

# Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



This will be a busy summer in the Moosomin area, with the Kinsmen and Kinettes' Canada D'eh celebration on July 1, the Bulls and Broncs event, Chamber of Commerce Parade, and Multicultural Celebration on July 16, and the Battle of the Prairies Food Truck Festival set for Moosomin Lake July 29, 30, and 31.

## Summer full of events coming up

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the latest Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting, plans were discussed for summer events in Moosomin this summer, including the Moosomin's Kinsmen and Kinettes' Canada D'eh event on July 1, the Bulls and Broncs event, the Chamber of Commerce Parade and the Multicultural Celebration on July 16, and the Battle of the Prairies Food Truck Festival planned for Moosomin Regional Park July 29, 30, and 31.

### Canada D'eh

"The Kinettes and Kinsmen are planning a Canada D'eh event for Friday July 1, we're really excited to be providing a fun and mostly free event to Moosomin on Canada Day," Alyssa Jeannot of Moosomin Kinettes said at the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"All proceeds from the event will be going to the airport runway project. It's an all day event where we have a slow pitch tournament starting in the morning, the Kinsmen will look after that. Games will begin at 9 a.m., but it depends on how many teams we have for the tournament.

"We plan to have beer gardens all day, we're putting the word out for anyone who is interested in busking at the beer gardens. We'll provide a schedule for any musical buskers interested depending on the demand, but if not, the Kinettes and Kinsmen will just DJ for the day."

Jeannot said there will also be bouncers throughout the day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We've reached out to some sponsors right now but we are still looking for some more sponsors, to sponsor a bouncy castle or carnival game," she said.

"The sponsorship will get you your logo next to the

item that you sponsor. We also have a small scale sponsorship that will get you your logo by the main stage for the night and a billboard at the carnival.

"As this is a huge event for our clubs, we do need all hands on deck. We're asking businesses to volunteer to man a bouncy castle that they sponsor. This is not a requirement by any means, but we will offer that to the business owners. If not, we will find a volunteer, but if your business is open to doing that, it will help us out immensely on the volunteer front."

She said there will also be local celebrities present at the event's dunk tank, such as council members, the mayor and business leaders.

"The Kinsmen have also decided to host a Show and Shine Car Show at Bradley Park. As well Jarrod (Slugoski) will be hosting the Community Market that same day as well," said Jeannot.

*Continued on page 9*

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# Glasser's TV Service



Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahaw First Nation spoke about the economic development for Kahkewistahaw First Nation, at the grand opening ceremony for the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre on May 4.



The daughter of Chief Joseph Crowe, Sharon Green, cut the ribbon at the grand opening ceremony of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre at Kahkewistahaw First Nation, on May 4. Councillors (left) Michael K. Bob, Iris M. Taypotat-Scribe, William C. Kaysaywaysemat, Chief Evan Taypotat, and (right) Cory D. Alexson,

# Kahkewistahaw opens new Governance Centre

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
On May 4, the grand opening of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre took place at Kahkewistahaw First Nation. The \$20 million facility is funded by KFN and took three years to fully develop.

The building is designed in the shape of an eagle, which came from the name Kahkewistahaw, which means 'eagle flying in the air,' in Cree.

"We set this centre in place five years ago in 2017, myself, and these four hard-working councillors who were elected," said Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"It took us a year to figure out what we wanted to do with the building, one of the things we talked about is working together. We want Kahkewistahaw to be a well oiled machine, and at that time we couldn't be because we were working in seven different buildings."

At the grand opening ceremony, Taypotat spoke about how important economic development is, for Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"I used to be an infantry officer with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) in Edmonton, where there are some of the toughest soldiers you ever saw and when they had an objective, they just got it done, but part of the reason we got it done is because the whole group was fighting under one roof," he said.

"When we talked about going to Afghanistan and achieving those objectives, we did it well because we were under one roof. When I came back home and compared that to what we have here on Kahkewistahaw, we see the wants and needs for our First Nation to be better.

"When I came back I said we have to be a better workforce, before we can become better for our 2,300 constituents and lucky enough, the four councillors behind me said let's do it."

The four councillors of KFN along with Taypotat are Cory D. Alexson, Michael K. Bob, Iris M. Taypotat-Scribe and William C. Kaysaywaysemat.

"We could've built anything with \$20 million, we could've made more homes, more businesses and we said no, we have to secure our workforce," Taypotat said.

"We need to make sure our people have a building that is top notch, like the Googles, the Amazons, the SaskPowers, because for so long First Nations Peoples always took a little bit, the least is all what we ever got from the government and that stops today with our workforce."

Taypotat thanked the corporations who helped with the building of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre.

"Two people I want to thank is Dustin Braun from aodb, who put forth the design, this building when you fly over from above it's an eagle design," he said.

"I also want to give Wright Construction a glowing review, Lorne and Daniel thank you, these are the people who helped put this in motion."



Taypotat spoke about the meaning of the governance centre and why KFN council, decided to name the building after the late Chief Joseph Crowe.

"The next part of this centre was figuring out what to call this place, in an Indian country we honor people that have passed on, we honor people who have done services for our communities, and Chief Joseph Crowe was an easy one for us," Taypotat said.

Crowe served as chief from 1954-57 and 1961-65. At the time of his election, he was the youngest Chief in Canada, and worked closely with the founding chiefs of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (now the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations).

Crowe spent much of his life researching Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Specific Land Claims for various organizations, laying the foundation for the advancement of many nations after TLE was signed in 1992.

## New governance centre comes with expectations for KFN

Right behind the governance centre, sits the recently renovated Kahkewistahaw Community School.

After serving in the military, Taypotat returned to Kahkewistahaw and became the principal at the school. At the ceremony on Wednesday, he spoke about his expectations for Kahkewistahaw First Nation being similar to the expectations he had for students, during his time as principal.

"I used to be the principal of that beautiful building back there, and our motto was people have to come here to learn in a fun and safe environment, and that's ex-

actly what we did at that school," he said. "If you wanted to fight we would kick you out, if you wanted to argue you can argue somewhere else, and that's what we did with those types of people and those types of staff members."

"This building behind us, it's going to be the same thing, a safe and fun environment, lateral violence will not live in this building behind us."

"As long as I'm in leadership, this building behind us will be a safe and fun environment for everyone."

Taypotat also spoke about the challenges that will arise at the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre.

"Now comes the challenges, I'm very big on challenging our people, challenging our elders, challenging our leadership, challenging our community, and now I'm challenging our employees," he said.

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# Creative Vision Productions: Beauty and the Beast coming to Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

Creative Vision Productions is bringing Disney's Beauty and the Beast to Moosomin this fall.

After not being able to put on a full musical production for two years, Creative Vision Productions are excited to announce that they will be performing Beauty and the Beast in November.

Sandra Poole and Sherrie Meredith with Creative Vision Productions say they are excited about this show.

"It was one of our bucket list productions," says Sandra. "We were thinking about Beauty and the Beast three years ago, but Virden was going to put it on in the spring so we thought we'll do something else."

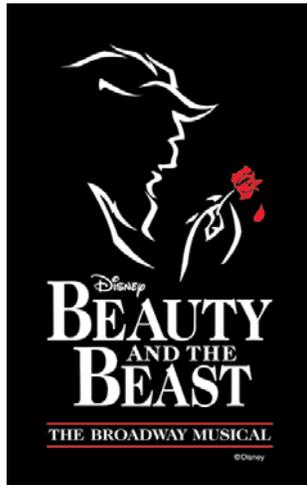
"Then when we did that number in the 'All Together Now' show, it kind of sparked our interest again," says Sherrie. "We can actually use some of the training from that number, the choreography and so on and build on it."

Last November, Creative Vision Productions performed All Together Now, a show consisting of songs from a wide array of musicals. "Be Our Guest" from Beauty and the Beast was one of the songs included in the show.

"We had people from that show that are seven years old to ninety years old and this show can accomplish that as well," says Sherrie.

"Beauty and the Beast is a timeless story. The music—a lot of it is very appealing," says Sandra.

"It's very familiar," adds Sherrie, "and people have a lot of association with it seeing it as a cartoon with Disney, and it has been re-released not that long ago in 2017. So it has come back up to the surface and



people are thinking about it again." "In 1994, it was the first Broadway show that Disney put out from one of their cartoons," says Sandra. "There is a large cast and we have so much talent in this area to showcase," says Sherrie. "When you look online it is one of the ones that asks for a big chorus, and we are always looking for chorus members," says Sandra.

*Continued on page 9*



A scene from Creative Vision Productions' last full-scale musical production, The Sound of Music. The group is now working on a production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast, scheduled for November 25-27 at the Conexus Convention Centre in Moosomin.



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**Saturday, July 16**

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# “The most powerful thing that I've seen thus far is this story in Moosomin” Moe praises towns for welcoming refugees

World-Spectator Editor Kevin Weedmark and reporter Sierra D'Souza Butts interviewed Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe last week about the provincial approach to Ukrainian refugees. The premier said that the welcome refugees are receiving from small communities like Wawota and Moosomin is the most important part of welcoming refugees to the province. The full interview follows:

**What are some of the things that the province has done to try and make things easier for Ukrainian refugees to come to Saskatchewan?**

We've been engaged on our response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine for some time. The lead on this effort has been our liaison to the Government for Ukrainian relations, Terry Dennis. We actually just had him over in Berlin. He's been meeting a number of times with SURAC, our Saskatchewan Ukrainian Relations Advisory Committee, which does provide advice to the government on all things related to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people here in Saskatchewan, as well as those back home

in Ukraine, or wherever they may be in the world.

His advice back at that point in time was to raise awareness of the need for funds, which, as you know, Moosomin has participated in, in a tremendous way just this past weekend. We had provided some funds very early, to really raise awareness of where those funds can and should go so that they'll be effective for Ukrainians on the ground.

We raised the Ukrainian flag, here at the legislature just to again, raise awareness. We started to look at the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, how that dovetails with the Federal Refugee and Immigration Program. We were on the phone with Minister Sean Fraser, the federal minister, on how we can assist or provide capacity, but also assist in fast-tracking the process for those that do get out of Ukraine, on how we can house them here if they want to come here. How do we fast track that process? We're still working on that and in fact, I'm going to be talking to, hopefully, Minister Fraser, and I've actually even reached out to the Ukrainian

Ambassador to Canada, to have a conversation about what more Saskatchewan can do to support those Ukrainians that have been displaced.

More recently we have started to see Ukrainian refugees arrive in the province. We changed some of the laws here in Saskatchewan so that we could grant Ukrainian refugees a health card immediately so that they can access health services immediately should they need them. We did this also during the Syrian refugee influx that we had a number of years ago, and we really just mirrored that process.

We also put together an intake centre in Saskatoon, really to link incoming families, understanding that often they're families that have been divided. What I saw, in my time in Kassel, Germany visiting with some displaced



Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe

Ukrainians there, was that the men had largely stayed back to fight, and that what we were seeing was women and children who had fled, so we've put together an intake centre in Saskatoon that is really there to link folks to childcare, to link them to some temporary or permanent employment, to link them to all of the supports that we have, whether they will be provincial supports, municipal supports, or whatever they might need.

When I was over there, we met with a number of Ukrainian folks that were in a shelter—there are three shelters in Kassel, Germany. We very quickly realized through talking to the embassy—the Ambassador to Germany was there, Stéphane Dion—that we needed to get some of our provincial immigration officials on the ground to augment the federal effort and for any of those that would choose to come to Saskatchewan, to be there to support them and to fast-track that process and to ensure that they are being pointed in the right direction and in many cases are very qualified immigration officials to actually do some of the documents for the federal government, and that's what we've continued to ask the federal government is to allow our provincial officials to spread their wings a bit with folks that are on the ground there.

Continued on page 10

**Daryl Harrison**  
Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Cannington Constituency



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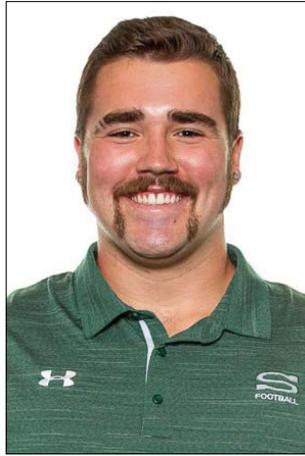
# Noah Zerr's path to the CFL draft

BY TRAVIS LONGMAN

Many kids dream about playing professional football. Noah Zerr recently took a huge step towards that dream becoming a reality. The Langenburg offensive lineman out of the University of Saskatchewan was expected to go early on in the CFL draft and he was nice enough to detail his day leading up to his selection.

#### Draft Day:

9:00 a.m. - wake up  
9:30- coffee with dad and Georgia  
10:00- phone call with Montreal Alouettes  
10:30- talk to Wray Morrison from Huskie fan about NFL opportunity  
11:00- picking up cake for draft night  
12 - Uncle Doug comes over for lunch  
12 to 1 - replying to social media support  
2 p.m.- pre draft check in with Ottawa Redblacks  
2:30- organize draft outfit  
3:00- start getting ready for draft party / help dad with brisket  
5:00- draft day guests arrive  
6:00 p.m.- draft starts  
7:00- name is called



Noah Zerr

With the 12th pick in the 2022 CFL entry draft, the British Columbia Lions selected Noah Zerr from the University of Sas-

katchewan.

