

Plain & Valley

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Lausen loves trick riding

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

"101 Ways to Break Your Neck."

Laura Lausen, a 20-year old SIAST student and professional trick rider, is recommending necessary reading for anyone interested in exploring her sport.

Lausen has been trick-riding in front of rodeo crowds since she was twelve years old.

The Calgary-born blonde spent her childhood in Alberta and moved with her mother to Wawota in 2004. "I definitely lucked out living on a feedlot," the confident, poised young woman said. She went on to explain that in order to become truly well-rounded and experienced she feels it's very important for young riders to ride a variety of horses. Living on a feedlot and helping her family with chores afforded Lausen this opportunity.

"When I was growing up and learning how to ride I had this bay, named Miller. He would let me get away with anything—he taught me everything," Lausen recalled. However, Miller pulled a stifle—equivalent to the knee in a horse's back leg—and had to be destroyed.

Tank, who is now a 23-year-old sorrel with a deep chest and calm acceptance in his eyes, came to the feedlot as a six-year-old. "My dad just bought him to chase calves around," Lausen explained. Soon, the young girl discovered a willing co-conspirator in her secret pasture riding experiments.

"I just never sat in a saddle properly," Lausen laughed, when asked to explain how she became a trick rider. "I don't think I even knew about trick riding until I saw Niki Cammaert at the Strathmore Rodeo."

Niki Cammaert is an internationally renowned trick rider and stuntswoman. She became one of Lausen's teachers and mentors.

After seeing Cammaert at the rodeo when she was ten years old, Lausen plastered her house with Sticki-Notes. "Call Niki!" they pleaded in her childish scrawl.

Lynne Ketcheson is Lausen's mother, and an experienced horsewoman herself. "I remember teaching her how to ride," she said of her willful daughter, "I could never get her to do what she was supposed to." Ketcheson supported her daughter's dream of becoming a professional trick rider. The lean, athletic woman shrugged her choice off.

"You want to see your kids fulfill their dreams," she said seriously. "I taught Laura how to ride, but I couldn't teach her to ride like this. I wanted her to be safe."

"I was trying tricks anyway," Lausen chipped in.

"This is something that Laura and I have done together," said Ketcheson, who makes all of Lausen's costumes, participates in training, and fills in as best she can for a coach; there are no coaches in the area.

Lausen started training when she was eleven and began performing when she was twelve. She has



Laura Lausen, above, performs a one-foot stand at the Strathmore Pro-Rodeo. Below, she and her barrel horse, Otter, cool down after a workout.



participated in hundreds of shows. She is a graduate of the elite Jerri Duce Phillips Trick Riding School in Carseland, Alberta, where she rode with ten other girls and three boys. Lausen went to weekly lessons with Phillips and rodeoed on the weekends.

Since her move to Saskatchewan, Lausen has been on her own. That hasn't held her back, though. She is a feature performer at Moosomin's Rodeo this summer, and despite a busy school schedule, where she is studying to become a youth care worker, she's practicing as often as she can and looking forward to the upcoming season. She's also excited about her first student; a young girl with lots of riding experience and a sound horse is taking lessons from Lausen. Lausen is not only pleased to be passing on her knowledge and skills, but is looking forward to having a trick riding companion once again.

"Managing a show by yourself is a lot of work!" Lausen laughed.

"Lots of kids are so interested but they need enough riding experience, access to a horse, a facility . . ." Trick riding is definitely not possible for just anyone. Lausen didn't only ride on her father's feedlot, she participated in 4-H, All Girls Rodeo, High School Rodeo, barrel racing, and gymkhana. "I CCA'd (barrel racing) last year but I haven't bought my card yet this year. I'd rather trick ride any day than barrel race," the young woman said.

It could be a matter of some debate; which is the more important element; the horse or the rider?

In addition to experience with horses, an aspiring trick rider needs to be courageous, have quick reflexes, be a fast thinker, and be physically both strong and flexible. Lausen runs and practices pilates to stay fit for riding, but said "I can be in the best shape and if I haven't trick-ridden for a while . . . it hurts the next day. Even my boyfriend got on Tank a few times. He's a bull rider and he said, 'I give you credit!'"

What about the horse?

"He has to be kind and willing," said Ketcheson. "And fast," added Lausen. "For me, height, because I'm so tall," the trick rider continued. "And high withers (the highest part of a horse's back), to hold the saddle, because the saddle gets cinched up so tight. On a flat back it rolls."

"He needs to be sure-footed, not clumsy or spooky," continued Lausen. She stopped and thought, and told a story about a girl who fell off in the middle of a fast-moving trick. The horse had been making the loop of the ground and was trained to ride near the rail. But when his rider fell, he almost stumbled as he quickly altered his path so he wouldn't step on her. "You want an honest horse," Lausen said quietly. "One that cares about you. It's a trust thing."

Horses are generally not ready to begin training for tricks until they are at least six years old. They finish growing at about five, and need their full mature strength. "And mental maturity," added Ketcheson.

Continued on Page 3

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There's no thrill—and no trust—like it

Continued from Page 1

Now that Tank is 23, Lausen is on the lookout for a new horse. She's not in any rush though; she's still schooling in Regina and knows she has to find "a horse that will do it, and do it safely."

One of the biggest challenges in training horses is that many of the tricks require speed, and the animal's instinct is often to stop when you drop into a trick. "They need to keep going," explained Lausen. Also, the horse has to be able to balance and counter-balance. Trick riders are constantly hanging upside-down behind or beside their horses, hanging their weight off the side of the saddle, and shifting around as they stand and sit on their moving mounts. The horse has to be able and willing to compensate for that, while maintaining a fast, steady gait.

Every trick-riding saddle is custom made. Lausen's comes from a man in Onaway, Alta. Most saddles come from the states, but Lausen is pleased that hers is actually made from white leather, instead of brown or black leather just painted white.

She wears boxing shoes and a shin pad on her right leg; no helmet.

"When you take up trick riding," she said, "you learn how to do all of the things you've been taught not to do. Like to tie your feet to the saddle and drop the reins!"

"It's a good thrill I guess, and I like the trust that I have with my horse . . . and I just love it. There's nothing that compares to the thrill of riding around upside down on a horse!"



Lausen and Tank demonstrate a suicide drag (left) and a trick called 'lay over the neck' while drilling near Moosomin.

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Langford heading to National High School Rodeo Finals

BY MIRANDA MINASSIAN
McKenzie Langford, 13, will be traveling to Gallup, New Mexico to compete in the Junior High division of the National High School Finals Rodeo.

Langford, who qualified in goat tying, barrel racing and breakaway roping, was quickly hooked after her first high school rodeo experience three years ago.

"She was drawn to both the sporting experience and the tight knit community that supports it."

"It is all about the camaraderie," said Langford. "You are competing against yourself more than you are competing against other people."

While this may be true, the young rider has experienced many accomplishments early in her career.

Overwhelmed by their daughter's success, Langford's parents pleased she has found something to not only put her time into, but also excel at.

"She likes to accomplish things to the fullest when she tries them," said her father, Lorne.

"Our rodeo season goes



Barrel racing is one of McKenzie Langford's favorite events. She will be heading to New Mexico June 27 – July 3 to compete in the National High School Rodeo Finals.

from the start of April to the end of October. It takes a lot of dedication to be gone every weekend."

Her dedication to rodeo was tested when at a



McKenzie Langford

past competition her horse tripped on a calf, went down and took her with him.

"Yeah, it was really scary, but it didn't stop me from riding in my next event," she said.

Of the events she qualified for the finals in, Langford cites barrel racing and goat tying as her favorite, with her top goat tying time falling in the 9-10 second range.

"I'm going to try and do my best," she said. "Hopefully I place in the top 20."

The national competition

is the largest high school rodeo competition boasting over \$75,000 in prizes in addition to \$80,000 in scholarships.

Langford could use any money won to help fund her dream of attending a rodeo college in the States, which her parents fully support.

As an added bonus,

Langford has been honored with the task of singing the national anthem to open the third night of the competition.

The young rider will travel to the States with her family and two quarter horses, Buddy and Hot Rodder for the competition being held June 27 – July 3.

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Open barrel racing in Moosomin

Men, women, and youth enjoyed a weekend of open barrel racing at the rodeo grounds in Bradley Park June 5 and 6. The Moosomin Barrel Racing was held for the fourth consecutive year; riders from peewees to people in their sixties participated, and 105 riders competed.

"It went really well; it was an awesome weekend," said co-organizer Sandra Diamond.

The fastest time for the weekend was 15.7 seconds. The overall winner for the weekend was Sheena Dunham.

The popular event is tentatively planned again for next year.



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Moose Mountain potter keeps it natural

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

On the junctions of highways 9 and 48, just north of beautiful Kenosee Lake and west of Wawota, a whimsical collection of silvered and weatherbeaten buildings house the life—and art—of one Gerald Morton.

