimmy Miller and George Alexander, power-hitting Sonny Harris, and the versatile Red Boguille. (According

to Edie Maynard's records, Bremer was paid \$45 a month plus housing expenses his first year in Broadview). Some of the white locals who played good decent ball, besides Edwards and Conn, were Roy Scheppert, Kitchie Bates, Harold Horeak, Mack Sinclair, and Dick Webb. I know these aren't household names today, but they were well-known players in the area. In 1936, the Red Sox won three major tournaments with their beefed-up lineup. On June 11, they took the Broadview Annual Sportsday Tournament beating the Moose Jaw Athletics 5-0. July 1, they won the Moosomin Dominion Day Tournament by defeating Virden, Manitoba 9-3. July 22, they took the four-team Yorktown tournament, beating the host team 8-4. Then, on July 31, the Buffaloes, with Jimmy Miller on the mound, made a real name for themselves by downing the famous House of David, the bearded white barnstormers from Benton Harbor, Michigan, in an exhibition game at Indian Head by a score of 8-5.

In 1937, the Red Sox changed their name to the Buffaloes and joined the elite Saskatchewan Southern League, with the Weyburn Beavers, Notre Dame Hounds and the Moose Jaw Athletics as competition. The Broadview crew were runaway pennant winners with a 8-1 record, not to mention four tournament wins to their credit in La Fleche, Grenfell, Lemberg, and Regina where they whipped the local Regina Pilsners 17-1. Do you think they were named after the beer? Eight days before, Broadview split the prize money with the Northgate (North Dakota) Yankees after the two teams had to settle on a 77 tie in Broadview due to darkness. The league did not have in-house playoffs that year, electing instead to compete in the provincials with the northern teams. But, out of the blue, Broadview was denied any post-season competition when someone ratted them out. One of their players had supposedly played professional the year before. Ironic, because there were pro ringers all over the prairies in any given year. Results of a further allegation revealed that the Buffaloes had been playing touring American teams without the proper SABA (Saskatchewan Amateur Baseball Association) permits.

By 1938, the Broadview Buffaloes were now making a name outside Saskatchewan. A July 13, 1938 Winnipeg Free Press article reported, "A baseball classic of note is scheduled for Moosomin ball park...when the cream of western senior ball teams meet in the \$300 tournament...Broadview Buffaloes, with colored players from the Southern States, are a mighty machine that is tops in the Saskatchewan Senior League right now." The Buffaloes didn't win that tournament, finishing third. But they did win a number of other tournaments and important exhibition games, including another Broadview Sports Day Tournament on June 16 by thumping the Northgate Yankees 12-4. Eight days later, they won a 16-team tournament in Watson, Saskatchewan by defeating the hometown team 2-0. Then they won the Dominion Day tournament in nearby Norquay. That summer, the Buffaloes beat the powerful Grover Cleveland Alexander House of David team twice. And the minor-league San Antonio Missions and the colored House of David squads once each. By this time, a strange thing was beginning to materialize. Broadview became too good of a team and the fans stopped coming out. When the 4-team Southern League play finished on July 31, the Buffaloes won another pennant finishing 16-5, while the closest team to them was the Regina Senators at 9-9. After the bad blood from the year before, Broadview decided to bow out of the 1938 playoff picture and continued on the tournament and exhibition route into August, before calling it a season. After three impressive years, two of those in the Southern league, the Broadview Buffaloes disbanded. Their run was over.

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Moosomin's Devona Putland headed to Burundi to teach

Continued from page 1

Along with the volunteers, a large sea can full of school supplies, furniture, and computers for a lab will be traveling to Burundi as well. Putland has already started the process of collecting school supplies and donated items for the kids to fill the sea can to the brim, and reaching out to the school division for donations. The volunteers are hoping to start a recorder music program at the school, so Putland is looking for gently used and cleaned recorders for kids, any school supplies, even soaps and shampoos from a hotel—hygiene items like these are luxuries for many people. She is hoping to receive an old data projector and computer speakers for interactive learning opportunities. An unexpected item that can go a long way to helping the kids at the school is a tape measure that has a broken spring.

"We want old broken tape measures—you put reflector tape on them, and they make a great snap bracelet, so kids can wear them and be safe at night," Putland says. "The last time I was in Africa as a tourist, that was hottest item to give away—because there no street lights... and LED flashlights are a godsend. For us, we just throw them into the glove box in the car like it's nothing, but for them, it's a huge deal."

Through the month of April, Putland will be collected any and all donations, and will be driving them to Alberta to load into the sea can, which will leave Canada at the end of April. Anyone can contact Putland if they have items to donate.

In addition to the essential supplies, the TAAS volunteers will be packing a taste of home for the kids.

"Their school yard is the width of back alley, so I've asked the Tanbur people to get mini sticks and hockey balls, so we can use that space at least to teach them to play some hockey," Putland says.

Putland says she is excited about her three months in Africa.

"It will be exciting to see first hand what is going on in this school. I have all these questions as I read about it. I like learning about another culture, seeing what general daily life is like. I get interested in all of it," she says.

Putland leaves for Burundi on August 27.

Anyone who has something to donate can contact Putland at 306-435-2272.

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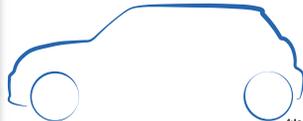
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SARM annual convention

Flood mitigation important topic for local RMs

BY JULIA DIMA

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities held their annual convention from March 9 to 12 in Saskatoon.

It was a packed agenda, with speeches from both Premier Brad Wall and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who was in Saskatoon announcing a federal commitment of up to \$32 million to aid in the twinning of 27 kilometres of Highway 7 between Saskatoon and Delisle.

There were 26 resolutions brought forth by the RMs as well. Locally, representatives from the RMs of Moosomin, Rocanville, Walpole, Martin, Maryfield, and Spy Hill were all in attendance for the convention. There were a number of resolutions voted on at the convention of relevance to local RMs, but one resolution that stood out and received nearly unanimous approval was raised by the local RMs of Maryfield, Martin, and Walpole. Resolution 21—15A for LiDAR Technology for High Resolution Topography Mapping asked SARM to lobby the provincial government to enter into a cost-sharing agreement with municipalities to capture LiDAR information to be utilized for decision making, flood abatement programs, and long-term planning.

LiDAR technology uses aerial laser technology to create highly detailed topographical maps of an area. That information can be used to more accurately predict where spring melt runoff and water from massive flood events—like the summer 2014 flood in the Southeast part of the province—will run, so mitigation efforts can be better planned to prevent infrastructure damage in RMs.

The idea for LiDAR mapping was raised by the Lower Souris Watershed Authority, and presented at SARM by RM of Walpole councillor Teresa Walker.

"The idea is instead of spending so much government money on PDAP to repair everything damaged in a flood, spend it on this to be ahead of the game, and prevent building in flooded areas," she says.

Alberta is mapped with LiDAR technology and some places in Saskatchewan have used the technology on a smaller scale, and have found that it has helped with infrastructure planning and flood preparation. Walker says that in Saskatchewan, a LiDAR survey was done at the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve, which is close to Borden, Saskatchewan. The data was able to accurately map the placement of sandbags and save infrastructure in a flood.

Walker says that it may have made a difference for the region in the summer floods, but it's not immediately clear without having clear topographical mapping.

"For areas here, it would help in planning for future, so we don't build in the wrong places in the future. In the north part of Walpole, we plan to do remedial work to stop where the water was really bad in the flood. We don't have LiDAR, so we need to have an engineer to do it the old fashioned way. If we had LiDAR data, we could have done that project last year," she says. "Why pay for damage when you could maybe not have the damage in the first place?"

The sophisticated mapping technology does come with a hefty price tag that municipalities could not afford individually. Walker says that the estimates are in the \$30 million range, but that the claims paid out by PDAP for the 2011 flood were in the same range.

"Compared with PDAP clean-up costs, it is not actually a lot of money," Walker says. "It is a lot of money if I had to pay for it, or if you did... but split over 300 municipalities, it's \$100,000 each."

The reason the resolution was brought to SARM, however, is because the municipalities who proposed the resolution believe that there should be a cost sharing between the municipalities, the provincial government and the large industries within the municipalities, like the oil and mining industries, since they too would benefit from flood mitigation.

"If you divide (\$100,000) by three and say province pays a third, industry pays a third, and municipalities pay a third—who knows how you would split it—but can soon reduce that \$30 million number," she says.

The other two municipalities involved in the resolution, Maryfield and Martin, believe the technology could change things for Saskatchewan and prevent another flood like the summer flood.

"Basically, flying over whole province takes time and money. But, you can help with flooding, knowing where you should and shouldn't build," says RM of Maryfield Reeve Cam Thompson. "In this flood, I think it might have saved Gainsborough, but I don't know for sure. It would just help out on flows, knowing how big your culverts need to be."

For the RM of Martin, though flooding damage was not as extensive as other regions, councillor Peter Currie says it may have made flood predictions easier, but could be better utilized looking forward into mitigation.

"It would make a difference for planning which way the water will eventually go. Without it, you can see where it's going in a few miles, but this is bigger—it's hard to see where water is going until it is actually there sometimes,"

Currie says.

Other local RMs supported the resolution as well.

"We voted in favor of that because it is probably a good program. It's expensive, but very accurate," says RM of Moosomin councillor Ernest Dobson. "It allows for future changes."

The RM of Spy Hill also voted in favor of the LiDAR resolution. In the RM of Rocanville, Administrator Sylvia Anderson says there has been a topographical map of the RM for some time already.

Another resolution raised that local RMs voted in favor of was regarding accident response coverage for fire departments. In most municipalities, if a volunteer fire department is called to respond to an accident or fire, but arrives to either a false alarm, or a handled situation—in the case where two volunteer fire departments cover an overlapping area, and one department responds to the call first and does not require any assistance—there is no callout compensation. That means that the fire department receives no compensation for the time taken away from regular employment, the fuel, or the equipment usage all impacted when answering a call.

"They want to lobby so if they get called out, they are paid something. When you get everyone going, you have trucks running, and everything costs money. You are taking people from jobs, running equipment... you need money to run all that stuff too," says Thompson. "We voted in favor of that."

Councillor Walker says that it is the same situation in Walpole.

"It was unanimously carried to change this. If we show up between the RMs of Maryfield and Walpole for a fire, but Maryfield gets called out first, and puts the fire out, then Walpole is not compensated," she says.

Anderson says the RM of Rocanville has an agreement with SGI to provide a callout compensation whether or not there is a legitimate emergency.

"When I first came here, ... the fire chief mentioned when I got training that you can apply to get SGI rebates for the fire department. ... if there is a false alarm, they still get a bill, because the fire department had to use fuel, get away from their jobs and so on," she says.

Continued on page 27

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Focus on Agriculture

Fire at hog barn near Kola kills over 1,500 pigs

BY JULIA DIMA

At around 10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, the Wallace District Fire department, with assistance from the Maryfield Fire Department and Virden and Melita RCMP later, responded to a massive fire that had engulfed a hog barn belonging to HyLife, just northwest of Kola, Manitoba.

There were no people in the barn at the time of the fire and no human injuries, but 1,500 sows and an unknown number of piglets died in the fire.

Wallace District Fire Chief Brad Yochim says that once the fire had spread, there was no chance of getting the animals out.

"Once we got to the barn, it was fully engulfed in fire—there was no saving anything unfortunately. It was a total loss of the hogs and the barn," Yochim says. "We just put as much water on it as we could get a hold of, and we had to go back the next day to put out hot spots."