"Noah is a super elite talent at the oline position," teammate John Stoll explains.

"I haven't seen anyone better. He's a great leader and locker room guy. He's constantly competing and just elevating everyone around him. Noah is also just a great guy that's easy to talk to and just makes sure you're doing good. The Lions got a steal at 12 and I'm sure he will be a great contributor to that team!"

In addition to being drafted by B.C. he is also receiving attention south of the border. The New York Giants have invited Zerr to attend their rookie mini camp in

a few weeks—a tremendous accomplishment for the young man.

"Super proud and happy for Noah to be going to B.C." Rob Zerr, Noah's dad said. "I am also excited for him to have an opportunity to go to NYC."

Last season Zerr and the Huskies lost in the Vanier Cup championship game but that exposure in the national spotlight should only help Zerr along the way in his football journey whether that's in the NFL or with the B.C. Lions.

## Local players have a hand in quest for Stanley cup

BY TRAVIS LONGMAN

The Stanley Cup playoffs have just begun and if your favourite team didn't make the playoffs, you may not have much invested in the postseason. You could cheer for one of the three Canadian based teams that qualified for the playoffs: Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto provide Canada's only hope to end its lengthy cup drought.

Another option for the hockey fan without a team to cheer for is to cheer on local players. There are several players from Saskatchewan and Manitoba looking to capture hockey's holy grail.

Tanner Jeannot hails from Oxbow, Saskatchewan. This season was his rookie year and the former Moose Jaw Warrior had tremendous success. He played 81 games, scoring 24 goals, and earning 17 assists, earning rave reviews and consideration for the league's rookie of the year award.

Jeannot is not the only player from Saskatchewan on the Predators. Saskatoon's Connor Ingram is the team's backup goalie. Jeannot, Ingram and the rest of the Predators have the daunting task of knocking off the Colorado Avalanche in round one.

The Avalanche are the top seed in the Western Conference. There are a couple of Saskatchewan products on the team. Darcy Kuemper and Ryan Murray suit up for the Avalanche. This is Kuemper's first season between the pipes for Colorado and he had 32 wins during the regular season.

In the Eastern Conference stand back, there's a hurricane coming through! The Carolina Hurricanes that is. The team Don Cherry dubbed "A bunch of jerks" because of their victory celebrations from

a few years back have four local players. Max Domi and Seth Jarvis are from Winnipeg, Jordan Martinook is from Brandon but has family in Moosomin as well as the surrounding area, and Ethan Bear hails from Ochapowace. Bear was traded last July from Edmonton to Carolina.

Other players from Saskatchewan or Manitoba competing for the cup are:

#### Calgary

Michael Stone - Winnipeg

#### Dallas

Braden Holtby - Lloydminster

#### Oilers

Josh Archibald- Regina  
Duncan Keith - Winnipeg

#### Wild

Connor Dewar - The Pas  
Matt Dumba - Regina

#### Rangers

Ryan Reaves - Winnipeg  
Braden Schneider- Prince Albert

#### Blues

Tyler Bozak - Regina  
Brayden Schenn - Saskatoon

#### Tampa

Brandon Hagel - Saskatoon

Anything can happen in the Stanley Cup playoffs. It is a time where dreams come true or hearts get smashed. It is the most intense time of the year for hockey fans. Sixteen teams are still alive on this journey but in the end only one will survive to have its name etched on the cup.

Visit Plain & Valley online at [www.plainandvalley.com](http://www.plainandvalley.com)



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Creative Vision Productions:

# Beauty and the Beast coming to Moosomin

Continued from page 5

"We like the challenge of making something visual and this is a 'beast' to stage and to costume. Our costume ladies are already very excited, we have already met. It'll be something to see," says Sherrie.

The show is planned for November 25, 26 and 27. There will be four performances—two evening performances on the Friday and Saturday, and two matinees on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

While the show may be over half a year away, Sherrie and Sandra are wasting no time in getting started. Auditions were held on May 2 and 3 and volunteers are needed for the set and crew.

Sherrie and Sandra say this particular musical is going to take a lot of work—from elaborate sets and costumes to elaborate musical performances and stage spectacles.

"This is more like the Sound of Music, where you have to build a castle and a forest," says Sherrie. "It will be interesting and just the magic—there is magic in it!"

"We sent an email this last week to our cast from last year and to our choir we have had for years. We have got a few emails back replying that they are excited," says Sandra. "It is going to be a difficult show because we have so many talented people and the challenges are to

get the casting right."

"There is something nice about the familiarity of the music and you would think that would make it a quick learn, but not necessarily because sometimes I think that creates a challenge because it's engraved a certain way in people's heads," adds Sherrie. "There are also a number of songs that aren't in the familiar Disney cartoon and so there is quite a bit of new music you have to learn and then actually embrace."

Both Sherrie and Sandra say this show will require "all hands on deck" in order to pull it off successfully by the fall.

"Because it is such a magnitude of a show we need to start early," says Sherrie. "We can't start this one in September and be ready in November. We need to start now. That is why we are holding the auditions in May, but also for our costume people—as soon as they know who is fitting those costumes they will start measuring and going. I feel the same way about the sets. Before starting rehearsal you're going to need to know where you're going with it so you know it is possible to do certain things back to back. It is exciting and we are excited. The mezzanine should be done at the convention centre by that point so things should just have a different feel by that

point."

"Knowing that the mezzanine has opened up it is exciting to know we can put our people up some place where we can have a green room," adds Sandra.

Sherrie and Sandra say they expect about 100 people to be involved in this production, and they are looking for anyone and everyone who has a talent and wants to join in.

"I imagine it will build itself up to about 100 people involved in this production. If there is someone who has a talent or an instrument, that is handy to note, or skills with a hammer or tool—that is always good too," says Sherrie. "We just need those volunteers so we can get started."

## How to get involved

Those looking to book an audition for a principal role in the show can text or call Sandra at 306-434-9600. Sandra can be contacted for anyone wanting to join the chorus or the band at 306-434-9600.

Those looking to volunteer with the crew and set can contact Sherrie at 434-7533.

Tickets for the show will go on sale in September.

# Summer full of events coming up

Continued from front

"We're also in contact with the airport committee and are looking at options to bring in an airplane for the Show and Shine," said Jeannot.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity for kids to come and look at an airplane up close.

"At the end of the day, we will move things to the outdoor rink where people can gather and watch the firework show at dusk, followed by a performance from Shifty Morgan for the rest of the night," said Jeannot.

"Entry to everything on Canada D'eh will be by donation, we really didn't want to put a price on the fun, so we're going to have donation jars set up throughout the park."

More details about the Canada D'eh event can be found on the Moosomin Kinetite Club's Facebook page and on Page 4 of this month's Plain & Valley.

## Bulls and Broncs event on July 16

Chelan Beckett of Moosomin Rodeo Committee told chamber members that the group will be hosting a Bulls and Broncs event on July 16.

The Chamber of Commerce parade will be held at 10 am that day, there will be a community market from 11 am to 4 pm, and Moosomin's international community will host a Multicultural Celebration, making for a full day of events.

"We're doing our Bulls and Broncs event again this year, we're hoping to make things a little more official, and a little more exciting," said Beckett.

"We're hoping to have some dignitaries to speak at our opening ceremonies, we have an IKS media screen share that encompasses businesses for extra advertising, which will show instant replays of all the rides that happen (that day).

"Also this year, we're going to have Houston Stuart for our rodeo clown, and we're also going to have a youth rodeo beforehand, hopefully starting by noon."

Beckett said there will also be beer gardens at the event.

She also explained why the committee chose to do bulls and broncs this year, as opposed to hosting a full rodeo.

"We're hoping for the same turnout as last year or better, which was phenomenal," she said.

"Last year because of Covid, we did the Bulls and Broncs event to have fewer costs, fewer sponsorship requirements.

"It was definitely a good thing we did that, also the fact that people come to a rodeo to watch people get bucked off an animal—we had an amazing crowd out last year for the Bulls and Broncs."

Admission for the event will cost \$10 per ticket.

## Food Truck Festival July 29 to 31

Karen Hebert told Chamber members about the Battle of the Prairies Food Truck Festival at Moosomin Regional Park, happening from July 29 to 31.

"On the August long weekend, we haven't been able to host the fireworks weekend for a couple of years because of issues around international travel and questions about Covid restrictions, but we want to keep the momentum for our fundraiser for the park, to update the facilities," said Hebert.

"This year instead of the fireworks competition we will have a Food Truck Festival on the August long weekend.

"On Friday of the event, we will have food trucks there from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., we will have beer gardens on Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight.

"Saturday we're having the DJ at the beer gardens from 2 p.m. until midnight, with a band playing from 8 p.m. to midnight and the food trucks will be available throughout the event, so we will have food available in addition to the beer gardens.

"Sunday the food trucks will be there, we don't have any entertainment planned at the moment for that day, but we're working on it."

Hebert said there will also be bouncy castles, a scavenger hunt, and other activities throughout the three-day

event.

"Right now we have 18 food trucks and 18 vendors. Our sponsorship plan is if you can donate \$500 we include a pass to the park, and 10 free drink tickets."

She said the regional park board hopes to return to the International Fireworks Competition at some point. For several years the fireworks competition was the single largest tourism event in southeast Saskatchewan, bringing more people through the gates than events in Estevan, Weyburn or anywhere else in the southeast.

## Community Market from July to September

Jarrold Slugoski told members about the 2022 Moosomin Community Market that will be happening throughout summer, on July 1, July 16, August 27 and September 17.

"We've decided to do four markets, mostly planned all along with other events in town," said Slugoski.

"We'll be joining the Kinettes on Canada Day at Bradley Park, holding the market downtown on July 16 after the Chamber parade, the last weekend of August we'd be working with the museum, and hoping the weather is nice for Saturday, September 17, we would like to do a Harvest Market downtown. We want to do it downtown simply because the businesses there can join in with street sales, and sidewalk sales, along with the restaurants and coffee shops, instead of us trying to find food vendors for our markets, it's already built in there for the event."

Slugoski said the purpose of the community market is to show off how much the community of Moosomin has to offer.

"The market is also a nice compliment to the other activities going on this summer, which is why we're hoping to connect with the other groups in town."

He said they are looking for vendors to join in on the event. Vendors can apply through the group's online application, on their Facebook page: Moosomin Community Market - MCM.

# Plain & Valley

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# "The most powerful thing that I've seen thus far is this story in Moosomin" Moe praises towns for welcoming refugees

Continued from page 7

**Does Saskatchewan have people on the ground now?**  
In Berlin we do, yes. Terry Dennis went about a week and a half ago. He took our immigration officials over there and spent a couple of days on the ground in Berlin. We have a number of Saskatchewan provincial immigration officials that are on the ground helping our Canadian immigration officials, and ensuring that any Ukrainians that may want to come to Saskatchewan have the supports they need, so we do have folks in Berlin, today.

**Towns across Saskatchewan are doing what they can to help settle Ukrainian refugees. In Moosomin's case, they've raised just a phenomenal amount of money already and they had a great fundraiser on the weekend. In Wawota's case, they have a refugee committee, and they are hosting one of the first refugees to arrive in our area, he actually landed in Saskatoon on Thursday, got some of his paperwork done up there on Friday and on Saturday drove down to where he's staying in Wawota, and then was driven right to the Moosomin fundraiser and was introduced in front of all those people, and he got a standing ovation. What's your reaction seeing how Ukrainian refugees are being welcomed to Saskatchewan and what communities are doing to try and welcome them?**

The situation you just explained where an individual has come through so much, to land in Saskatchewan, have all of his paperwork taken care of, to be taken out to one of our finest rural communities, and to essentially put his suitcase away and walk into a standing ovation welcome at a fundraiser of over 500 people, is incredibly touching, it really is.

My reaction to this, is that Saskatchewan people would do this for anyone, this is what we do, we help our neighbors. You never have to worry if you end up in the ditch in Saskatchewan, someone is going to be there to help you.

That is true internationally as well. I think it's most particularly true when it comes to this Russian invasion of Ukraine. If you look at how our province was built many years ago, there are many, many communities across this province that were built by people who fled Ukraine at a previous time. I believe that we're at about 15 per cent Ukrainian heritage in Saskatchewan. That is a significant portion, and likely larger than any other portion when I think about it. So it's no surprise that Saskatchewan people are always here to be generous, to help, and to extend a helping hand to anyone that needs it, whether it be down the road or whether it be around the globe. But in the case of what we're seeing happen in Ukraine, I think the connection is even deeper.

**Do you think that rural communities are well-resourced to welcome Ukrainian refugees?**

I think rural communities are well-resourced to do anything and we saw rural communities in this province that have essentially hosted SaskPower employees, for example, down in the Southwest and the Southeast, hosted them for suppers to thank them for coming in and getting the power back running in the case of the recent storms that we had.