Morton has been working with clay full time for nearly 40 years. Morton's sense of humor and strong sense of self comes through in his earthy, practical, yet aesthetically satisfying creations.

Self-taught, Morton turned his back on the conventional art world some time ago. He once taught art at the University of Regina, but dismisses the experience with a wave of his hand, which is strong and gnarled from years of working heavy, wet clay.

Morton's work is unique in one aspect; the potter mines everything he uses from the earth himself.

"I'm a self-taught geologist," he says, "which means I know almost nothing."

During the seventies, a friend of Morton's drew his attention to Saskatchewan's rich clay deposits, and Morton began experimenting with his own clay blends which he harvested himself.

An important component of a well-made pot is called 'glaze fit.' This refers to how well a glaze is able to bind to a piece of pottery; both the pot and the glaze will expand and contract during the firing process. If the clay from which the pot is made has a poor finish, the glaze will not bind properly. If the glaze contracts more than the pot does after the final cooling, it's like pulling on a shirt that's far too tight. Something called 'crazing' occurs; the glaze breaks into tiny islands with hairline fissures between them—think of the unsightly bulges after you've struggled into the shirt you probably should have given away last summer. If the glaze fit is extremely tight, the glaze actually flakes off the finished ware, which is called shivering. Now the pot is popping buttons; the glaze may actually crack the body. In an ideal situation, the body contracts only slightly less than the glaze; this strengthens the pot and the glaze considerably. Achieving proper glaze fit depends significantly on the quality and nature of the clay you are firing.

Morton has transported well over a hundred tons of three different kinds of clay to his woodland property. "This is a lifetime's supply; more than a lifetime," he said almost sadly, looking at the three hills; one black, one brown, and one red, each from different deposits in the vicinity of Assiniboia.

"One thing I've learned is how careful I need to be with the blends," said Morton. "It took about twenty years to get the recipe right."

Every summer, Morton carefully blends the clay, then sends it through a



Above: Gerald Morton before his home-made clay-refining system at his Kenosee Lake home.

home built cleaning system featuring a propeller from an outboard motor and water bearings from a John Deere tractor. The tailings that are washed from the clay include everything from plant material to coprolite—fossilized dinosaur waste. Morton then lays the clay out in huge troughs until enough water has drained or evaporated to render the material suitable for working and firing. Morton has seasons of his own; generally he makes and fires things in his home-built kiln throughout the long winter months, and spends the summer glazing his creations and mixing his clay for the next winter's work.

"I didn't get to be really uncompromising about digging stuff up until about 1990 or so," says Morton, fingering a piece of pink and gray rock. "Feldspar," he said holding the shard up for inspection.

In addition to harvesting and blending his own clay, Morton also creates his own glazes. They are truly beautiful, and almost ethereal sometimes; black coffee mugs with metallic, coppery sheens, huge serving bowls in rich chocolate and delicate pinks, plates decorated with graceful depictions of flowers and leaves, in blue, the color of a summer prairie sky.

Morton creates all of these glazes from rocks and minerals he collects, grinds, and blends himself.

"The clay and rocks have their own self-expression," said Morton. "This is work worth doing."

The Japanese probably value the art of pottery more than any other culture and Morton quoted a respected

critic when he said, "Whatever positive qualities pots have is a direct result of the material from which they are made."

If that is so, Morton satisfies his own muse by his thorough, almost obsessive commitment to finding and processing his own material locally. It may be fair to de-



Monique McKay photos

Above and right: Some examples of Morton's pottery.

Right: Morton holds a piece of feldspar, which he harvests to make his own glazes.



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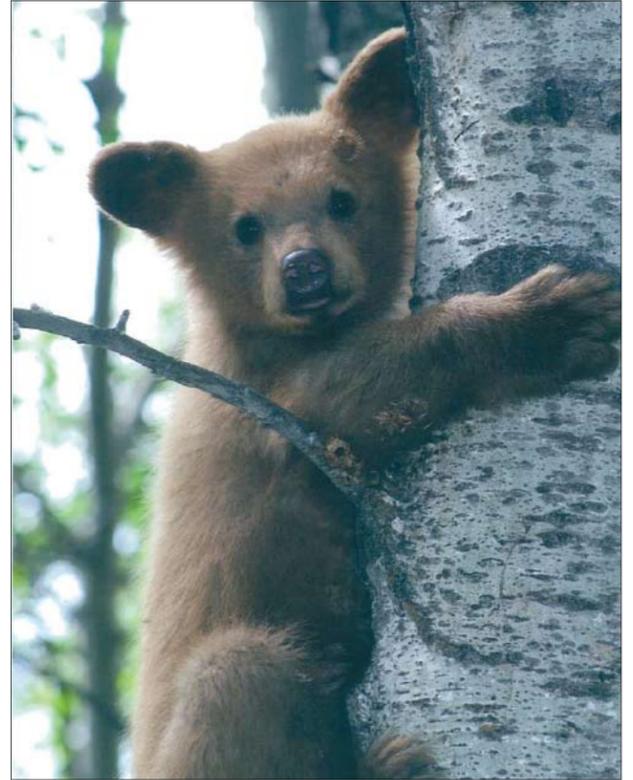
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The bear facts

Diane Jamieson of Moosomin brought in this beautiful photo of a bear cub she spotted in a pasture five miles south of Moosomin recently.

"We just went down to move the cows and there were three bears," she says. "The mom was there, and she had a black cub and a cinnamon cub. We went around the bush. The mom and the black cub had gone one direction, and the Cinnamon cub went the other, so we could get close to him."

She said she has seen bears closer to the Pipestone Valley but never before in this pasture, closer to town.

"The cows weren't upset by them, so there must be bears around," she said.

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2004 Avalanche 4x4 Leather	\$17,995
2004 Chev 4x4	\$14,995
2004 Dodge Quad Cab 2WD	\$9,995
2003 Ford Reg Cab F-250 4x4	\$9,995
2003 Dodge Quad Cab 4x4	\$13,995
2003 Chev 3500 X Cab 4x4 Dually Diesel	\$14,995
2003 F-150 Quad Cab FX4	\$10,995
2001 Ford F-350 X Cab 4x4 Diesel Dually	\$12,995
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2002 Grand Am GT 2 dr	\$5,995
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TRACTORS				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	Versatile	435	435hp, ps, metrics, loaded	Call
2006	Valtra	T190	210hp, fwa, duals front and rear, front 3pt, 1,250 hrs	\$109,500
2006	MF	7495	175hp, fwa, CVT, front susp., fully loaded, 1,300 hrs	\$105,900
2007	MF	7480	140hp, fwa, CVT	\$104,900
2005	Fendt	818	180hp, 730 hrs, front 3pt/pto, 755 loader/grapple, loaded	Call
2003	Fendt	926	260hp, 750 hrs, 855 loader, loaded	Call
1989	Deutz Allis	9130	135hp, fwa, 18 sp ps	\$18,000
1978	Case	885	43hp, 3pth, new rubber	\$6,500

COMBINES				
0% FOR 18 months on selected units - OAC				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	\$349,000
1999	CaselH	2388	chopper, spreaders, swathmaster	\$109,500
1997	NH	TX66	Chopper, pu	\$64,500
1994	MF	8570	Chopper, cs, swathmaster	\$48,000
1983	MF	852	Chopper, pu	\$2,500

COMBINE HEADERS				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1995	Case IH	1020	30', flex, PUR, fore/aft	\$14,900
1996	NH	973	30', flex, PUR	\$12,500
1994	MF	9700	30' PUR	\$11,000
1991	MacDon	960	25' PUR	\$10,000

SWATHERS				
0% FOR 24 months on selected units - OAC				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2007	MF	9435	36', U2, skid shoes, gauge wheels	\$94,900
2005	Hesston	9240	30', U2, gauge wheels	\$74,900
2000	MF	220 II	30', p/u reel, gauge wheels, sch drive	\$48,500
1999	MF	220 II	26' DS, PU reel, sch drive	\$46,500

SEEDING & TILLAGE				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	SEED HAWK	60-12	60', 12" spacing, big rubber, 600 TBH cart	Demo-Big Discounts
1999	SEED HAWK	357	44', 12" spacing, onboard seed and fertilizer, shedded	\$72,500
2005	SEED HAWK	6412	64', 12" spacing, liquid fert kit	\$96,000

SPRAYERS				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	Versatile	SX275	275 hp, 90' boom	Sold
2010	Versatile	SX275	275 hp, 100' boom, loaded	In Stock
2001	Brandt	QF1000	1200 gal, 100' boom	\$12,500

HAY TOOLS				
0% FOR 60 months on selected units - OAC				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1994	CASE IH	8380	Mower conditioner 16', s/s rollers	\$8,500
2008	MF	1756	5x6, auto tie, demo	BLOWOUT
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh wrap	\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto	\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6	\$13,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6, auto tie	\$14,900
2000	NH	688	5x6 baler	\$15,500
2006	Hesston	9040	16' hay hdr, advanced double	\$19,900
2007	MF	1476	16', s/s rollers	\$26,900
2002	Hesston	1275	16' s/s, reverser	\$20,900
2004	Frontier	MC1216	16' s/s same as MacDon 5020	\$19,900
1999	MacDon	5000	16', s/s rollers	\$12,500
2005	Bale King	3100	rh discharge, fine cut	\$10,900
2004	Morris	1400	Hay Hiker	\$21,000

