



Focus on
AGRICULTURE



Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

April 2017 • Page 21

New 25,000 square foot building:

Mazergroup building in Moosomin this year

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Mazergroup has big plans for its Moosomin dealership.

Bob Mazer says the company will build a new 25,000 square foot building on a site on the North Service Road facing the Trans-Canada Highway.

"We just met this morning to finalize the size of the building," Mazer said in an interview on March 14. "Our current property is sold to Ron Kaban from Yorkton Hyundai and Whitewood Chrysler.

"We will turn it over to him as soon as the new facility is ready. The sale of the other property was a big impetus to move ahead."

Construction was originally scheduled to start in 2016, but as we reported at that time, Mazergroup delayed the project.

"The ag industry hasn't been real great the last couple of years," Bob Mazer explains. "The biggest cause is the drop in our dollar, which made the cost of the equipment go up so much that it did cause some grief in our industry. 2015 was not kind to our industry. Our combines went up \$100,000 apiece, for instance. It sent shockwaves through our industry. We just wanted to be prudent with our approach to this development. Selling the property

prior to starting the build helps us move forward.

"We were going to start in the spring of '16. Now we're going to start in the spring of '17, so it's back a year. It actually worked out very nicely because, as you know, we actually put in a massive amount of fill to build the property up. We've built up six acres of the 15 acres.

"That extra year gave it time to settle and it's in really good shape to be able to start building now."

Plans for the building are now being finalized.

"We'll be finalizing the size of the building within the next seven days and it's going to be in that vicinity of about 25,000 square feet, so it's two and a half times the size of what we're living in today.

"We will be moving the canvas shed over to the new property. It's very easily moved."

Construction will start within the next few months.

"Industry numbers tell us there is the same amount of equipment sold out of Moosomin as sold out of Brandon . . . It's a good place to build a dealership and develop a dealership."

—Bob Mazer

"We'll be letting the contract for the building probably within the next 60 days," said Mazer. "It may go a little quicker, but worst case scenario, we'll have the building up and enclosed for freeze up, and we'll complete the interior over the winter, and moving sometime over the winter before the season starts. We'd like to be in the building and prepared for the spring of 2018."

Mazer says the company will likely

increase staffing to meet an anticipated growth in business once the new building has been completed.

"Because we've got limited space, we really are limited to what we can do out of that facility. We will be increasing our staff as we increase our business, and we believe we will increase our business when we have facilities to do so."

Continued on page 41 ^{63*}



The new Mazergroup dealership in Moosomin will be similar to this location in Neepawa.

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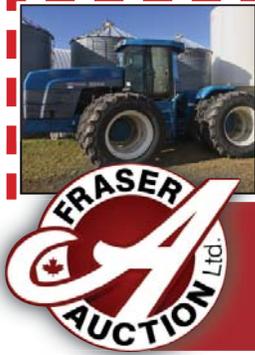
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: LYLE OR SHARON ADAIR 306-646-4333 Home or 306-646-7833 Email: lsadair@sasktel.net

DIRECTIONS: SW 1-11-31W. From Fairlight, SK: (Jct #8 & #48 Hwys). 5.4kms east on #48 to RGE RD 1312. 3.2kms north on RGE RD 1312 to TWP RD 110. Sale site is on north side of Jct. From Maryfield, SK: (Jct #48 & #600 Grid). 6.0kms west on #48 to RGE RD 1312. 3.2kms north on RGE RD 1312 to TWP RD 110. Sale site is on north side of Jct.

Watch for signs Sale Day.

ORDER OF SALE: (Internet bidding will start at approx 12:30). 11:00 – 12:30 (shop tools, misc, lawn & garden, tanks, pumps, ect). 12:30 (grain bins, aeration fans, major equipment).

These times are Saskatchewan time!!!

NOTE: Cheques of \$50,000 or more must be accompanied by bank letter of credit. **For more information on this please call Fraser Auction 204-727-2001**

LIVE INTERNET BIDDING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THIS SALE www.fraserauction.com



TRACTORS:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- 1997 NH Versatile 9682 4wd 360hp tractor w/ 4 remote hyd, return line, rear weight pkg, 12 spd pwr shift, 520/85R42 duals, 6040hrs showing, s/nD105961
 - 1989 CaselH 7120 MFWD 151hp tractor w/3 remote hyd, dual pto, 18 spd pwr shift, front weight kit, 20.8R38 rear duals, 16.9-28 front singles, 8668hrs showing, s/nJJA0012848



HARVEST EQUIPMENT:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- 1996 JD 9600 sp combine w/JD 914 pickup header, Harvstrak monitors, long auger, JD sieves, chaff spreader, 3221 sep hrs & 4345 eng hrs showing, s/n662409
 - 25' CaselH 8825HP sp swather w/pickup reel, dbl swath, dbl knife drive, 1203hrs showing, s/nCFH0200033
 - 1990 30' JD 930 Ridgid straight cut header w/ pickup reel, 2 wheel transport, s/n635848
 - 30' MF 9030 straight cut header w/bat reel, 4 wheel transport wagon, s/nF000401
 - 27' NH 109 pt swather w/bat reel, rubber slat canvases
 - 6' Blanchard metal swath roller



TRUCKS:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- 1986 Ford 8000 tag axle grain truck w/20' B+H, roll tarp, 22.5 rubber, 3208 Cat engine, 10spd Fuller trans, 255,816kms showing, VIN#1F-DYR80U5GVA16407
 - 1972 GMC 5500 s/a grain truck w/12' B+H, roll tarp, V6 gas, 5 spd trans, 37306 miles showing, VIN#CS503-Y201596



SEED & TILLAGE:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- 40' Morris Maxim II air drill w/ Morris 7300 air cart, 10" spacings, dbl chute, Morris carbide tip openers, 4" steel packers, drill s/n3902004766, tank s/n7301004411
 - 50' Rite Way 7100 heavy harrows, s/n13-71504 (used very little)
 - 29' Morris Magnum w/NH3 kit, 3 bar harrows, 12" spacings
 - 28' Bourgault 230 Series FH528-32 air seeder w/Flexi-Coil 1100 air cart, Valmar 160 granular applicator, 8" spacings, Nickel 4" knock-on-shov-



- els, 4 bar Bourgault harrows, tillage s/n814649, tank s/n031154
- 25' JD 1600 tillage w/12" spacings
- 16' MF 620 tandem disc w/notched front and smooth rear blades, s/n1867-502157
- 40' Flexi-Coil System 92 narrow packer bar w/ P20 coils, s/n0048-9-2
- 50' Herman hyd harrows w/tank
- 100' Flexi-Coil System 65 pt sprayer w/1000gal poly tank, PTO pump, chem mix tank, wind screens, s/nP056176
- 100' Blanchard pt sprayer w/1000gal poly tank, hyd pump
- Chem Handler I 2" system

GRAIN HANDLING:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- Bruns 400 bushel gravity wagon w/roll tarp, 4 wheel Horst wagon, 12R22.5 rubber, s/n121437
 - Rem Mid-West 252 grain vac w/540 PTO, newer hoses, s/nR87-409 (needs a bearing in bottom end of auger)
 - Westfield MK 100-71 PTO swing hopper auger w/dbl hopper augers, reversing shaft, s/n207615
 - Sakundiak HD8-1000 auger w/13hp Honda GX 390 motor, s/n66831
 - Kendon 100 bushel gravity wagon on 4 wheel wagon
 - Wheatheart bin sweep
 - (4) 4" pencil augers (various lengths)

OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- Peerless F20-P4 roller mill w/540 PTO, s/n374649
 - Farmhand 5 wheel rake