Rural Saskatchewan communities are most certainly the heart and soul of this province and this nation. They are well prepared for anything that might happen in this world. When it comes to hosting people that are displaced from other areas of the world, in particular, with the connection that we have in this province to Ukrainian people through our provincial Ukrainian heritage, we are, well-resourced.

We have the people, they know what they need to do, and I would just say to a community like Moosomin that has stepped into this area of support in just such a tremendous and remarkable way, that the province is also here to support, not only Ukrainian people, but to support our Saskatchewan communities, rural or urban, in the efforts that they're making and to likewise support the people that we care so much about.

**Of the measures that the province has taken to help refugees, which do you think is going to have the most impact? What's the most important of those?**

There are a number of measures here that we have in place. I think what will have the most impact and isn't so much the government but what Saskatchewan people are doing and it was on full display this weekend in Moosomin.

The financial help does go a long way in providing relief, I've been in contact with the Red Cross, and they've been providing mobile medical services, not only in Ukraine but in a number of surrounding communities in Poland and Germany to Ukrainian people. You can imagine the health impacts when your health system is set up for your population and all of a sudden you have an influx of three, four, five million people into your country. It does pressure the health system in that country, Poland and Germany, and as well other countries are feeling that. The Red Cross is there internationally. They've raised significant amounts of money in Canada to go there and provide those services. It's just another example of what we're doing as Saskatchewan people in supporting our Ukrainian friends around the world.

I think likely one of the most effective initiatives that the Saskatchewan government has in place are the people

on the ground in Berlin, the highly trained immigration officials that are on the ground, helping Ukrainian people that may have just drove hours, dodging various obstacles, to get to whatever shelter they've found, whether it be in Warsaw, whether it be in Berlin, or whether it be where I was in Kassel, Germany, and to provide them options and pathways to a safe place like Saskatchewan for a temporary period of time or a longer period of time.

We're working with Minister Fraser at the federal level to ensure that they are utilizing all of the tools and talents that they have, and I'm just trying to put together a call with the Ukrainian ambassador to Canada, essentially to ask her what more can we do as a province. We have Saskatchewan people that are doing so much as individuals and are coming together as is the case in Moosomin, one to raise money, two to come together as a community, but three, also to honour one of our most recent Ukrainian people that have come into the province of Saskatchewan. If we don't think that will have an impact on his family and friends that he will talk to that are still back in Germany or Poland, it most certainly will. That's what I want to ask the Ambassador, is what more can we do as a province to support Ukrainian people that have been displaced by this very ugly war.

**Why was the decision made to make it easier for Ukrainian refugees to get their health cards?**

We had done this once before when we had taken in about 1,000 Syrian refugees into the province. You have this gap of when a refugee lands in Canada to when they get enough paperwork done to be able to access health care services or to have a health card. We passed a regulation to replicate that process for those that may come from Ukraine, so that one of the pieces of paperwork that they do on landing in Saskatchewan is a very quick application for a temporary health card. So that, should they require anything from a Covid test, to a hospital stay, to whatever that might be, that they'll be able to access those services and have the card on their person to really give them the confidence that they can access those services.

It's these little things that are actually quite important to someone that has had to leave their own home, quite often with nothing more than the clothes on their back. The power of having something as simple as a health card that we all take for granted in this province is quite meaningful. We just want we make this as seamless as possible.

But the most powerful thing that I've seen thus far is this story in Moosomin. Yes, raising the money is tremendously important, and to that we are a very grateful province to all those in the community.

But to give one of our newest Saskatchewan residents from Ukraine a standing ovation and such a warm welcome is going to have tremendous impacts within his family and friends that, you know quite likely, are still in a shelter somewhere in Poland or Germany.

**Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has made some changes to allow Ukrainian refugees to access housing at a very low cost when they first arrive. Why was this necessary and how much impact do you expect that to have? And do you know if there are some refugees already being housed under that program?**

There are a few that are already in housing. We do have some capacity in our Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to do this.

We've also had numerous folks that have reached out offering their home, people that live on a farm and have another home in the yard or their kids have left and they have a few extra bedrooms in their home. We've had just literally hundreds of people that have reached out, offering their home to people that may be fleeing Ukraine.

The Sask Housing capacity is there. We do have Ukrainian folks that are in those housing units as we speak and they are welcome to stay there as long as they need to be. It's just another one of those small things that we're doing for people that have quite often left their home with nothing other than the clothes they are wearing. We're trying to take care of some of the concerns that they may have in coming to a place like Saskatchewan.

This is the Saskatchewan way and that was on full display in Moosomin this weekend.

**Do you know how many Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Saskatchewan and how many you would expect to come to Saskatchewan in total?**

I don't know as of yet how many have arrived. We know they're starting to come. What we're trying to do now is to further streamline the process and to work with the federal government to streamline that process, and to streamline the communication on the ground in particular, in Berlin, where we have officials, so that people understand that you don't have to sign up to come here forever.

Many of these folks want to go home and we don't know what Ukraine is going to look like or what the geopolitical environment is going to be whenever this war ends, and we all hope it ends sooner rather than later. They do want to go home and so what we want to do as a province, and what our chance has been, we'll support you for however long you choose to be here. If that's a short period of time then that's fine, if it's a longer period of time that's fine as well and we'll provide you with whatever supports you need and quite frankly, with what we have available for

you in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan people have really embraced and gone further even than the government in their support of Ukrainian people coming to Saskatchewan.

We don't know how many have come yet, but what we have said is that we have no limit on that number. We will take whatever and how many ever choose to come and spend some time in Saskatchewan.

After the reception this young individual got in Moosomin the other night, that may increase the numbers.

**Is there anything else that the government is looking at doing to welcome Ukrainian refugees or is there anything else that the government could or should be doing to help welcome them to Saskatchewan?**

Three things.

One, as communities reach out and support Ukrainian refugees like Moosomin is doing, we want to ensure that we're supporting communities in those efforts and in those initiatives as well.

Two, we're working with the federal government to see if we can streamline the paperwork process for these folks that are sitting in Berlin or Warsaw or wherever they may be, and ensure that they understand that this doesn't have to be a case where you're going there forever, you can go there for a period of time and should things change return back home.

The third thing is I have a request in and I'm hoping early this week or early next week sometime that we will be able to have a meeting with the Ambassador from Ukraine to Canada, just essentially to ask what more we can do as a sub-national province here in Saskatchewan to support the Ukrainian people in particular.

Those are the three things that we're looking at right now, is supporting communities, supporting the process, and streamlining the process, and essentially reaching out to the Ukrainian representative in Canada, the Ambassador, and saying are there other things that we can do to support our Ukrainian friends and family.

**Why is it important to do all this? Why, in your opinion, are these important measure to take?**

It is important because this is what we do in Saskatchewan. Not only do we support one another in our family, our community, or across the province, or even I'd say across the nation.

This is what we do.

Volunteerism and really supporting one another is more evident in Saskatchewan than I think it is anywhere else in the world.

When you consider the fact that the people of Ukrainian descent have moved here in the decades that have gone by and built so many of our communities in Saskatchewan and are really such a large proportion of our population in this province, if you're not of Ukrainian descent yourself, you most certainly will have, not one, but a number of friends that are.

That's the case for me and so many other Saskatchewan residents, and so I think that generosity we possess for everyone at the core is really ramped up or increased when it comes to what we see happening in Ukraine in this very, very terrible invasion, this illegal invasion, and tragic invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin.

I just think Saskatchewan people are always trying to support those people around us, and that spirit is most certainly on steroids in this effort as we do everything we can as a province to support our Ukrainian friends and family.



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May is Better Hearing & Speech Month

# Why you should make hearing health a priority



Chelsea Stewart at work at her clinic in Esterhazy.

May is Speech and Hearing Month and Chelsea Stewart, the owner of House of Hearing in Esterhazy, says she can't stress enough how important it is to make hearing health a priority.

"Anyone can get a hearing test," says Stewart. "It is always great just to have a baseline, just like people go for a regular physical or an eye exam. Even with kids prior to entering Kindergarten, it is always great to have a hearing test. If we have that baseline and problems arise in the future or if there is a change in hearing, we have that baseline to be able to refer back to."

"It's not recommended to wait until you have a problem—it is good to get your hearing assessed. It is easy and it is painless. If there are concerns, it is important because it can affect many aspects of your life. There is a lot of research going into the risks of untreated hearing loss—things like social isolation and depression and poor balance and fall-related injuries, as well as an increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. So it is important to have a regular checkup for your overall general hearing health."

Stewart says she opened her hearing clinic in Esterhazy because she is passionate about providing accessible and quality services to people in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba and passionate about counseling patients about their hearing loss.

"I have a masters in Audiology. I have six years of schooling and about eight years in the field," she says. "I spent most of my career working with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, so my focus was on diagnostic testing, counselling patients and families, and hearing aid fittings."

"I opened House of Hearing in January, and so far I have seen really good support from the community. It has been outstanding."

"Throughout my career I have seen a lot of barriers to accessible hearing services, and more so in rural communities. My husband has been working in Esterhazy the last couple of years and I thought it was a really good opportunity to tie together my passion with providing more accessible services in the province, as well as my passion for public health and helping people and providing a really good quality of care for people. And at the same time we were able to relocate our family so we could all be together as well."

"I am very passionate about providing really good care and helping people. I really want to make sure patients understand their test results, they understand and are involved in the decision making process, they are comfortable with the solutions that we work together to provide. A hearing test is very simple and painless. Right from when they walk in, I just want people to feel right at home, feel comfortable and be able to attend the appointment either independently and feel okay with that, or, of course, it is also encouraged to bring family members as well so they can be involved in the process too."

"This is my first clinic. I do still work casually with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. I do the diagnostic testing with pediatrics in Regina as well. I want to stay up to date with the testing and the field of audiology, what is up and coming for hearing loss and hearing devices, and how to cope and manage with tinnitus and that sort of thing."

"I do have very modern and up to date technology with the testing equipment in my clinic. I feel very confident that patients are getting the best care and the best testing in the clinic."

House of Hearing offers a range of services.

"We offer hearing tests and wax removal. I have custom ear plugs for sleeping, noise exposure, or swimming. If people have existing hearing aids that are not working, I do repairs. I also do reprogramming using up to date technology to fit the hearing aid specifically to the patients' ear and hearing loss using real ear measurement," says Stewart.

"I also have new hearing devices. I offer loaner hearing aids for people to try, so it is a great risk-free way for patients to see themselves whether hearing aids will benefit them prior to making an investment. The hearing

aids are offered at a variety of different price points and now there is new technology that is offered at a more affordable price point as well. All the hearing aids do come with trial periods. I want to make sure that patients are satisfied and happy with the benefit that they are receiving."

Stewart says putting a focus on hearing health can be for anyone of any age.

"In my clinic, I do see anyone four years and older for hearing tests. You do not need a doctor's referral. It is as simple as calling in or going online and making an appointment. The test takes less than an hour. Basically there are a variety of quick and easy tests that assess all of the different parts of your ear, and then the hearing test where you are identifying the softest sound that you can

hear. Then, based on that, I would counsel on the results and provide you a simple explanation of what that means for you and how it may or may not affect you in your everyday life and communication.

"I really want to make the process as stress-free and simple for patients as possible so that they are able to enjoy all the moments in life, and I just want to make them feel really comfortable and welcome."

"The reason I want to be in the field is that it is my passion to help people and to provide really good care first and foremost. Hearing aids are a great solution for a lot of people, but I really do focus on providing my honest recommendation that involves the patient and the decision, and making sure they are informed and understand every step of the way."

## HOUSE of HEARING



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- Accredited with Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), Supplementary Health, Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB)
- I am passionate about providing accessible and quality services to people in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Throughout my career I have seen the strain on patients and families to access hearing health care and I am passionate about making these services more accessible. I hope to make the process as stress-free and simple as possible for patients so they are able to enjoy all the little and big moments in life.
- I am passionate about counselling patients about their hearing loss. I want to make sure patients feel comfortable asking questions and spend the time to help make sure they understand the hearing loss, how to use the hearing devices, helping to cope and manage tinnitus, etc.



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# Home & Garden



SPRING 2022

## Preparing WOOD for finishing

Wood is one of the most popular materials for outdoor projects, thanks to its attractive appearance, durability and versatility. But you also have to know how to optimize its qualities with the proper finish. However, before treating wood, the surface has to be properly prepared, with the exception of very new virgin wood that hasn't yet been exposed to the elements. Here is an overview of this crucial step in any wood finishing project.



### PRE-TREATED SURFACES

If the surface in question has already been stained, it will have to be stripped before proceeding further. Use a cleaner specifically designed for outdoor use, as it will be water-based and biodegradable. However, be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions, as this kind of product can come in several different concentrations and often needs to be diluted. After applying the product evenly, wait 15 minutes and then clean the wood with either a pressure washer or a good old scrubbing

brush and some water.

### GREYING VIRGIN WOOD

Wood darkens quickly, depending on the weather and presence of mildew. That means even if the surface you want to treat has never been stained, you'll still need to wash it to ensure that the finishing product adheres properly. It's okay to wash it with a pressure washer, but be very careful not to damage the wood by applying too much pressure. There are also a variety of wood cleaners available in stores; look for one that contains oxalic acid, the bleach of choice for wood.