COMPACT TRACTORS AND LAWN AND GARDEN				
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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	MF	GC2400L	24hp diesel, hydro, fwa	In Stock
2010	MF	ZT33	33hp diesel, zero turn mower 72" deck ••Compact attachments in stock now**	Call

MISCELLANEOUS				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	Farm King	1050	10" x 50' swing auger	\$4,800
2010	Sakundiak	TL10-1200	10" x 39', 35 hp, SP kit, loaded	Call
2010	Sakundiak	HD8-1400	8" x 46' auger, 27hp, SP kit, loaded	In Stock
2009	Spray Air	4385	13" x 85' swing away	In Stock
2009	Farm King (Conveyair)	6640	grain vac	Demo



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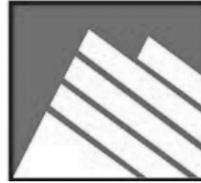
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Email: brian.beckett@millerfarmequipment.com

Applications will be held in the strictest confidence.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

About Rocky Mountain Dealerships Inc.

Rocky Mountain Dealerships Inc. (RMDI) is the largest independent dealer of Case Construction Equipment and Case IH Agricultural Equipment in Canada. RMDI owns and operates a network of 15 dealership branches located across Alberta and 6 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. RMDI trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "RME".

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Kevin Weedmark photo

At left: Due to the wet weather, farmers have been out seeding any chance they get.

Here the crop is seeded on the Murray Bruce Farm near Moosomin. This aerial photo was taken with the help of Moosomin pilot Dale Woods.

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Rocky Mountain buys three new locations

Rocky Mountain Dealerships Inc. says it's buying certain assets of a farm-equipment dealership with three locations in Saskatchewan in a cash and stock deal worth at least \$2.5 million.

The deal to purchase the

Wardale Equipment assets closed on June 7.

The total cash being paid in the transaction wasn't announced but Calgary-based Rocky Mountain said it will issue nearly 300,000 common shares. The stock was worth \$8.69

a share at the end of trading Wednesday.

Wardale has a Case IH agriculture dealership with locations in Yorkton, Langenburg and Preeceville, Sask.

They will bring Rocky Mountain's total number

of locations to 29 throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Rocky Mountain sells, rents, and leases new and used construction and agriculture equipment, including the Case Construction, Case IH agriculture and

New Holland brands.

It also distributes equipment from a number of other manufacturers.

Rocky Mountain owns Miller Farm Equipment in Moosomin and several locations in Manitoba.



Seeding on a beautiful spring night near Moosomin.

Carrie Wild photo

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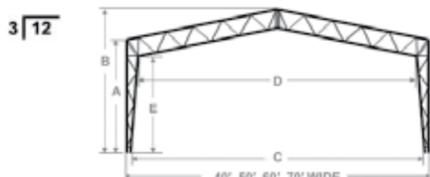
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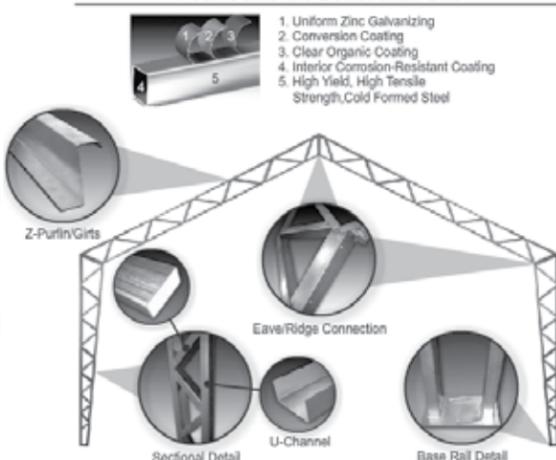


40 WIDE FRAME					50 WIDE FRAME				
A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
12'	17'	38'-0"	36'-8"	10'-0"	12'	18'-3"	48'-0"	46'-8"	10'-0"
14'	19'	38'-0"	36'-8"	12'-0"	14'	20'-3"	48'-0"	46'-8"	12'-0"
16'	21'	38'-0"	36'-8"	14'-0"	16'	22'-3"	48'-0"	46'-8"	14'-0"
18'	23'	38'-0"	36'-8"	16'-0"	18'	24'-3"	48'-0"	46'-8"	16'-0"
20'	25'	38'-0"	36'-8"	18'-0"	20'	26'-3"	48'-0"	46'-8"	18'-0"

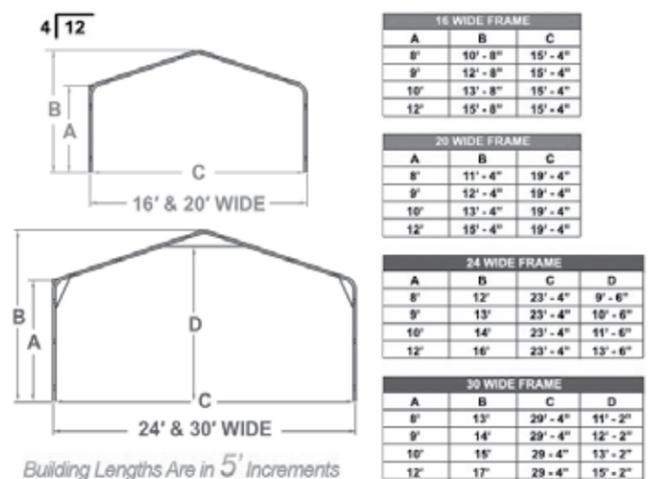
60 WIDE FRAME					70 WIDE FRAME				
A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
12'	19'-6"	58'-0"	56'-8"	10'-0"	12'	20'-9"	68'-0"	66'-8"	10'-0"
14'	21'-6"	58'-0"	56'-8"	12'-0"	14'	22'-9"	68'-0"	66'-8"	12'-0"
16'	23'-6"	58'-0"	56'-8"	14'-0"	16'	24'-9"	68'-0"	66'-8"	14'-0"
18'	25'-6"	58'-0"	56'-8"	16'-0"	18'	26'-9"	68'-0"	66'-8"	16'-0"
20'	27'-6"	58'-0"	56'-8"	18'-0"	20'	28'-9"	68'-0"	66'-8"	18'-0"

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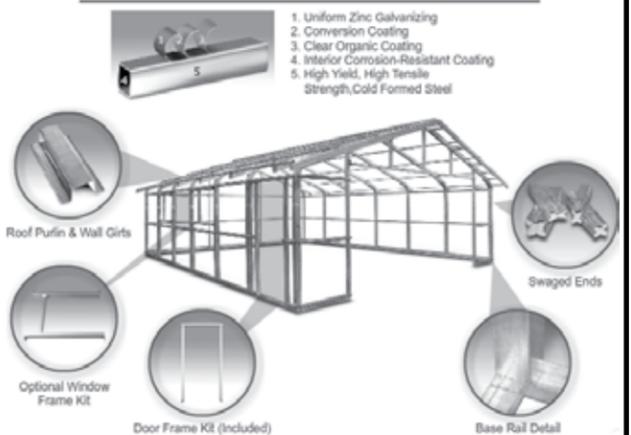


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Building Lengths Are in 5' Increments

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Relay for Life in Whitewood raises \$72,600

BY DONNA BEUTLER

Nothing could dampen the spirits of those who participated in Relay For Life in Whitewood on May 28— not wind, not rain, not cool temperatures.

A remarkable \$72,653.45 was raised for cancer research prior to and during Relay 2010 in Whitewood. Local organizers knew they were well on the way to reaching and possibly surpassing their goal of \$46,000 when \$42,000 had been raised as of two weeks prior to Relay. The remaining \$30,000 came in during the final two weeks prior to May 28 and during Relay night.

It was an impressive and remarkable all-night walk for everyone who took part in Relay 2010, the Canadian Cancer Society's signature fundraising event. Of the four Relay events held in Saskatchewan on the same night as Whitewood's, the most money raised per capita was in Whitewood.

"Great, great, great," were Chairperson Lisa Istace's words in describing Relay following the event. "The totals tell it all," she told the organizing committee at a meeting last week where she said the help and support of everyone made this Relay an overwhelming success.

"There were 42 survivors, 165 volunteers, and 259 team members on 18 teams that made Relay 2010 in Whitewood what it was—a great success!"

Margaret Hill of the Canadian Cancer Society, who has been working with the organizing committee for the past several months, also commended Whitewood and area for Relay's success. "Everyone came together for one reason," she said, "to fight cancer. You all did a great job."