GRAIN BINS:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- (2) Meridian 5000 bushel Grain Max hopper bottom grain bins w/sight glasses, lid openers, on dbl skids
 - (2) Meridian 4000 bushel Grain Max hopper bottom grain bins w/sight glasses, lid openers, on dbl skids
 - Meridian 4000 bushel Grain Max hopper bottom grain bin w/aeration rocket, sight glasses, lid openers, on dbl skids
 - Behlen 4000 bushel hopper bottom grain bin w/ aeration rocket, lid openers, on dbl skids

- Westor 3000 bushel bin on Econo hopper w/ triple skids
- Westeel 1950 bushel bin on Stor-King hopper
- Westeel 1650 bushel bin on Westeel hopper w/ dbl skid
- Westeel 1350 bushel bin on Shop Built hopper w/dbl skid
- (2) Westeel 1650 bushel flat bottom bin on steel floor
- Metal Ind. 1650 bushel flat bottom bin on wood floor
- Westeel 1950 bushel flat bottom bin on new wood floor

AERATION FANS:

- (These items are available for online bidding)
- 18" Weninger 3hp aeration fan s/nLL9331310
 - Westeel WF-8711 7hp aeration fan s/n200964515
 - Emerson C15-5-1-LB 5hp aeration fan s/n09251127

TANKS & PUMPS:

- (Not available for online bidding)
- 1000gal fuel tank w/115 volt pump
 - 500gal fuel tank on stand
 - 300gal fuel tank on stand
 - 165gal Westeel skid tank w/115 volt pump
 - 125gal Westeel skid tank w/12 volt pump
 - 2" B+S water pump
 - 1250gal poly tank
 - 850gal poly tank

SHOP ITEMS:

- (Not available for online bidding)
- JD AC-125 space heater
 - Kubota AV2500 generator
 - Smith-Roles Comet arc welder w/cables
 - Halogen shop lights
 - Assorted farm related tools
 - Assorted farm related parts & misc.

LAWN & GARDEN:

- (Not available for online bidding)
- JD Z425 EZ-Track zero turn mower w/54" deck, 23hp engine, 167hrs showing, s/n1M0Z-2425JTBM102157
 - Field King lawn sweeper

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Temple Grandin speaks at 4-H Centennial Gala

BY SELINA MAILLOUX
DISTRICT 5 VOTING DELEGATE
AND SECRETARY
MOOSOMIN MULTI 4-H CLUB
CO-PRESIDENT

On March 25th, 4-H Saskatchewan held its Centennial Gala in Saskatoon in celebration of 4-H turning one hundred years old. Peter Bygrove, who was elected into the 4-H Hall of Fame for his many contributions of time, money, and leadership, remarked, "4-H has stood strong in these last hundred years, and will continue to do so for the next one hundred years, because we are needed in this world." As we celebrate 4-H's birthday, we are confident in our place in this world. We have built a strong foundation with core values that are needed in every generation.

Temple Grandin, a world renowned spokesperson on autism and livestock handling was the guest speaker at the Centennial Gala, with over five hundred people in attendance. When Temple was a young woman, she was laughed at for her ideas on livestock handling. Being autistic and a woman working in a man's field, Temple struggled to show people her way of handling cattle, but nevertheless she persevered. Today, Temple's livestock handling design is used all across the United States and Canada. Temple credits 4-H to having a large impact on her life and says that without it she wouldn't have graduated from high school, and definitely wouldn't be who she is today. Temple says that 4-H should be in the classroom,

teaching kids hands on experience through our motto "Learn to do by Doing."

Many people know who Temple is and what she has done, but for those of you who don't it is well worth researching her story. There was a movie made about her life in 2010 called Temple Grandin. For me, meeting Temple Grandin was a huge inspiration and one of my greatest 4-H experiences. I share Temple's view; 4-H has greatly assisted in forming me into the young woman I am today. I started two years ago with little knowledge on things like parliamentary procedure, public speaking, or the magnitude of the agriculture industry. Today, I am the co-president of my club (Moosomin Multi Club) and can run a meeting through proper procedure. Public speaking is one of my favorite 4-H events, and I am considering a career in agriculture.

"You can spot a 4-H member at 150 paces. They maintain eye contact, they are confident and they are able to interact with ease," says Teresa Clouston, a 4-H supporter.

The pledge every member recites at every 4-H meeting or event is something that we take very seriously, vowing to create a better environment in which we live in. We vow our heads to clearer thinking by acting as mature youth. We vow our hearts to greater loyalty by caring for the people around us and persevering in our goals until they are reached. We vow our hands to larger service by helping people

everywhere and working ardently to be the people which we believe this world needs. We vow our health to better living by maintaining a healthy environment in which we live in. All these things are done not only at a club level, but also throughout our communities and

even for the welfare of our country.

4-H Saskatchewan has over 50 projects available for members to learn under the care of mentors and experienced people. Although 4-H is largely agriculture based, there are many other opportunities. The sky is the

limit as projects range from beef, light horse, archery, and performance arts, with everything in between. If the projects offered don't interest you, the 4U Self-Determined project allows you to create your own! Among the opportunities to learn, there are also travel oppor-

tunities in your province, in your country and even global. The scholarships available to 4-H members are many. Our sponsors are very generous, because they know how important the skills learned through the 4-H program are to this world.



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Redvers Ag-Ex coming up Tuesday, April 11



The first agricultural trade show happened in Redvers in the late 1970s and was held at the Legion hall with approximately 10 booths and speakers. Over the years it expanded to include livestock and a variety of agricultural related booths, eventually becoming known as the Redvers Ag Ex Trade show.

Blain Hjertaas, who was instrumental in hosting the first show, remains the Chairperson of the committee. Blain is very passionate in promoting

youth in agriculture including the Alida 4H beef and the Redvers Wranglers 4H horse club in our show.

The show is now held in the Rec Centre and in 2015 in grew to include 98 exhibitors along with interactive displays.

The 2017 show will be hosted on April 11, 2017 and will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include not only precision agriculture displays, environmental information and innovative crop tech-

nology but also a variety of home and leisure and lifestyle booths all under one roof at the Redvers Recreation Centre.

Guest speakers include livestock feed and cattle nutritionist Geoff Brown speaking on "Livestock Forage and Nutrition." Geoff is an instructor at Lakeland College, Vermilion Alberta as well as the owner and operator of a small ranch producing commercial beef calves and performance horses. Geoff will be speaking at

11 a.m. followed at 1 p.m. by Bruce Burnett, a weather and crop specialist with C3 Canada. Bruce will be speaking on "2017 Weather

and Markets." Burnett who grew up on a farm at Binscarth has been recognized as a media source for current crop and weather information for Western Canada and Global crop conditions

Including the young people of the community is an important part of Redvers Ag Ex. Children's activities include Brian Chicione's petting zoo, always a favorite, along with face painting and One Church bouncy houses. The Alida 4H Beef Club will be demonstrating the care and grooming of two calves.. Agriculture in the Class-

room will be attending and engaging youth through hands on displays to help teach them about agriculture.

The Carlyle RCMP will also be in attendance with the SGI Rollover demonstration.

Looking for an avenue to showcase your product or service, information and registration forms are available on the website at redversagex.ca and the Facebook page Redvers Ag Ex Trade Show. For additional information, questions or to book booths call 306-452-7771 or email redversagex@hotmail.com.

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MackKay says carbon tax is not the answer

BY KARA KINNA

Todd MacKay of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says the federal carbon tax won't reduce carbon, will cost taxpayers money, and be ineffective in having any kind of wider environmental impact.

MacKay spoke at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 14.

"We like to focus on one specific question. Do carbon taxes work? That is a really important question because doing something isn't the same as getting something done," said MacKay. "It is important to make sure that what we are doing actually works."

"The idea of the carbon tax is pretty simple—if carbon costs more people will use less of it. So they might drive less. They might buy more efficient furnaces, businesses might invest in research and development in eco friendly technologies. It is a pretty straight forward idea. But as with a lot of straight forward ideas it doesn't always work out that way in practice."