And now you can move on to the finishing stage!



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# Home & Garden

SPRING 2022



## How can interior design improve your life?



BY JEN GRAY OF JENNIFER GRAY DESIGNS  
Moosomin has been my home since 1999. Together with my husband Murray, we have raised our three children with our last one graduating high school in June and going off to college in the fall.

I am a nature lover at heart. You will often find me on hiking trails or running races. I have completed a dozen 10k races with a couple half marathons under my belt. I am and will always be a forever student—always learning and applying new information.

Since moving to Moosomin, I have worked over two decades as a dental hygienist. I was forced off work in February 2021 due to a shoulder injury that required surgery. During my recovery, I took the Interior Decorating course. It was a course I have wanted to take for many years but never really had the time. I enjoyed the course so much and I am so excited to share with you what I have learned!

I have found a passion that I love and want to share my knowledge and give back to my friends and community.

### How does Interior Design Impact our lives?

Good interior Design will inspire happiness and comfort in your home. It can evoke confidence, pride, security and creativity. Small changes in colour, fabric and layouts can easily improve your mood and bring on positive feelings.

Hiring a designer can help you avoid costly mistakes—it will not only save you time and money but can increase the value of your home!

### Aging in place—What is it?

Aging in place is a process that implements modifications to help someone continue to live independently in their home for as long as they wish or are able. This design concept does not only apply to seniors, it applies to anyone that has some disabilities that require modifications, to anyone that may have an illness or has had an accident or surgery.

Another process to Aging In Place is a Proactive approach. These are clients who may be in their 40's-50's maybe older that don't have any issues currently but are planning for the future. These people may be doing their last kitchen or bathroom reno for example.

The most important benefit of AIP is living independently at home with the goal to maintain and improve the quality of life.

Remaining in a familiar setting near family and friends will positively impact your health and happiness. In most cases, the cost of AIP is lower than the cost associated with senior living complexes.

How many of us have known someone who has been transferred to another community or to the city to an assisted living or long term care facility? They can feel alone without their friends, or neighbours. Family visits are sporadic, maybe 1-2 times a week.

Study after study has shown us that the more lonely you are, the faster your health declines. We are wired for connection. This Pandemic has taught us that!

Let's empower our seniors to live in their homes where they can keep physically and mentally active.

Let's keep YOU home, in YOUR community with YOUR family and friends.

As we age, our needs change—I can help

adapt your home to meet those changing needs.

### Who should consider Aging In Place (AIP)?

The decision to age in place shouldn't be taken lightly. It is of utmost importance to create a comprehensive plan that addresses any potential issues that might accompany Aging In Place.

### You might be a good fit for AIP if...

- You have a strong support system of family, friends and doctors
- You are proactive and like to make your own decisions about you and your future

• You have access to transportation, whether private or public

• Your home is accessible or can be made accessible

• You are relatively in good health and are comfortable living on your own

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# Home & Garden

## SPRING 2022



### Four unique ways to use tree stumps

Gone are the days of old tree stumps rotting away in the middle of the garden. Here are four unique ways to incorporate stumps in your landscaping.

1. As a pedestal

Thanks to their flat surface, tree stumps make perfect pedestals. Use your stump as a base for a bird feeder, a bonsai tree, a statue, a floral arrangement or even a fountain. As a finishing touch, surround the stump with flowers or decorative stones.

2. As lighting

Hollow stumps are great for hiding outdoor lighting in plain sight. Drill holes in the wood's surface or cut slats in the sides to let the light shine through. Use your stumps to subtly illuminate a tree, a shrub or a pathway.

3. As art

If you have certain artistic talents, why not turn your tree stumps into works of art? Sand then paint them to create unique decorative elements for your garden. You could even engrave or sculpt the wood if you'd like.

4. As a planter

Fill up hollow tree stumps with soil and sow some seeds inside. Choose plant varieties that spread quickly to add character to your garden in no time at all.

To find all the plants, materials and tools you'll need to make your project a success, visit a gardening centre or plant nursery near you.



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# Home & Garden



**SPRING 2022**

## Five fun and affordable ways to revitalize your home



Does your home need an update? If a full renovation isn't in the cards this spring, here are five fun and inexpensive makeover tips for reinvigorating your home.

### 1. NEW ACCESSORIES

Inexpensive upgrades such as new throw pillows on the couch, a fresh tablecloth in the dining room or a chic frame for a painting or photo will help revitalize your home.

### 2. REARRANGE YOUR FURNITURE

Sometimes changing the layout of a room is all you need to do to make it come alive again. Move your bed to the other side of the room or switch the living room furniture around.

### 3. UPDATE YOUR BATHROOM

Replacing accessories like the soap dish, shower curtain and hand towels can make your bathroom feel brand new.

### 4. SWITCH UP YOUR LIGHTING

A lamp for your bedroom or a new fixture in the dining room will shed new light on a room that's lost its sparkle.

### 5. DIY UPGRADES

If you want new cabinets in your kitchen, try painting the ones you have for a cost-effective alternative. Consider a DIY approach to other desired upgrades for your home. These simple and affordable changes can make you fall in love with your home all over again. So which ones will you undertake this spring?

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# Home & Garden

## SPRING 2022



### 4 tips for lighting a room



The right lighting can enhance the style and functionality of a room. If you want to update a space in your home, here are four tips for choosing the right lighting.

1. Complement the existing style  
First and foremost, you should choose light fixtures that match the style of the room. For

example, recessed lighting and pendant lights are great for modern and contemporary homes.

2. Analyze the room  
It's important to think about how you use the room. You should also take into account the furniture arrangement and amount of natural light to determine if the space needs bright, gen-

eral or directional lighting.

3. Use different types of lights  
Every room should have a variety of light sources. It's a good idea to have one main light source like a ceiling light, a secondary light source like a table lamp and a decorative lighting feature like string lights.

4. Choose the right light bulbs  
Choose warm, neutral or cool lighting to put the finishing touches on your space. If you want to be able to vary the intensity of the light, install a dimmer switch. Lastly, don't hesitate to ask a lighting specialist for advice or hire an interior decorator to help brighten your space.

### How to spruce up your front entrance



Your front entrance can have a significant impact on the curb appeal of your home. Here are some tips to enhance this part of your property and make it look more inviting.

In addition, consider the pots. You may want to select ones that resemble the shade or texture of your paving stones.

#### AN EMPHASIS ON GREENERY

Frame your front door by placing potted plants or flower arrangements on either side of the entrance. This will create symmetry and add a pop of colour. Just be sure the plants don't block the doors or stairs and that their size makes sense for the space. To create a cohesive look, make sure the plants around your front entrance complement the rest of the landscaping. Choose species that also grow in your front garden or line the walkway. Alternatively, opt for flowers that match your yard's colour scheme.

#### A WELCOMING WALKWAY

If you have a walkway, it's a good idea to embellish it with a bit of vegetation. For a curved walkway, or one with a sharp turn, it's a good idea to create a focal point where it's most angled. This might consist of a well-tended rosebush, a small weeping tree or a vibrant flowering perennial. Check to see how your choice of plant looks at various angles, including from the street, the driveway and the front door, before you dig into the ground. For more advice about how to enhance your front entrance, consult a landscaper or an expert at your local garden centre.

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# Home & Garden

## SPRING 2022



### Interior designer vs. interior decorator: what's the difference?

You've probably heard the terms interior designer and interior decorator used interchangeably. However, they actually describe two different but similar professions.

Interior designers complete two- or four-year degree programs that involve studying subjects like colour theory, architecture, computer-aided design and spatial planning.

They work with architects and contractors to plan and renovate spaces and can be involved in every step of the remodeling process, from drawing up floor plans to adding the final touches.

Interior decorators focus on esthetics. They help transform spaces that are already built by making recommendations about paint colours, furniture styles, lighting and accessories. They're not required to complete professional training (though many decorators do), and they usually

work directly with businesses and homeowners.

Should I hire a designer or a decorator? If you need help with designs during a renovation, it's best to go with an interior designer. They'll help you create a space that serves your specific needs and aligns with your particular tastes. However, if you're mainly looking to update the appearance of a space, a decorator can help you achieve a whole new look by rearranging and redecorating.

In the end, what matters most is not the job title, but the skills of the designer or decorator in question. Choose a company or professional with a reputation for high-quality designs and expertise in the type of work you're looking for.

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# Home & Garden



## SPRING 2022

### Embellish your yard with a pond

Adding a pond to your property is an excellent way to embellish your outdoor space and give it personality. To incorporate a pond that harmonizes with the rest of your landscaping, keep these tips in mind.

#### LOCATION

Determine the ideal spot for your pond. First of all, you'll need to consider sunlight, because your water feature might house various living species (plants, fish, frogs, etc.) with different needs. Make sure that your pond will receive enough sunlight for flora and fauna to thrive. Furthermore, avoid placing your pond next to a tree, because its roots may eventually damage it.

**SIZE**  
After finding the perfect spot for your water feature, you'll need to determine its size and shape. To choose the appropriate size, consider how big your yard is. If it's relatively small, a giant pond would only make it feel more cramped. The opposite is also true: a tiny

pond might go unnoticed in a sprawling yard. Remember that your pond should complement your yard and that everything is a matter of balance. Preformed models (made of fiberglass, resin or polyester, for example) in various sizes and shapes are available on the mar-

ket; you're sure to find one that perfectly matches your yard.

#### FINISHING TOUCH

Once you've set up your pond, you'll be able to highlight it with plants, a sculpture, solar-powered lanterns, a rustic bench, or any other accessories you'd like.



### The art of lighting your property and landscape

Embellishing your deck, yard or garden with lighting involves more than simply lining your pathways and flowerbeds with light fixtures. Indeed, there are certain rules you should follow for your landscape lighting to effectively show off your property come sunset.

First, let's focus on safety. Your steps and pathways need to be clearly visible so that you can walk around with ease while staying out of harm's way. Wall-mounted sconces and embedded ground lights are extremely useful for lighting dark areas with style. Next, think about which elements of your landscape you would like to showcase. A beautiful plant that you're particularly fond of? The entrance gate? The fountain? The statue? To add a bit of magic, play with the lighting and install your fixtures (lights, lanterns, projectors, etc.) at random. All it takes is a well-focused beam of light to create an illusion of depth and volume in any yard, big or small.



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# Home & Garden



SPRING 2022

## Four unique ways to use tree stumps

Gone are the days of old tree stumps rotting away in the middle of the garden. Here are four unique ways to incorporate stumps in your landscaping.

### 1. As a pedestal

Thanks to their flat surface, tree stumps make perfect pedestals. Use your stump as a base for a bird feeder, a bonsai tree, a statue, a floral arrangement or even a fountain. As a finishing touch, surround the stump with flowers or decorative stones.



### 2. As lighting

Hollow stumps are great for hiding outdoor lighting in plain sight. Drill holes in the wood's surface or cut slats in the sides to let the light shine through. Use your stumps to subtly illuminate a tree, a shrub or a pathway.

### 3. As art

If you have certain artistic talents, why not turn your tree stumps into works of art? Sand then paint them to create unique decorative elements for your garden. You

could even engrave or sculpt the wood if you'd like.

### 4. As a planter

Fill up hollow tree stumps with soil and sow some seeds inside. Choose plant varieties that spread quickly to add character to your garden in no time at all.

To find all the plants, materials and tools you'll need to make your project a success, visit a gardening centre or plant nursery near you.

## 3 questions to ask when choosing a window treatment

Window treatments can add warmth and style to your home. However, before buying new curtains, drapes or blinds, you should ask yourself these three questions.

### 1. WHAT'S YOUR OBJECTIVE?

Make sure you know what purpose the window treatment will serve. For example, do you want it to be primarily stylish or functional? You should also determine if you want a look that's contemporary or timeless.

### 2. WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

If you can afford it, consider hiring a professional designer or decorator to help you choose the right window treatment. If you have a tight budget, look for inspiration in decorating magazines and websites for reasonably priced options.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE DIMENSIONS?

Make sure you measure your windows. This way the treatment you choose is sure to effectively block out light and provide the right level of privacy. Additionally, make certain your curtains, blinds or shades are the right length and won't hang on the floor.

Before making your choice, visit home decor stores in your area for inspiration and advice

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# APAS sends letter of recommendations for agricultural programs to government

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) released a list of 19 recommendations for developing the next five-year funding agreement for agricultural programs, to the federal and provincial governments to consider, on April 12.

Bill Prybylski, vice-president of APAS, explained why the association felt it was important to release a list of recommendations that can assist in improving the agriculture sector.

"Recognizing that the next policy framework will come into affect April 1 of 2023, we felt this was a good opportunity to make some recommendations to the federal and provincial government as to how we feel some of the programs can be improved," Prybylski said.

"How the programs can be made to be a little more responsive to the needs of farmers in Saskatchewan."

Prybylski explained how APAS came up with the recommendations on the list.