Rain threatened to put a bit of a damper on the relay, but organizers and volunteers pulled together to make the best of a wet situation, and by Friday's start time at 6 p.m., tents lined the track at the Whitewood School grounds and the stage was ready for the night's inspirational speakers and entertainers, including Shifty Morgan, 2 Bits, The Lizard Kings, Tamara Delarue, and Sylvio Fontaine.

The evening began with cancer survivors taking to the track for the Victory Lap, the first lap of the night that acknowledges and celebrates the courage of survivors in their struggle with cancer.

"I walk in the Relay because I can; some are not so lucky," said cancer survivor Shirley Kodman. "The relay is an overwhelming show of support and determination to make cancer history. I feel it makes a difference."

Survivors were joined by their caregivers on the next lap around the track.

Team members and others then joined in on the walk and the track filled with the bright colors of the many t-shirts, rain gear and umbrellas of those who walked around the track.

With the grounds saturated with moisture, much



Donna Beutler photos

Above: Survivors start the Survivors' Victory Lap (first lap) around the track.

Right: Michael Wright of the Pharmasave team in Whitewood lights a luminary



of the track quickly turned to mud, which did not dismay a single walker, however. From the youngest to the oldest walker, no one appeared to be bothered by the mud that covered their shoes and crept up their pants to their knees. In fact, many participants said they walked in rain and through mud and in the morning could go home, shower, sleep, and when they woke up, their "cancer" would be gone, unlike what a real cancer

victim deals with. "This beats cancer any day," said some of the participants as their shoes squished through the mud on their way around the track.

A very touching luminary ceremony began at dark with Marilyn Pahlke of Grenfell sharing the story of the loss of her son to cancer. Pahlke then asked everyone who was assembled on the grounds to begin lighting the candles that lined both sides of the

track as well as the ones that spelled out "hope" on the bleachers at the south end of the grounds.

Lighting the luminaries, which often blew out in the wind, provided a reminder of the perseverance and determination cancer victims need to fight their disease.

Speaking at the Fight Back Ceremony in the early morning hours was former Whitewood resident Connie Baker.

Relay drew to a close with breakfast and closing

ceremonies, along with a few aches and pains and some sleepy-eyed people, each of who had walked

through the night with a "fight back" attitude and a desire to see, some day, a cancer-free world.

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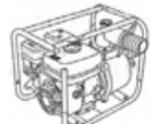
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Spraying & Haying Specials

 <p>POLY SPRAYER TANKS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>EX. Imp Gal</td> <td>Cash</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 Coned.....</td> <td>\$179</td> </tr> <tr> <td>66 Coned.....</td> <td>\$199</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 Round.....</td> <td>\$169</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250 Round.....</td> <td>\$419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>400 Flat Oval.....</td> <td>\$799</td> </tr> <tr> <td>415 Rd (Vers 580).....</td> <td>\$649</td> </tr> <tr> <td>833 Oval.....</td> <td>\$1,399</td> </tr> <tr> <td>850 Oval Blem.....</td> <td>\$1,195</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1250 Oval Blem.....</td> <td>\$1,395</td> </tr> </table> <p>SPRAYER PARTS</p> <p>TeeJet & Combo-Jet tips, screens, bodies, etc.</p> <p>3/4" & 1" Aluminum Booms, P.T.O. & Hyd Hypro Pumps</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>EX: 1502C pto.....</td> <td>\$575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1700C pto.....</td> <td>\$395</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9303C-HM4C Hyd.....</td> <td>\$895</td> </tr> </table>	EX. Imp Gal	Cash	26 Coned.....	\$179	66 Coned.....	\$199	50 Round.....	\$169	250 Round.....	\$419	400 Flat Oval.....	\$799	415 Rd (Vers 580).....	\$649	833 Oval.....	\$1,399	850 Oval Blem.....	\$1,195	1250 Oval Blem.....	\$1,395	EX: 1502C pto.....	\$575	1700C pto.....	\$395	9303C-HM4C Hyd.....	\$895	 <p>POLY HAULING & STORAGE 25 to 10,000 gal</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>EX. Imp Gal</td> <td>Cash</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 Leg.....</td> <td>\$149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>250 Pick-Up.....</td> <td>\$329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>300 Oval Indoor.....</td> <td>\$599</td> </tr> <tr> <td>325 Leg.....</td> <td>\$495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>420 Pick-Up.....</td> <td>\$469</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500 Leg.....</td> <td>\$649</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1000 Leg.....</td> <td>\$1,575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1250 VC.....</td> <td>\$699</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1443 VC.....</td> <td>\$985</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1650 VC Oval.....</td> <td>\$1,645</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1915 Leg.....</td> <td>\$2,995</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000 VC.....</td> <td>\$1,985</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000 Low Profile.....</td> <td>\$2,995</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2600 Leg.....</td> <td>\$4,795</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3900 Leg.....</td> <td>\$7,150</td> </tr> </table> <p>please call for other sizes</p>	EX. Imp Gal	Cash	50 Leg.....	\$149	250 Pick-Up.....	\$329	300 Oval Indoor.....	\$599	325 Leg.....	\$495	420 Pick-Up.....	\$469	500 Leg.....	\$649	1000 Leg.....	\$1,575	1250 VC.....	\$699	1443 VC.....	\$985	1650 VC Oval.....	\$1,645	1915 Leg.....	\$2,995	2000 VC.....	\$1,985	2000 Low Profile.....	\$2,995	2600 Leg.....	\$4,795	3900 Leg.....	\$7,150
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The uselessness of celebrity endorsements

I don't have much use for celebrity endorsements of, well, anything.

Oh, sure, it's conceivable you could be a talented entertainer and also have an informed, thoughtful opinion that adds more light than heat to the debate surrounding a contentious issue, but just because something is possible it doesn't mean it's likely. And let's face it, the mere fact you're pretty good at pretending to be somebody else in front of a camera does not give you any special insight the rest of us lack.

I also resent lectures from affluent millionaires who use private jets like we use cars and have just expended vast amounts of energy making Pocahontas In Outer Space with blue people telling the rest of us we should be cutting back on vacation trips to Moose Jaw to reduce our environmental footprint.

It is therefore gratifying to hear scientific evidence that celebrity endorsements do not, by and large, persuade people . . . at least not when it comes to whom to vote for.

Two studies carried out at North Carolina State University revealed that young voters—the ones we might expect would be most susceptible to the rush of hot air from Hollywood—are not swayed by celebrity endorsements of political candidates.

Results of the studies were outlined in a paper entitled "Seeing Stars: Are young voters influenced by celebrity endorsements of candidates?" co-authored by Michael Cobb, an associate professor of political science, and undergraduate Kaye Usry and presented April 22 at the 68th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago.

"The positive effects of a celebrity endorsement are minimal for politicians," says Cobb. "I began to observe this kind of sentiment among my own students—partic-



Edward Willett

ularly my conservative students—who were continually commenting about how much they disliked celebrities wading into politics, and I knew there was some research to be done."

In the studies, he used theoretical voting scenarios and invented headlines about Hollywood partisanship to evaluate whether more than 800 college students, in two separate studies, would let endorsement from celebrities—including George Clooney, Angelina Jolie and Madonna—influence their voting behavior.

They not only found that celebrity endorsements do not help candidates, they can actually hurt them, with some young people less likely to vote for a candidate after a celebrity endorsement than before.

This echoes the finding of a Pew Research Centre survey conducted during the 2008 presidential campaign that found that endorsements by Jay Leno, Bill Gates, Kanye West, Angelina Jolie, Jon Stewart, and Donald Trump, among others, made no difference in the voting plans of fully three-quarters of the voting public.

And while endorsing a political candidate may make little difference in the number of people who vote for that candidate, it holds risks for the celebrity. In the study, students were asked to rate both the credibility and trustworthiness of the stars mentioned. Students who iden-

tified themselves as Democrats had a lower opinion of George Clooney when told he had endorsed a Republican; students who identified themselves as Republicans had the same reaction when told Clooney had endorsed a Democrat.

In the real world, data suggest Oprah Winfrey became less popular after endorsing Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election.

Celebrity endorsements, then, are of little use to candidates and hold dangers for the celebrities, who risk alienating large sections of their public, whichever party they publicly support.

Cobb is willing to grant one way in which a celebrity endorsement can help a candidate: a celebrity putting in an appearance at a rally can boost attendance. As he says, "Are you more likely to attend a political event if the candidate is slated to appear by him- or herself, or if the candidate is going to appear with Madonna?"

In the U.S. in particular, where candidates have to win over large numbers of the voters in their own party in primaries before being presented to the general electorate as a candidate, a celebrity endorsement can also help candidates stand out in a crowded field.

But once they're actually up for election, the celebrities would be doing the candidates and themselves a favor by fading into the woodwork.

Alas, that seems about as likely as a Hollywood movie that portrays former President George W. Bush in a favorable light.

Could happen, I suppose, but on the day such a film is released, I plan to keep my head low.

Those flying pigs pack a mean wallop.

Edward Willett is a freelance writer from Regina.