"One of the tricky things about the carbon tax is actually getting people to change their behavior. When farmers are harvesting they can go through a tank (of gas) a day very easily, and farmers don't have many alternatives. It's pretty hard to harvest a crop using a Prius. Farmers are pretty much doing everything they can to save buying on fuel . . . but even though they are doing everything they can to reduce their fuel bill, they can get hit with a carbon tax and pay thousands and thousands of dollars."

Tried and failed

MacKay says other places in Canada and the world that have tried a carbon tax have found it has failed.

"British Columbia is actually demonstrating exactly this situation," he says "B.C. has a carbon tax but its emissions are not going down, the emissions are not staying flat. B.C.'s emissions are actually going up. From 2011-14 B.C.'s emissions have gone up by 2.7 percent. That is partially because B.C.'s carbon tax cost people money but it doesn't necessarily change their behavior."

Some experts are estimating that you would have to have a \$700 a tonne carbon tax to make it economically sensible for them to make a drastic change.

"Then you have to look at the global picture overall. So let's say the government comes up and nails that sweet spot changing our behavior without putting a catastrophically high carbon tax in place. What if they could actually design a carbon tax that reduces emissions. Then we run into another major problem. The goal here isn't to simply reduce Saskatchewan emissions or even Canada's emissions. The goal is to reduce global emissions but Canada only produces 1.6 percent of global emissions. Saskatchewan produces one percent of Canada's emissions. If we reduce our emissions and everyone else in the world reduces their emissions, theoretically this might be productive, but it is a bit like lifting a piano onto a truck. If you got six guys it is pretty easy to lift a piano onto a truck if they all lift a once. But if five of the guys are sitting around doing nothing and one guy does all the lifting, the piano is not going anywhere."

"It's the same with the carbon tax. The United States is not going to have a carbon tax. It's pretty hard tough to predict what President Trump is going to do on any given day but he is not bringing in a carbon tax."

"They are not the only ones. Australia actually tried putting a price on carbon. A few years ago they tried an experiment that increased costs dramatically for Australia but it didn't reduce emissions and they actually repealed it. They have already tried it and probably won't be doing it again. It is pretty doubtful China, India and Russia will impose the carbon tax."

"Even if Saskatchewan cuts its emissions to zero, it would only reduce global emission to a fraction of a percent and even that reduction would be erased by other economies. It is a pretty good bet that whatever emissions we reduce here, that would be offset by increased production in other places."

Continued on page 26



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MackKay says carbon tax is not the answer

Continued from page 25

Lower competitiveness

"Think back to that farmer. That farmer is paying an extra \$100 a day to take a crop off. That farmer just can't pass that cost on to customers, the price of wheat is still going to be what the price of wheat is. So what it really means is that farmer is going to be a little less profitable, a little less competitive.

"The Australian and American farmers and others will have an economic advantage because they won't be carrying the weight of a carbon tax, so the wheat still gets grown, the diesel still gets used to grow it, it's just happening in North Dakota or New South Wales instead of Saskatchewan and farmers here have a little less money.

"If we burn a few less emissions to produce oil, I'm pretty sure the Saudis will run their pumps just a little harder. If we dig up a little less potash, I'm pretty sure folks in other countries will be happy to feel that void. Even if Canada reduces emissions, other countries then ramp up production to offset that."

Where are we now?

"So where are we now? We do have a certain amount of facts in front of us. One is that Sask Premer Brad Wall says he is not doing a carbon tax because of most of the reasons we discussed," said MacKay. "He has made it very clear that he is not going to impose that. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on his side says he is going to impose a carbon tax on any province that doesn't impose one on itself.

"The federal plan is to impose a carbon tax about \$10 per tonne which rises up over the years to \$50 a tonne, so that would mean roughly a 2.2 cent per liter gasoline tax



TODD MACKAY

rising to about 11 cents per liter over time. That would end up being about \$2,500 per household in Canada per year.

"At the Taxpayers Federation we are looking at the Australia example. They implemented a carbon tax, they gave this thing a whirl here. It looks like Trudeau wants to give this thing a whirl here. It increased costs for families in Australia but it didn't decrease emissions and Australians

pretty quickly figured it out that nobody in China and the U.S. were following their example in that. So then debate shifted from whether the carbon tax is good and how fast it was appealing and that is certainly what we think is going to happen here. We think Trudeau is going to impose it and Wall is definitely going to fight it and we are going to be in the middle of that fight and as Canadians face higher costs and don't see an environmental benefit. It is going to be an interesting couple of years that is for sure."

The alternative

"One of the first questions we often get is if a carbon tax doesn't work what should we do instead?" MacKay told chamber members. "We do need to keep that central question in mind. Do carbon taxes work? If we really care about the environment we need to reject the ideas that don't work and a carbon tax is a bad idea. Punishing people with a tax is not going to generate a solution.

"The better bet is almost certain to be scientific. I grew up in a small community south of Swift Current so farming is sort of the way I look at things and I suspect a lot of you guys do as well. Sask is opposed to imposing a carbon tax but it is investing in stuff like crop development. Develop crops that are less emission intensive to reduce emissions and also to create food. At worst we will be driving progress on important research, at best we will reduce emissions and help the environment and feed the world.

"Those are better outcomes than a carbon tax that costs families. We often assume that we have no say what goes on in Ottawa but the Prime Minister works for us and the Premier works for us. If we have questions about carbon taxes and other important things we need to let them know and demand answers."

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Wednesday, April 12	Presort Feeder Sale	10 AM
Friday, April 14 - 17	Good Friday - Easter Monday - CLOSED	
Wednesday, April 19	Regular Feeder Sale	9 AM
	Replacement Pen of 5 Heifer Sale	1 PM
Monday, April 24	Butcher Sale	9 AM
Wednesday, April 26	Presort Feeder Sale	10 AM
Friday, April 28	Bred Cow & Cow / Calf	
MAY		
Monday, May 1	Butcher Sale	9 AM
Wednesday, May 3	Regular Feeder Sale	9 AM
Thursday, May 25	Sheep/Goat Sale	12 Noon
	Spring Horse Sale	

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- PRESORT SALES - Delivery accepted until 5 PM the day before the sale
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Tow truck drivers line up at Davidson Truck and Tractor in Moosomin before heading to Whitewood, then on to Esterhazy for the funeral of Courtney Schaefer.

Drivers gather to honor Courtney Schaefer

BY KARA KINNA

Tow truck drivers from around the province gathered at various locations on Saturday, March 18 before heading en masse to the funeral of Courtney Schaefer in Esterhazy, a tow truck driver who lost his life after being hit on the highway while doing his job on March 7 during a blizzard.

A number of drivers gathered at Davidson Truck and Tractor in Moosomin before heading to OK Tire in Whitewood where they joined an even larger group of drivers before heading to Esterhazy that morning.

Willy Cowan, the owner of OK Tire in Whitewood, says it was important for drivers to gather forces that Saturday.

"It was to show support for Courtney and his family and to see if we can make a show and slow some traffic down," he says. "It was just a great thing for the family. I think there was 70-some trucks, it's unbelievable."

Cowan says anyone could have been in Courtney's place the day he was killed.

"It could have been any one of us, because of the conditions. We were all out in

it," he says.

He says there are "far too many close calls" for tow truck drivers working on the side of the road.

"Some don't slow down or move over," he says. "Sometimes you are coming up on a scene and there is a car in the lane beside you and you can't switch lanes. Sometimes they don't even make the effort to switch lanes when nobody is in the other lane."

"If everybody slowed down to 60 and moved over we would have enough control."

Cowan says tow truck drivers are pushing to have a blue or red light on top of their trucks instead of an amber one, to encourage drivers to slow down.