The fire department was called to the fire because an employee received an alert from the farm's alarm system, and arrived to find fire and smoke at the west end of the barn. According to Yochim, the employee attempted to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher, but it was too advanced, so he vacated the building and called 911.

"It was a 600 by 100 foot building—it's an absolutely massive building—fully engulfed in fire from one end to the other... and some squealing hogs, which wasn't pleasant—it's a little unnerving," Yochim adds.

The next day, the Office of the Fire Commissioner started the investigation into the fire. Aside from knowing that the fire originated in the west end of the barn, Yochim says with a total destruction, it is hard to find the exact cause. Electrical components in the barn could have been a factor.

"There are all kinds of fans and lights and heat lamps in the entire barn, so there is a lot of electrical," Yochim says.

The fire was exacerbated by a massive winter storm that took place on Tuesday night. White-out conditions delayed the arrival of the fire department, and winds spread the fire.

"The wind was a factor—once the fire breaches the building, then the wind just feeds it. Being at the west end of the barn, and having a west wind, the wind just pushed the fire right through the entire barn extremely fast," Yochim says. Nobody was injured in battling the blaze.

HyLife produces 1.4 million hogs each year in North America, and the barn that burned down was one of 90

hog barns in Manitoba.

HyLife Vice President Claude Vielfaure says that the loss of the barn and the pigs will have an impact for the company, but the dollar amount isn't known at this point.

"We will be working with our insurance company to understand (the loss)," Vielfaure says. "We haven't built a barn in quite a long time, so we need to understand all the costs associated."

There are a number of other barns in the Kola area according to Vielfaure, and he says it is not clear yet if HyLife plans to rebuild and replenish the stock for this particular barn.

"Those are discussions we are going to have in the next few weeks as a company and also with our insurance company to understand what the options are for us. All our barns are important to us, and this fire was very unexpected, so we need to take some time here and think about exactly what our plan will be going forward."

The barn, which was constructed over 20 years ago, did not have a sprinkler system, as most large industrial barns do not, according to Vielfaure. When it was built, it followed the fire code provided by the OFC, and the code did not call for a sprinkler system to be installed.

"We obviously follow what the fire commissioner has put out for codes, and just with the application of a sprinkler system in barns, there are many reasons why it would not work properly," he says.

He adds that in recent years, HyLife has been working to develop safety protocols in their barns, and though the cause of the fire is not known, there will be discussions

within the company on what can potentially be done to prevent something like this from happening again.

"It's a very sad day whenever you have a barn fire and animals perish in the barns, it is something we don't like, and we need to understand what happened, and make sure we continue doing what we've done for years, which is ensuring our barns are as safe as possible," he says.

Continued on page 13

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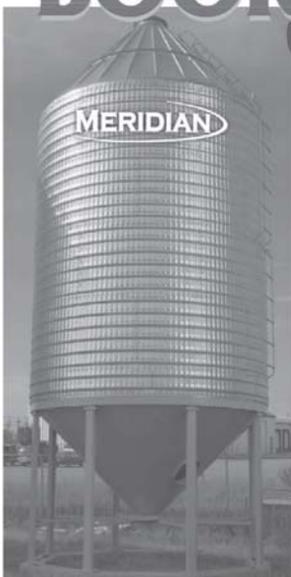
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The hidden farm illness

By SHIRLEY BYERS

Ten years ago Gerry Friesen was a successful farmer, a key player in Manitoba Pork Marketing and a member of the Manitoba Farm Mediation Board. Outwardly, he was doing just fine. Inwardly, he was battling severe depression.

"I fooled a lot of people," he says. There has been a stigma around depression but that's changing. Gerry is doing his part to change it. He speaks at seminars and workshops about depression in farmers, he's open to talking to the media about his depression and he writes a blog on recovering from depression. He knows what depression feels like. He knows how difficult it was to seek help and he wants to make that first step a little easier for other farmers.

STRESS CAN TRIGGER DEPRESSION

"We know job stress can be a huge contributor to depression and particularly in farmers and individuals that work in agricultural occupations," says Greg Gibson, registered clinical psychologist, Community Health Services for the Prairie Mountain Health Region based in Brandon. "In 2006 the World Health Organization cited farming as one of the most stressful occupations and they also highlighted that job stress is a precursor to mental health problems."

Farming is rife with risk factors, elements beyond the individual's control including uncertain weather, fluctuations in markets, disease outbreaks, input costs, machinery breakdowns and changes in government policy.

"All of these are things that farmers have little control over but they're kind of make or break factors," says Gibson. "And they can all have a financial effect and a psychological effect, and the financial effect can affect the psychology. A lot of these factors can impact, and certainly are a risk factor for, burnout and depression."

Gerry knows what stress feels like and the physical symptoms it can trigger. A few years ago, at a meeting he began to experience heart palpitations. "There was a lot of stress in my life at that time," he says, "issues with Manitoba Pork, my own farm issues—we had to restructure due to financial issues. It was in early 2004 that I finally did go to see a doctor." The doctor put him on antidepressants and an anti-anxiety medication. "I came to understand the mental health issue better than I used to," he says.

MORE WORK WASN'T THE ANSWER

"Looking back, I now recognize—it's



ingrained in us that if we just work harder we will get rid of all these problems so instead of seeking the right kind of help we tend to try to work harder and work our way through the issues whether it's financial stress, whether it's depression, whether it's other stresses. That's just the way men are wired to handle things."

Gerry was able to hide his depression from the wider community, but the people who loved him most knew that something was wrong.

DEPRESSION AFFECTS THE ENTIRE FAMILY

"I thought at the time I was doing a really good job of hiding it from them," he says. "In 2010, I facilitated a project called Men and Depression and at the time I actually interviewed my wife and kids to see if my depression had had an effect on them. To say it was traumatic is overstating it perhaps, but I was shocked at the response. I thought I had been hiding things from them and then realized that they had understood all too well there was something wrong with me and the different ways they tried to cope with that."

"My wife would say that in her life she has been married to four or five different men, three of them at least she just as soon would not have been married to and one of them was that depressed farmer who was trying to cope, was trying to do way more than he should have and wasn't dealing with the depression in the right way."

HELP AND HOPE

For Gerry the right way to deal with his depression has been a combination of elements. Initially, he was on antidepressants and an anti-anxiety medication for about a year and a half.

After completing that regime and af-

ter a traumatic event in his life he tried talk therapy but didn't find the relief he needed. He went back on medication. It was at that time that the farm was sold. He now works in conflict resolution and stress management. Selling the farm gave him temporary relief from a lot of stress, he says.

Self-knowledge has helped as well. "Through the work I've been doing in the stress management area I've recognized who I am and what my trigger points are, and the fact that there are things that will drag me down."

"I get depressed when I'm asked to give and I have nothing left to give," he says. "When I'm very busy with my work, with my mediation stuff and stress management, I get to the point where I am tired and when I become tired, my defenses go down and I feel myself slipping over the edge. And then I have to be very proactive in dealing with that."

Cognitive behavioral aids such as David Burns' book, *Feeling Good* has also proved to be extremely helpful.

Burns refers to the thesis of Dr. Aaron T. Beck, one of the world's foremost authorities on mood disorders, and globally recognized as the father of cognitive therapy paraphrased below:

1. When you are depressed or anxious you are thinking in an illogical, negative manner and you inadvertently act in a self-defeating way.
2. With a little effort you can train yourself to change your thought patterns.
3. As your painful symptoms are eliminated, you will become productive and happy again.
4. These aims can usually be accomplished in a relatively brief period of time, using straightforward methods.

BREAKING THE WALL OF SILENCE

After facilitating the seminar with the Manitoba Farm Stress Line Gerry was asked if he would talk about his own depression issues. "Never realizing the impact it would have, never realizing how difficult it would be, particularly at the beginning, but really the benefit out of all that is that people, some I've known for years and didn't realize they were having mental health issues, came to me and said, 'You know this is what I'm experiencing,' and together we find new ways of coping and making life better for ourselves."

These days when he talks at seminars, workshops and other presentations he often says that the number one thing that helped him was actually starting to talk about his depression. He tells a story from the fall of 2005.

"There was a fairly traumatic incident in my life and I remember my neighbor dropping by and he asked, 'Are you doing okay?' Of course my normal response in the past would have been, 'Absolutely, I'm fine.' But I took advantage of that question that day and I talked for probably half an hour and I spilled my beans."

People don't want to talk about their mental health because there is a pride issue, he says. "I have no problem telling someone my knee is very sore because I sprained it but I hate telling people that I have a mental health issue. But when I did start talking about it and my neighbor said, 'Yeah, yeah I get that.' And he didn't look at me as if I had lost my marbles; it was just like, 'Yeah, I get that. I sometimes feel that way. Can I help with anything?' That kind of conversation was really freeing for me."

Professional health care workers are also extremely helpful, he says and warns people not to be discouraged if that first attempt to get help doesn't quite work.

"My message is, don't give up. Go see another counselor. I talk a lot about finding your support system. As much as I was hiding stuff from my wife I now realize if I had been open and up front with her that would have been way more helpful than I could ever have imagined. There are neighbors, professionals, community mental health workers. The list just goes on and on."

Gerry has been blogging since 2010 at <http://thecoveringfarmer.blogspot.ca/> and says that for him, it's a form of journaling and an awesome tool to deal with stress.

Continued on page 10

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Focus on Agriculture

The hidden farm illness

Continued from page 9

WHAT DOES DEPRESSION LOOK LIKE?

Depression is not simply feeling down for a short time. It is a medical condition. Symptoms of depression can include:

- Sleeping too much or too little.
- Fatigue, lack of energy.
- Sadness all day, nearly every day.
- Withdrawal from family and friends.
- Loss of interest, lack of enjoyment in things that used to be enjoyable.
- Trouble concentrating.
- Trouble making decisions.
- Headaches, stomach pain, joint or other pains.
- Change in appetite or weight, gaining or losing weight without intent.
- Feelings of irritability.
- Feelings of restless or feelings of being slowed down.
- Feelings of worthlessness.
- Excessive or inappropriate feelings of guilt.
- Thoughts of death or suicide.

To be diagnosed as depression, these symptoms must be present for most of the day, nearly every day for at least two weeks.

Some of these symptoms can also show up with other conditions, psychological and physical. Diabetes can cause tiredness, low mood and sleep difficulties. People who have a low thyroid may have some of these symptoms while people with an anxiety disorder may have trouble concentrating, thinking about things and making decisions.

ONLINE TREATMENT FOR ANXIETY/DEPRESSION IN SASKATCHEWAN

Although online therapy is very popular in other countries, so far Saskatchewan is the only province offering that service in Canada. Online counselling for depression and anxiety is available free of charge to Saskatchewan residents eighteen and over who have access to and are comfortable using computers, says Heather Hadjistavropoulos, professor of psychology at the University of Regina.

"We're currently offering a wellbeing course basically designed for people who

have anxiety or depression," she says. "The course consists of five lessons and with each lesson the person goes onto the computer and learns different information on how to improve wellbeing and cope with anxiety and depression."

There are five lessons in all and it usually takes one or two weeks to complete a lesson. Each lesson has reading material online and suggestions, activities and homework.

Lessons include basic information about depression and anxiety, how common these symptoms are, identifying and challenging thoughts that might be contributing to the condition, coping with the physical symptoms that go along with depression and anxiety, identifying and working on behaviors that may be contributing to challenges, putting it all together and continuing to work on long term wellbeing.