"Through discussions with stakeholders of different commodity groups, accountants, we discussed it also with our APAS membership, and the members of our task force just sitting around the table," he said.

"We were discussing the programs as they are and where they felt there were shortcomings, and what we might be able to do to improve those programs."

The main recommendations APAS included in their list are the following:

- Restore AgriStability coverage through performance and participation incentives and allow Crop Insurance premiums as an expense.
- Maintain AgriInvest with enhancements to make the program more flexible.
- Reform AgriRecovery into a more comprehensive disaster response program.
- Recognize the importance of Agri-Insurance and create a national cost shared Livestock price insurance program.
- Improve access to Trade and Market Development programs for smaller acre crops and niche commodities and create a program to respond to trade disruptions.
- Support research funding from discovery science

to commercialization.

- Recognize environmental benefits from agriculture in a separate funding category in the framework agreement and ensure regionally appropriate environmental programming.

APAS has been working on the list of recommendations with stakeholders and other businesses since October of last year.

"We started working on our recommendations back in October, when we

first started meeting as a group to come up with some suggestions."

Prybylski further explains the recommendation of "recognizing environmental benefits from agriculture in a separate funding category."

"We want to recognize that producers over the last 30 years made changes to the way that we farm and many of those changes have been beneficial to the environment and we would like to be recog-

nized for that," Prybylski said.

"We felt that the things producers are doing, are a benefit to the environment, it also benefits society as a whole and perhaps society should look at ways on how they can help fund those advances in technology, those operating procedures that are good for the environment."

"If it's good for the whole public, then maybe some of that funding should come from resources other

than agricultural funding."

Prybylski was asked what his thoughts are about the federal government's plan on reducing fertilizer by 20 per cent, which was recently announced in the 2022 federal budget.

"I understand that the reduction target is in the emissions of fertilizer usage. I guess that's a tough one for us to swallow here," he said.

"We've been adopting practices that have re-

duced our emissions from the use of fertilizer, the direct seeding, the GPS, so we've been doing things to reduce our fertilizer usage.

"Certainly there's likely things coming down the line, new technologies that will be adapted if producers can see some benefit to it they will adopt those practices, but picking a number out of the air and saying 'this is what we have to do,' I don't know if it's realistic and benefits producers."

*Continued on page 27* ESF



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Veteran Clinton Bobb and Landon Bobb at the grand opening of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre on May 4. Clinton served with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), and Landon is a graduate of the Bold Eagle program, serving as an army reservist.



Kahkewistahaw First Nation is planning to build a Fire Department building for their volunteer firefighters in the future. Left: Fire Chief Stan Bobb, Karyn Fayant, Tabitha Bobb and Eliana.

## Veteran proud to see how far Kahkewistahaw First Nation has advanced

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the grand opening of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre, veteran Clinton Bobb shared his appreciation for how much Kahkewistahaw First Nation has achieved, in the last few years.

"Ever since I came back from the army, you know we've had chief and councils go and for each and every one of them, during their tour they made their accomplishments, but with all honesty I can say that under the leadership of Chief Evan, we have leaps and bounds that have developed and got more," said.

"As Chief Evan mentioned, he too also served PPCLI, he was in Afghanistan and did a tour there. As a young man I learned that our regiment turns out the finest officers, the finest leaders, and with Evan now as our chief, that just seals what I've always known."

Being a member of the community for a long time, Bobb said the future of Kahkewistahaw First Nation will continue to be bright.

"We are a very progressive First Nation, I would like to see the progress that we have made to improve and continue on," he said.

"Some day I'm going to be in that elders hall, I just wish the best for our community and all First Nation communities because you always want better for your children.

"My grandchildren go to school right here at Kahkewistahaw Community School, and you only want the best for them, you want to see progress, and you want to see things always get better. Over the last couple of years, things have definitely gotten better."

Bobb said he is hopeful that the youth of Kahkewistahaw First Nation will continue to carry on the values they share in the community.

### KFN volunteer firefighters

Fire Chief Stan Bobb spoke about how his brother, sister and his niece, are all volunteer firefighters of Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

He said because of their community youth program, children have the opportunity to learn more about what being a firefighter is.

"We are one of the few programs that have a succession program, and we have a cadet program and Eliana is one of our cadets," said Fire

Chief Stan Bobb.

"We're so fortunate that our chief and council provide us with the equipment and resources that we need to help us further develop new firefighters."

Stan said firefighters of KFN also help out other First Nation communities.

"We respond to fires and accidents in Ochapowace and we have a mutual services agreement with Cowessess. As well, any training we have here, we open up to other First Nations as well, and the town of Broadview," he said.

"When we initiated our vehicle extrication training, we approached their fire department and they sent one individual over. We're open to opening bridges and creating relationships, both with neighboring First Nations, but also with Broadview and now Birds Point.

"We now have presence down in Birds Point, and we responded to a fire they had last year where we sent members down to assist there as well."

Kahkewistahaw First Nation Chief Evan Taypotat said a new facility for KFN's fire department, is in the plan.





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# Risk of seed-placed fertilizer on canola emergence

BY WARREN WARD

Toxicity and salt effect from fertilizer can damage canola seed and seedlings, and reduce the return on investment for seed. One way to increase canola emergence rates is to keep all fertilizer out of the seed row—except for a starter rate of phosphate.

The risk of seed-placed fertilizer comes from the nitrogen component of ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate and all nitrogen fertilizers. Ammonia can damage crops through direct toxicity while nitrate will damage seedlings by desiccation through the salt effect. Potassium fertilizers also have a high salt index and should not go in the seed row.

### Why is phosphorus the exception?

Phosphorus supply during the first two to six weeks of canola growth is critical to achieve optimal yield. Given that phosphorus availability is reduced under wet, cold conditions, canola benefits from a seed-placed supply of phosphorus fertilizer.

But not too much. Apply just enough to give each seed equal access to starter phosphate prills or droplets but not so much that the ammonium reduces emergence. A seed-placed rate equivalent to 20 lb./ac. of P2O5 (~40 lb./ac. of monoammonium phosphate) will balance those two objectives. This approach shows the interactions of the Right rate at the Right time in the Right place as part of 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

### How to reduce the nitrogen risk

Under some circumstances, growers can safely apply a little extra ammonium phosphate or nitrogen fertilizer with canola seed. Factors that reduce the risk from seed-placed nitrogen are:

**Seedbed moisture.** Water dilutes the concentration of nitrogen molecules around the seed and seedling, and disperses nitrogen molecules throughout the soil. This moisture reduces fertilizer concentrations around the seed.

**Fertilizer source.** Polymer coating or urease inhibitors slow the release of ammonia and ammonium from urea.

**Seed bed utilization (SBU).** High SBU – which can be achieved with wider openers and narrow row spacing—will lower the risk because seed and fertilizer are spread over a larger area.

**Soil pH.** Lower soil pH reduces the risk from seed-placed nitrogen. That is why safe rates are generally higher in Saskatchewan and Alberta than in Manitoba.

**Soil texture.** Heavy (clay) soils lower the risk and light (sandy) soils increase the risk.



A farmer seeding canola.

Canola Council of Canada photo

### Test the safety of seed-placed rates

These factors don't eliminate the risk entirely, so a large percentage of fertilizer will still have to go outside the seed row to give canola seeds a safe place to emerge and contribute to yield.

To test the effect of seed-placed fertilizer, turn off seed-placed fertilizer runs for a 100-foot strip in some fields. Mark these areas and then go back and do plant counts early in the season to compare treated and untreated strips.

The Nutrient Management section at CanolaEncyclo-

pedia.ca has more on the placement of fertilizer (under each macronutrient heading), and a chapter on the 4R stewardship practices – Right source of fertilizer used at the Right rate, at the Right time and in the Right place. For a more detailed version of this article, look for "Right rates for seed-placed fertilizer" at [canolawatch.org/fundamentals](http://canolawatch.org/fundamentals). While there, please sign up to receive our timely Canola Watch agronomy emails.

Warren Ward is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. Email [wardw@canolacouncil.org](mailto:wardw@canolacouncil.org).

## Precision Ag Carnduff location celebrates the opening of expanded fertilizer facility and service capacity



Precision Ag has expanded with the addition of a new fertilizer facility at their Carnduff location. We spoke with Precision Ag General Manager Jody Magotiaux, who provided some details.

"Precision Ag has expanded its footprint in the agricultural industry with a \$4 million upgrade to its Carnduff facility that is scheduled to be operational on April 27th, 2022," said Magotiaux. "This facility has the capability to offer our leading-edge CORE and traditional crop nutrition products and is equipped with liquid

micronutrient impregnation. These upgrades enhance our ability to deliver customized, high-performance crop nutrition programs to our growers through increased outload speed, while maintaining the high quality product standards our customers expect"

Precision Ag continues investing in the communities in which they serve. One additional local employee was hired full time, and a seasonal employee will be in place for the spring season. This team of 5 will be excited to show you the new asset capabilities, and provide

you the highest level of service. Early in 2021, Precision Ag owners, Jay Gerry, Greg Gerry and Dan Reaves, announced that they would sell their share of the business to Cargill after a successful 22-year joint venture. Precision Ag operates four locations in southeast Saskatchewan; Griffin, Odessa, Carlyle and Carnduff. Precision Ag was founded in 1994, opening its original location in Griffin. The Carnduff location was constructed in 2003 and currently employs three full-time staff.

# Soil health research helps expand Indigenous farming



USask agriculture undergraduate researcher, Stephanie Le Courtois

cultural decisions. "Agriculture is a huge player in the Saskatchewan economy," said Le Courtois, who is majoring in Resource Science in the Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resource Management degree program offered by USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

"Being more informed about soil conditions helps to make more informed decisions regarding best agricultural and land management practices," she said.

Researchers collected soil samples in the spring and fall from cultivated land, native grassland, and forested regions of both Indigenous communities. The team is conducting lab analysis of these samples to determine soil health after previous agricultural activity in each area. Potential impacts of previous agricultural use include erosion and altered nutrient cycles.

Variables such as the level of carbon present and texture can help determine the amount of water and nutrients the soil can maintain and provides an indicator of its health.

"We collected samples from these different environments to compare the effects of different land uses on soil, contributing to a wholistic understanding of the land. Eventually, it will provide a more thorough documented status of soil characteristics, and therefore health and quality," said Le Courtois.

The research, supervised and led by USask soil biogeochemist Dr. Melissa Arcand (PhD), aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities to understand the current state of their agricultural lands. Indigenous communities can ultimately use the knowledge to inform agricultural land use decisions, including potential farm expansion or restoration efforts.



An agricultural field work site at Cowessess where soil samples were obtained for the study.

BY BROOKE KLEIBOER  
University of Saskatchewan (USask) undergraduate student Stephanie Le Courtois has been an integral part of a soil science research team collaborating with Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan to build strong, evidence-informed farming operations.

The research team is focusing on creating a detailed profile of soil health and quality of lands on the Mistawasis Nehiyawak and Cowessess First Nations, working in collaboration with their lands departments. The knowledge will be shared with the communities to help with agri-

The project will provide updated knowledge on important factors such as soil nutrient status, soil carbon, and salinity and form the basis for decisions on farming operations in the next growing season.

"This research can benefit Mistawasis Nehiyawak and Cowessess because, by working with First Nations land managers, we can increase community awareness of the impacts of agriculture on reserve land. Knowledge about soil conditions helps to make more informed decisions regarding best agricultural and land management practices," said Le Courtois.

After completing this project, the team

hopes to expand on the work by collaborating with Indigenous communities on agricultural issues related to climate change.

"Over the course of my life, I have developed a love and appreciation for the natural world—of its beauty and ability to sustain us," said Le Courtois. "Saskatchewan and Canada are beautiful and productive places, and I hope to develop a career that works to sustainably manage and protect these natural environments."

The research is supported by the Canada Tri-Agency New Frontiers in Research Fund's Exploration Grant program.

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# Lots of cattle lost in April storms

## PDAP only available to small agricultural operations

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After the snowstorm from the April 23 weekend, a local farmer near Wapella, Werner Skappel said he lost 34 calves because of the weather conditions.

"Both storms were equally bad, we lost a pile of calves. We have pictures of 34 dead calves right now between the two storms," said Skappel.

"There's probably more that we'll never find, as the snow melted there's calves starting to come out of the mud. We lost over 10 per cent of the calves that were on the ground at that point.

Skappel said it was devastating for himself and his team.

"Mentally we are done, there's three of us that work here and for 17 hours a day we were out there in those storms trying to save calves, and financially, that's a \$50,000 hit right there," he said.

"I'm just worn out. We had a pile of calves that we had to bring home just so they can survive, to bring them out of that element and get them into the barn without their moms. We had to bottle feed them for a couple of days and then we had to get all the cows in to try to get them to take their calves back, re-mother them and some took them right away, others took them three or four days. It's just a lot more hours of work when you don't need it."

Skappel said he knows multiple producers that are quitting the cattle industry because of the loss they took from the snowstorms that happened in April.

"I don't know (where the industry is going), we're just a cow operation. We're just going to keep going as business is normal, and hope we don't run into any more hurdles," Skappel said.