"Blue lights I would prefer," he says. "People are too complacent with amber lights because there are so many amber lights on the highway."

Cowan says the problem of road safety is a nation wide issue and he hopes tow truck drivers can work with legislators to make changes that will ensure responders are safer.



Tow truck drivers gather at OK Tire in Whitewood before the funeral of Courtney Schaefer in Esterhazy.

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Fundraising going well for new Rocanville playground

Playground committee, Universe Satellite hosting Star Search on May 27 as major fundraiser



Rocanville School's old playground is in rough shape and members of the playground fundraising committee are hoping to raise enough money to have a new play structure in by fall.

BY KARA KINNA
The Rocanville Playground Committee is in their second school year of fundraising for a new playground, and has raised around \$60,000, but Kim Gulka, the president of the committee, says there's still lots of work to be done.

The current school playground is in rough shape and it will cost between \$80,000 to \$100,000 to replace the large play structure.

"It really seems to have gone downhill fast," says Gulka. "We thought we had a little bit longer than what we do, and it just seems like there are more and more components of it that have stopped working. There were parts that we have had to remove. So we thought a year and a half ago that we better start seriously fundraising."

"We have been actively fundraising for our second school year. We have always had a small committee and typically we are mostly made up of teachers and staff at the school, even though we are the community playground. We now have four community members as well."

Gulka says the committee has not yet picked out a new playground but they know it will be expensive.

"We have contacted companies like Play World and Blue Imp letting them know what our dimensions are and what some components are because we would like to replace it with something comparable to what we have," she says. "We are looking at roughly \$80,000 to \$100,000."

"We have fundraised just about \$60,000 right now. It has been just lots of little things. It is amazing how it slowly adds up doing things like hot lunches. We get really nice donations and sponsorships from people. We have done a family bingo night a few times now that have been very successful that makes us about \$2,000 every time. The thrift store is fantastic. They have given us two donations of \$3,000 each. PotashCorp gave us \$10,000 last year. When we did a museum lunch they sponsored it and paid for all the groceries to put it on. And the Co-op has been a great sponsor in the community in general. So we have had lots of great sponsors."

While fundraisers to date have been fairly small, the group is planning a major fundraiser for this spring. The committee has partnered with Rocanville's Universe Satellite to bring in the GX94 Star Search quarterfinals on Saturday, May 27.

"We are hoping it will be a good fundraiser for us," says Gulka. "Stan (Langley) from Universe Satellite is the sponsor—he is paying for them to come in. He was looking for someone to run the event and that is another advantage of a small town. His daughter is a teacher with us at the school and he knew how hard we were working to raise money. He has grandkids that use the park so he approached us and we are game to make it a big success."

The event will be held at the new PotashCorp Rocanville Community Hall.

"It has been a long road but it's easy to get the support in a small town," says Gulka. "In the next week or so we want to get together and have our initial Star Search planning meeting and then after that we will kind of see how things roll out from there."

"Based on the condition of our play structure we have had nothing but positive feedback about the whole project."

Everyone is on board to replace the old one with something awesome for the kids."

Gulka says the committee would love to have a new playground ordered and in place by this fall.

"We would like to make our decision prior to the end of the school year but that's all dependent on bringing in the money," says Gulka.

Gulka says so far the committee organizing the fundraising for the playground has done a good job, but some more volunteers could be used, especially to help plan Star Search.

"We haven't put a call out for volunteers for the Star Search yet, but I'm sure we will be," she says. "It runs every month in our community calendar and our school newsletter that we are always looking. There is no process—if you want to be in, you are in."

"If anyone wants to join our committee they can contact me at 306-435-3733."

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Participation 150 Playlist: Kitchen trying to lead by example

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Souris Moose Mountain MP Robert Kitchen takes his role as critic for sport seriously.

He believes his role includes encouraging Canadians to be more active, and currently he is on a mission to take part in 150 instances of physical activity for Canada 150.

That has led to everything from a snowman-building session on Parliament Hill to playing pickle ball at the PotashCorp Sportsplex in Moosomin.

Kitchen is taking part in the Participation 150 Playlist. "Participation has put this together—150 different activities—and they range from all sorts of different things, from canoeing to pickle ball to wheelchair basketball," he says. "It's got 150 activities on it. I'm trying to encourage Canadians, and my constituents to get involved in it, and hopefully they can help me get involved with different activities as well. There might be chances for them to say, 'hey, we're doing this, maybe we can invite the MP and he can mark one more off the list.'"

So far, Kitchen has marked off 18 of the 150 activities. Those have included snowmobiling, tobogganning, snowman building, pickle ball, snowball fights, and axe throw-

ing. Axe throwing? "I did that in Quebec City when they were starting the winter carnival," Kitchen explains. "My wife says she can sleep with both eyes closed at night after seeing me throw that axe," he says with a laugh. "Housework is one of the activities, but my wife says I haven't done enough, so she won't let me count that yet."

He marked tobogganning off the list after going down the large toboggan hill at the Quebec City Winter Carnival. "I definitely have a lot of fun doing them," he said.

Why is he taking part in the Participation 150 Playlist? "I believe in sports," Kitchen says. "They're a way for people to get active. We want to make Canada the fittest country in the world. This is a way I think I can step up and promote that, and to promote national health and fitness day which is June 3. Based on my background in health care, I think that's important for us to do. It's also a way to encourage Canadians to get active and most importantly for Canadians to have some fun doing it, and that's what I want to do, to have some fun while I get active."

Kitchen says he is hoping to hear from people in the

constituency with ideas for helping him get through the list of 150 activities. "I'm trying to get my constituents to help me out with some of these," he says. "If someone wants to invite me to go paddleboarding or anything like that I'm happy to do it. The polar bear dip I'll maybe wait until it gets a little bit warmer."

Continued on page 37

Building a snowman on Parliament Hill

Leader of the Opposition Rona Ambrose and MPs Robert Kitchen, Kerry Diotte, Erin O'Toole, and John Nater build snowmen on Parliament Hill on Feb. 22. The Souris-Moose Mountain MP marked it off as one activity on his Participation 150 Playlist.

Photo by Deb Ransom



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Farm asset values, debt expected to increase

BY JP GERVAIS

In 2016, both commodity prices and farm input prices declined because supply climbed faster than demand in global markets. Those price declines and their impacts to revenues, expenses and profitability are reflected in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s 2017 Canadian agricultural outlook.

AAFC estimates Canadian farm cash receipts to have totaled CA\$59.1 billion in 2016, a 1% decline from 2015 revenues. Total farm operating expenses in 2016 are estimated to have been CA\$44.2 billion. The sector's total net realized income (revenues - operating expenses and depreciation) was CA\$7.7 billion in 2016, or 7% below the record-high profitability of CA\$8.3 billion reached in 2015.

AAFC projects Canadian agriculture will see stable revenues overall in 2017, with a decrease of less than 0.5% over the estimated 2016 level. Driving those revenues will be continued strength in global demand for Canadian exports and continued weakness in the Canadian dollar, expected to remain throughout 2017 at about US\$0.75. AAFC projects total operating expenses at CA\$45.0 billion in 2017. They're not likely to increase too quickly, as oil prices are expected to remain at roughly US\$50/barrel in 2017 and despite supply limitations for key fertilizers.

Stable farm revenues and small increases to expenses yield a bottom line that is roughly equal to the 5-year average. Projections of the Canadian agriculture sector's year-over-year profitability of CA\$6.7 billion in 2017 as measured by total realized net income.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU
Overall, Canadian agriculture's total net income is projected to hold up in the face of some pressure throughout 2017. ns and oilseeds PDF (944 KB).

Knowing this can help anticipate changes you could see in your income statement in 2017. It can also identify efficiency gains needed to face revenues levelling out in 2017.