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TRACTORS

2005 JOHN DEERE 7920 MFVA TRACTOR WITH 755 HOURS; JOHN DEERE 4255 2WD TRACTOR; JOHN DEERE 4630 2WD TRACTOR WITH 4720 HOURS ON NEW ENGINE, JOHN DEERE 870 DIESEL ACREAGE TRACTOR; JOHN DEERE F525 ZERO TURN WITH FRONT MOUNT MOWER; JOHN DEERE 316 GARDEN TRACTOR; CASE 742 COMFORT KING 2WD TRACTOR; COCKSHUTT 1650 DIESEL TRACTOR; CASE DC-4 TRACTOR; SN.DC8025944; CASE M ANTIQUE TRACTOR; CASE L ANTIQUE TRACTOR, MASSEY HARRIS 30 TRACTOR; RUMLEY ANTIQUE TRACTOR

COMBINE

JOHN DEERE 9500 SP COMBINE & JOHN DEERE 914 PICK-UP HEADER WITH 1322 SEPERATOR HOURS;

AIR DRILL & FERTILIZER CARTS

29' 2005 BOURGAULT 5710 AIR DRILL & BOURGAULT 6200 AIR TANK, SINGLE SHOOT, 9.8" SPACING, ATOM JET OPENERS WITH LIQUID, 3" STEEL PACKERS, 2 COMPARTMENT AIR TANK; 3000 GALLON PATTISON LIQUID FERTILIZER FIELD STORAGE TANK & CART;

HARVEST & HAYING EQUIPMENT

CASE IH 6500 SP SWATHER &

MASSEY FERGUSSON 30' DRAPER HEADER; 14' MACDON 922 HAY HEADER; 30' PREMIER 1900 PT SWATHER; 30' JOHN DEERE 590 PT SWATHER; 30' WFE 630 PT SWATHER; 22' CO-OP 622 PT SWATHER; STEEL DRUM SWATH ROLLER, NEW HOLLAND 277 SQUARE BALER; COCKSHUTT SIDE DELIVERY RAKE; NEW HOLLAND SIDE DELIVERY RAKE; FORD SQUARE BALER

SPRAYERS

85' BOURGAULT 850 CENTURIAN III PT FIELD SPRAYER; 60' POOL PT FIELD SPRAYER;

TILLAGE

60' FLEXI-COIL SYSTEM 82 TINE HARROWS; CO-OP 20 FT CULTIVATOR; LEON 36 FT ROD WEEDER; FARM KING 50 FT DIAMOND HARROWS; CASE 20 FT CULTIVATOR; 14' IHC 510 END WHEEL DISC DRILLS; 14' CASE DOUBLE DISC; CO-OP 1001 2X12 DISCERS; CIRCLE HARROWS & CART;

GRAIN HANDLING

SAKUNDIAK 10 X 60 SWING AUGER; BRANDT 7 X 40 AUGER WITH KOHLER ENGINE; ALLIED 7 X30 AUGER; BRANDTHYDRAULIC END GATE DRILL FILL; DEMCO RG-12 300 BUSHEL HOPPER WAGON WITH ROLL TARP

VEHICLES

1994 GMC 1500 PICK-UP TRUCK WITH 71 000 KMS, 1973 DODGE 500 GRAIN TRUCK; 1984 VANGUARD MOTORHOME WITH CHEV

CHASSIS; 1985 FORD F-150 EXPLORER PICK-UP TRUCK;

MISC. EQUIPMENT

CROWN 6 YARD SCRAPER; TRAILER TYPE POST POUNDER; JOHN DEERE 3PTH ACREAGE CULTIVATOR; LEON 8 FT DOZER BLADE; DUZ-ALL FRONT END LOADER; INTERNATIONAL SICKLE MOWER; VIKING DUPLEX FANNING MILL; TURF TRAC RIDING LAWN MOWER; KOHLER 16 HP MOTOR; HONDA 3.5 HP WATER PUMP; HUSQVARNAREARTINEROTO TILLER; HUSQVARNA CHAIN SAW; MTD LAWN MOWER; AERATION FAN; FORD TRUCK TOPPER; 800 GALLON POLY TANK;

STATIONARY ENGINES

MURRAY CLARKE 306 335 7715 FAIRBANKS MORSE 6-7 HP; MASSEY HARRIS 3 HP; FAIRBANKS MORSE 3 HP; INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER 1.5- 2 HP; STOVER MFG & ENGINE CO. 1.5 HP

ANTIQUES

MEDALTA & REDWING CROCKS; COAL OIL LAMPS; COPPER BOILERS; FUMED OAK DRESSER; WOOD STOVES; PLUS MANY OTHER HIDDEN TREASURES;

SHOP TOOLS

LINCOLN 225 WELDER; ANVIL; SHOP TOOLS; HAND TOOLS; PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE!



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June Auctions

ANNUAL PRE-HAYING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION at FRASER AUCTION BARN, BRANDON, MANITOBA - MONDAY, JUNE 14th at 9AM
(1/2 Mile North of Jct Hwy's #1 & #10)

FEATURING: Farm Dispersal for Dale & Melissa Smith, Industrial & Truck Dispersal for Gerry Ramsey Trucking, Dealer Inventory Reductions, Local consignments, repos & more. EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME! We can no longer take small item consignments for this sale as that line is full - sorry

ORDER OF SALE: (2 Auction Rings sell all day) 9AM - Lawn & Leisure, followed by light vehicles, Large Trucks & Trailers, then Industrial

12 Noon - Farm Machinery begins selling (Shop Equipment, Tools, Parts & other small items will be sold throughout the day) INTERNET BIDDING STARTS AT 10:30AM - www.bidspotter.com

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, WITH MORE UNITS BEING ADDED DAILY. Please have consignments delivered to sales yard by Monday, June 7th

TRACTORS: 2004 JD 6420 MFD w/JD 640 SL loader-bkt-gpl, joystick, 3pt, high spd gearbox, 2800hrs; AgroMec bale fork fits 640 ldr; JD 4430 MFD w/4630 eng, 3pt; 78 MF 2705 w/707 Leon ldr; MF 1100 w/760 Allied ldr; Farmall H; Other 4WD, MFD, 2WD & classic tractors

HAYING & HARVEST: 2008 Frontier MC1214 moco 14' (only cut 300 acres); 95 CaselH 8370 moco 14'; 94 MacDon 5000 moco 14'; 2008 JD 568 rd baler Mega wide pu, net wrap, oilers; 03 NH BR780 rd w/bale comm., shedded; 01 NH 688 rd auto wrap, gath wheels, shedded; JD 535 rd; 98 New Idea 4855 rd; (4) CaselH 8480 & 8460 rd balers; Hesston & Vermeer balers; NH 273 sq; 18' CI 550 sp; 82 MF 850 hydro w/chpr, 3100hrs; Hesston 6450 sp w/22' harvest hdr & 14' hay hdr; 90 MF 205 hay head 16'; 14' haybine hdr; JD 2-row corn head 36" (1500 acres); (2) JD 6601 pt's (shedded); NH 56 rake; Other swathers, combines, balers, etc

LIVESTOCK HANDLING & OTHER EQUIPMENT: Melroe 216 spr coupe; 90' Booms off CIH sprayer; Vortex R2000 processor; Jiffy 920 processor; Haybuster 256 Plus-II; 5250 grain vac; NH 357 mixmill; 400 bu grain cart; (5) hyd bin jacks; elevator shed; stationary engines; (3) Richie waters; corral panels & gates; feeders; vet supplies; bale prong; seed cleaner; fuel tanks; Other 3pt hitch items, sprayers, augers, grain vacs, livestock handling equipment

WHEEL LOADERS & SKIDSTEERS: JD 544-G loader, 8379hrs; Cat 966-C loader; Terex 72-31B loader; Hough H65 loader; Hough 50 loader; Ram Rod 1750 skidsteer

EXCAVATORS, DRAGLINE, SCREENERS: FMC Link-Belt LS-2800A excavator; Case Drott 40 rbr tire excavator (trans needs work); Koehring 405 crawler dragline w/60' boom; (2) Kolman 202 gravel screeners w/shakers

LARGE TRUCKS: 95 Kenworth T600 t/a semi w/bunk, wet kit, 375hp Cat, 13spd; 94 Ford Aeromax L9000 t/a semi w/6cyl. Cat, 13spd, wet kit, 892k; 94 GMC Topkick 22' dsl van body w/pwr tail, sftd; 90 IH 9400 Eagle t/a semi w/444hp Cummins, 13spd; 90 Ford L9000 t/a day cab w/350hp Cat, 13spd, wet kit; 86 IH S1900 t/a gravel trk 14' B&H, DT466 dsl, 5spd auto; 76 GMC w/653 Detroit dsl, Alison trans, 15' B&H and 96 QuickTach manure sprdr; 76 Western Star t/a semi w/430hp Detroit, 13spd; bale truck (maybe); More large trucks

