

Plain & Valley

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In Moosomin on June 22

Plans in place for the Snowbirds show

BY CHRISTEEN JESSE

Moosomin is gearing up to host one of Canada's top attractions this summer. The Snowbirds aerobatics team will be landing in town on June 22.

Event organizers are well underway with preparations for the event, grateful for the chance to have the Snowbirds in Moosomin.

"We're very lucky to have them," says Bill Thorn, one of the organizers.

"It is a world class aerobatics show. They're in high demand, and that in itself adds the credibility of the show."

The Snowbirds have a number of scheduled stops around Canada this summer, travelling from the Maritimes to Quebec and Ontario, then moving through Alberta and into Saskatchewan, where they will make their provincial debut in Moosomin.

Canada's Air Force will also take their show into the United States this summer, performing in California and Texas.

Thorn says that it's great to see a performance of such a high calibre come to Moosomin.

"It's really unique. Aside from Saskatoon, we are the only show in Manitoba and Saskatchewan this year . . . there are no others," he says.

"(The Snowbirds) don't normally come to communities of our size, they usually go to major cities and big places, so that's really unique."

Former Snowbird pilot Brock Andrew of Virden was instrumental in co-ordinating the Moosomin performance. Because of his connection to the team, and his previous experience co-ordinating two different air shows in Virden, Andrew was asked to help bring the Snowbirds to Moosomin.

"It gives comfort for the Force to know that they are bringing the show to a place where there is some foundation," he says. "It's tough to do an air show from scratch with no expertise."

The show will take place at the Moosomin airport, located two kilometres northeast of town.

Organizers plan to take full advantage of the Snowbirds' stop Moosomin, preparing an entire afternoon of food and entertainment before show time.

Canada's Air Force takes to the sky at 7 p.m. but gates will open at 2 p.m. and entertainment will last all afternoon until the world-class performance in the evening.

"We're still in the process of lining up all the acts," says Thorn.

"But we're going to try and make sure its family entertainment, some singing and dancing and stuff like that."

The airport grounds will be buzzing with activity, featuring music from last year's GX94 Star Search winner Jessica Moskeluke as well as this year's winner, Lexie Tytlandsvik. The Shrine Clowns from Regina



The Snowbirds fly in formation during one of their performances.

will put on a show, and organizers continue to work on bringing in more acts.

Lots of activities will be available for kids throughout the afternoon, with Borderland Co-op setting up an area with face painting, bounce tents and crafts.

Thorn says there will also be a number of historical items on display. People can browse through a military exhibit featuring artillery from CFB Shilo and a helicopter, and an antique vintage army truck from 1939. In addition, all local airplanes from the Moosomin airport will be on display. There will also be a military recruitment booth, and the Snowbirds will have their own booth with information and souvenirs. There will be a large food court

set up where people will be able to get a wide variety of food, mingle and listen to local band Southern Country, who will be providing live entertainment there all afternoon.

The main act will begin at 7 p.m. when the Snowbirds take to their air. The spectacular performance will last 45 minutes, and they are sure to impress.

Andrew says that in addition to showcasing their talents in Moosomin, the Snowbirds will use the opportunity for recruitment to the Canadian Air Force.

"Every one of those members on that team was a young man or woman seeing the team in their community and that's why they are flying in the force today," he says.

Andrew's experience with the Force came about this same way. After watching the Snowbirds perform for the first time in Portage La Prairie, he was instantly inspired to join the team and fly in the formations.

Andrew also notes that the Moosomin stop on the Snowbirds tour is beneficial for both the town and the team of pilots.

"It's important for the team to come to small communities so they can get the small town personal touch—meeting the people and showcasing the Force," he says. "It's also very important for small communities because it really does put a spotlight on your community for that year and it really does bring a lot of interest, attention, people, and corporations to your community. So it's a win-win."

Event organizers are anticipating lots of people coming out and experiencing the Snowbirds show.

"We're hoping for 5,000 people. That's the target we're aiming for," says Thorn. "It's a family thing—adults, seniors, kids—we think everyone will get something out of it."

Thorn says he has already had calls from people in Winnipeg and other parts of Manitoba who are interested in purchasing tickets.

"We are hoping that a lot of people will come from miles around to be a part of it," he says.

A large crowd is expected so organizers are trying to avoid congestion and parking problems. Parking will be available at the Moosomin Communiplex, where buses will then shuttle people to the airport.