OVERALL ASSET VALUES, DEBT EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN 2017
Land typically accounts for a majority of all farm assets. That was true in 2015 (see our 2015 Farmland Values Report), when land values totaled two-thirds of Canadian farm asset values.

Our analysis suggests

that the value of land and buildings climbed around 4% in 2016.

This continued land values' upward trend, albeit at a slower pace than in previous years.

We project it to increase between 1% and 3% in 2017.

Farm cash receipts, once again higher than the five-year average, are expected to drive these land value increases.

That anticipated growth in farm asset values in 2016 and 2017 helped push FCC's debt projections of September 2016 slightly upward for both years. We expect soon-to-be-released data will show farm debt outstanding grew around 7% in 2016 and that it will grow further in 2017, between 3% and 5%.

Debt likely grew faster



Saskatchewan Farm and Food Care photo

Farm asset values and debt are expected to continue to increase in 2017.

than asset values in 2016—and it should continue to do so in 2017. However,

net worth (owners' equity, or assets - liabilities) across Canadian agriculture as a whole is still expected to

climb. AAFC estimates a 4% increase in both 2016 and 2017. That's generally good news and speaks to

the sector's resiliency and optimism. Canadian farm equity has continued to grow despite softer commodity prices, thanks in part to the buffering effect of the dollar on overall revenues.

I say this with one caution: The lower total net income expected across Canadian agriculture in 2017, combined with the overall sector's growing equity, suggests we'll see a lower rate of return on equity in 2017. This isn't necessarily reason for concern as the current environment of low interest rates helps, but it's certainly one element to keep monitoring.

Why? Financial risk is incurred by borrowing money. Businesses should be earning a higher rate of return on equity than the rate they pay on debt.

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Ag research looks at dugouts as absorbing carbon dioxide

BY DALE JOHNSON

Three researchers at the University of Regina have been awarded a provincial research grant to study the role of agricultural dugouts in greenhouse gas capture.

Dr. Kerri Finlay, Dr. Peter Leavitt, Dr. Gavin Simpson of the biology department, along with Dr. Helen Baulch of the University of Saskatchewan, were recently awarded \$255,030 from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Development Fund.

"We are hoping to provide guidelines

for dugout management to maximize CO2 uptake. If successful, this would offer a very low-cost option for carbon offsets to farmers, as they already have the dugout infrastructure in place," Finlay says.

The funds will be used primarily to hire students, travel, collect, and analyze samples from dugouts across southern Saskatchewan.

Dugouts provide invaluable ecosystem services on agricultural lands including water for livestock, habitat for natural flora and fauna, and flood abatement. They

may also provide a critical offset of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agricultural practices.

This new research is an application of previous work done at the U of R.

In their earlier work, they found that lakes in southern Saskatchewan are absorbing more carbon dioxide as a result of global warming. This is contrary to previous research that suggested global warming is increasing CO2 emissions from lakes.

Now they will focus their research on

dugouts.

"In this research we want to pursue this further by examining whether, and if so how much, CO2 is coming into farm dugouts. We further want to investigate whether this CO2 is being buried in the sediments and might thus be used as carbon offsets for agricultural emissions. Additionally, we will be measuring the other, more potent greenhouse gases, like methane and NO2, as they might completely negate the CO2 uptake," explains Finlay.



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Emergency responders lined up on Highway 1 west of Moosomin at dusk.

Emergency responders raise awareness about safety

BY KARA KINNA

Slow down and save a life—that was the message sent by tow truck drivers, the fire department, RCMP, ambulance, highway transport patrol, and other emergency responders in Moosomin and across the province March 20 as they gathered in long lines on highways around the province to flash their emergency lights to raise awareness of the issue of safety when doing their jobs on the roads.

In Moosomin, a large group of responders lined up on Highway 1 west of Moosomin starting at dusk.

The event in Moosomin was organized by Todd Davidson, of Davidson Truck and Tractor, and was inspired by an accident that happened during a blizzard on March 7 when Courtney Schaefer, a tow truck driver at Esterhazy, was hit on the highway and killed while doing his job.

Drivers are supposed to slow to 60 km/hr when passing emergency vehicles on a highway but many fail to do so, and close calls are common.

Cst. Trina Brace with the Moosomin RCMP was on the highway on Monday to show support along with everyone else.

"It is important for us to support that because when we are at accident scenes there are lots of situations where it is really not safe with vehicles driving by, and we want to make sure that the public is aware that they are

putting other people's lives at risk when they are driving by too fast or unsafely," she says.

"Whether it's the police or any of the other first responders, we do what we do because we're trying to help people. At the end of the day, all we want is to be able to go home to our families. We say that lots at work. We just want to go home to our families at the end of our shifts.

"It is important to get the awareness out there so that everybody understands that it is the law to slow down. It is considering the effect of your actions on other people.

"It is not uncommon for us to see people going past emergency vehicles with their lights activated faster than 60 km/hr.

"Anything to draw attention, to bring awareness to what we need to consider the safety of the first responders and the other people that are involved in roadside emergencies is important. It we're able to make an impact on a few people, it's better than not making an impact on anybody."

Brace says having everyone pull together was also a positive thing.

"I think it helps with the working relationships with all the emergency services and first responders to show their support for each other," she says.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Cooper, with the Moosomin Fire Department, was also on the highway on Monday.

He says the fire department jumped at the chance to show their support.

"When we found out about it we called Todd and told him we would be there," he says. "McAuley fire department came over too. It was a good showing. It was nice to see that everyone did slow down."

Cooper has seen close calls like everyone else who responds to road emergencies and says more needs to be done in terms of awareness.

"It was a long time coming," he says. "People from coast to coast don't know what some of the rules are. Fine start at \$140 they should be a lot steeper. You can't put a price on a life."

He says the fire department enjoyed being a part of the awareness event on Monday.

"Any time we can provide awareness like that, it is great," he says. "Thursday I think Todd started on it and all of a sudden, bang, it was happening. Sometimes those are the best—the things that don't take a lot of planning turn out the best. White-wood had a good turn out too. It was a province wide."

He says he hopes the event had an effect.

"Every time we go out, there's always something—people don't listen and pay attention," he says. "The awareness is not there.

"Hopefully something good can come out of this."

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Work on Sharpe's expansion

New dry fertilizer bins were put in place last week at Sharpe's Soil Services in Moosomin. Sharpe's is undergoing a \$3 million expansion at its Moosomin site. The project should be completed this spring. Chris Davidson of Sharpe's Soil Services said the new facility will speed up loadout times as it can blend at 300 mt per hour as opposed to 60 mt per hour, and will allow Sharpe's to be able to blend more products.

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Justin & Kevin Lawrence

Manor, SK | April 25, 2017 - 11 am



2002 Gleaner R72 & 1994 Gleaner R62



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1989 Ford Versatile 946 & 2007 John Deere 650 33 Ft



2000 Prairie Star 4950 30 Ft



1988 Peterbilt 377 & 2000 Doepker 42 Ft



1982 Versatile 935 & Caterpillar 70

AUCTION LOCATION: From MANOR, SK, go 1 km (0.6 mile) East on Hwy 13, then North on Grid 603 OR From REDVERS, SK, go 28 km (17.3 miles) West on Hwy 13, then go North on Grid 603. Yard on East side. **GPS: 49.6117000, -102.0732889**

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1989 Ford Versatile 946 4WD Tractor - 1982 Versatile 935 4WD Tractor - 2002 Gleaner R72 Combine - 1994 Gleaner R62 Combine - (2) 1996 & 1995 MacDon 960 36 Ft Headers - 2000 Prairie Star 4950 30 Ft Swather - 1998 Premier 1900 30 Ft Swather - 1988 Peterbilt 377 Sleeper Truck Tractor T/A - 1978 Freightliner T-8164T COE Truck Tractor T/A - 2000 Doepker 42 Ft Tri/A Grain Trailer - 1995 Merritt 42 Ft T/A Grain Trailer - 1978 Hutchinson Ind 31 Ft/A Liquid Fertilizer Tank Trailer - 2007 John Deere 650 33 Ft Tandem Disc - 2007 Wishek 84.2-14 Ft Offset Disc - 1999 Case IH Patriot SPX3150 90 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - Caterpillar 70 7 CY Pull Scraper - Westfield MK130-61 Mechanical Swing Grain Auger - 2006 Wheatheart BH51-88 In. x 51 Ft Grain Auger ...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Garth & Karen Handke