TRAILERS: '03 Doepker Super B grain trlrs w/new paint, good rbr, brakes & tarp, sftd; 97 Arnes tri-axle clam dump w/pwr tarp; 31' Arne's t/a belly dump gravel; 83 Arne's 22' end-dump gravel; 63 Trailmobile tri-axle drop deck equipment float; 69 Arne's 20' t/a end dump gravel; 48' grain trailer; 86 Sears 25 1/2' hyd tilt deck pintle trlr; '08 Titan 24' stock trlr, like new; 95 Norbert's 24' tri-axle stock trlr; Fuel wagons; farm wagons; other trailers

VEHICLES, LAWN & LEISURE: 05 Mustang convertible, 63k; 05 GMC Savanna 15 pass van; 01 F150 supercab 4x4; 96 Olds 98; 90 F250 Supercab 4x4 Lariat XLT; 90 Toyota Corolla; 86 Ram 150 Royal SE; 83 F150 flatdeck; 83 Cutlass Supreme; 85 Triple E motorhome; 01 Polaris Sportsman 700 4wd quad; Honda Fourtrac quad; 14' Anchor boat, motor & trlr; go-cart; Riding mowers; tillers, etc; Other pickups, cars, lawn & leisure items

SHOP ITEMS, BLDG MATERIALS & MISC: 5-ton punch; drill press; grinder; steam cleaners; sander; armsaws; cabinet saw; bandsaw; router; steel racking; roller tables; benches; compressors; cooler; truck & ag parts, tires & rims; asst tools; lumber & steel, etc

To consign, or for info call FRASER AUCTION 204-727-2001

LARGE UNRESERVED EQUIPMENT & TRUCK DISPERSAL for
SUNNYSIDE FARMS LTD. & SUNRIDGE FORAGE LTD. Of RUSSELL, MB., FRIDAY, JUNE 18 at 10AM (From Jct of hwys 16 & 83: North 4kms on hwy 83 to sale site)

AUCTIONEERS NOTES: Featuring an excellent line-up of well-kept, shedded equipment and trucks. All major machinery will be field ready. DON'T MISS THIS SALE!

ORDER OF SALE: 10AM - Rack & shop items followed by bldg materials, tanks, corral panels, etc. 1PM - Major equipment begins selling. LIVE INTERNET BIDDING AVAILABLE - www.bidspotter.com

TRACTORS: (3) JD 4650 tractors w/3 hyd, 38" duals, pwrshift, 6004 to 7232 hrs; 82 JD 4440 2wd w/3pt, 38" duals, 6023hrs; (2) JD 4230's w/9286 & 9955hrs; JD 3020 w/5405 hrs

WHEEL LOADERS, TELEHANDLERS, FORKLIFTS: 98 Cat IT-28G loader; 95 CAT IT-28F loader; pallet forks for IT-28's; (3) bale grabs for IT28; man-lift; 1996 Cat TH62 telehandler; (2) Toyota 25 & 30 propane forklifts, 6000lb

HAY COMPACTION PLANT: Includes bale shear, feed table, block former, compressed bale slicer, 2 strappers & parts

SWATHERS & HEADERS: '06 Hesston 9260 swather 185hp dsl w/15'3" Hesston 8070 discbine hdr; '05 Hesston 25' draper head w/pu reel (new in 07); 25' CIH 725 pt; swath roller

HARVEST EQUIPMENT: 93 JD 9600 combine w/chaff sprdr, 2223 sep hrs; 95 JD 30' model 930 hdr; NEW Demco 850 grain cart w/18" auger, roll-tarp (unit not delivered yet)

SEED & TILLAGE: '03 Bourgault 8830 coulter drill 60', 10" spacing, weight pkg; 48' Bourg FH546 -52 tillage w/hrws; 45' Wilrich cult; 70' Degelman 7000 heavy hrws; 60' Flexi S95 hrw pkr w/Valmar 3255; 36' Kello disk; 40' Moulson land roller; Degelman 6800 super picker rotary; Degelman 570 rotary

TRUCKS: (2) '03 Peterbuilt 378 semis w/470-500 Detroit, 18spd, alum buds, sftd; '00 Freightliner FLD120 w/475 Cat, 10spd, 70" bunk, sftd; 94 Freightliner FLD120 w/wet kit, 425 Cat, 18spd; 79

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HARVEST EQUIPMENT: 93 JD 9600 combine w/chaff sprdr, 2223 sep hrs; 95 JD 30' model 930 hdr; NEW Demco 850 grain cart w/18" auger, roll-tarp (unit not delivered yet)

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3255; 36' Kello disk; 40' Moulson land roller; Degelman 6800 super picker rotary; Degelman 570 rotary

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Faces in buttons

I've always admired the work of Saskatchewan artists. Growing up in this province seems to give our artisans a unique perspective on the world.



Christalee Froese

Myrna Tubman of Wolseley is one of the local artists that I had the good fortune to meet recently. And Myrna is a shining example of how Prairie heritage can influence one's art.

I was able to visit this welcoming lady at her Wolseley home, admiring her wonderful watercolor paintings that vividly bring to life purple irises, white orchids and wild roses. In fact, her paintings are so realistic that I'm sure I could smell her wild rose right through the glassed picture frame.

But while Myrna's ability to paint flowers is amazing, I quickly discovered that she has another ability that is even more fascinating. You see, Myrna can see faces in objects. Really, she can. Doesn't matter if it's a cloud in the sky, a strip of linoleum on the floor or a button on a blouse. Myrna sees faces.

The psychological phenomenon known as pareidolia involves random stimulus that is perceived to be significant. Pareidolia allows people to see animals in the clouds, faces in a piece of toast or a man on the moon.

Myrna says her dad had the unique ability, and she was lucky enough to inherit it.

"My dad used to do things like bring potatoes in from the garden and say, 'doesn't this look like Mrs. Brown,' " chuckles the 60-something retired funeral home owner. "We'd all look at it and we'd usually say, 'By golly, it does look like Mrs. Brown.' "

With pareidolia as her secret weapon, and a naturally artistic ability as her constant companion, Tubman began doing button art. With interesting buttons as faces, and acrylic paintings as the bodies, Myrna began to create artistic pieces that captured people's imaginations, and also made observers laugh like crazy.

"I think I enjoy it so much because people really get a kick out of it."

If there is laughter at an art show, it is usually coming from where Myrna's paintings are displayed. There is the "Green Party," a joyous scene adorned with emerald, jade and lime buttons which have been transformed into the faces of partying people, animals, jokers and clowns. Then there's Myrna's Corner Gas scene featuring the sitcom characters: Brent with a large brown button head; Lacy with a heart-shaped button for a face and Emma with a bright red, floral-patterned button perched on her broad shoulders.

"The first button art piece I did, I was surprised that others could see the animals and faces that I saw in these funny little buttons," says Myrna, who has also created a children's book of button art. "It's certainly not living room art, it's more like kitchen and bathroom art that is there to give people a little lift and a chuckle."

Myrna's works grace many walls in Canada and the U.S.A, with one of her paintings, entitled "Go Canada Go," making it to the home of the coach of Canada's men's Olympic hockey team. Mike Babcock's sister was in the Regina airport in January and bought the painting of button-faced hockey players for her brother.

And so it is that Saskatchewan people do indeed have a unique take on the world around them. And when you combine that with the ability to see faces in buttons, well, it makes for wonderful works of art that the rest of us get to enjoy.

Christalee Froese lives in Montmartre, Sask. She welcomes comments at Lcfroese@sasktel.net or visit www.westwords.net.

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Wawota furious over bed closures

BY MIRANDA MINASSIAN

Local residents, armed with protest signs, gathered outside Wawota's Town Hall Thursday, June 3 to protest the closure of three long-term care beds and two respite beds at Deer View Lodge.

More than a hundred people braved the rain to express their anger over the permanent closures. They hoped to get their message across to Sun Country Health Authority representatives arriving for a meeting with local municipalities.

"We want someone to listen to us and do something," said Wawota resident Fred Easton. Easton, who was on the original committee to have the long-term care facility built in Wawota, is concerned about the fate of Deer View's five beds, as well as the manner in which the community was notified. "We haven't heard a reason, and the decision has already been made," said Easton. "I think they hoped they could slip it by us."

While representatives from Sun Country waited until Thursday's meeting to officially announce the cuts, information about the bed closures was posted in Deer View Lodge on May 20.

While officials at the Sun Country head office said a week ago that no decision had been made and that reports of the bed closures were simply rumors circulating in Wawota, a memo was posted in Deer View Lodge that noted "we have received the following directive from the SCHR Weyburn Regional Office: Effective immediately until further notice, we will not be admitting any more than 27 long term care residents and three respite."

Thursday's meeting, which was attended by representatives of the town of Wawota and the RMs of Wawken, Walpole, and Maryfield, was the first opportunity for the public to learn the rationale behind the bed closures.

"This was a board decision. When we received our budget we had to decide how to deal with the shortfalls," said Sharon Bauche, chair of the Sun Country Regional Health Authority.