"I've talked to lots of cattle producers though and they're done, they're quitting after this. This is it, they're done."

"They're not selling after this, it's not just one or two, there's lots. They're finished, they're quitting because of the storm, the year, the high input costs and grain guys seem to be moving a head really well, because they have good commodity prices, where the cattle industry just can't get good prices anymore because we just struggle and we can't compete with a grain farmer."

"I might be one those



guys that's going to downsize. We run 750 cows, we don't know how small we'll go to but we'll be doing something different."

for the program.

"When you look at \$2 million in gross income,

any farm that is over 100 cows and 1,500 acres in crop land is probably not

going to qualify," he said.

"There's a ton of operations around the Mooso-

mo area that are not going to qualify under that amount. The way farming is, with a \$2 million gross income, that farm could only be making \$20,000 a year profit. With the expenses being so high, it doesn't really take a big operation to not qualify for this program.

"If there's any other government disaster assistance program that we had, it's never not paid because the operation was too big. You look at the Covid payments, they were paying the airlines, Loblaw's, they were paying everyone the same rates as the little mom and pop shops.

"Now all of a sudden, where guys are losing a massive amount of their income, there's no program for them? I don't understand why the Agri-Recovery Program can't kick in and these guys get covered under that?"

*Continued on page 32*

### PDAP doesn't cover larger operations

Although the Government of Saskatchewan announced its Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) would be available to support eligible livestock producers, who have experienced significant financial losses due to recent extreme weather in the province, only a limited number of farmers in Southeast Saskatchewan are eligible.

"It looks like PDAP is going to pay me because I'm a small producer, but so far, as it looks like today, there's no program that's going to cover these larger operations," said Trevor Green, RM of Moosomin Councillor and APAS representative.

"I can sit here and cross my hands because I'm covered, but these other farmers are my friends, they're my neighbors, maybe I'm the loud mouth guy who won't shut up but I'm going to rock as many boats as I can until I run out of options."

Currently, small businesses and agricultural operations are only eligible for PDAP if their business makes more than \$4,000 and less than \$2 million in gross income annually. The business must also employ no more than the equivalent of 20 full-time employees.

Green said majority of southeast farmers who were impacted by the snowstorm conditions in April, will not be eligible

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FSIN Third Vice Chief Aly Bear gifted a painting for Kakhewistahaw First Nation. Left: William C. Kaysaywaysemat, Iris M. Taypotat-Scribe, Chief Aly Bear, Chief Evan Taypotat, Michael K. Bob and (right) Cory D. Alexson, at the grand opening ceremony for the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre on May 4.



Wooden Face and Kakhewistahaw youth performed a Victory Song at the beginning of the grand opening of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre at Kakhewistahaw First Nation May 4.

# Kakhewistahaw opens new Governance Centre

**Continued from page 7**  
 “We have a \$20 million building, now let’s act like a \$20 million staff. It makes no sense to have this world class building behind us and have minimal staff that brings minimal services.  
 “We have 2,300 band members, we have many businesses we’re building, we’re developing land in Saskatoon, we’re developing land in Melville, Yorkton Tribal Council is developing on our land in Yorkton, we’re now starting negotiations in Moose Jaw.  
 “We’re doing a lot of things, but it makes no sense to build all of those things, if we’re not going to bring world class service, world class professionalism, so that’s my challenge to our staff.  
 “We have to bring those better services, we have to be better for our people

and if we aren’t, let’s fix it.  
 “I also want to talk about change, people know that chief and councils change, trustees change, teachers change, they all change, what should never change is the expectations that our workforce should bring,” Taypotat said.  
 “That’s the challenge I bring to our workforce today, that’s the challenge I bring to our young ones. Those people will be the workforce, chief and councils one day, and what should never change is the expectations that they should have.”  
 Taypotat said the artifacts portrayed in the centre symbolize the history of elders from Kakhewistahaw First Nation.  
 “I get emotional that day during the meeting with our elders, because I want our elders to know that we want to share

their stories.  
 “When I visit them in their homes, they have so many pictures and so many stories from way back, and I want those pictures in this building.  
 “We need those pictures in this building, we need more, I want your stories. Everything we do today is for our elders and for our children. Our adult workforce, we’ll get by because we’re strong, we grew up with tough love, but our elders, many of them have started walking the spirit world, and then our children are here watching us, so everything we’re doing is for them.”  
 In the next couple of months, Taypotat talked about the upcoming projects KFN can look forward to.  
 “There’s a lot going on for next year, the leadership behind me is very proactive, we’re tired, but we gotta keep going because we’re elected to go, we’re not elected to be status quo,” he said.  
 “The elders wanted a place where

they can meet daily, we’re going to build them this beautiful meeting place.”  
 He also spoke about building an arena, Operations and Maintenance Department, along with a fire department building for Kakhewistahaw’s volunteer firefighters.  
 “Obviously we’re building 15 smaller homes right now, that will be ready to go in the fall, it’s been a difficult process because we want to build this community but, there has to be a method to the madness,” he said.  
 “You can’t just build 100 homes because then people are going to say where do we work out, where do we buy our groceries, where do we get gas, you have to make sure all those things come into play. It has to be a consequential order for the method to the madness and there is a method to the madness thanks to the leadership behind me.  
 “It’s amazing what a First Nation can do when people work together.”

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# APAS sends letter of recommendations for agricultural programs to government



Vice-president of APAS, Bill Prybylski, explains why it is important the provincial and federal government considers the list of 19 recommendations developing the next five-year funding agreement for agricultural programs.

*Continued from page 20*

He said APAS's recommendation of "recognizing environmental benefits from agriculture" sits closely to the federal government's plan for farmers to reduce their fertilizer usage.

"Over the last 20 to 30 years, we've adopted technologies that have reduced our emissions from fertilizers to more efficient use of the fertilizer, and more target use of it," he said.

"We made the investments, we've not been recognized for those investments and we felt that maybe we should be."

Out of the 19 recommendations on the list, Prybylski spoke about what he hopes the provincial and federal government take away from the list, overall.

"I think that we can improve and stagger stability with what we're calling the performance base incentives for improving the coverage levels of agriculture stability, we feel that's a very important recommendation," he said.

"There's been lots of criticism with AgriStabil-

somehow." Prybylski explained how AgriStability can help producers.

"We felt that increased coverage levels would reward good producers for good management practices," he said.

"AgriStability is a program that will ensure producers margins to a certain level of their historical margin, basically if the insurance is to cover a percentage of their historical margins and by increasing that coverage level, every year we'll give producers more financial protection for their margins."

### Anticipated response from the government

Prybylski said the purpose of the list of recommendations made by APAS is for the provincial and federal government to consider the agriculture group's suggestions.

He was asked when he expects the government to acknowledge APAS's recommendations.

"We know that the federal, provincial and territorial ag ministers are meeting in Saskatoon in July, and we would hope that we will have an indication from them at least,

what they think about our recommendations before that meeting," he said.

"Likely a lot of the lateral agreements will be signed at that meeting, we're hoping that maybe in a couple months from now we will hear back from them."

He was asked why the provincial and federal government should consider the list of recommendations in developing the next five-year funding agreement for agricultural programs.

"As a general farm organization I feel that we have a pulse on the needs of producers in the province and we feel that these recommendations are what's needed to help producers mitigate the increasing risks that they are facing every year," said Prybylski.

"By improving the programs that already exist, we feel that these are reasonable requests and is something we're certainly hoping the government considers."

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ity, but that's the program we have to work with and if we can make those improvements recognizing that producers are doing things on their farm to mitigate that risk so that they're not in a claim position, and that they should be rewarded for that

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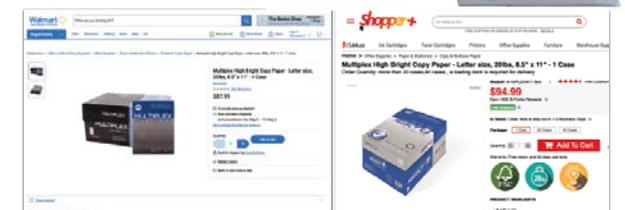
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# Avian Influenza found in Sask, Manitoba

Avian Influenza has been confirmed in a Saskatchewan backyard flock and in a commercial poultry flock, and is suspected in wild birds in Manitoba.

## Confirmed in two Saskatchewan flocks

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has recently been confirmed in a Saskatchewan backyard flock and a commercial poultry flock.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to work with the poultry industry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which is leading the disease response in Saskatchewan as well as in other provinces experiencing outbreaks in farmed birds. CFIA-confirmed findings of HPAI in domestic poultry are posted on the CFIA web-

site.

Biosecurity remains the best tool for poultry producers and small flock owners to protect their birds from avian influenza.

Biosecurity protocols include keeping wild birds away from poultry flocks and their food and water supply, limiting visitors and monitoring bird health.

Small flock owners are encouraged to confine their birds indoors, if possible, during wild bird migration.

Producers should contact their veterinarian immediately if they have concerns about the health status of their flocks.

If avian influenza is suspected, producers should also contact their local CFIA office.

On April 14, 2022, Saskatchewan's Chief Veterinary Officer put in place an animal health control area order to limit the co-mingling of poultry due to the risk of HPAI.

The order, in place until May 14, 2022, prohibits the movement to and participation of birds in shows, auctions and agricultural fairs, as well as any other events where birds would be brought together from multiple locations.

There is no risk to food safety.

The risk of transmission of avian influenza to humans is low.

However, people working with poultry suspected of being infected with avian influenza should use protective clothing.

Saskatchewan producers and farm families are reminded the provincial Farm Stress Line can be contacted 24-hours-a-day at 1-800-667-4442.

confirmatory diagnostic testing is being completed.

The risk of avian influenza to human health is low.

There are no known cases of transmission of this strain of the virus from birds to humans in North America.

This strain of avian influenza does not pose a food safety risk. Manitoba poultry and eggs are safe to eat when proper handling and cooking take place.

Regular food safety and hygiene precautions should be followed when preparing wild game.

Hunters should avoid eating birds that are visibly ill.

Although the risk of transmission of avian influenza to humans is low, people should not touch dead birds or other wildlife with their bare hands.

Protective eyewear and masks are recommended as an additional precaution. Hands should be thoroughly washed before and after with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If a dead bird has to be handled, gloves should be worn and the dead bird placed in a plastic bag.

Manitobans are asked to contact the TIP Line (toll-free) at 1-800-782-0076, if they find any of the following:

- Clusters of six or more dead waterfowl (e.g., ducks, geese) or other water birds;
- Any number of dead raptors or avian scavengers (e.g., ravens, crows, gulls); and
- Large groups of dead birds, such as more than 20 of any species.

The public's co-operation is appreciated to help monitor this developing situation.

Manitoba Agriculture advises small poultry-flock owners to take precautions. Small flocks are considered at high risk for HPAI infection as they often have access to outdoor pens or free range.

This means there is a high probability of contact with wild birds that may be contaminated with the HPAI virus.

Small flock owners are encouraged to confine their birds indoors, if at all possible, during this high-risk period of wild bird migration.

Manitoba's commercial poultry farmers are advised to continue to monitoring information provided through their sector organizations and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian.

For more information or help with animal health-related concerns, producers can contact the Office of the Chief Veterinarian or call 204-945-7663 in Winnipeg.

## Suspected case in wild birds in Manitoba

Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development and Manitoba Agriculture are investigating a suspected case of avian influenza in wild birds in Manitoba.

Cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed in a number of Canadian provinces and the United States, including jurisdictions immediately south of Manitoba in North Dakota and Minnesota, along the route for spring migratory birds returning to Manitoba.

Samples from several suspect birds in southwestern Manitoba near Waskada and a single sample collected in the Dauphin area are being tested.

Further updates are anticipated in the coming days as

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The program is expected to take place from May to October 2022. Visit [www.cn.ca/vegetation](http://www.cn.ca/vegetation) to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at [contact@cn.ca](mailto:contact@cn.ca) or 1-888-888-5909.

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# Wawota welcomes first Ukrainian refugee to the southeast community

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The community of Wawota has welcomed Ukrainian refugee Andrii Mishtal with open arms.

Wawota's committee for refugees has been preparing to bring in families and individuals from Ukraine for a while, said Kevin Kay of Wawota.

"It's been interesting to see how it has all come together, we knew we were going to be busy for the first couple of days and it's been a whirlwind for Andrii," Kay said.

"To stop and think he was in Istanbul last week and all that has transpired now. We spent a couple days in Saskatoon just to get things organized with the Ukrainian Congress, we got his social insurance number, health card, drivers license, all of that done there.

"Now we've come down to Wawota to do the fine tuning, the house is ready, he's spent a couple of nights there and seems to be settling in."

Kay said from all the fundraising and donations that residents in Wawota have put together, the community was able to fully furnish the house Andrii will be living in.

Andrii's wife and children are still in Ukraine, waiting to come safely in Canada.

He was able to come ahead of his family because at the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Andrii was in Istanbul taking care of his mother's medical needs.

Kay also said that because Andrii prepared and did all the necessary paperwork when being in Ukraine, it made it easier for his arrival in Canada.