Waldron, SK | April 12, 2017 - 10 am



2015 Case IH 620



2008 Case IH 435 & 2002 Case IH STX425



2011 Premier M150 35 Ft



2011 John Deere 9770STS



2009 John Deere 1830 61 Ft w/1910



2002 John Deere 230C LC



1998 Caterpillar D6R LGP



2014 & 2009 Peterbilt 388 & 2012 Doepker

AUCTION LOCATION: From YORKTON, SK, go 46 km (28.7 miles) South on Hwy 9 OR From MELVILLE, SK, go 24 km (15 miles) East, then go 9.6 km (6 miles) South at the jct of Hwy 15 & 9. Yard on West side. **GPS: 50.826100, -102.471440**

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2015 Case IH 620 Quadtrac - 2008 Case IH 435 Quadtrac - 2002 Case IH STX425 4WD - 1999 John Deere 7710 MFWD - 1999 Case IH MX180 MFWD - 2011 John Deere 9770STS - 2011 John Deere 635F 35 Ft Flex Header - 2011 Premier M150 35 Ft Swather - 2014 Peterbilt 388 Sleeper T/A Truck - 2009 Peterbilt 388 Sleeper T/A Truck - 2000 Peterbilt 379 Sleeper T/A Truck - 1982 Chevrolet 7000 S/A Grain Truck - (3) 2014 Doepker B Grain Trailer - 2005 Wabash 29900 Litre Super B Lead Trailer - 1989 Advance 30000 Litre Super B Lead Tank Trailer - 1982 Columbia DD16W8 65 Ton Double Drop Lowboy Trailer - 1998 Midland MG38CULX Tri/A Bottom Dump Trailer - 2009 Forest River 22 Ft T/A Nose Enclosed Trailer - 2002 John Deere 230C LC Hydraulic Excavator - 1998 Caterpillar D6R LGP Crawler Tractor - 2008 Case 450 Series III Skid Steer - Caterpillar 70 12 CY Pull Scraper - 2009 John Deere 1830 61 Ft Air Drill - Bourgault 3195 Tow-Behind Air Tank - 1996 Bourgault 8800 58 Ft Cultivator - Wishek 84.2NT 22 Ft Tandem Disc - 2012 Salford 570-41RTS 41 Ft Vertical Disc - 2011 Degelman 7000 70 Ft Heavy Harrows - Bourgault Q/A 2.5 In. 58 Ft Rubber Packers - 2011 Degelman RP6000 Rock Picker - 2007 Pattison CB3200 Fertilizer Cart - 2013 Farm King Y1385TM Mechanical Swing Grain Auger - 2005 Buhler Farm King 1370 Mechanical Swing Grain Auger - 2011 Sakundiak TL10-39 Grain Auger - 2004 Sakundiak TL10-1200 10 In. x 39 Ft Grain Auger - Unused Air-O-Matic 400,000 BTU LPI Heater - 2004 Brandt 4500 Grain Vac - 2012 Bridgeview 2410 4 Way Pull Dozer Attachment - 2011 Bridgeview 1800 4 Way Pull Dozer Attachment - 2011 Argo 750HD 8X8 Amphibian Unit ...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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The second Annual Farmers and Friends Bonspiel was held March 30 to April 2 in Whitewood. Darren Davis, James Stratton, and Mark Beutler curling during the second draw of the evening on Thursday, Mar. 30.



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Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Dennis & Gisele Toms

Redvers, SK | April 26, 2017 - 10 am



1994 John Deere 9600



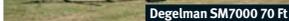
2006 International 9200I



2010 John Deere 7330 & 2010 John Deere 568



2013 Farm King 1370 13 in. x 70 ft.



Degelman SM7000 70 ft.

AUCTION LOCATION: From REDVERS, SK, at the Jct of Hwy 8 & 13 go 1.6 km (1 mile) West, then 4 km (2.5 miles) North on Range Road 1321. Yard on West side. GPS: 49.613999, -101.724949

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1990 Ford Versatile 946 4WD Tractor - 2010 John Deere 7330 MFW Tractor - 1981 Case 2090 2WD Tractor - 1994 John Deere 9600 Combine - 1993 Case IH 1680 Combine - 1994 John Deere 930 30 FT Rigid Header - 1994 Case IH 1010 30 FT Header - 1998 Prairie Star 4600 30 FT Swather - 2002 Flexi-Coil 67 80 FT Field Sprayer - 2006 International 9200I T/A Grain Truck - 2012 GMC 2500HD Sierra SLE Extended Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck - 1992 Ford F150 XLT Pickup Truck - 2002 Norberts 18 FT T/A 5th Wheel Stock Trailer - 1989 Real Industries 16 FT 5th Wheel Stock Trailer - 2000 Real Industries 24 FT T/A 5th Wheel Equipment Trailer - Caterpillar 60 9 CY Hydraulic Pull Scraper - Bourgault 8800 48 FT Air Seeder - 2010 John Deere 568 Round Baler - 1999 New Holland 1475 16 FT Hydra Swing Mower Conditioner...AND MUCH MORE!

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2WD Tractors: JD 6430 mfw w/ldr/grapple shows, 2394 Case shows 7575 hrs, 2290 Case shows 7148 hrs, 8670 New Holland mfw, shows 16100 hrs, JD 4010 w/3 pt, needs clutch.

Combines: 2013 Case 8230 Shows 1069 sep hrs, 2009 Cat Lexion 570, shows 1692 sep hrs, 2011 Cat Lexion 570 shows 1234 sep hrs.

Sprayers: 2011 JD 4830 Shows 1300 hrs GPS 110 ft duals, 2009 JD 4720 GPS 95 ft, Brandt Q4000 85 ft.

Swathers / Windrowers: 2014 Case 1203 shows 119 hrs Case hdr 36 ft, 2011 MacDon M205 w/ 40 ft hdr shows 1167 hrs.

Augers: Brandt 15/95 Conveyor, Sakundiak 12x2600 swing, Brandt 13x90 swing w/mover, 2-Westel 8x51, Westfield 8x51 w/mover and many more.

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Above: Dr. Kitchen playing pickleball alongside Bill Thorn of Moosomin.

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Above: Dr. Kitchen playing pickleball alongside Bill Thorn of Moosomin.

Participation 150 Playlist: Kitchen trying to lead by example

Continued from page 29

"There are so many activities on the list—orienteeing is one, quidditch is one of the activities. A number of the universities do it. I've heard that the U of R may have a quidditch event coming up."

Kitchen says he is enjoying the whole exercise. "I'm having fun with it," he said. "The whole idea is to encourage Canadians to get active. If all I do is plant a seed in someone's mind to get out and be active, then I've succeeded."

So far there have been 482,893 activities completed by Participation 150 Playlist participants.

The huge list of activities includes canoeing, cycling, water polo, archery,

cricket, five-pin bowling, dragon boating, showshoeing, snowball fight, snorkelling, building a sandcastle, washing your car, dodgeball, tree climbing, flying a kite, lawn bowling, gardening, table tennis, chopping wood, dogsledding, water skiing, surfing, paddleboarding, potato sack racing, ultimate frisbee, cross-country skiing, dog walking, sledge hockey (coming up soon in Wawotai), rollerblading, lacross, trampolining, hockey, hacky sack, tai chi, football, tree planting, monkey bars, snowmobiling, wrestling, pillow fight, triathlon, basketball, disc golf, croquet, white water rafting, snow shovelling, roller derby, raking leaves, four square, hiking, and many more activities.