"Our management have been talking to the staff of the facility on how to make those cuts. These are tough decisions that need to be made," she added.

The cuts are expected to save \$110,000.

"They wouldn't call it a cut, but it is a cut," said Wawota mayor Norm Oliver. "It doesn't make sense to eliminate beds to save that kind of money."

MONTHS WAITING FOR A BED
Faye Greenbank spoke at the meeting on behalf of concerned family members.

She spoke of a family member who is waiting to get into Deer View Lodge. "She was six weeks on the Sun Country priority list for placement and to date has spent four and a half months on the Sun Country transfer list to Deer View Lodge and is currently number five," Greenbank told the board members.

"Our health system promotes quality of life," she continued. "At 91, her quality of life would be much better if she could spend her last days in her community where she has spent her entire life paying taxes and supporting facilities—in her community where she thought she would spend her last days."

Greenbank pointed out that Wawota has longer wait times than the average facility in the Sun Country region. "I question why Wawota was targeted for bed closures when they have wait times longer than the Sun Country average," she said.

FATHER MISSING FAMILY, FRIENDS
Heather Birnie also had the opportunity to address the board. "My dad is 92 years old," she said. "He was born in this community and has lived and worked his whole life in

this community. On Dec. 16 he was transferred from Deer View Lodge and admitted to Stoughton Nursing Home. He was eleventh on the transfer list to return to Deer View Lodge.

"It has been a long five and a half months missing family and visits from Legion friends who are too elderly to drive.

Birnie continued, "since this announcement his hopes are lost and he feels he will never return home. At 92 he wonders, and I quote, 'If this is financial I don't understand what possible difference it could make that I am taking up a bed in Stoughton rather than Wawota.'"

Birnie did some research and found that, on random dates there were as many as nine people waiting for transfers to Deer View Lodge, and often none waiting to be transferred to Stoughton.

"After seeing the numbers, I question how Deer View Lodge has been chosen for these bed reductions when our need is obviously greater than other facilities," Birnie said. "I am hoping my questions will be legitimately answered."

Due to the outpouring of community support, town council asked Sun Country to postpone the bed closures. A decision on the postponement is expected by June 11 at the latest.

"We aren't going to stop here. We will wait for their response and carry on from there if need be," said Oliver.

One of the many concerns expressed by the local community is that people in need of care risk being forced to leave their loved ones behind to receive it.

Charlotte Kovach has seen the effect that this kind of separation can have first hand. Every three weeks she drives Dorothy Harris from the Sunrise Villa in Maryfield to visit her husband Reuben in Wolseley.

The 170 km drive, one way, and the distance from her loved one takes its toll



Kevin Weedmark photo

Pete Shatford of Wawota is one of about a hundred people protesting the closure of five beds at Deer View Lodge on Thursday. Placard-waving protestors chanted as health board members arrived for a meeting.

on the 87-year-old woman.

"On the drives home she talks about how much she misses the daily contact with him, a person she has been married to for 65 years," Kovach explained.

"Here they are closing beds, so there is less hope for them to ever get closer together."

MLA TOTALLY DISAPPOINTED
Residents of Wawota are not the only people expressing outrage regarding the bed closures.

"I'm always disappointed when there is talk of reducing beds in rural Saskatchewan," said Don Toth, MLA for Moosomin and speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

"I don't know where these formulas [for cuts] come from. They don't apply or work well in rural areas."

MOOSOMIN DOCTORS UPSET
The action was also condemned by the seven doctors of the Moosomin Family Practice Centre.

In a letter to the Sun Country region signed by Dr. Michael Plewes of Moosomin, the point is made that the Southeast Integrated Care Centre in Moosomin is often full to overflowing because of large numbers of patients coming from the Sun Country Health Region because of facility closures there. With the closure of acute care services in Redvers, even more patients have been heading to Moosomin.

"This past five months we have been on the verge of a crisis at Moosomin Hospital, requiring bypass and closure for short periods as we have no acute care beds available for further admissions," Plewes wrote.

"Deer View Lodge of Wawota, along with their administrator, Florie Restau, have often rescued our facility and have been able to accommodate transfers of convalescent and long-

term care patients from the Sun Country district, thus opening beds at the Moosomin hospital . . . With the bed reduction in Wawota this service has been stopped."

Plewes said in the letter that the Moosomin doctors may be hesitant to admit Sun Country patients in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. "We are not very hesitant to consider the review and acceptance of new patients from the Sun Country Health District and are now very reserved regarding admission of possible long-term patients from the district," he wrote.

"These patients will effectively gridlock our system with no possible discharge outlet that . . . Deer View Lodge has provided. We will be considering asking Oxbow Clinic, Estevan Clinics and Kipling Clinic to accept the care of patients from Sun Country if this decision is not reconsidered."



Protesters in Wawota on June 3.

At the Birdtail Valley Pasture Pickin' Jamboree

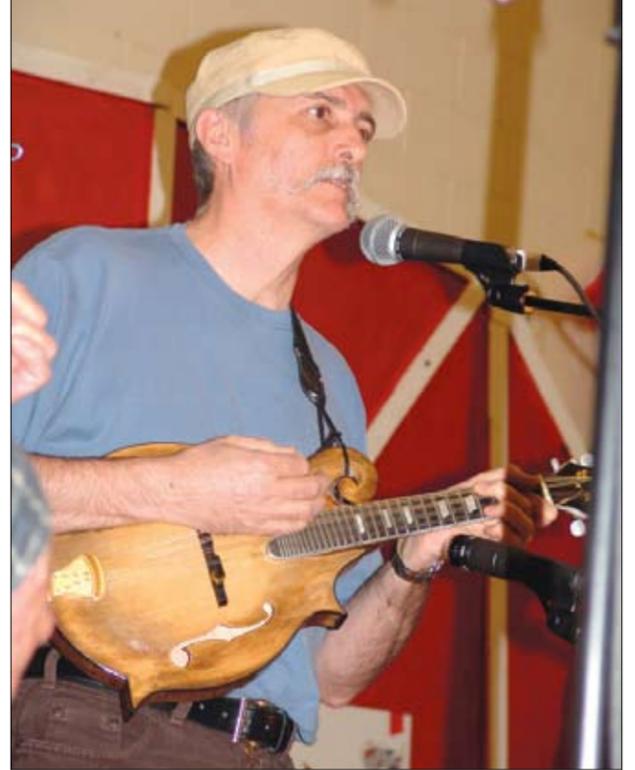


Wayne Cathers, left, and David Cathers on stage at the Birdtail Community Hall during the Westman Jams Birdtail Valley Pasture Pickin' Jamboree on May 22 in Birtle, Man. Wayne Cathers made his debut with the Birdtail Valley Boys of Birtle in 2006. He now performs and tours with the Gateway Express, a Winnipeg-based bluegrass group. His son David made his debut with the Birdtail Valley Boys this year during the Pasture Pickin' Jamboree, an annual May-long weekend music jam.



A banjo player performing at the Birdtail Pasture Pickin' Jamboree held in Birtle, Man. on May. 22.

Helen Solmes photos



Dr. Ken Marshall of Virden, Man. strums his handcrafted mandolin during an open mic session on May 22 at the Westman Jams Birdtail Valley Pasture Pickin' Jamboree in Birtle, Man. Marshall builds and sells a variety of instruments, including mandolins and guitars, under the business name of Mid-Life Crisis (MLC) Instruments.

The Birdtail Pasture Pickin' Jamboree held in Birtle, Man. on May. 22 brought out many musicians, and a large assortment of instruments as well.



Sandra Taylor of the Gateway Express traditional bluegrass group and Jim (Shavey) Gladston of the Squirrel Creek Ramblers share a moment before the Westman Jams Birdtail Valley Pasture Pickin' Jamboree's evening bluegrass concert on May 22 in Birtle, Man.



Jonathan Stewart of Winnipeg came home to Birtle, Man. this May-long weekend to operate the sound system during the jamboree.



The Squirrel Creek Ramblers, Tony Stucky, tunes his banjo prior to the traditional bluegrass quartet's performance May 22 at the Birtle Community Hall. The quartet includes a banjo, acoustic guitar, mandolin, and upright bass player.



A band sings and plays together at the Westman Jams Birdtail Valley Pasture Pickin' Jamboree.



Above: Artist Marilyn Malo with her latest series of acrylic paintings.



Top right: A traditional watercolor painting by Marilyn Malo.



Right: This work of art was created using melted wax, a newer artistic technique called encaustic.

Prairie artist to share her knowledge

By CHRISTALEE FROESE
Renowned Saskatchewan artist Marilyn Malo is taking a new creative odyssey and she's inviting the public to join her for the journey.

The acclaimed watercolor painter is turning her attention to teaching, opening up an expansive learning studio in her brand new Wolseley, Sask. home.

"The time in my life has come when my goal is to share all I've learned over the years and to inspire others to see that everyone has a creative side."