"We knew that once Andrii and his family started to come, there were going to be more refugees starting to come to Canada," said Kay.

He spoke about what advice he would give to other communities who are in the process of bringing over refugees.

"If Wawota can do it, anyone can do it. From our experience, going through Ukrainian Congress in Saskatoon, they have an office now in Regina and in Saskatoon, it's been fabulous to work with them," he said.

"They do all the screening, all the preparation work for them to come to Canada, but for us, what I did is physically go to their office because they are overwhelmed with requests for people to come to Canada."

He said going to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress before Andrii's arrival in Canada helped tremendously.

"For us, going there physically helped a lot, by me going up directly to their office and saying we are now ready to bring a family, we got the information from the Mishtals, and that started the ball rolling," Kay said.

"They saw that we are serious, that we were ready to do it, and now they have started sending us resumes (for more refugees) to consider again."

Kay spoke about the number of requests the Ukrainian Canadian Congress is receiving.

"A lot of the requests they're getting from Ukrainians is that they want to stay in the city," he said.

"But while we were in line at Service Canada, Andrii met Dimitry and he was explaining the difference of immigrating to a small town as oppose to a city, and he said Andrii is doing it right.

"Because what happens in the city is that you have all of the theatres, restaurants, and everything, but there's no sense of community. You are on your own in the city, but coming to a smaller town you still get all of that stuff, it may mean a 40 minute drive, but you just get used to it because you have the community's support.

"By letting the Ukrainian Congress in Saskatoon know that we are ready, and willing to do anything that needs to be done, they see the seriousness of it."

"They connected me with Olina, one of the ladies who



Kevin Kay of Wawota welcomes Andrii Mishtal to Southeast Saskatchewan. Mishtal is the first Ukrainian refugee to arrive in the area, and was welcomed at Moosomin's Ukrainian Fundraiser a couple days after he landed in Saskatchewan.

work there, and she became the go-between the three of us."

Since Andrii's arrival, Kay has been communicating with him through Google Translate. Although Andrii knows a few words in English, Kay said that has been their main resource for talking with one another.

"Once he got off the plane in Saskatoon, the first trip we made was to the Ukrainian office and then they pointed us in the right direction," he said.

"We sat down immediately and started filling out health card information, those sorts of things. If I were to give anyone advice about doing this, go to the office, go to Regina, go to Saskatoon, sit with someone and say 'here we are.'"

### Andrii's experience in Ukraine

Andrii explained what the environment was like while he was living in Ukraine. The World-Spectator used Google Translate to speak with him.

"There have been continuous air-raid alarms on my phone as Russia constantly fires at Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Mariupol. Rockets were fired at two airfields that are not far from us, one 50 kilometers and the other about 70 kilometers," Andrii said.

"It was very difficult to leave everything behind. I was head of the land department at my City Council. My wife works as the first deputy head of migration service at home, we had to leave our jobs, our friends, our house. It was very difficult to achieve in this life, and we had to leave it all behind."

Andrii has been in contact with his wife in Ukraine. He said is expecting his family to arrive in Canada in about a month.

"It should be about 25 to 28 days they should be coming here," said Kay.

"We haven't finalized the exact date, but everyone has visas, his wife and children, everything is ready to go. We're waiting out for the Canadian government, they were talking about putting some flights together and

we're hoping his family can get on one of those flights, to come to Saskatoon."

### Wawota shows unlimited support for Ukrainian refugees

Kay talked about how welcoming and supportive the community of Wawota has been, with bringing refugees from Ukraine.

"The way the committee organized the funds, people are donating to the town, that way they are able to receive receipts, and then the town administers the funds," Kay said.

"Then they just pass it to us and then we're able to work with Andrii to get things that he needs, it's been overwhelming.

"The next steps now is to get ready for the next family, we'll be working with Andrii to bring friends, to bring family. We'll continue to do our fundraising, it's just a matter of putting the word out.

"The way we approached it was that we waited until we knew we had a family coming, then we determined the need after that. In Andrii's case, we had the house, we had the furniture, we had the dishes, we had the cutlery. Next time, we'll have a house but maybe no furnishings, because maybe we'll need things like one single bed, one queen, and we're able to limit what we get."

Continued on page 30

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# Wawota welcomes first Ukrainian refugee

Continued from page 29

Since the moment Andrii arrived in Canada, Kay has been driving with him to appointments, events and meetings in order to complete the process of him staying here.

Kay was asked why he has dedicated some of his time to helping Andrii and other refugees.

"There's a number of reasons, one being is because I see the need, when I see what's going on in Ukraine I want to be able to help as much as I possibly can," he said.

"There are families there in desperate need and I want to be able to do my best to help them. It's also a benefit to Wawota and the community as well, because we have jobs that are sitting and waiting, we have opportunities that are available, and I want to be able to help our community too.

"It's not just me alone either, it's a whole committee. I'm the one who gets to be with Andrii, but there's a lot of work going on behind the scenes. I get to do the up front things, but I enjoy doing it because this is absolutely what I enjoy doing."

Kay talked about what it was like when he first contacted Andrii.

"When I got the resume from Ukrainian Congress, I connected with him on Facebook, making that connection with him initially," he said.

"We initially started with Facebook messenger, but he said it's not as secure so we switched over to WhatsApp, because he wasn't sure who was listening.

"We communicated and video chatted through WhatsApp and being able to make that connection was a moment for me, just to be able to make that personal eye to eye connection was amazing."

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## Welcome at the Legislature

Andrii Mishtal and Kevin Kay were welcomed to the Saskatchewan Legislature Thursday. From left are Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, Andrii Mishtal, Kevin Kay, and Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison

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# No coverage for large farm operations that lost calves

Continued from page 25

Other limitations of the program include PDAP not being a substitute for private insurance, not providing full compensation for losses, not covering any insurable losses – including loss of production, loss of revenue or unseeded acres of agricultural land and others.

Green said he spoke with MP John Barlow, who is on the committee of agriculture and agri-food, about finding an alternative to PDAP.

"I was on the phone with his office today trying to see what we can do because we have to do something for them, these farmers are going to sell their cows, they're getting out (of the cattle industry) if they don't get some type of coverage," he said.

"This crisis is huge, the problem with the cattle industry is in the last seven years, the margins have gotten so tight. There's just not the money in the cattle, that there was 10 and 15 years ago.

"We had disasters before, but we had enough carry over to get us through because we always had that one good year in five, that got us through, but it's been seven or 10 years since we had a great year. 2015 was basically the last good year in the cattle industry."

## Cattle industry in

### Moosomin may be in a crisis

Green spoke about his uncertainty for the future of the cattle industry, especially for local farmers in the Moosomin district.

"In the Moosomin area, we're in a beneficial enough area that the land can go either way, for livestock or grain," he said.

"If you're a mixed farmer and you're losing money on your cattle side, I'm pretty sure that land will get broken up and come out as canola in the next year, and the cows go down the road.

"That's a whole industry lost in our area and that's a huge industry, we have order buyers, we have auction marts, we have trucking companies, we have mineral sales, we have one of the last feed mills within a crazy amount of miles, still here in Moosomin.

"If we lose the whole livestock industry, it can be very detrimental to the Moosomin area, to lose that side of it. When you have farmers with 1,500 to 1,800 cows saying that's enough, we're not doing it anymore, it's going to get scary really quick here."

He was asked where he thinks the cattle industry will be a couple years from now.

"If you had asked me two years ago, I thought we would have a good year and everyone's attitude is going to change, but I'm almost at the point where I don't know if that good year is coming," said Green.



Many area producers lost calves in the April snowstorms this year and are not covered by PDAP because their operations are larger than \$2 million in gross income. The \$2 million cap is in federal legislation, which is currently under review.

"The packers have pulled so much profit out of this industry and our expenses have gone up so much. Fertilizer has tripled and our commodity as livestock producers hasn't moved.

"It's sad to say, but I don't know what's going to change and if the cattle industry is going to survive in this area. It can't compete with the grain farmers on purchasing land, which is open market but that's the way it is. When the inputs are so high, I honestly have no idea right now what the answer is for keeping the livestock industry in the Moosomin area.

"The order buyers, these auction marts, these trucking companies, are they going to stay open in the Moosomin area when all the big farmers are gone?"

## How the storms impacted

### Green's cattle farm in Moosomin

Green talked about the impacts his farm faced from the snowstorms on April 14 and April 22.

"At our farm three days in the first storm and two days in the second storm, my wife and I pretty much didn't get any sleep," he said.

"We were out in the storm picking up calves, bringing them into the shed, warming them up, and trying to pair them all up the next day. We tried to keep as many alive as we could, but we lost a few, but it wasn't as drastic for us as

it was for other farmers."

Although PDAP will help him financially, Green shared his concerns about PDAP failing to help other farmers in the area.

"We had 40 cows for basically one person to look after, then you look at these big operations and they're getting 50 to 60 calves a day when these storms hit, you just don't physically have the manpower to look after that," he said.

"We only lost six calves at our place, but even on percentages we're calving 80 calves and we lost six, that's a big hit for our operation. Some of these other places, they lost over 150 calves, you're looking at \$120,000 to \$150,000 lost income. I don't care how big of an operation you are, that's a massive hit."

Being the APAS representative for RM of Moosomin, Green said he is trying his best to push the government to provide a program for larger agricultural operations.

"If I have to start hauling my cows two hours away from home to sell them, how long am I going to stay in the industry?" said Green.

"Without the bigger farmers the little ones don't really survive, and that's maybe why I'm trying as hard as I am because I can at least do something.

"If it makes a difference calling your MLA, or MP, and saying we have to help out these farmers right now, sometimes it helps and this is the time the cattle guys need some help from our town. I wrote on Facebook the other day that if it takes a village to raise a child, it's going to take a community to save an industry."

## \$2 million limit is part of federal legislation, which is currently under review

The current regulations allow only small businesses that make less than \$2,000,000 in gross income to apply for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP).

"The definition of 'small business' in the PDAP regulations is based on requirements set out by the federal government," Saskatchewan's Ministry of Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, which is responsible for PDAP, told the World-Spectator Friday.

"The province is unable to make changes to these amounts without impacting its ability to recover costs from the federal government."

"On March 22, the federal government announced an advisory panel that will review and make recommendations to update the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

"We would urge anyone who wishes to provide input into this review to contact Public Safety Canada."

The Plain & Valley contacted Public Safety Canada on May 6, and the department said it was working on a response.

# THANK YOU!

The Poltava Ensemble from Regina would like to thank the Support Ukraine Fundraising Center and all Moosomin and area organizers and volunteers for inviting us to perform at your Support Ukraine benefit concert held in Moosomin on April 30, 2022.

It was an exceptional and very worthwhile event.

We would also like to thank the World-Spectator for posting such wonderful pictures of the performance!

We would also like to invite all Moosomin and area residents to our Poltava Vesna – Tribute to Ukraine, which is being held on May 27 & May 28 in Regina.



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# St. Lazare fundraiser brings in over \$10,000 for cancer care centre in Russell

BY KARA KINNA

When St. Lazare's Cheryl Lemoine decided to hold an online raffle for the new chemotherapy treatment centre being built onto the Russell District Health Centre, her aim was to raffle off a Yeti cooler and raise \$1,400. But that's not what happened.

Instead the raffle snowballed into an avalanche of cash donations and raffle items that—two raffles later—had netted \$10,617.36.

"It just went crazy! People started sending donations and prizes," says Lemoine.

Lemoine got the idea about a month ago to hold some kind of fundraiser for the 2,300-square-foot chemotherapy treatment centre being built on to the Russell District Health Centre this summer. A group called Expanding Community Cancer Care had been actively fundraising for the treatment centre, which will lead to an expansion of the existing chemotherapy services in the Russell District Health Centre.

Lemoine contacted St. Lazare resident Devon Gurniak, who holds online raffles and hosts Facebook live feeds promoting them, and asked if he'd help her promote her raffle.

"I told him I would purchase a Yeti cooler to raffle off and asked if he would sell 100 tickets on one of his live Facebook shows. I calculated we would raise around \$1400. He said absolutely!" says Lemoine.

But Lemoine decided that perhaps more could be done, so she put out a call for a few more raffle items and what happened next was overwhelming.

"I put out a plea to see if anyone would be willing to donate cash or prizes and they just kept coming and coming," she says. "I had people asking to pre buy tickets so I asked Devon if he would mind if I pre-sold tickets prior to his show to make more money for the cause in which he replied 'of course.'"

"While Devon was doing one of his own shows raffling off two hockey jerseys, he mentioned this fundraiser and his friend Jason Hensman bought \$500 worth of tickets and put them in the name of the cancer fundraiser. Well wouldn't you know, we won both the jerseys so that's where the idea came to have a second draw as we had so many prizes."

The first raffle was held on April 13.

"From there it snowballed," says Lemoine, "and after the first draw, half the winners immediately messaged me wanting to donate prizes and cash for the next draw. I started pre-selling tickets for the second show with the help of Starla Thom and Anita Dupont. The response was overwhelming and people from all over bought tickets. The transfers were smoking."

The second raffle was held on May 4.