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'My purpose is to be helping people'

Rod Pedersen on his new sober calling



Jessie Anton photo

Sober since Jan. 27, 2015, Saskatchewan Roughriders play-by-play man and Regina radio host Rod Pedersen is now helping others on their roads to recovery.

BY JESSIE ANTON

When Canadian sports fans think of Rod Pedersen, they think of the outspoken voice of the Saskatchewan Roughriders—but if Pedersen were to describe himself, he'd say he's an introvert.

Growing up, Pedersen remembers spending most of his days reading on a stack of bales, disinterested in talking to people—until he had his first sip of alcohol.

The Milestone, Sask. native was 16 when he started drinking at farm parties and using booze as a "magic potion" to talk to girls. Back then, Pedersen says alcohol symbolized fun, sociability and being with friends.

That relationship with alcohol continued past graduation when Pedersen moved to Calgary to study broadcasting. To earn some extra cash, he got a job as a bouncer at a local bar, before diving into the alcohol-fueled culture of the sports industry.

It didn't take long before booze became a problem. He knew he'd have to quit, but he punted that thought to the back of his mind until his late 30s.

Pedersen's father, also a recovering alcoholic, got sober when he was about 37. It was around this same age that Pedersen began making a "conscious ef-

fort" to quit drinking, too, but "physically could not."

"I would be crying on the phone to my mom," Pedersen remembers. "I would say, 'I'm not as strong as Dad—he quit on his own and I just can't do it.' So I gave up on myself, and that's when I guess I hit rock bottom."

But Pedersen was a high-functioning alcoholic. Despite being at his lowest, he was offered his dream job as the voice of the Calgary Flames—and then lost it, due to his drinking.

To deal with the loss, Pedersen drank more and took anti-depressants.

"I thought I'd drink myself to death," Pedersen admits, before rubbing his hands together and resting his chin on his knuckles. "I couldn't kill myself—I thought about it. I just thought that, one way or another, I just wasn't worth being around."

Those thoughts persisted until Jan. 26, 2015 when a normal day on-air turned into one he can't remember, but will never forget.

He often drank during his sports talk show, but that afternoon—with anti-depressants also in his system—Pedersen was incoherent and his supervisor sent him home. That was the last time he ever drank alcohol.

The next day at work, surrounded by three of his bosses from Harvard Broadcasting, Pedersen was told to seek help for his addiction or he would lose his job. That's when his road to recovery began.

He sought counselling and started going to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, which he still attends today. At first, he confesses, it was hard staying sober—even with the support from family and close friends.

Pedersen says his first sober Grey Cup was particularly challenging.

"(Strangers) were pushing me to drink; there was an open bar," he recalls. "They didn't know my story. I wasn't going to say in front of 200 people, 'I'm in recovery—I'm a recovering alcoholic.'"

It wasn't until Sept. 20, 2016 that Pedersen went public at a Recovery Day luncheon in Regina. After that, he says the calls started

pouring in—from friends and strangers alike—asking him for help with their addictions. That's when it hit him; he had a new calling in life.

"My purpose isn't to call hockey games—I can do that in my sleep," Pedersen explains. "My purpose is to be helping people."

Today, three to four times a week, Pedersen says he sits down with people in the community to listen to their stories and support them in their recovery. Even though his goal is to help others, Pedersen says, in a way, he's also helping

himself.

"Every time you look into someone's eyes who's struggling, it's a reminder that you don't want to go back to that lifestyle," says Pedersen.

Despite being sober for two years, he continues to broadcast from sports bars. However, now, Pedersen says he does his job and goes home—something his long-time friend and colleague, Luc Mullinder, believes is a true testament of his strength and dedication to recovery.

"To this day, people will come up and put drinks

in front of him (while he's broadcasting) because he's expected to be that life of the party," explains Mullinder. "Now, he just turns (the drinks) away and thanks them."

According to Pedersen, over the last couple of years, he has shifted back into the introvert he was before he discovered alcohol. He says his life is a lot quieter now that the party's over.

"I'm wishing it would have (ended) earlier, but I don't look back," Pedersen shrugs, before taking a swig of his coffee. "I'm a lot happier now."

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What affects farmland values?

BY RACHEL KRAYNICK, P.A.G.
REGIONAL FARM BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
Many farmers and ranchers are interested in changes in farmland values as they make purchase and/or sale decisions in order to strategically plan for the future. Many agribusinesses understand how fluctuations

in values can affect farmers' decisions regarding capital purchases. Even the financial institutions are interested in the future movement of land values because they understand how these values affect the customer's balance sheet and ultimately their collateral position. Since farmland values are

the largest driver in both farm assets and farm debt it is important to monitor how these values change and understand what affects them. According to Farm Credit Canada's Farmland Value Trends information, Saskatchewan farmland values have been trending upward since 2006. Whether these

values will stay the same, drop or increase will depend on a number of factors. Some of these factors include the current commodity prices, average net farm income, land rental rates, technology and production, availability of land, regulations/laws, individual's available credit, interest

rates, currency and even urban sprawl.

One of the ways land is valued is by multiplying the assessment of land by a certain multiple to arrive at a fair market value. Before doing this, it is important to note that SAMA conducts revaluations based on a four year cycle. 2013 was the year the last revaluation was done, and the 2017 revaluation will see assessed values updated to reflect a new base date as of January 1, 2015. The legislated base date means that 2017 values reflect a property's value as of January 1, 2015. The reason values may change every four years may be due to one of two things occurring:

- The real estate market may have changed. Market forces are the usual cause of a change in assessments, or
- A property may also

have been changed. For example, the buildings may have been upgraded and this change in physical properties can happen at any time.

SAMA has just completed the revaluation for 2017 and have forwarded the new assessments to each of the Rural Municipalities, who will in turn be make rate payers aware of these values when sending out their tax notices. Producers can also view the new 2017 property assessment values on the SAMA website at <http://www.sama.sk.ca/>

Other ways of finding out what land is trading for in your area can include viewing the Farm Land Securities board comparable land sales database, talking to your local real estate agents or by contacting our Yorkton Regional Office at 306-786-1531.

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Louis Dreyfus Company Canada ULC has openings for an Operations Manager in Kegworth, Saskatchewan. In this position you will be responsible for; grading and binning of grain to CGC standards plus facilitate the shipping programs, a preventive maintenance program and operational duties of entire facility including supervision of staff. The ideal candidate must have strong extensive knowledge of grading grain (CGC standards), blending and facility operations. Strong planning and organizational skills are required to schedule working hours and direct staff. Must have strong understanding of transportation to enhance shipping profits to maximize all revenue and reduce expenses within the realm of the operation

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The ideal candidate should have good communication and computer skills. Experience in agricultural sales and marketing or a University degree in agriculture would be an asset. In this position you will develop and maintain a customer base and producer relationship, assist in grain deliveries in coordination with Operations Manager, grade grain using CGC standards and monitor regional crop quality and quantity plus attend Producer meetings. Training is available for the successful candidate.

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The ability to grade grain using CGC standards is an asset but not required. The successful candidate will be operating within a grain dust environment. Candidate must be able to multi-task in a fast pace environment. If you would like to work for a company that will rise to meet new opportunities, Louis Dreyfus KEGWORTH is the place for you. We offer competitive wages, health and retirement benefits.

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4:1c

Experts optimistic about winter wheat condition

RICHARD KAMCHEN
Fall conditions were ideal for winter wheat to establish.

"With the ample amount of precipitation last fall, this created ideal growing conditions for the winter wheat crop," says Janine Paly, an agronomist with Ducks Unlimited Canada. "The majority of the crops across the Prairies were able to develop a well-established crown system, which is one of the key factors for winter

survival."