As well as working on their own course, takers have a therapist they can email during the week. Once a week that therapist goes online and reads the client's emails and responds to questions and concerns and offers encouragement.

"It's great for people who live in rural and remote areas or have mobility issues or just have other barriers such as family or farming responsibilities," says Hadjistavropoulos. People can work on this on their own time. Sometimes people feel reluctant or embarrassed about seeking help. Sometimes we find after people work on this they feel more comfortable if they need to go in to see a counsellor in person."

Learn more about this program at: <https://www.onlinetherapyuser.ca/well-being/welcome/>

SOME OF THE RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Saskatchewan Healthline: At: 811 HealthLine is a confidential, 24-hour health information and support telephone line staffed by Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Social Workers.

Manitoba Health Links: Similar to Saskatchewan 1-888-315-9257

Health Link Alberta: Toll-free: 1-866-408-5465 (LINK)
Edmonton: 780-408-5465 (LINK)

Calgary: 403-943-5465 (LINK)
HealthLink BC: 8-1-1

Farm Stress lines or equivalent:
Alberta: 877-303-2642
Saskatchewan Farm Stress Line: 1-800-667-4442

Manitoba Farm and Rural Support Services: 1-866-367-3276
Ontario: Distress Centres Ontario: 416-486-2242

Online Therapy (only in Saskatchewan)
<https://www.onlinetherapyuser.ca/well-being/welcome/>

Long-time farmer, Gerry Friesen's blog:
<http://therecoveringfarmer.blogspot.ca/>

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE HAVING THOUGHTS OF SELF-HARM OR IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS HAVING THOSE THOUGHTS

If someone has thoughts of harming themselves, the most important thing he or she can do is to seek out support, says Greg Gibson, registered clinical psychologist, Community Health Services for the Prairie Mountain Health Region based in Brandon. This can be extremely difficult, particularly for someone struggling with depressive symptoms, as he or she may be plagued with negative thoughts, including "what's the use? Nothing will work anyway," or "I don't want to bother anyone. I'm not worth it." Having people you can talk to and a good support network is vital protection against both self-harm and suicidal thinking. Talking about the inner feelings that fuel your self-harm is potentially useful whoever you talk to, but counsellors are professionally trained to work with self-harm and will be best placed to support you in finding constructive alternatives. In Brandon and the surrounding area, the 24 mobile crisis line and Manitoba Farm and rural support lines are 24-hour telephone support services that are available to folks in Manitoba.

When someone says he or she is thinking about suicide, ask questions. Be sensitive, but ask direct questions, such as: How are you coping with what's been happening in your life? Do you ever feel like just giving up? Are you thinking about hurting

yourself? Are you thinking about suicide? Have you thought about how you would do it? Do you know when you would do it? Do you have the means to do it? Asking about suicidal thoughts or feelings won't push someone into doing something self-destructive and may reduce the risk of the person acting on suicidal feelings.

Look for warning signs, such as the person talking about death or suicide ("I'm going to kill myself," "I wish I were dead" or "I wish I hadn't been born") and being preoccupied with death, dying or violence; getting the means to commit suicide, such as buying a gun or stockpiling pills; withdrawing from social contact and wanting to be left alone; having mood swings—being emotionally high one day and deeply discouraged the next; feeling trapped or hopeless about a situation; increasing use of alcohol, drugs, or other risky behaviors; giving away belongings or getting affairs in order; saying goodbye to people as if they won't be seen again; and behavioral changes, such as increased anxiety, or agitation.

And lastly, get help. If a friend or family member talks or behaves in a way that makes you believe he or she might commit suicide, don't try to handle the situation without help—get help from a trained professional as quickly as possible. The person may need to be hospitalized until the suicidal crisis has passed. If possible, tell a family member or friend what's going on right away. If suicidal risk is imminent, call 911 or your local emergency number right away. Or, if you think you can do so safely, take the person to the nearest hospital emergency room yourself. If you believe that risk is imminent, it is important to not leave the person alone.

Gibson says it is also important for the friend or family member to practice self-care and get support themselves. Loved ones and friends who are managing and supporting someone with depression and suicidal urges can fall into burn-out and depression themselves. It is important that these supports also find support and assistance themselves.

This story was originally published in the Country Guide.



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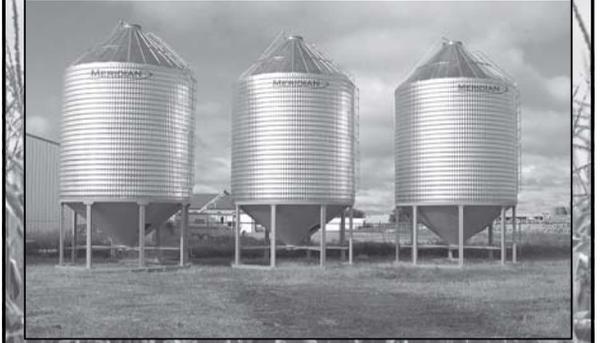
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Focus on Agriculture

Budget has \$362 million for agriculture

Saskatchewan's 2015-16 budget includes \$362.4 million for agriculture. "A successful agriculture industry is essential to Saskatchewan's diversified economy," Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said.

"Over the past number of years we have seen the agriculture sector grow, and our government is committed to ensuring that growth continues."

"A strong agriculture industry means a strong Saskatchewan."

The 2015-16 agriculture budget contains \$71.2 million for strategic initiatives, including \$26.7 million for agricultural research and innovation.

The government will once again provide \$4.2 million in industry assistance, for support of organizations like the 4-H Council of Saskatchewan,

Canadian Western Agribition and Agriculture in the Classroom.

The 2015-16 Agriculture Budget also contains \$240 million to fully fund business risk management programs such as Crop Insurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest to support farming operations as they look to grow and expand.

The 2015 Crop Insurance Program includes ongoing enhancements giving producers more choice and flexibility.

As well, Crop Insurance premiums are decreasing for producers while coverage levels, on average, are increasing to \$183 per acre, up from \$162 per acre in 2014.

"This Budget will help keep agriculture and Saskatchewan's economy

strong as we focus on building a productive and sustainable agriculture industry," Stewart said.

"Our government will continue to offer the programs and services that farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses need to be successful."

The ministry's 2015-16 Budget of \$362.4 million is a 2.5 per cent decrease from last year.

The previous budget included an above average amount of strategic initiative spending carried over from the first year of the Growing Forward (GF2) Agreement.

This carryover spending is not required for the 2015-16 Budget. The total GF2 commitment, \$388 million over the five years of the program, remains the same.

Be wary of Hantavirus as weather warms

Health officials are reminding Saskatchewan residents to take precautions against hantavirus as the weather warms up.

Hantavirus is transmitted by breathing in contaminated airborne particles from the droppings, urine and saliva of infected deer mice. Initial symptoms of hantavirus infection include fever, muscle aches, cough, headaches, nausea and vomiting.

"Symptoms then get worse and lead to a severe and often fatal lung disease known as hantavirus pulmonary syndrome," Saskatchewan's Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Denise Werker said. "If you develop a fever, coughing and shortness of breath within one to six weeks of potential exposure to mouse-infested areas, seek medical attention immediately."

The risk of contracting hantavirus infection is currently low in Saskatchewan. However, deer mice are present throughout the province and the risk will increase as the weather continues to warm up and people resume seasonal activities.

"It's important to take appropriate precautions against exposure to hantavirus, whether you're out for recreation or working on the farm cleaning buildings, moving woodpiles, handling grain or cleaning farm equipment," Rural and Remote Health Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. "We're all looking forward to a great Saskatchewan summer, but taking adequate safety measures can go a long way when getting cottages, recreational vehicles or boats ready for use."

When cleaning rodent-infested areas people should: Ventilate the building by opening doors and windows for at least 30 minutes before cleaning;

Use wet mopping methods and wear rubber or plastic gloves;

Wear goggles and a filter

mask when cleaning areas contaminated by droppings in a confined space;

Dampen areas contaminated with rodent droppings with bleach disinfectant and remove droppings with a damp mop or cloth;

Avoid using dry cleaning methods such as dusting, sweeping, vacuuming or air-hosing;

Steam clean, shampoo, or spray upholstered furniture with a detergent, disinfectant, or a mixture of bleach and water; and

Wash clothes and bedding with detergent in hot water.

You can also reduce exposure to hantavirus by:

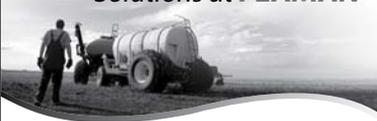
Blocking openings that might allow rodents to enter a building;

Storing human and animal food, water and garbage in containers with tightly-fitted lids; and

Moving woodpiles or other potential hiding places for mice away from your home.

There have been 30 cases of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome reported in Saskatchewan since 1994, 10 of which resulted in death.

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GILBERT PLAINS: 2450 acres of productive grain land, (Mehary clay loam) land with excellent modern grain storage. Land is all close to nicely landscaped yard site with a very nice recently renovated 1770 sq. ft. home. **\$3,785,000**

GILBERT PLAINS: 1400 acres of excellent quality, flat, open grain land. The land is all located in close proximity to Brandon. This is complete with a beautifully renovated home, machine sheds, and grain storage. **\$3,680,000 - CONDITIONAL SALE**

PILOT MOUND: 1140 acres all in one block. Excellent yard site with numerous buildings and a very well cared for home with double attached garage. **\$3,597,000 - SOLD**

KILLARNEY: 1135 acres of land in an area well known for good grain production, near the town of Killarney, MB. This farm comes complete with 50,000 bushels of grain storage, machine storage, fuel storage, and 2 family homes (recently renovated). **\$3,275,000**

MINNEBOSA: 2597 acres of excellent cattle and grain land. Located just 15 minutes north east of Minnedosa and 45 minutes from Brandon. The land has all new 4 strand fences for rotational grazing of any parcel if desired. There are two homes on the property along with machine sheds and modern cattle handling facilities. **\$3,200,000**

GILBERT PLAINS: 800 acres of high quality grain land situated south of Gilbert Plains, MB. The property is all in close proximity and comes complete with 47,000 bushels of modern grain storage and a nice workshop. **\$1,450,000 - SOLD**

GILBERT PLAINS: Excellent Investment Opportunity! Located in a very desirable grain growing area of Manitoba, a short drive north east of Gilbert Plains, MB. This 995 workable acres of very productive farmland with a lucrative rental contract in place makes for a great investment property. **\$1,485,000**

CYPRESS RIVER: 160 acres Potato/special crops land, situated on a aquifer, 1 mile from Hwy #2 with a tidy yard site and 2 buildings. **\$995,000**

PLUMAS: 788 acre mixed grain and cattle operation w/ 3200 sq. ft. newer home. 5 miles west of Plumias. **\$990,000 - SOLD**

ETHELBERT: 2463 acre livestock operation w/ 3 bedroom bungalow. Located north of Dauphin **\$795,000 - SOLD**

BRANDON: Beautiful 80 acre property located in the Brandon Hills. The home is a gorgeous 3700 sq. ft. bi-level with oak hardwood floors, intricate brick detail with accent stain glass windows. The property has an insulated workshop and a metal clad storage shed. This property has all the conveniences of city living and all the serenity of nature. **\$795,000**

GLENBORG: 469 acres of very productive grain land for sale. Located west of Glenborg, MB. This property would be a great addition to an existing farm operation or would also be excellent investment property. **\$792,000**

ROSSBURN: 492 acres of farmland of which 400 acres are cultivated productive grain land that comes with a recently renovated 1200 sq. ft. home on a tidy yard site w/ a shop, barn and grain storage. **\$779,000 - SOLD**