"We're working on having as much parking as we can, but it would be great if people would park in the designated area at the Communiplex and take the shuttle buses," says Thorn.

All attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs because public seating will not be provided.

Advance tickets for the Snowbirds show are on sale in Moosomin and surrounding communities and will cost \$8 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12. Tickets can also be purchased at the gate on June 22 for \$10 per adult and \$5 for children. Children five and under can attend for free.

"It's very affordable," says Thorn. "A family of four can be in there for 20 bucks. It's very reasonable."

Snowbirds tickets are available for purchase at local businesses in the communities of Moosomin, Welwyn, Wapella, Whitewood, Fairlight, Virden, Fleming, Elkhorn, Kelso, Wawota and Maryfield.

Organizers are looking for ticket takers, parking attendants and general assistance volunteers for the day of the event—if you are interested, please call Bill Thorn at 435-9790.

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Great food, party on wheels featured at Perogy Run

It's all about rural hospitality at Centre 48's Perogy Run on June 11.

"Food is our secret weapon," said Centre 48 chairperson Christlee Froese. "We start off the morning with homemade cinnamon buns and coffee and we end the event with a homemade perogy lunch—that's our way of showing the runners, walkers and bikers how much we appreciate their efforts."

The main goal of the eighth annual run, held in Montmartre, Sask., is to make the 1K/5K/10K walk, bike and run as welcoming and friendly as possible.

The glaceau vitaminwater team will take care of the welcoming part as they pull into Montmartre's Kemoca Park at 8:30 a.m. with their tasting vehicle. This "party on wheels" will feature music, free samples, life-size games (Jenga, etc.) and prizes.

Teacher Shauna Hoffart has been the key ingredient in keeping the Perogy Run participants happy. Hoffarth bakes all of the homemade cinnamon buns which are served hot while people register for the race.

"I contribute the home baking because that is one way I can help and put smiles on peoples' faces," said Hoffart, who is only in her 20s, but has mastered the fine art of cinnamon-bun making. "Bought cinnamon bun just aren't as tasty as my grandma's recipe."

For the past three years, Simon Kostic of Regina has been attending the Perogy

Run which is held in Montmartre annually to raise funds for the region's arts and education centre.

"I first ran three years ago . . . we enjoyed every minute of it, from the start of the race right through to the last delicious bite of gourmet perogies and sausages. The organizers even gave us the leftovers to take home. One of my running buddies was happily eating his leftovers for a few days afterward," said the Regina runner.

"We were so impressed that we talked about the event for months."

The Perogy Run is Centre 48's only fundraiser, with all money from the event being used to bring in music instructors and to pay for the coordination of classes like yoga, piano, guitar, CPR, babysitting, writing, yoga, painting, and of course, running.

"This year we had 30 kids taking music lessons and they come from various towns in the region (Odessa, Vibank, Kennedy, Fillmore, Kipling and Montmartre)," said Froese. "Without this run, classes like piano, guitar, voice, flute and kinderkids music could not happen. Everyone who participates in the Perogy Run should know that they're making a huge difference in the lives of these kids."

To register for the Perogy Run (9 a.m. registration, race at 10 a.m.), or to order pledge forms to raise money for the run, call Centre 48 at 424-2166. Visit www.runningroom.com for on-line registration.

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All Folk'd Up has something for everyone

Montmartre's All Folk'd Up Festival will be a family affair filled with music, food, craft vendors and fun galore, say organizers.

Set in the community's Kemoca Regional Park, the second annual folk festival is expected to attract over 500 participants and will offer a mainstage, kids stage, food vendors, craft booths, beer gardens, swimming and camping.

"Momentum for the festival is really building as we have over 10 craft vendors booked and our food choices will range from a fry truck to smoked meat meals and perogy platters," said All Folk'd

Up Committee member Christalee Froese.

"The musical lineup this year is so exciting and we just know that festival goers will be so impressed with the talented musicians from the prairies and across Canada who have been booked."

The July 8-10 folk festival in Montmartre will feature over 20 professional acts that cover all genres of music, from folk to rock to country, alternative, jazz and blues. Some headliners include Juno-award-winner Ken Hamm, Sask's 2011 Rising Star winner Blake Berglund and Kennedy Rodeo, Regina song-

stress Annette Campagne, African drummer Joseph Ashong, Montreal singer/songwriter Gabrielle Papillon and reggae/fusion band Descalso.