"We shouldn't have too many winter kill issues, at least from the winter temperatures," adds Manitoba's farm production extension specialist Rejean Picard.

Weather station reports show stations that track soil and air temperature showed good separation between the soil temperature and the cold tolerance of winter wheat in Manitoba. Fields that should be

monitored closely are in regions that experienced water pooling in low lying regions due to warm weather or a rain storm in March, followed by freezing temperatures at night, says Paly. A layer of ice can cause lack of respiration and damage to occur.

But spring flooding shouldn't be much of a cause for concern, Picard indicates.

In its hardened and dormant stage, winter wheat

can stay for weeks under standing water. And the crop will remain in its winter stage until soil temperatures rise above 9 C, by which time the water will likely be gone.

Expert advice Paly recommends growers now be patient and give their fields time to recover.

"Typically, I tell producers to walk away from the field until they are halfway through spring seeding to evaluate the plant stand."

As for diseases, it is best management practices to be out scouting early.

"In Alberta, stripe rust has been known to overwinter over the past years, however producers should be scouting for Wheat Streak Mosaic as well as this disease resurfaced once again last year," says Paly.

Marketing Prairie farmers only planted 595,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, according to Statistics Canada, and that's down from the previous year's 610,000, and well off recent years of 900,000-plus.

But that's no signal of high prices to come, as values are bound by the direction of competing wheats, explains DUC agrologist Paul Thoroughgood.

He adds that producers seeking optimum prices should determine demand from ethanol and feed plants, as well as local millers, and not just elevators.

Getting ready for April canola harvest

BY NEIL BILLINGER
Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers with crop remaining in the field will be counting on some co-operative weather in the coming weeks.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance estimates about 1.3 million acres need to be combined, mainly in the northern half of the province.

Ian Epp is a Canola Council of Canada agronomy specialist covering north-west and west-central Saskatchewan. Epp, in a March 28 interview, says there is

variable snow cover with the melt complete in the Kindersley-Rosetown area.

"I have heard rumours of a few guys pulling the combines out," says Epp. "I don't know if they are in the fields yet, I don't think so. I think harvesting will start, as long as the weather continues to hold, probably in the next week to 10 days."

Epp says there tends to be more crop out closer to the Alberta border, particularly north and west of Kindersley.

Take samples
The Canola Council ad-

vises growers to get a sample to assess quality.

"Take it to an elevator and see what kind of condition your crop is in," Epp says. "That might change how you manage it, when you harvest it, how you harvest it and what bins you put it in."

Farmers are also encouraged to send a sample to the Canadian Grain Commission which is studying the impact of snow on end-use functionality of canola.

Most observers expect canola to overwinter better than cereal crops, but issues could arise with oilseed quality as well.

Epp indicates there has been quite a bit of variability with overwintered canola in the past. Some years, the canola coming off in spring is almost as good as fall with little quality change. Other years, it is sample canola with very poor quality.

"I kind of expect this spring that we are going to

see some pretty good canola and maybe stuff that had a pretty rough winter," says Epp.

Determining factors in-

clude temperature, moisture going into and out of harvest and if there are any rodents disturbing the swath.



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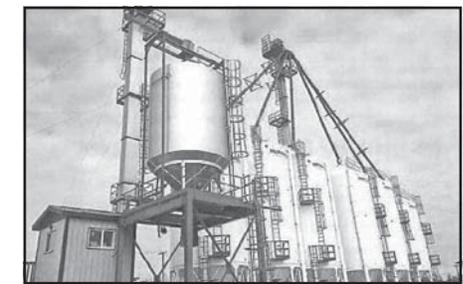
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New 25,000 square foot building: Mazergroup building in Moosomin this year



Mazergroup will be building its new dealership at this location on the North Service Road in Moosomin.

Continued from page 21

"With the 15 stores we've got, because we've got our own fleet of trucks, we've also started the process of moving equipment from location to location, say for scheduled serving for combines for the winter season. If we go 30 miles one way or another it doesn't make much difference. With the facility here, it will supplement our facility in Shoal Lake, and to some extent Brandon, believe it or not. We could potentially be servicing equipment sold out of Shoal Lake and Brandon in the new facility in Moosomin."

Mazer feels total staffing in Moosomin could be in the range of 15-17 when the facility is fully up and running.

"It would be technicians who are added, potentially one parts person, and potentially one sales person."

Why did Mazergroup decide to build the new store

in Moosomin?

"Nobody is going to build a new implement business between Brandon and Moosomin, and nobody is going to build a new implement business between Moosomin and Regina," he says. "Then Yorkton's to the north. That's a big area served from Moosomin."

"Industry numbers tell us there is the same amount of equipment sold out of Brandon."

"It's a big territory. You have to go past Grenfell to start running into the Regina dealerships, and it's a long way up to Yorkton."

"It's a good place to build a dealership and develop a dealership."

Mazergroup has a long history in Manitoba. Moosomin is the group's one Saskatchewan dealership.

"I've been in the business 49 years myself," says Mazer. "I've been in the business a long time. My father

had the Massey-Ferguson dealership in Brandon, and I started in 1968 and got the Versatile agency in 1970. We started at Hartney with our first expansion store and then went to Neepawa and Ste. Rose, and we ended up where we are the only New Holland dealers in Manitoba, and of course we have our location in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. We're privately owned. My family owns a significant majority, but we do have a number of shareholders in the organization."

Mazer said the expansion in Moosomin is a long term investment.

"On an individual basis, it would be very difficult for us to do what we're doing in Moosomin. If we were a single store, it would be very difficult to build a 25,000 square foot facility. But we're supported by all of the stores and the whole group. I think it's a good thing for Moosomin and

area. We feel that it's a long, long term investment so we're going to build properly and we think Moosomin is the correct place to be if you're in the implement business."

"I don't think there will ever be a time when the big three won't be there. We want to present ourselves differently than we have to this point."

"It is going to be one of our anchor stores, because it's on Number One Highway and it encompasses that big trade area."



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Sights set on lamb production expansion



BY NEIL BILLINGER

Canada produces less than half of the lamb and mutton required by the domestic market, and the sheep sector wants to change that. It's focused on attracting new pro-

ducers to reduce imports from New Zealand and Australia. Statistics Canada reports the sheep population fell 1.4 per cent last year. Two of the three higher producing provinces, Quebec and Alberta, saw declines. However, there were gains in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Expansion effort

The two Prairie provinces are making concerted efforts to grow the sheep population.

A new venture, Canada Sheep and Lamb Farms, was recently formed in southeast Manitoba. The two participants are locally based Sarto Sheep Farms and Integrated Foods Ltd. of New Zealand. The plan is to grow the existing flock from 5,000 breeding ewes to 30,000 within five years.

Saskatchewan is setting its sights on encouraging smaller operations. About 900 provincial farms have sheep and lambs. Less than 10 per cent are sole-income operations, but 50 to 60 per cent provide significant income to the farm.

The Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board hosted seminars for beginning producers or those looking to expand.

Growing confidence

"Producers are starting to have more confidence that prices are not fluctuating very much," says Gordon Schroeder, SSDB executive director. "We are seeing lots of interest and hope that translates into increased numbers."

Trent and Sandy Larson own L5 Farms Ltd. near Southey, about 50 kilometres north of Regina.

"I think sheep farming is a little easier to get into than

other forms of livestock," Trent says. "Breeding stock is a little cheaper to buy and you don't need the same amount of infrastructure."

Schroeder says prices are good at \$200-plus per market lamb. Lambs raised in Saskatchewan are shipped to federally inspected plants in Innisfail, Alta. or Ontario for processing. A number of provincial abattoirs slaughter lambs for farmgate sales and direct marketing.

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