VIRIDEN: Great Starter Farm! A short drive north of the vibrant town of Viriden MB, brings you to this nice square section of farmland, with a machine shed, barns, and cattle shelters. The residence is a new 2014 mobile home. **\$765,000**

ETHELBERT: 469 acre property with a nice split level house located just 2 miles southeast of the town of Ethelbert, MB. The land is currently being used for pasture/hay but in the previous years some of the land was being used for grain. **\$495,000**

DAUPHIN: 683 acres of farm land located NW of Dauphin adjacent to Hwy #10. Perfect for raising livestock and country living. Well cared for bungalow house and workshop, cattle shelter, grain storage. **\$478,000**

BRANDON: Opportunity to purchase a half section of good quality grain land 15 minutes from the city of Brandon, MB. This soil is capable of growing all types of grain crops including beans. **\$455,000 - SOLD**

OAK LAKE: 470 acres of farm land would make a perfect starter farm or nice addition to expand your current operation. This land is all adjoining and mainly used for grain production. The property has an older farm site, some grain storage and hydro access. **\$399,000**

BRANDON: 160 acres Located just a short drive south of Brandon, MB this nice open quarter section of farm land has great location for a building site, investment property or expanding your current operation. **\$559,000**

MINNIT: 80 acres of productive land and very affordable country living 25 minutes south of Brandon. Property has a 1440 sq. ft. bungalow home, 4 cattle shelters, 30' x 40' machine shed and 11,000 bu grain storage. **\$349,000**

BRANDON: 153 acres nice open grain land, 1 mile off Trans Canada Hwy **\$322,000**

BRANDON: 140 acres of farmland 10 minutes east of Brandon along the Trans Canada **\$295,000 - SOLD**

GLENBORG: 251 acres of good quality grain land, along with approximately 100 acres of natural bush for hunting or recreation. This property is located 20 minutes south of Shilo. Soil is suitable for various types of grain production and specialty crops such as soy beans. Great addition to your current farming operation or an excellent investment. **\$239,000**

BRANDON: Excellent location and great investment 10 minutes from Brandon, 160 acres. Currently used for pasture with central dugout and crossed fenced for rotational grazing. **\$218,000 - SOLD**

DAUPHIN: 300 acres of nice open flat land north of Dauphin **\$178,000 - SOLD**

ALEXANDER: A short 15 minute drive west of Brandon, MB takes you to this very scenic quarter section of farm land currently used for hay production and pasture. Great investment opportunity. **\$124,500**

VIRIDEN: 80 acres, lake view with great potential for a building site or investment **\$110,000**

For more information and farms not yet listed contact Henry Carels
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Focus on Agriculture



Photo courtesy of RCMP Manitoba

The blaze at the hog barn took fire crews two days to put entirely out.

Fire at hog barn near Kola kills over 1,500 pigs

Continued from page 8

"There will be a total investigation internally in our company on how we can improve that. We've done lots of that in the last few years making our barns as safe as possible, so we are going to review what we've been doing, and if we do find out what started this fire, we will need to see if we can improve our protocols because of it."

As far as staff, there were five employees that worked at this particular barn, and Vielfaure says that HyLife is currently in discussions with the employees about what the next step is for them. Because there are other barns in the region, he says it is likely all the employees will be placed in another barn in the area. Some employees are al-

ready working in different barns, and some were given a few days off to determine what happens next.

"They were devastated. They work with the animals every day, and they are obviously important to them, so they are sad about that. And obviously, it becomes, 'Well what is going to happen to me now?' So we have been proactively talking to them and trying to find a way of making sure they are taken care of," Vielfaure says. "Our plan is to retain the employees and move them to different sites, but all that has to be worked on. We will take care of our employees as far as that goes."

As of press time, the Office of the Fire Commissioner had not yet determined the cause of the blaze.

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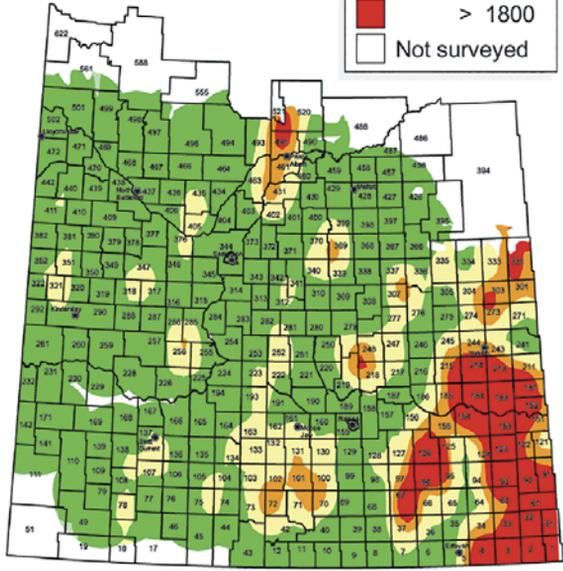
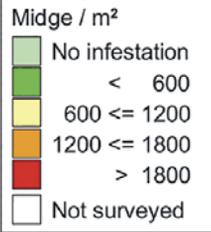
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Focus on Agriculture

Wheat Midge Forecast 2015

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Wheat midge re-appears

BY WENDY SCHATZ LEEDS, PAG, CCA

For those of you who have not seen the 2015 wheat midge provincial forecast, southeast Saskatchewan has the potential to have wheat midge issues. A conversation with provincial entomologist Scott Hartley confirmed my suspicions as to why this may be happening. The wet conditions that have been plaguing this side of the province over the past couple years have also been favoring the wheat midge. Generally the whole family of insects that the wheat midge belongs to, Cecidomyiidae, likes wetter conditions. The environment also played a role in the success of the midge completing its lifecycle in our wheat stands. Midge would have gone undetected in unseeded fields that may have had volunteer wheat. As well later seeding dates may have lead to midge effecting weaker tillers more than main stem heads. Tiller kernels if hit hard likely would blow out the back of the combine and not end up in a grain sample. To make matters worse, the wasp (*Macroglenes penetrans* (Kirby)) that does an effective job at parasitizing the wheat midge, prefers warmer and drier conditions.



Parasitic wasps that control wheat midge prefer warm, dry conditions. Wheat midge favor the wet conditions of recent years.

lower our risk? Obviously seeding early is a great opportunity to avoid the wheat midge window. Wheat midge emerge based on accumulated growing degree days. With GDD of a base 5C temperature, you will see 10 per cent emergence at 693 GDD, 50 per cent at 784 GDD and 90 per cent at 874 GDD. In a less technical comparison, usually the midge appear the first week in July and peak the second week in July. Seeding early enough so wheat has headed and started flowering before this time period greatly reduces risk.

is to choose a midge tolerant wheat variety. These varieties contain a single gene—SM1—that triggers the production of phenolic acids. Phenolic acids are naturally occurring organic acids in wheat kernels. The phenolic acids increase more quickly in wheat kernels with the SM1 gene than those without. These levels cause the midge larvae to stop feeding and eventually starve to death. Information on these varieties can be found at this website www.midgetolerantwheat.ca.

Chemical control may be needed if midge numbers are above the following thresholds:

Yield—one adult midge for every four or five wheat heads during the susceptible stage.

Grade—one adult midge for every eight to 10 wheat heads during the susceptible stage.

Insecticide applications are best done in the evening when the midge are active near the crop canopy laying eggs. Egg laying generally takes place after 8:30 p.m. when wind speeds are less than 10 km/h and the air temperature is greater than 15°C. This also helps avoid the parasitic wasp that is more active during the heat of the day.

Wendy Schatz Leeds is the Lead Agronomist for Sharpe's Soil Services.

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Focus on Agriculture

Saturated ground could be a concern for farmers this spring

BY JULIA DIMA

Farmers in the region are concerned that despite a mild winter with little snowfall, heavily saturated soil could delay seeding and lead to ponding and localized flooding concerns.

After massive floods covered the Southeast corner of Saskatchewan at the end of June last summer, farmers were left to contend with wet soil in almost every region of the province.

Kevin Woods, with Westwood Land and Cattle near Moosomin says that combines and tractors were still getting stuck in the fields at the end of October. The entire area went into winter freeze-up with saturated fields. Though the Prairies were beginning to look dry going into mid-March, a storm last week put a fresh layer of snow across the region.

"We went through a pretty decent winter, but that doesn't mean much because all it will take is one or two more of these snowfalls, and all we gained through the winter, we will lose in a short period of time. We really don't need a whole lot of moisture in the next 60 to 90 days," Woods says.

Just southwest of Moosomin, Ron Dietrich, who grows feed crops for his cattle, says

that it took into late October and freeze-up to get bales off the ground.

"Although some sub-moisture seeped away in the winter, it was replenished with the spring melt. . . . So, excess moisture is a fairly major concern at this point," he says. "We have time to recover from this new snowfall, certainly. But, the next six weeks will be critical. If it drags out like it did last year, we'll be delayed seeding, and that causes a lot more concerns down the line."

Moisture concerns are exacerbated further south in the Wawota, Redvers, and Maryfield area.

Neil Weatherald farms on the edge of Moose Mountain Park, and he's sure the water table cannot handle anymore moisture at this point.

"Another big snow would mean unseeded acres—we are full, the water table is right up there. . . the springs ran all winter, so that tells us the lakes and the ground are full. Everything we get now is runoff," Weatherald says. "(Last year) we still had three feet of snow at this time, so we are looking better than last year as of right now. . . hopefully things dry up. We have another month before we should get concerned."

During the summer floods, the Redvers

region saw some of the most intense flooding. Dustin Toms farms near Redvers, and like Woods, says that though a dry winter was a blessing, the saturated ground means it makes little difference.

"We are pretty saturated, and that's the problem—even though there wasn't a whole lot of snowfall throughout the winter, it doesn't take much. There is just no place for it to go," Thoms says. "I am guessing we will have an average to late seeding this year because of the moisture."

Though he also went into freeze-up with saturated fields near Maryfield, John Van Eaton says he is always an optimist and is not yet worrying about flooding or delayed seeding.

"I was not looking forward to a blizzard. . . but we don't have a huge snow pack, and I think even this is not going to be real detrimental, but we did go into freeze up with high soil moisture content, and there is enough frost in the ground that most should run off and not soak in. Once the soil is saturated, it can't absorb much more, so has to run off or pond, which was the problem," Van Eaton says. "That's in the back of our minds—I'm not losing sleep yet, but it's a concern. We still have four

or five weeks before seeding, so a lot can change."

Van Eaton feels that another large snowfall or a large rain in the coming weeks could be the tipping point. Nonetheless, he is cautiously optimistic.

"I think our market hinges so much on things we can't control that as professional agro-business people, we just have to be prepared to take advantage of market signals when they are there. We have to be prepared to roll with the punches, take advantage of opportunities as they arise," he says.

Dwayne Wolfe of Wapella says that he is less worried than last year, when there was still a heavy snowpack in the spring. He says that because excessive moisture has become a trend in farming in the last four or five years, he is prepared for the problems associated with wet years.

"We've geared up on equipment, so we are able to have a fair bit of confidence going in that we can handle the situation—now it is what we are used to. We were expecting (the snowfall), and a few more before we go to seeding," he says.

Continued on Page 17

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Focus on Agriculture

Saturated ground could be a concern for farmers this spring

Continued from page 16
Northwest of Rocanville, Darryl Williamson says he was lucky compared to others with the saturated soil.