"The daytime music will be phenomenal, with a new act every hour, and this year we've added two fun cover bands (Garnet and The Classics and Jimmy G and the Cable Guys) in the evening so that people can dance under the stars and enjoy the late-night folk fest fun."

The kids' stage features two days of music, arts and crafts including performances by storyteller Carol Morin, kids enter-

tainer Kevin MacKenzie and Joanne Crawford's drum circle with African drummer Joseph Ashong.

"The family atmosphere created in Kemoca Park last year definitely left people wanting more, so we've added professional acts on the kids' stage and we'll have face painting, games and entertainment for all ages all day long," said Froese.

In addition to the music, craft vendors featuring everything from art work to

lawn ornaments, jewelry, temporary tattoos and musical instruments will be on the festival grounds, as will many fantastic food vendors serving dishes like beef on a bun and homemade chili.

"Last year people just couldn't get over how great it was to camp-out for three days and have nothing to do but enjoy the music, visit with family, break for a swim and great meals and get to know new friends around every

corner," said Froese. "The folk fest crowd became like one big family which really put the magic in the whole event."

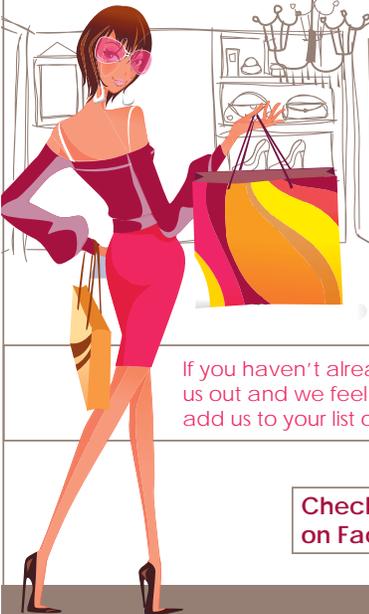
All Folk'd Up tickets are available in Montmartre at Sisters' Bistro and Jojo Beads and in Regina at the Fainting Goat (2330, Albert St.), Seed Sustainable Styles (3100, 13th Ave.) and Vrata Hair Design (1751 Broad St.). Or reserve your ticket by phone (306) 424-2835. For more information, visit www.allfolkedup.ca.



People participating in a drum circle at the All Folk'd Up festival in Montmartre last July. This year the event runs July 8-10.

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Pointe West condos planned for Moosomin

People looking at moving into Moosomin have a number of options for housing. In addition to the Pipestone Villas under development across from the Municipality and a condo complex being developed in the former Moosomin Nursing Home building, Bill Thorn is developing a six-unit condominium in Dorchester Place, on the west end of town.

"A number of years ago we bought the property, and it was always our personal plan to build a place for us when we are ready to downsize," Thorn says.

"We thought we would build a few units there, and we feel a six-unit condo in the southwest corner of Dorchester Place would work for a number of different reasons."

Thorn says he thought about what he would want in a condo, and built his plan around that. Each two-bedroom unit will include a two-car garage and a separate 300-square-foot storage area/workshop in a separate wing.

Thorn says two units are spoken for, and he hopes to have four people committed before starting construction.

While there is no age restriction on the units, Thorn says that, with two bedrooms, the condos are well suited to empty-nesters. "There is no restriction, but it probably doesn't lend itself well to families," he said. "It lends itself to empty nesters, for people who don't want to worry about shovelling snow and mowing grass anymore."

Thorn says he is trying to keep the cost of the units reasonable. "We anticipate a \$200 a square foot cost, turn-key," he said.

People who commit to units before they are built will have a lot of options, he noted. "The important thing about getting on board now is you can choose not only the size of the unit, but the floor plan," he said. "The outside design will be consistent, but people have the freedom to design the inside of their units however they want."

Thorn says he's looking forward to breaking ground on the project—and to finding out who will be his neighbors in the condo development.



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PDAP provides assistance for local flood victims

BY CHRISTEEN JESSE
Flood waters have peaked around the province, and levels are beginning to recede, but the biggest job is yet to come. Clean-up and recovery is a long and difficult process, so a number of government ministries are stepping in to help communities and residents with their clean-up efforts.