"The amount raised was \$10,617.36 plus a few dona-

tions that will be matched by Nutrien potash, which is a stellar amount in less than a month. I attribute it to the fact that people have no problem donating to this cause because name one person who hasn't been affected by cancer in one way or another.

"I have been passionate about helping to raise funds for the Expanding Cancer Care Project and its been my pleasure to be able to be a small part of their success."

Russell is Lemoine's home town, and she says fundraising for the expanded chemotherapy centre there is a project that has been close to her heart during the years of fundraising.

She says she can't believe how people responded so enthusiastically to what was supposed to be one small raffle.

"I was blown away, it was crazy. I just couldn't believe how generous people were. I had people messaging me for tickets, I didn't even have a clue who they were," she says.

"But everybody has been touched by cancer. It's an easy fundraiser to promote because everyone has been touched by it at one point. It was very overwhelming and I'm so happy."



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Above: Jess Colby, left, and Taryn Ripplinger, right, at the fundraiser.



Above left: Ms. Dusyk buying a 50/50 ticket. Above right: Donna Colby chatting with Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk.



From left are Steven Bonk, Lydia Shiplack, Donna Colby, Carol Ripplinger, Taryn Ripplinger, Jamie Flaman and Jean Colby.

# Montmartre fundraiser brings in \$2,400 for Ukrainian refugees

BY KARA KINNA

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of Candiac hosted a brisquet on a bun fundraiser on April 29 at the seniors centre in Montmartre to raise money for Ukrainian refugees coming to Montmartre, which is working on relocating two families to the community. The lunch started at 11:30 am and by 12:15 pm was sold out, raising a total of \$2,400.

Five brisquets were donated by Warnyca Land and Cattle and Sherwood Co-op donated a \$150 gift card to help with the purchase of some of the food for the lunch. There was also a 50/50 held as part of the event.

"The support we got was phenomenal from the community and surrounding area," says Carol Ripplinger with St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish. "We were getting \$100 bills. They wanted a few sandwiches but would give a donation. It still brings tears to our eyes. We are here and people are trying to get from this war torn country and we're trying to help."

Ripplinger says a committee has been formed to help Ukrainian refugees come to Montmartre. A house has already been secured for living accommodations and numerous items have been donated, and any money raised at the brisquet on a bun event will go toward covering expenses.

# Shea Martin attending university and playing hockey in Williston

BY TRAVIS LONGMAN

The Melita Bisons only won five games this past season in the Tiger Hills Hockey League but that was not the fault of their goalies. Shea Martin and Andrew Grieg were lights out between the pipes and that did not go unnoticed by many different outlets including the Williston State College Tetons of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. Martin is originally from Hartney, Manitoba but he has family in Wapella, Sask.

Last season the Tetons went 10-23 and were in the market for players that proved to be good news for Shea Martin. The 19-year-old has agreed to play for the Tetons.

Martin had been looking into trade schools for a while now and the opportunity to continue playing hockey presented itself thanks to Bison teammate Reed Louckes. Martin credits Louckes for hooking him up with Tetons coach Donovan Gault. The two communicated periodically throughout the season, then mid-April Martin



Shea Martin signing with the Williston State Tetons.

sent Gault game footage courtesy of TL\_Media and shortly after that Martins' hard work paid off. He had been offered a spot on the Tetons men's hockey team. Last week Martin made it official by putting pen to paper. This fall he will be taking his talents south of the border to Williston.

Martin is familiar with American arenas. One of his favorite memories came when he got to play at the Betty Engestad are-

na in Grand Forks North Dakota. The Hartney native who models his game after Marc-Andre Fleury acknowledges it would not be possible to get this far without tremendous support from several people including TL\_Media, Reed Louckes, his parents, all of his previous coaches and teammates. He is excited to begin the next chapter in his hockey career while studying to become a diesel mechanic.

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## As Kahkewistahaw moves toward self-sufficiency and sovereignty: Governance centre a step on the road

*Kahkewistahaw First Nation marked the opening of its \$20 million Governance Centre Wednesday. The centre will be paid for from own-source revenues. Kevin Weedmark and Sierra D'Souza Butts spoke with Chief Evan Taypotat after the opening. The full interview follows.*

**How does the new Governance Centre play into your long-term goals for Kahkewistahaw First Nation?**

Sovereignty is the goal for any First Nation. When you're a sovereign, you don't depend on outside help.

Sovereignty is what we want to achieve. We want to be self-sufficient. We don't want to depend on anybody.

Right now, we depend on the government and we don't like that because at one time our people many, many hundreds of years ago, we were dependent on no one but ourselves and that's the goal.

Obviously the world has changed, but we want to be sovereign, and that's why we opened up businesses in Yorkton, Melville, and Saskatoon, because we don't want to hold our hand out to the government anymore. We want to just say, "Hey, we are Kahkewistahaw, we are sovereign, and we have our own destiny in our own hands."

**How is this center funded?**

It's funded by a loan for 25 years through the First Nations Finance Authority.

To be a part of the First Nations Finance Authority, you have to have strict spending guidelines, and audits that are really strict and tight.

There are only 50 First Nations out of approximately 700 First Nations Canada that are part of this group. It's usually all the economically prosperous, First Nations that are a part of this group. You have to apply and you have to jump through a lot of hoops. We started this process about three years ago and that's how we got the funding for this building. So it's funded through a loan and we get to borrow below prime rate because we have such strict spending guidelines.

We're just looking at other things right now. It's like anything else in life, you know, you want to buy a houseboat, you want to buy a quad and the more you add on, the more you have to be making, right.

So we want to add on a hockey rink next and it's already being planned. We're developing a hotel and convention centre on the property we own in Saskatoon right now, with hockey rinks up there, McDonalds, Costco, IKEA. But there always has to be a method to the madness. You can't just shoot from the hip and hope that we're going to pay that loan somehow, it's not how life works.

For us, there's always something next. How do we pay for the loan to build that? And how do we pay for the loan to build that? Then it's just a continuous cycle of money coming into Kahkewistahaw so that we can fund ourselves to be sovereign.

**What's the long-term goal for Kahkewistahaw First Nation?**

The long-term goal is to achieve sovereignty through economic development. That's the goal. That's it in a sentence.

If you drive around our reserve, you'll see that there's nice houses, but you know, you drive through Esterhazy, there's a lot nicer houses in Esterhazy. You drive through Moosomin, there's a lot nicer houses in Moosomin. Why is that? Because of the well-paying jobs that are there—the opportunity that is there.

There's not as much of that out here, so it's our job as leaders to make sure that that happens.

I want to be like Moosomin. I want to be like Esterhazy, in the sense that I want my daughter to have dance lessons out here. I want her to be able to take skiing lessons, I want to be able to put her in hockey, I want to be able to go on the year-end trip to California with the Grade 11s. That's what we want out here.

Just because our skin color and our religious beliefs are different than Kevin from Moosomin, doesn't mean our wants are any different.

We still want to see our kids graduate high school. We want to dress up nice on that day and present them with a nice gift. We want them to be able to go to university. I want my daughter to get married and I want to dress up nice.

Just because we live in different places and because I'm a First Nations person on a First Nation reserve, doesn't mean that my wants are any different than yours.

**So how far are you along that path?**

I would say it'll be 10 more years until we are sovereign. A lot of it hinges on the Saskatoon property that we're developing right now. If we can generate money there, like some of the economically successful first nations, the possibilities are endless. There's one First Nation in Canada that generates \$100 million a year in capital. If you can imagine generating that much money to pump into your community, not only that much money, the jobs and the opportunity that come with jobs.

The mines that are all around this area, we don't have many jobs in those mines. Why? Well, let's make it so, because we want those dance lessons and ski lessons, those hockey teams. But it just takes a little more extra effort out here in the middle of nowhere.

**A place like Osoyoos, where they do have the NK/MIP Cellars right there, they've got tourism right there...**

They are geographically gifted.

That's what I was wondering. Some of your projects are



Chief Evan Taypotat speaks at the grand opening of the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre on Kahkewistahaw First Nation Wednesday.

off in the city. Is there potential to develop some tourism and opportunities like that right here?

One hundred percent. Yes, cultural tourism is a big thing that's happening in Canada right now.

And we have so many Knowledge Keepers, we have so much land, we have beautiful land overlooking the Qu'Appelle Valley. We can do those types of things.

It's just a matter of dollars to do those things. You need to build your own projects—you need effort, you need dollars, you need that opportunity. And we still don't have the full opportunity right now. We don't have the full dollars. But it's our job as Chief and Council and leadership to make sure that those opportunities come to our people.

**You have your school down the road and now this centre is opening, and you're planning for your next project. How does it feel to be in the midst of all this development happening for the community?**

Our school was built in 2004. I was actually a young teacher back then. I was a first year teacher when that happened. But the goal for me, it was always to come home and help our First Nation, in any capacity, whether it was a teacher, principal, Chief.

I don't know where I'm going to be in 10 years. I might be in this position, I might not be. But what is for sure is I'll be helping our First Nation achieve sovereignty. It really is cool, to be the Chief of Kahkewistahaw.

As a kid, I rode around here on a bike a lot. And back then, 35 years ago, I never would have envisioned that I'd be in this job, in this position, helping our First Nation do all these really cool things on the road to achieving sovereignty.

It's really nice. It's a nice feeling and it warms my heart to know that I'm a part of it. But at the end of the day, it's not about me, or what warms me, it's about achieving the best for Kahkewistahaw.

All of those kids who are at school right now, one day, one of them will be Chief or Counselors, or employees here. It's our job to set the table for them today, so that tomorrow when it's their turn, they have opportunity.

**What does this grand opening mean to you?**

Just listen to the sounds around us. You hear people laughing, you hear people socializing.

I'm sure Amazon or Google don't even have an office that is this nice or SaskPower and SaskEnergy. My people have offices that are really nice now.

We don't have to go to work—we get to go to work. And that's a beautiful thing that people get to say. The morale is really high here right now.

Being an infantry officer who served in Afghanistan, I know if the morale isn't high for your troops, they are not going to fight for you. If the morale is high, they're gonna fight for you. And these troops here will fight for Kahkewistahaw.

**Kahkewistahaw has developed a lot in the last 20-30 years. Where do you see this community 20 or 30 years in the future?**

I see us being the richest First Nation in Saskatchewan and possibly in Canada. The Saskatoon Centre is going to be the centre of Indigenous Saskatchewan in 10 years, and that means dollars, that means opportunity, not only for Kahkewistahaw people, but for other First Nations, Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people.

Obviously, I get paid to fight for Indigenous people,

but my arm is always extended to our non Indigenous brothers and sisters because they're Canadians as well. They have wants, they have needs, and they want opportunity as well.

So first and foremost, I look out for my people. But along the way, we hold our hand out saying "let's walk this road together." If you have a good heart, and you want to make some cash, let's rock and roll.

**How do you decide on priorities when there's so much to build? There's economic development projects, there's the community improvement projects, there's your housing projects. As we drove in, we saw some houses under construction. How do you prioritize how they get built—in what order?**

It's all based on dollars. I wish I was building my rink right now but we aren't.

We are adding houses right now and the 15 families that are moving to those houses, they're going to ask our leadership in a year, "okay, where do we work out now?"

The hockey rink we're planning has a gym in it, we designed a gym, we designed a walking/running track in our hockey rink. So it's all about dollars. If we had more dollars it'd be being built right now, but we'd have to strategize, prioritize. So it's all coming. There's a method to the madness. We sit back and we strategize. We have meetings with our program managers and our Council. "Okay, what kind of dollars do we have, what do we have coming in?"

I really want everything right now. I want to get going on all these projects. I'm 43 years old and I probably have another 40 years left on this earth. I want to do the most in my time while I'm here, but at the same time, like I said, you have to set the table for tomorrow. You can't just spend everything today. If we do that, if we don't plan for tomorrow, then we're going to handcuff our leadership in the future.

For now, we're here and we're working hard. The Council supports one another. We have program managers that believe in it. For the most part, the staff follow our guidance along the way, but not every day is a good day. There are some rainy days on Kahkewistahaw. Things happen out here. But for the most part everyone buys in and the good days outweigh the bad by a lot. And we'll take those rainy days.

Our next build will be done in Yorkton, right now, the YTCFS building (Yorkton Tribal Council Child and Family Services.)

It's a \$10 million build. We signed a deal with them to be our tenants for 25 years. And then Saskatoon, you'll see more about that in the next little while.

In Yorkton they own the building and they're leasing the land from us on a 25-year lease.

It's a beautiful building. There's a sweat lodge right on top of the building. It's a cultural centre, it's meeting spaces. One of the things people say around Yorkton is there's no meeting space.

So we worked together with YTCFS and now we have this beautiful building coming up where there's a lot of meeting space that people can rent. They can maybe make a bit of income there, from renting the meeting space, to offset their expenses, so that's excellent. Then the Hotel Convention Centre in Saskatoon.

At Birds Point the long-term plan is a golf course, hotel, wedding centre, gas station, RV campground. We have a lot of land right along the lake and we're doing a feasibility study right now just to see what we need down there.

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