"I am hoping it's going to be a normal spring, but it could get a little tense if we get any more snow in late March or early April," Williamson says. "The spring runoff is not too bad, but after it starts to warm up and we get rain on the remaining snow, that is my concern. When the ground starts to thaw, if we get the rain, it's bad. But, I am not worried, it's just part of farming."

The moisture concerns have been ringing true at the elevators in the region too. At Richardson Pioneer Limited in White-wood, Director of Operations Trent Brister says that things are holding steady enough for a normal spring and on schedule seeding throughout the region right now, but another heavy snowfall or a spring rain could change that very

quick. "The big runoff has come and gone in the Whitewood area, so we are not sitting too bad. Just southeast, moisture is problem. We wouldn't want to see a two inch rain by any means, that would slow things down. Right now, if we don't get any more moisture by the third week in April, we could be seeding," he says. "If we don't get excess moisture, we'll be okay. Most of the acres will get seeded—but if the weather changes, and it gets wet, that could change in a hurry."

Brister says that the moisture could cause fusarium in the seed germination, as it did last year after the floods, bringing the average grade of the crops down into the two and three range.

At Parrish and Heimbeck in Moosomin, Jeff Vanrobaeys says they are cautiously optimistic.

"I think that being said, there are certainly some concerns. Probably the big-

gest one is moisture—it varies a little bit, but there are parts of area that are going to go into spring wet already. Parallel to that, there is a lot of concern with the quality aspects the weather brought us last year, so some disease and yield—a lot of the grain we got last year had quality problems... grade one was rare, most growers were getting two, and some were getting 3 or worse as well," Vanrobaeys says. Like Brister, Vanrobaeys says it's likely fusarium will have an impact on germination this year.

The wet trend has changed the crops that many farmers in the area are choosing to plant, however. Cereals are less popular, and crops that handle moisture better are increasing.

"One of the big things is probably soybeans—we will put in a soybean treater here in Moosomin because we've seen increased demand 10 times over for soybeans... last year," he says. "They handle moisture better and don't have the same fertilizer requirement other commodities have."

Wolfe is one of those farmers that saw success with his soybeans last year, and has decided to plant the crop again in an-

icipation of a wet year. As Louis-Dreyfus in Virden, Darryl Baker says that soybeans are increasing in that area as well. Because of disease concerns and lower prices, cereals are less popular this year.

Jeff Skulmoski with Jeff Skulmoski Seeds says that soybean is a good direction to head now, since it is more hardy than it once was, and requires less fertilization. But canola is still the top crop.

"Everyone around here is 50 per cent canola—seems like that's all that makes money anymore. There's the spring wheat, a few acres of malt barley, and way more interest in soybeans now—the varieties are getting earlier, they are more adapted for this region now than in the past... and they use less fertilizer. There is some interest in getting another crop growing here besides canola and wheat," Skulmoski says.

Prices are comparable to last year's, and lower than local farmers would like to see. However, the focus for now is making it to seeding day on time.

"The biggest worry is getting the crop in the ground," says Weatherald. "After that, we'll take it issues as they come."

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2004 Bourgault 5710 Series II 54 Ft & 2010 Bourgault 6450

AUCTION LOCATION: From FILLMORE, SK go 10 km (6.2 miles) South on Grid 606, 3.2 km (2 miles) East, 0.5 km (0.3 mile) South OR From GRIFFIN, SK go 12.8 km (8 miles) North, 3.2 km (2 miles) East, 0.5 km (0.3 mile) South, Yard on East side. GPS: 49.7774, -103.3726

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1999 John Deere 9400 4WD Tractor - 1976 John Deere 8630 4WD Tractor - 1980 John Deere 3140 MWD Tractor - 2006 John Deere 9860STS Premium Combine - 2009 John Deere 635F 35 Ft Flex Header - 1985 John Deere 3430 25 Ft Swather - 1994 Kenworth T600 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 1994 Kenworth T600B Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - International Loadstar 1600 S/A Fuel Truck - 1987 Trailmobile 48 Ft Hiboy Trailer - Alloy 40 Ft T/A Grain Trailer - 1999 Timpte 40 Ft T/A Grain Trailer - 2004 Bourgault 5710 Series II 54 Ft Air Drill - 2010 Bourgault 6450 Tow-Behind Air Tank - Hiniker 6800 Subsoiler Cultivator - 2009 Rogator 1286C 100 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - 2013 Harvest Int 10-72 10 In. x 72 Ft Mechanical Singing Grain Auger - Qty of Grain Bins & Grain Handling Equipment - Shop Equipment & Tools ...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Unreserved Public Farm Auction

John Fitzgerald & Ken Piller

Grenfell, SK | April 17, 2015 - 10 am



1996 John Deere 8770 & 2000 Seed Hawk 3612 36 Ft & 2013 Case IH Precision 3430



1996 John Deere 9600



2010 Apache AS715



1998 Westward 9200 30 Ft



1998 Vermeer 605L



1987 Case IH 3594

AUCTION LOCATION: From GRENFELL, SK, go 12 km (7.5 miles) North on Hwy 47, Yard on East side. GPS: 50.5207, -102.9113

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1996 John Deere 8770 4WD Tractor - 1987 Case IH 3594 MWD Tractor - Case 990 2WD Tractor - 1996 John Deere 9600 Combine - 1994 John Deere 930 30 Ft Rigid Header - 1993 John Deere 925 25 Ft Rigid Header - 1998 Westward 9200 30 Ft Swather - Case IH 730 30 Ft Swather - 1987 Chevrolet C70 S/A Grain Truck - 2011 Southland 18 FT/A Stock Trailer - 2000 Seed Hawk 3612 36 Ft Air Drill - 2013 Case IH 3430 Precision Tow-Behind Air Tank - Morris Magnum CP-731 37 Ft Cultivator - 2010 Apache AS715 90 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - 1994 Flexi-Coil 55 72 Ft Field - Valmar 1655 Applicator - New Holland 490 12 Ft Mower Conditioner - Large Qty of Grain Bins & Grain Handling Equipment - Livestock Equipment ...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Ken Piller: 306.697.3249 (h), 306.697.7196 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager - Kevin Ort: 306.451.7388 800.491.4494



Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Willow Creek Ranch - Ed & Leona Johnston

Grenfell, SK | April 29, 2015 - 10 am



1996 John Deere 9600



1982 Massey Ferguson 4800



2001 Massey Ferguson 6280



Bourgault 8810 40 Ft w/3325



1978 Western Star



2004 Duncan 24 Ft



1993 Bobcat 7753

AUCTION LOCATION: From GRENFELL, SK, go 11.6 km (7.2 miles) West on Hwy 1, then go 1.7 km (1 mile) South OR From WOLSELEY, SK, go 13.1 km (8.1 miles) East on Hwy 1, then go 1.7 km (1 mile) South, Yard on East side. GPS: 50.396000, -103.08300

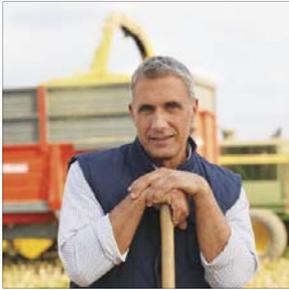
A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1982 Massey Ferguson 4800 4WD - 2001 Massey Ferguson 6280 MWD - 1979 Massey Ferguson 2705 2WD - 1974 Massey Ferguson 1085 2WD - 1996 John Deere 9600 Combine - 1983 Massey Ferguson 855 25 Ft Swather - 1978 Western Star T/A Grain Truck - Ford 600 S/A Grain Truck - 1997 Lode King 53 FT/A Step Deck Trailer - 2004 Duncan 24 Ft T/A 5th Wheel Equipment Trailer - 1994 King Of The Road 16 Ft T/A Gooseneck Horse Trailer - 1993 Bobcat 7753 Skid Steer Loader - Crown 250 2.5 Cy Pull Scraper - Bourgault 8810 40 Ft Air Seeder - 1986 Flexi-Coil 60 80 Ft Field Sprayer - Case IH 1580 Manure Spreader - Qty of Livestock Equipment ...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Ed & Leona Johnston: 306.697.3008 (h) 306.697.7571 (c), willowcreek7@outlook.com
Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager - Kevin Ort: 306.451.7388 800.491.4494



Second round of applications now accepted Back to Ag Program recipients announced



The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is pleased to announce five farmers have been awarded Back to Ag funding.

The Back to Ag Program is a funding project focused on supporting the cost of adaptive technology that injured farmers or agricultural workers need to return to the work they love—farming.

To kick-start the program, FCC donated \$100,000 to the Back to Ag Program following a successful two-week social media campaign. Individuals and other organizations also donated to the Back to Ag Program through both the RHF and the FarmSafe Foundation.

"Recipient feedback has been extremely positive," says Marcel Hacault, CASA's Executive Director. "This funding fills a need that isn't met through insurance or government programs. This unique program is truly getting farmers 'Back to Ag.'"

Back to Ag recipients are from across Canada, all have experienced a traumatic injury and all are actively farming. Funds will be used to modify a cattle handling system, retrofit a tractor with a lift, provide a sit-to-stand lift, modify a barn entry and purchase an accessible barn-loft staircase. Each of the participants' Back to Ag projects will make farming with an injury safer and more

productive.

"Across the country, FCC employees are constantly inspired by the passion, resilience and commitment of Canadian farm families, even in their most challenging times," said FCC President and CEO Michael Hoffort. "We're honored to do our part by helping to provide injured farmers with the support they need to get Back to Ag."

"Seeing the direct impact the Back to Ag program and partnership is having on farmers is incredibly encouraging and inspiring," says Rick Hansen, CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation. "I urge more farmers to apply for the program to get the assistance they need to continue the work they love. Supporting our farmers is key to a sustainable and thriving agriculture industry in Canada."

CASA would also like to announce that another application period is now open to apply for Back to Ag funding.

Applications for the Back to Ag Program will be accepted until April 24, 2015. Canadian residents who are 18 years or older, have experienced a life altering injury and are able to show their need and demonstrate how the adaptive technology will help them return to work on the farm are eligible to apply. The adaptive technology can come in the form of medical devices or accessibility tools like ramps or lifts or any other technology that will allow the producer to return to farm work.

Applicants are encouraged to visit casa-acca.ca/Back_To_Ag_Program, email backtoag@casa-acca.ca or call CASA at 1-877-452-2272 for more information and application forms.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and safety of farmers, their families and agricultural workers. CASA is funded in part by Growing Forward 2, a federal, provincial and territorial initiative and receives additional support from the agricultural and corporate sectors. For more information, visit www.casa-acca.ca, find us on Facebook or LinkedIn or follow us on Twitter @planfarmsafety.



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Focus on Agriculture



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Manitoba farmers get an early start

An early spring means Manitoba farmers can get an early start on field preparation for the coming summer.

The Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship says soil temperatures have risen to the point where nutrients, fertilizer and livestock manure can be spread on agricultural land across the province.

Typically, the application of fertilizer must wait until April 11.

All current nutrient management regulations remain in effect, including setback requirements for winter spreading of livestock manure.

The province cautions agriculture producers that nutrients cannot be applied to sensitive lands along waterways.

Agricultural producers are obliged to assess current weather conditions and periodically check weather forecasts when applying nutrients prior to Apr. 11. Nutrients should not be applied in instances where the weather outlook is unfavorable. Those conditions include a forecast of snow or an appreciable

amount of rainfall that would result in runoff. Nutrient Manage-

ment Regulation allows the director to lift the restriction on winter ap-

plication of nutrients if weather conditions warrant.