Many communities in the area have requested assistance under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which will provide assistance with uninsurable effects of flooding.

The program gathers information on each property affected by flooding and prepares assistance payments accordingly. PDAP Director Mieka Torgrimson says the program is extremely helpful in getting flood victims the help that they need.

"People are appreciating having someone to talk with face-to-face and to walk them through the process, rather than being stuck with all the forms," she says.

PDAP held information sessions, as well as recovery centres last week in Moosomin and Wawota, which gave claimants the information they needed to get them back on their feet and on the road to recovery.

PDAP provides financial assistance to agricultural

operations, non-profit organizations, small businesses, individuals and affected communities.

Many communities in the area including Moosomin, Rocanville, Wawota, Maryfield and Welwyn have been designated as eligible areas for assistance from PDAP.

Farmers, property owners and tenants within the communities are all eligible for individual assistance, provided that they meet the program criteria.

To be eligible, applicants must have proof from their insurance company denying coverage, because PDAP only covers uninsurable damage. In addition, the flood damage must affect the individual's principal residence. Summer cottages or seasonal homes with flood damage will not receive assistance from the disaster relief program.

"They have to use the residence on a day-to-day basis in order to be eligible," says Torgrimson.

"We also assist tenants. Just with their essential belonging loss, and any clean-up that they did will be reimbursed, but the owner is responsible for the rest. But then the owner might be able to apply as a small business."

In order for a small business to be eligible for assistance, the gross revenue must be between \$4,000 and \$2 million annually, and the business must provide



Eighty-six people attended a PDAP information session in Moosomin last Tuesday night.

PDAP with a copy of their 2010 income tax as proof.

Torgrimson says that the door is still open for anyone who requires compensation.

"If somebody (couldn't) get down there, they can still access the forms from their municipal office and mail them to us," she said.

She says submitting the application is essential in the path to assistance and recovery.

"We urge people to get their application in as soon as possible because we can't do anything without that."

As soon as PDAP receives an application, they will move forward with the rest of the process by assigning an adjuster to the property, who then produces an estimate of what it would cost to restore to pre-damage condition. Once the estimate is submitted to PDAP, a number of other processes will follow.

"Building officials will

come out and do an assessment as well during this time. They will assess if and where gas and electrical work has been done since. She suggests doing things like keeping a sample of the wet carpet after it's been removed in order to have an accurate portrayal of the damage.

If the building officials come across structural damage, they will notify PDAP who will then contact structural engineers or real estate appraisers.

Claimants can expect a number of different inspectors, officials, and agencies to be involved in the recovery process, and each serves their own purpose. All the separate information gathered is compiled to help PDAP assess the extent of damage and prepare assistance payments accordingly.

In addition to submitting an application to PDAP, Torgrimson also advises flood victims to keep track of their clean-up progress—take extensive photo-

graphs, note how things looked before and during the flood and log what work has been done since. She suggests doing things like keeping a sample of the wet carpet after it's been removed in order to have an accurate portrayal of the damage.

If (claimants) can tell the adjuster a story then that helps to get a fair assessment and figure out exactly how things looked, and the progress that has been made in clean-up so far," says Torgrimson.

Claimants are encouraged to do everything they can to help with the clean-up, maintaining patience through the process. Although PDAP started accepting applications last week, the program is still in the early stages of providing relief.

Torgrimson says at this point, it is nearly impossible to predict how many claims PDAP will receive from the area and how

much money all the repairs will cost.

"It's all dependent on the impact to the individual properties. It's still too early to tell," she says.

"We know there were 86 people who attended the (Moosomin) info session, so the best guess was that 200 people could have been affected."

Torgrimson is also unsure on how long the process might take; because of all the variables, PDAP can't provide a distinctive time-line on repair.

"Not one that is black and white, anyway," says Torgrimson. "It's very dependent on the number of claims that come in, because that then affects the number of adjusters."

"We can only send out so many at a time, so the more applications PDAP receives, the longer the wait may be."

In the mean-time, those affected by flooding are encouraged to proceed with immediate clean-up of their properties to prevent mould and other health dangers.

"We don't want people to wait. Especially with the clean-up—they need to clean up and ventilate and dry out the properties as soon as possible," says Torgrimson.

Anyone wanting more information on PDAP and the disaster relief application process can call 1-866-632-4033.