Malo will host group art classes at her new learning centre and art supply studio, welcoming all age groups into her home to experience the joy of art.

"When you create art, you shut the rest of the world out which allows you to just relax and enjoy life," she says.

Malo's classes will feature traditional watercolors and acrylics, or learners may take workshops using more experimental mediums such as multimedia collage or encaustic, which is painting with melted wax.

The art workshops can be tailored to the needs of the learner, with Malo hoping that groups will book a weekend, day or evening to come to her Wolseley learning centre and create.

"I'll be teaching painting skills, but the main idea is to gather people together who are interested in having fun and trying something different."

To make the experience complete, Malo will offer gourmet lunches, as well as providing drinks and snacks for those who take classes.

While Malo's focus is now on teaching, the last 40 years have been spent learning. Having started out using oil paints, Malo quickly transitioned to watercolors and became one of Saskatchewan's premier watercolor artists. Her works of realism, inspired by Saskatchewan's landscape, have been part of many prestigious art shows and her paintings are included in numerous corporate and private collections.

Lately, she has turned her attention to abstract work and more experimental mediums, creating an acrylic series using only paint and a palette knife, and experimenting with collage and wax work.

Having operated an art gallery and gift shop in the Craft-tea Elevator in Indian Head, Sask. for 10 years, Marilyn decided recently that it was time to share her love of painting with others.

"You don't have to be an artist to take these classes—they're for anyone who wants to develop their creative side and take time for themselves," said Malo. "I encourage people to bring a carload of friends and make it a fun-filled learning experience."

Malo will offer girls' getaway weekends, one-day workshops, evening

art classes and parent and child groups, according to the needs of her clients. All

the supplies that will be needed for classes can be purchased at the Marilyn

Malo Learning Centre, or you can bring your own. For more informa-

tion contact Marilyn at (306) 698-2077 or email h.m.malo@sasktel.net.

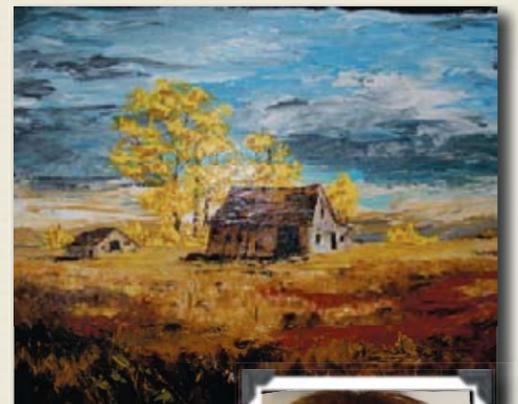
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3D Archery shoot draws shooters from Saskatchewan, Manitoba

A 3D archery shoot was held at Moosomin Lake on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30. The shoot is an annual event, hosted by the Fleming Archery Club. Large targets, simulating real creatures, such as deer, bears and big cats, are set up along the hiking trails at

Moosomin Lake. Archers from around the region attend the event. At left: Young Jeridan Cherry from Moosomin takes aim at a target set up near the edge of Moosomin Lake. At right: Coty Pranke takes aim at a target.

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June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	June 2, 3, 16, 17, 30	June 9, 10, 23, 24	June 11, 25	June 4, 18
July 6, 13, 20, 27	July 1, 14, 15, 28, 29	July 7, 8, 21, 22	July 9, 23	July 2, 16, 30
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	August 11, 12, 25, 26	August 4, 5, 18, 19	August 6, 20	August 13, 27
September 7, 14, 21, 28	September 8, 9, 22, 23	September 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30	September 3, 17	September 10, 24

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Manor Family Restaurant

This shuttle returns home
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Pickup Times
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City Centre Mall

This shuttle returns home
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Pickup Times
Estevan 9am
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Pickup Times
Moosomin 9am
The Uptown Bar

Whitewood 9:30am
The Cam Am Travel Shop

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from the casino at 3:00pm

Pickup Times
Gainsborough 9am
Happy Hours Club

Carnivale 9:10am
309 Railway Ave Golden Years Club

Carnduff West End 9:20am
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Oxbow 9:35am
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Rocanville mine expansion on track for 2013

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Work on the \$2.8 billion expansion at PotashCorp Rocanville will go on a little longer than originally planned.

The schedule has been revised in light of the world economic downturn, and the mine expansion will come online one year later than originally planned.

"The projected end date will be November 2013," PotashCorp Rocanville general manager said in an interview recently. "With the world economy slowing down we made an adjustment to the project, and it will be completed about a year later than scheduled."

Meanwhile, the expansion continues to take shape.

CONTRACTOR WORKING ON HEADFRAME

At the site of the new headframe, workers are installing steel inside the headframe, and are in the process of freezing the ground, a process that started three weeks ago.

The ground must be frozen so the shaft can be sunk through water-bearing formations.

As it is sunk, cribbing is installed to ensure that no water can enter the shaft.

The shaft sinking is scheduled to start in September.

A steel Galloway staging system will be constructed for the shaft sinking.

A Galloway is a three-level steel structure used to sink the shaft. "The lowest level is responsible for drilling, the middle level does the tubing, and the top level does the grouting," explained Fortney. The tubing goes



Jina Creighton photo

PotashCorp Rocanville is in the midst of a massive \$2.8 billion expansion.

down to about 800 metres.

The bottom of the Galloway resembles the arms of an excavator. "One unit has a jackhammer and one has a scoop," explained Fortney. "Sometimes we'll jackhammer it, sometimes we'll blast it, sometimes we'll dig it out with the backhoe unit."

The actual shaft sinking will take three years to complete.

Mine construction contractor AMC will be responsible for the shaft sinking.

NEW BUILDINGS TAKING SHAPE

At the current mine site, one of the new product storage buildings is going up.

"They've just installed the first arch on the new product

storage building," Fortney said. "This is the smaller section, which will hold only 200,000 tonnes. The other will be 325,000 tonnes."

"In June they will be starting to erect the steel for shops and warehouse on the plant site here."

And the new mill will be going up starting this fall.

"They've got the support piles done for the new mill, and will start erecting steel in September," said Fortney.

Underground, a second new mining machine will come out of the shop soon.

"The first one has been cutting over to the new shaft," Fortney said. The mining machine has cut about 20,000 feet in the direction of the new shaft so far.

MORE WORK CREWS MOVING IN

The number of workers on the project will grow over the summer.

"We're at about 360 people right now, and we will be surpassing the number of people who can stay in the camp very shortly," Fortney said.

"The camp can accommodate 450 people right now, and when it's done next year it will be able to accommodate 900."

"Six months from now we will be at about 550, and in the fall of 2011 we will be at the peak of 1,200." The number of construction workers on site will remain at 1,200 for about 18 months.

In addition, main contractor AMEC has 240 engineers working on the project right now.

PotashCorp Rocanville is also adding to its own workforce in preparation for the expansion coming online. "We've hired about 60 people so far," Fortney said. "We now have 435 employees, and we'll be at 650 when we're done."

PROJECT PROCEEDING STEP BY STEP

Overseeing a massive \$2.8 billion expansion and the continuing operations of PotashCorp's largest mine is a big job, but Fortney says it is getting done piece by piece.

"We've got AMEC work-

ing for us, organizing things, and there are a lot of decisions to be made all the way through, but you just deal with it. It's like eating an elephant—you just do it one bite at a time."

He said PotashCorp Rocanville employees are putting in a lot of extra effort to have input into plans for the expansion while continuing to operate the mine.

"Trying to keep the plant operating and having input into this project is sort of stretching people," Fortney said. "There have been a lot of decisions to be made along the way. Do we want this, what kind of equipment do we want? Time management is tough. You come in and your whole week is booked up with meetings."

He said the effort has energized the staff at PotashCorp Rocanville. "It's such an exciting time—it's such an opportunity," he said. "There is definitely a different feeling around the plant site for the last three years."

He said staff was involved extensively in the planning.

"You really don't want to miss anything important," he said. "You want to make sure the new plant is as safe as it can be, will operate. Now we're to the point that we're not going to change anything unless there's a real strong reason. The questions we ask are is it safe, does it operate, and does it meet code?"

"The detailed engineering is about 60 per cent complete for the entire plant at this point, so we're not making any big changes to the plan, we're just working away at it."

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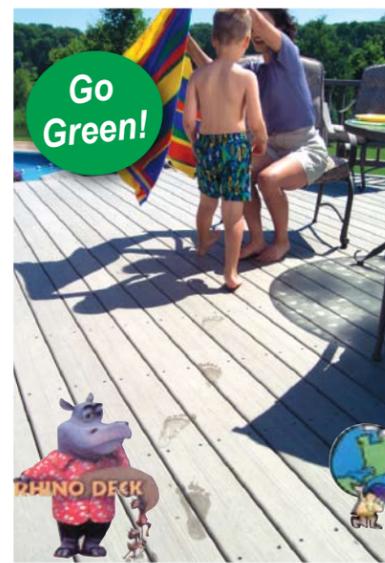
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