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Farm Equipment Auction

Barry and Fran Balls
MARYFIELD, SK

Monday, April 20th, 2015
at 10 am CST

To be held in Maryfield Agricultural Grounds

1991 Case IH 9250; 1997 NH 8670 FWA; 1999 Dodge Ram 1500; 1986 IHC S2300; 1971 IHC 1600 Loadstar; 1991 Case IH 1680 SP combine; Case IH 725 hyd. fold PTO 25' swather; Kongskilde 500 grain vac; Case IH 8380 16' hydro swing



For information call Barry at 306-646-4323

Farm Equipment Auction

5 Bar Farms LTD. - Neil, Joan & Joe Barber
CARNDUFF, SK

Tuesday, April 21st, 2015 at 10 am CST

To be held at farm located 2 miles east of Carnduff on # 18 highway, 6 miles north, 1 mile east and 2 1/2 miles north

1983 Versatile 875; 1978 John Deere 4440; 1976 Versatile 750; 2013 John Deere Z665 zero turn lawn tractor; 1978 IHC 1900 full tandem; 1991 Case IH 1680 SP combine; Wallinga Super Chrome Vac grain vac; 2002 Bourgault 8810 - 35' air seeder; 2 Westeel 4800 bus.hopper bins w/ air rockets and skids; 2 Westeel Roscoe 2200 bus. low profile hopper bins w/ air rockets and skids; 9 Westeel Roscoe 2200 bus. hopper bins w/ air rockets and skids; 1 Westeel Roscoe 4400 bus hopper bin w/ air rockets and skids; 2 Westeel Roscoe 1800 bus. hopper bin w/skids (no air); 1 epoxy lined hopper 1800 bus. w/ skids (no air)



For information call Neil at 306-482-3647

Farm Equipment Auction

Dwight and Debbie Worley
KIPLING, SK

Thursday, April 23rd, 2015 at 11 am CST

To be held at their farm located 6 miles south of Kipling on # 605 to Beckavar Road, 1 mile east, 2 miles south and 1/2 mile east.

1984 Case 2094; 1982 Case 2390; 1964 John Deere 4020; 1982 GMC 2500 diesel; Bob Co 20' gooseneck stock trailer w/ new floor; 2003 Jiffy 900 bale processor; High Hog calf tipping table w/ head gate; 1997 MacDon 5000 16' hydro swing; 1996 Heston 565A round baler; 1996 Morris 1400 hay hiker (14 bale)



For information call Dwight at 306-739-0330

Farm Equipment Auction

R.C. Cop Farms LTD.
Raymond & Colleen Cop
BELLEGARDE, SK

Friday, April 24th, 2015 at 10 am CST

To be held at their farm located junction of # 13 highway and Bellegarde access to village of Bellegarde 1 1/2 miles west and 1/4 mile north.

John Deere 4020; 1988 Versatile 846 4 wheel drive; Case IH 2388 combine; 2002 MacDon 960 36' straight header; 2000 Premier 2950 30' SP swather; 2007 Freightliner Columbia; 2004 Ford F150 4 x 4 extended cab; Morris 8900 35' cultivator; Bourgault 2195 tank; 1993 PATRIOT 70' high clearance sprayer



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Stampeders to headline All Folk'd Up

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE
 Iconic Canadian band the Stampeders will be headlining Montmartre's All Folk'd Up Festival (July 3-5).

Organizers say hosting the Stampeders is a big step in the evolution of the three-day festival which is now in its sixth year. They expect the high-profile Stampeders to draw a large crowd, but ticket sales will be capped at 1,000 regardless of the demand.

"We want to retain the family friendly atmosphere, so we're ensuring that while our festival delivers the very best music, it does not become a giant event that isn't safe. We've worked hard to create a community of musicians and music lovers on that weekend and we're intent on keeping that all-ages atmosphere," says organizer Marie Anne Fournier.

Over 400 tickets have already been sold to the three-day summer festival and Fournier expects a sell-out based on the lineup that was announced. Among the popular returning bands will be Regina's folk/rock band The Dead South, the high-energy Celtic rock band The Tilted Kilts and Saskatoon's Rosie and the Riveters.

"All I can say is, you gotta go because at this festival everyone hangs out together whether you're a musician or an audience member and everyone becomes part of a real community for a weekend," says Hills. Shawna Lukowski, an avid folk festival follower from Salmo, B.C., has attended the All Folk'd Up Festival for several years.

And while she has witnessed the evolution of the festival to include a wider range of music and an ever-expanding audience, she says the event has always retained its small-town feel. "I have attended many festivals in my life and this is one of my favorites for the family," says Lukowski, adding that the workshop performances (featuring a number of bands on stage at once) often turn out to be her favorites.



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Eli Barsi



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 UP:**

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|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
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| Eli Barsi | Anderson Burko | The Tilted Kilts |
| The Dead South | Poor Nameless Boy | Andrew Lapotin |
| Andino Suns | Jim Galloway | Bears In Hazenmore |
| Jimmy G & The Cable Guys | Gypsy Mobile | Wolf Willow |
| Morgan Mayer | Kinder Scout | Rosie & The Riveters |

2015 LINEUP:

- Stampeders
- Andino Suns
- Eli Barsi
- Jimmy G & The Cable Guys
- Morgan Mayer
- The Grid Pickers
- Anderson Burko
- Poor Nameless Boy
- Jim Galloway
- Gypsy Mobile
- Kinder Scout
- Scott Richmond
- The Tilted Kilts
- The Dead South
- Andrew Lapotin
- Bears In Hazenmore
- Wolf Willow
- Rosie & The Riveters

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Broadview Buffaloes: The first integrated team?

Continued from page 3
 Several of the white players left to join other prairie teams. Most of the blacks returned to the Negro Leagues. Lionel Ducuir caught for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1939-40, where Satchel Paige was a teammate. In 1942, Sonny Harris found his way to the Cincinnati Buckeyes, which moved mid-season to Cleveland. His teammate, Gene Bremer, was the most successful of

the Buffaloes imports. Born in 1915 in New Orleans, Bremer was not a big man at 5-foot-8 and 160 pounds, but he could throw hard, using a zero windup and a fastball that may have hit the low 90s.
 Then tragedy struck Bremer in late-1942, when he suffered a fractured skull in a car accident that killed two of his Cleveland Buckeyes teammates. Taking a year

off from baseball in 1943 to recover, Bremer came back and still pitched well. He was a 4-time Negro League All-Star in the years 1940, 1942, 1944, and 1945, which meant he appeared in 4 East-West All-Star Games, the black equivalent to the Major League All-Star Game.
 The games were held in Chicago, usually before big crowds that saw 50,000 enthusiastic fans on more than one occa-

sion. Bremer was talented enough to play with and against such mega stars in these games as Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Josh Gibson, Roy Campanella, Buck Leonard, Cool Papa Bell, Sam Jethroe, Ray Dandridge and Double Duty Radcliffe. As part of what may have been the first fully-integrated team in Canada in the mid-1930s, he was set to perform the feat again a decade later when a war-

time rumor was making the rounds...Bremer and two teammates, Parnell Woods and Sam Jethroe, were going to sign with the American League Cleveland Indians. But, it never happened. Otherwise, Bremer might have been a two-time trail blazer on both sides of the border, an accomplishment beyond anyone's comprehension. Bremer retired as a Buckeye in 1948. He died in 1971

at the age of 54, while a Cleveland resident.
 My father sparked something inside me that day in 1975. Ever since, I've been hooked on the Broadview Buffaloes. Were they really the first fully-integrated baseball team in Canada? Many people, including myself, seem to think so. But I do have an open mind. I'd like to hear from anybody who has information otherwise.

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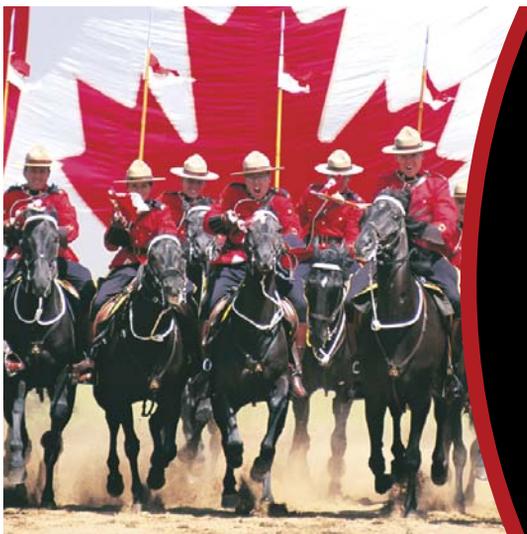
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Contact Brenda Becker
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Archaeological Society AGM being held in Moosomin

BY JULIA DIMA

From April 24 to 26, archaeologists, archaeology enthusiasts and researchers will all meet in Moosomin for the annual Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS) gathering and AGM. The weekend conference will include the AGM, special presentations, and a tour of local archaeological sites in Moose Mountain Park, among other things.

The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society has nine chapters across the province, and Greg Nosterud with the Pipestone Archaeological Society says it is exciting to have the opportunity to host other archaeology enthusiasts from across the province.

"The AGM allows the public to come in and see what is actually going on in terms of archaeological work here," he says. "It allows the public to be involved."

Hosting the convention in Moosomin, Nosterud feels, puts the Pipestone Archaeological Society on the map and showcases the work they do, which includes mapping and documenting archaeological sites and First Nations artefacts in the region.

"Around Moosomin at one time, there wasn't a lot of activity in terms of archaeology happening, so when pipelines were digging in, there was all sorts of discovery of things, because there was no identification of artefacts in the past. Now, they are realizing this corner of the province is rich in archaeological evidence,"



The central cairn of the Moose Mountain Medicine Wheel circa 1910

Nosterud adds.

Now, when an archaeological site is recorded, it can be preserved and protected in the future, as new development happens in the region. Nosterud says that before this was happening, many valuable sites were lost without being recorded as industry and agriculture grew in the region.

One archaeological site that Nosterud says is important to the group is a medicine wheel in Moose Mountain Provincial Park, and on the last day of the convention, there will be a guided tour of this site.

Tomasin Playford, the executive director of the SAS,

says that the purpose of the SAS is to preserve and record sites like the ones they will be viewing at the convention.

"This is a big part of Saskatchewan's history. When we think of history, we think of written history, so the last 200 years when pioneers came, or just earlier when the fur trade was here, but people have been here for thousands of years, and those are the stories we are learning about," she says. "Written historical documents can be very different from what actually happened, and this is where archaeology plays a role, because you can go back to the

first line of data, which is the remains, and see if it fits the history. With Europeans populating the new world, there has been a colonial history here—archaeology adds another layer to that—we can de-colonize some of the stories that have been told."

Playford says that the Pipestone Archaeological Society has been doing a lot of work in this regard, and that is a benefit of choosing to have the AGM in Moosomin.

"Pipestone (Archaeological Society) is very interested in that longevity of

the area, and they are quite connected to First Nations communities in the Pipestone area, and recognize there is a lot to learn from the First Nations community in terms of archaeology," Playford says. "We can really highlight what is so wonderful about this part of the province. There is a lot of archaeology down here."

Playford says that the SAS tries to move conventions around the province to give each group an opportunity to showcase their specific work, as each chapter determines what work they do.

It also offers other chapters who may not have come to an area the opportunity to see what other groups do.

Though the AGM aspect of the convention is intended for the SAS to sort out business, the weekend's activities are all open to the public. On Friday, there will be registration as well as an evening reception. For the public, there will be books and information about archaeology in Saskatchewan. The evening is intended to be a social with an opportunity to learn about archaeology.

Saturday will be the busy day—it will start with an opening address at 9 a.m. and will be followed up by conferences and speeches, the AGM, and an auction. At 6 p.m. there will be cocktails, a banquet, and award presentations. After supper, there will be a keynote speaker, Wes Olson speaking about the evolution of the bison. Olson is a Saskatchewan bison specialist, studying their ecology and history for the past 30 years. On Sunday, the tour of the Moose Mountain medicine wheel and other local sites will be held.

Members of the public can choose to attend the entire weekend's events, or choose certain events. Though Friday's reception is free, the cost to attend the whole weekend for non-SAS members is \$65. To attend the evening banquet and keynote is \$35, but attending just the keynote address is \$10, as is attending just the archaeological tours on Sunday. Non-members can also register to join SAS if they are interested.

Playford says she hopes it is an opportunity for the public to gain an interest in archaeology. Most members of SAS chapters are not archaeologists themselves, but just enthusiasts interested in preserving the history. "Our society is geared toward people who are interested in archaeology—you don't have to be a professional. It would be a great place to come and dip your toes in archaeology... and there will be presentations throughout the day on Saturday to learn," she says. Individuals interested in attending the convention can register online at the SAS website for any of the weekend's events.

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The Benson Recreational Co-operative Association offers for sale the following land and building:

Lot 18, Block I, Benson, Plan 101275006, Extension 22

The tender must state if the building will be removed or will stay on the 75' x 240' lot at the current location at 471 – 2nd Avenue, Benson, Saskatchewan. The building is the former Benson Curling Rink. Contents are negotiable. The tender may be subject to limited use depending on Zoning Bylaw No. 91-7 of the R.M. of Benson No. 35. If the building is removed, the site must be cleaned up and levelled.

The arch-rib building consists of a heated 34' x 46' waiting room including a kitchen and bathrooms, and ice area of 34' x 150' currently piped for curling ice, which might be able to be converted to heat. There is a new overhead gas furnace in the ice area. There is a 34' x 40' basement under the waiting room only.

The tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Rink Tender" addressed to the Benson Recreational Co-operative Association, Box 1, Benson, SK S0C 0L0.

Tenders must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2015.

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McNaughton hosts Region 1 Drama Festival

BY JULIA DIMA

The Moosomin Convention Centre was a busy place last week as students, teachers, and volunteers worked to ready the centre for the Region 1 Drama Festival, which took place from Thursday to Sunday. The regional drama festival is where schools go to prove they have the best one-act play to make it to provincials. Adjudicators come to the festival, hand out awards, judge plays, and determine who makes it to the next level. In this region, Lampman, Moosomin, Rocanville, Carlyle, Redvers, Milestone, and Arcola students all gathered and performed. Each year, the drama festival is hosted in a different community in the southeast corner of the province. At the festival, the performances are like speed drama—each school gets a one and a half hour technical rehearsal time before the performances start, and when they do, each group is allowed ten minutes before the performance to set up their set, sounds, and lighting, and five minutes to take down.

"When you have big set pieces like our plays do, it's not a big space you have to set up—it's kind of like speed-drama. And take down is always stressful because you have to be quiet, organized, and you have to get it down in five minutes," says Ashley Simon, who acts in the McNaughton senior drama play *No Problem*. Simon has been involved in drama since grade 8, and her first year in drama was the last time Moosomin played host

to the festival. Now in grade 12, Simon says the amount of work that goes into being a host is more clear to her than it was then.

"Last time, I remember having to set up the tables and chairs, and I remember having to do different things but I don't remember all the work going into it—this has been a lot of work," she says. "I've been helping with the junior drama play too, so even making sure they are ready and know everything that goes into regionals, and watching them grow as actors through doing that has been really eye-opening for them and me. Last time we hosted it, I didn't really realize how much it took to host it."

As the host school, McNaughton has the advantage of putting two plays in the festival, their junior drama play *Spy TV*, which was performed on Thursday as the first play of the festival, and *No Problem*, which was Friday night's first performance.

Ben Franke is performing in the junior play, and says that drama festival is way more work than he expected.

"I've never been in a festival before, this is my first time, so it is going to be fun," he says. "But there was a lot of work, we had to get our set ready, and get it all together so we knew what we are doing when we set it up. It all took a while."

For the *Spy TV* crew, there are many first-time actors and behind-the-scenes people, and for an extra curve ball, they last performed their play in January at McNaughton. Getting reestablished with sets, lines, and sounds was a challenge.

"We had some noon hour practices and just worked on our lines, and then after school, we'd work on set and get ready for that," he says. "It took a couple weeks for everyone to get their lines memorized again, but now I think we're ready."

Grade eight student Rudolph Roets is one of the students doing sound for *Spy TV*. He says that doing sound effects is a fun challenge, and the biggest challenge for him is ensuring he has the cues and levels right for the performance, since plays are docked points by the adjudicators for mistakes with sound and lighting. Roets says he is a bit nervous.

"We don't really usually do this, and we're being watched while we do it now too," he says. "But I am excited, yeah—I hope we win at least one award."

Winning awards is a big goal for the senior drama teams. Simon says that drama festival brings out a competitive spirit.

"I am really competitive . . . At the dance, you start liking the other schools as friends, and then they beat you, and you don't like them quite as much," Simons laughs. "But there's still that friendship."

Simon says the benefit of hosting is having a home team advantage both during performances and outside of the festival time, but the preparation in the final week was overwhelming.

Since we have to set up, we had to do all the chairs, we have to put in curtains, set levels and lights, we have to be a lot more ready for things. So, we are doing the chair set up . . . we had to do curtains last weekend—there's a lot that goes into it the week before," Simon says. "We had to move the lights around, we had some big help from Chad Stewart setting up lights, and our lighting girl Ariel Thom has been great in helping us know where we have to be

on stage to make sure we are hitting the light—lights are a big part of the show."

Ariel Thom says the biggest work with the lighting is switching from working at the high school drama room to the convention centre.

"It is different because we moved from the school, so it's kind of a rushed thing to figure everything out so fast," she says. "It's kind of stressful, because you have to go along with what the characters are doing, so it's a bit difficult sometimes . . . but it's not too different from what I've done before in junior drama and *Les Miserables*. I also teach the other schools how to work the light board for their plays."

Jessica Baker is the stage manager for *No Problem*, and she has been doing stage management since her first year in drama in grade 8. Like Simon, she has come full circle from the last time Moosomin hosted the drama festival.

"(The first year) was crazy, and I was scared because it was my first year being in drama and being a stage manager so I didn't know what to expect. I learned you have to stay focused, don't stress, and make sure everyone is communicating, and it's organized," Baker says.

As the stage manager, Baker is responsible for ensuring everything is going according to script, and the set up and take down of plays runs smoothly. She says that drama festival is exciting and nerve-wracking.

"At festival, you have to make sure everyone knows what jobs they are doing, it's a lot of work. It's sometimes hard to co-ordinate everyone and get everyone to work in co-operation," she says. "When it comes to showtime, everyone seems to get very calm and organized though, and I've never had to worry too much about them."

Baker says her favorite part of festival is watching all the other performances, especially since this year, there will be two versions of two different plays, one of which is *Spy TV*.

Simon says that is the highlight for her as well. "I like watching plays the most, that is my favorite part of regionals. And if (a play) makes it to provincials, I like watching the other school go to provincials, and see how they grow," she adds.

For the drama teachers who have been involved in putting festival on, getting to the end point was an exciting moment.

"You know it's well worth it, and everybody will come together, and everything will go smoothly in the end," says Tannis Schwan.

Raven Willoughby says that as hosts, they are supposed to log all their time and work in the preparation leading up to the drama festival. Doing that became inconsequential, as details and new work piled up.

"There have been a lot of last-minute details in the last few days for sure, it's escalated," adds Sherrie Meredith.

Since they learned they would be hosting the festival, McNaughton has been in working mode. Even at the convention centre, work to install wing curtains, repaint some parts of the stage, and paint the stage ceiling black was done with the intention of having the projects done in time for drama festival. Previously, the festival was held at the Moosomin Community Theatre—the convention centre is larger, allowing for more members of the public to watch the performances.

Continued on page 35

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Flood mitigation important topic for local RMs

Continued from page 7

In the same strand of compensating volunteers, a resolution called for SARM to lobby the government to review the current remuneration rate for standby EMT personnel. It is currently \$5 an hour, which RMs feel is not high enough to encourage dedicated EMT volunteers to the position.

"You could get more people to work if it was at least minimum wage . . . If people could get standby time, and make enough off standby to have a living, maybe more people will be on these smaller ambulances," says Thompson, who is one of four EMT volunteers in the RM of Maryfield. "At \$5 an hour, you're not putting your life on hold . . . It is tough if you have a regular job to be on call too. This is trying to get the wage up to encourage more people to be involved in the ambulance. Maybe we could attract another two volunteers if we had this. We're not going anywhere, we'll stay on whether it's five or 10 dollars or whatever, but it is taxing on us, so if we can get up to \$10, maybe we could get more volunteers."

Additionally, explains Walker, if an ambulance volunteer does not live or work in the municipality where the fire department is located, when they are on standby, they have to be in that municipality, meaning a standby volunteer would have to miss work if they did not work in the same municipality.

"It's not enough to be on call, and that is putting people off from doing EMS training," she says.

In Spy Hill, councillor Ron Buchberger says that the RM is covered by the EMIS in Esterhazy and Langenburg, so having the incentives for volunteers to be on standby helps keep the RM safe.

There were two resolutions raised pertaining to the growing problem of grain bag waste in the province. The RM of Indian Head presented a resolution for SARM to lobby the government to allow municipalities to dispose of grain bags properly where farmers have not, and to have a program to help municipalities recoup the costs of doing so. The RM of Torch River presented a similar resolution, for SARM to lobby the

provincial government to implement a grain bag policy that would include a refundable deposit requirement when bags are purchased, just as there is for cans and bottles.

The harvest of 2013 was a bumper crop year, and there were higher sales of bins and grain bags for temporary storage of grain. Though there is a grain bag recycling pilot project to encourage proper disposal of the bags, it is not a large program, and not easily accessible to all, meaning that the bags often meet a less environmentally friendly end, being buried, burned, or simply left on fields, attracting rats and other rodents with any remaining grain in the bags.

"It could be a concern, yes," says Dobson. "But a program could be costly to deal with . . . as for RMs getting involved, it's an issue if farmers push them into road allowances and just leave them, but that's been a problem with a very few, most farmers are pretty responsible, and they don't want them laying around either."

Thompson says that while grain bags were not a problem in Maryfield, he would like to see a more organized program, and voted in favor of introducing a deposit.

"It is something that has to be dealt with," says Currie from Martin. "They can't be shoved in the bush or buried. So we voted in favor of a deposit."

The RM of Walpole is part of a rat eradication program, and part of that is reducing places where rats are popular, like old grain bags, so Walker says the RM voted in favor of addressing grain bag concerns.

Other resolutions discussed included lobbying the ministry to change the classification of wolves to be the same as coyotes as farmers worry about increasing attacks on livestock, a resolution to create an apprenticeship program for equipment operators to help retain qualified workers in the RM, reviewing road maintenance fees in conjunction with inflation, changing the distance new oil well sites are allowed from an occupied residence from 125 to 500 metres, and lobbying the government to allow municipalities to qualify for a fuel tax rebate for municipal equipment, a resolution commonly raised at SARM.



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**A full job description is available on the Lower Souris website
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For more information please contact Sheldon Kyle, Co-ordinator at (306)452-3292.

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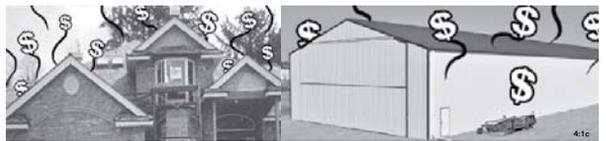
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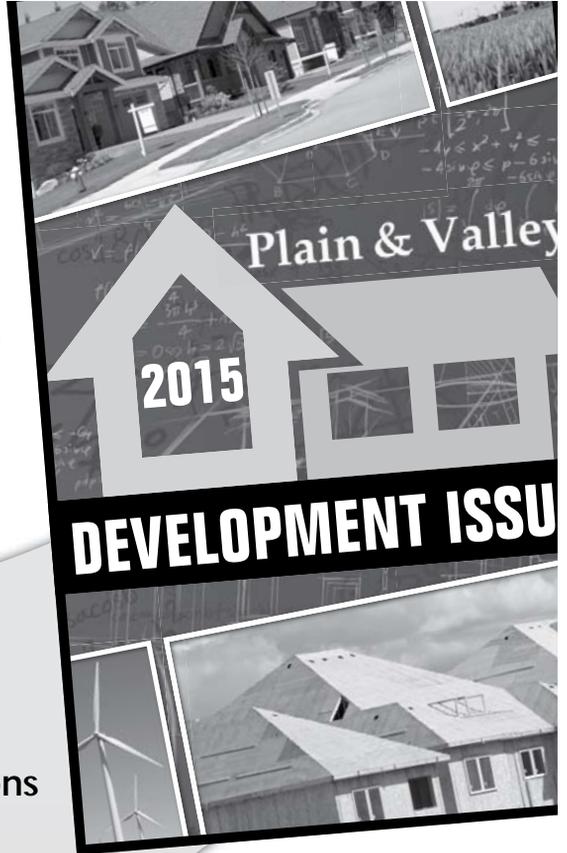
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To be a part of the Development Issue, contact: Barry, Kara or Kevin at 306-435-2445 or e-mail: world_spectator@sasktel.net



In Moosomin:

Borderland proposes 25,500 sq ft home centre

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Borderland Co-op is proposing to build a 25,500 square foot home centre in Moosomin.

The store would employ 30-35 people, and Borderland is hoping it could be under construction in 2016. It would cost about \$4 million to develop the project.

Borderland Co-op was originally planning to build the massive home centre in 2018 on land it owns near the C-store and gas bar.

However, when the North American Lumber building burned to the ground recently, the home centre became a priority project.

Borderland is asking the town of Moosomin if it can purchase sections of one lane and two streets for the proposed home centre.

Borderland has negotiated an offer to purchase the site of the former North American Lum-

ber location in Moosomin on the condition that it is able to purchase the roadways from the town.

The North American Lumber site was located across Carleton Street from the Co-op Home Centre. The Co-op would like to buy the section of Carleton Street between the two properties, as well as the alley between Carleton Street and Main Street. North American owned two lots facing Main Street that were used for storage. The Co-op has also asked if it can purchase the section of Mountain Street between the current home centre on the west and KFC and the school division bus compound on the east.

Borderland GM Jason Schenn said he's optimistic the Co-op can move forward quickly with the project. The Co-op needs to know by the end of May if it can purchase the roadways. It also

needs to update its feasibility study and complete its environmental due diligence.

"We can make it work provided we get those laneways," Schenn said Thursday. "We feel confident 25,000 square feet is the way to go. It's very large for a town this size, but it will allow us to do a lot more."

"There aren't a lot of stores this size in towns the size of Moosomin. There are a lot of stores around 5,000 square feet in the rural areas, but there aren't many this big. Assiniboia has one that's about 20,000, and that's the only one that big I know of."

"Our approach is more space, adding more variety, having more inventory on hand, and using the power of all three locations to serve our customers better."

"We would be able to carry more products than we can now. We have a good selection of

all the basics now, but with the larger store we will be able to widen out the lines, so hopefully we can provide more lines and more selection. We've been able to provide the basics, now we want to be able to have more variety and more options for the DIYers."

While the original site near the C-store has lots of space and is already owned by the Co-op, Schenn says there are benefits to the Park Avenue location.

"Because of the fact that it's all relatively decent land, we can save a lot of money on site preparation," he says.

He said the Co-op has been working with North American Lumber since shortly after the fire that destroyed the Moosomin location.

Schenn says it helps that the Co-op was already in the planning process for a new home centre in Moosomin.

"We had already done a feasibility study based on the other location, and we know what will work in this market. That gave us a head start."

Schenn will have his work cut out for him with building projects over the next couple of years.

Borderland completed its C-Store, gas bar and car wash in Moosomin a couple of years ago, and currently has a gas bar and C-store under construction at Whitewood, and is developing a new cardlock site on Highway 8 at Rocanville.

"Whitewood is under construction this week, and at Rocanville, materials are being shipped to the site," said Schenn. "It makes my life a little hectic, but it's nice to get these projects moving."

The Co-op is still working on how to lay out the site to maximize yard space.

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Tragedy on Harrison Bridge Road

BY ANNE DAVISON

THE EMPIRE-ADVANCE
A family in Carnduff is devastated by the loss of their teenager.

The Virden community has been hit hard with the tragedy, the death of a 16-year old girl, Zoe Lesy.

She died on Sunday night, March 22 in a single vehicle accident in the R.M. of Sifton when her car slid off the Harrison Bridge Road, into the Assiniboine River.

Lesy was a figure skater with Patricia Hole's Cutting Edge Skating School and her death has particularly touched the entire skating community, as well as Virden Collegiate where the Saskatchewan girl had been taking her Grade 10, since September.

From Carnduff, Lesy had moved to live in Virden where she could be coached by one of the best in figure skating, Patricia Hole.

The teen however, had other interests as well. She was not one of the performers in Sunday's ice show in Virden, although listed on the program, because she was taking a swimming exam. That evening Lesy phoned Coach Hole to tell her the news, she was now a certified lifeguard.

Hole described her as friendly, outgoing, and known for her smile. "I



Zoe Lesy

don't know of anyone who didn't like this girl," said Hole.

"Her passion was skating. She loved to skate, she loved Virden, she loved her friends."

The teen originally planned to stay for just half the school year, but she decided to stay on and take her entire Grade 10 in VCI.

When asked about her accomplishments in figure skating, the coach stated, "Her biggest accomplishment is, she was a kid that never quit. Skating was not easy for her, but she went for every challenge that was given to her, with a smile."

Lesy's personal growth was notable. "Since she

moved here, the improvement in her confidence was amazing," says Hole. Her parents had remarked upon it to the coach.

Condolences have come in from the skating community across Canada, but it is the Virden skaters who knew Lesy and who are grieving the loss. They gathered at Hole's home to share their grief and their memories. "There were a lot of teary moments," says Hole, adding that the girls put together a PowerPoint presentation of beautiful photos for the funeral service in Carnduff.

Students and teachers of VCI have received support from community and school counselors. VCI Principal Mark Keown said it is an ongoing process which will "unfold for the next two or three days."

For the Fort La Bosse School Division, Superintendent Barry Bitz said that while students continue in their classes, a tragedy like this affects all the students. He said, "All the kids are affected, whether they are a student at VCI or whether they had a relationship with [Lesy] – they are affected. All the kids are thinking."

"Our whole trauma response team has been there meeting with students, and staff who are affected equally as intensely."

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In Rocanville:

Police investigating theft of ATM

Moosomin RCMP are investigating the theft of an ATM containing an undisclosed amount of cash from the Rocanville branch of Conexus Credit Union early on Tuesday, March 24.

At approximately 4:30 a.m. on March 24, Moosomin RCMP were called to the credit union on Ellice Street in Rocanville, where the ATM was stolen from inside the building and dragged out onto the street.

According to Moosomin RCMP, two pickup trucks, one white and one burgundy in color, were stolen from a business on the 200 block of 1st Avenue in Spy Hill. Langenburg RCMP is currently investigating this theft.

It is believed that suspects then used the stolen trucks to drive to the credit union where the suspects entered, connected to an ATM located inside, and dragged it from the floor where it was mounted with one of the stolen vehicles. The suspects stole the ATM (with an undetermined amount of cash) and left the scene in the stolen vehicles.

However, the thieves didn't get far before the ATM broke off the chain it was being dragged with.

The ATM has been recovered, and Sgt. Joe Telus of the Moosomin RCMP said Friday he does not have any evidence that the thieves got any cash from the machine.

The front of the credit union building received significant damage as a result.

The burgundy truck was recovered by police four blocks from the credit union.

The white truck has not been located. It is described as a White F250 heavy duty four door pickup truck with Saskatchewan license plate 331 JLY.

The white truck has a large dent on its passenger side front panel and has a winch bumper on it.

If you see this vehicle police ask that you do not approach it, and contact your local RCMP detachment or police service immediately.

Police want to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the theft.

If you have information on this crime, please contact Moosomin RCMP at 306-435-3361, Esterhazy RCMP at 306-745-4740 or Langenburg RCMP at 306-743-5600 or if you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



Construction continues on Pipestone Villas, Best Western

Two significant construction projects continue in Moosomin. Above, Phase 2 of the Pipestone Villas housing units is well underway on Wright Road in Moosomin. This is the second building constructed as part of the project.

Below, construction continues on a new three-storey Best Western hotel being built along the Trans-Canada Highway in Moosomin. This is the third new hotel built on the highway in recent years in Moosomin.



Scene of the crime

Suspects who had stolen vehicles from Spy Hill chained the ATM in this building in Rocanville to one of the stolen vehicles and pulled it out of the building, along with an undetermined amount of cash.

Julia Dima photo



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Above Left: With drama festival, the actors have to be prepared to take down their set in five minutes after their performance, so that becomes a part of practice leading up to festival. Above Right: Actors from *Spy TV* rehearsing the day before the festival.

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McNaughton High School hosts regional drama festival

Continued from page 26
 “The curtains were put up just this last weekend and it’s looking like a state-of-the-art facility. It takes some time to hang and focus lights and get the setting up done,” says Meredith. “And it’s been a challenge for the kids to learn about projecting in this big venue. But, I think it is great experience for them to play in something this big. Even for myself, the more practice working in this venue, all our future productions are going to get easier too.”

Since the start of festival planning, the entire school has been involved. A number of committees handling everything from the advertising to entertainment, to decorating and banquet planning were set up to work on the various components of the weekend festival.

“It is all those little things that are a lot of work,” Willoughby says. “We want to accommodate the groups that are coming in . . . we want to make (sure) they have a memorable experience here.”

A big part of the work was moving sets over from the high school, and the planning for accommodating all the sets for the visiting schools, as well as communicating with directors from the visiting schools to ensure the lighting and sound system can accommodate the needs they have for their performances.

“It’s just a huge number of communications that you need to have going with everyone, the SDA (Saskatchewan Drama Association), the other schools, the other committees, adjudicators, and so on,” says Willoughby.

At the end of the weekend, all of the work is worth it. “It is the memories, and experience for the kids,” Willoughby says. “I am really looking forward to just watching the plays—we are all involved in this because we enjoy the theatre, and we like to see different people represent different things in different ways. Everyone gets to share the joy of performing here.”



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