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Taylor Bendig photo

The Cowessess First Nation dancers and drummers performed before the RCMP Musical Ride in Rocanville on Wednesday, June 1.

Above, right and below are some of the dancers performing in their colorful regalia.

A swirl of colors

Cowessess First Nation dancers perform at Musical Ride



Stephanie Lange photo



Christeen Jesse photo



Kara Kinna photo

A dancer secures a feather in a fellow dancer's hair in preparation for their performance at the Musical Ride.



Taylor Bendig photo

Hoop Dancer Terrence Little wowed the crowd during his performance.



Taylor Bendig photo

Drummers and singers keep the beat during the Cowessess performance.

Weather breaks just in time for Musical Ride

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
On Tuesday, May 31, Kathy Brown was watching the grey skies and hoping they would clear up. With the RCMP Musical Ride coming up the next day, the wet weather was

causing a lot of concern. "Oh gosh, we were worried about the weather," she says. "It was kind of stressful. After all the calls, I just put a message on the phone saying 'yes, we're going ahead.'"

But after two days of rain, the sun came out Wednesday, the temperature rose and conditions were perfect for the Musical Ride by Wednesday night. It turned out to be a brief break in the weather, as it was raining

again Thursday morning. "I can't believe how lucky we are that the weather turned out like it did," Brown says. Besides the weather, Brown points to a solid team of volunteers for

helping make the ride a success. "There was a lot of work in the days leading up to it with getting everything ready, and there were about 50 people out there for the actual day."

A committee of Tera Harper, Deb Selby, Deenie Goulden and Kathy Brown organized the event, and a few volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure it ran smoothly, says Brown.

"Lorne Lowe—when he showed up he just took some jobs and handled them and we didn't have to worry about them at all," she says. "He would just phone and say 'if you like, I can do this.' Kenneth and Tracy Kingdon absolutely totally stepped up and got that big bleacher for us."

Organizers are estimating the crowd at 1,500 to 2,000, which would be enough to raise a significant amount for the two projects the funds are intended to get off the ground—Rocanville's new day care and new Dial-A-Van service.

Brown said she has heard a lot of good reviews of the show. "Everybody said it was

a really good show. It was a good combination of the native dancing and the 4-H kids and the Musical Ride. A lot of people were happy to see the involvement from Cowesses. There is a connection between Rocanville and Cowesses because of that accident. That sort of started bridging a gap."

The Musical Ride was the first event on such a scale hosted by Rocanville in several years, but it won't be the last.

The community will host "Theatre on the Hoof" in late August. The play will focus on the interaction of NWMP Inspector Walsh and Sioux Chief Sitting Bull. The play will travel along the Qu'Appelle Valley by Red River Cart during August and September. Brown said she feels a sense of relief now that the months of preparation for the Musical Ride are over.

"I just feel good—really good," she said. "I want to start counting things up and see how we did financially. That was one of the reasons for doing this, and the other was just having an event like this in Rocanville. I'm glad we did it."

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Crop insurance deadline extended

With many areas of the province receiving excess moisture this spring, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation will be extending seeding deadlines for 2011, as it did in 2010.

"Just as weather is often unpredictable, its effects on the farm gate can vary from year to year," Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said.

"I'm pleased to continue to work with the Province of Saskatchewan to make common sense adjustments to our programs, like today's, so that farmers can continue to feed families in Canada and around the world."

"Excess moisture is again preventing producers from getting into the fields and seeding progress is delayed," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornrud said. "While I hope the extension will give producers some extra time to get their seed in the ground and still be insured, we all realize the best solution to this

situation would be some warm, dry weather."

For areas with longer growing seasons, including Kindersley, Rose town, Leader, Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Estevan, Crop Insurance customers will now be able to seed and insure most crops until June 20.

In the rest of the province, Crop Insurance customers will now have insurance on any crop seeded by June 15, other than barley, oats, mustard, peas and polish canola which can now be seeded and insured up to June 20.

Crops exclusive of these deadlines for the entire province are chickpeas, lentils, dry beans and potatoes because they require more days to reach maturity.

If Crop Insurance customers are still unable to seed by the new deadlines, due to excess moisture, they can access their Unseeded Acreage feature as of June 20.

In areas with extreme moisture

where land will not be in a condition to seed, producers can register Unseeded Acreage claims as of June 15. The Unseeded Acreage Payment provides \$70 per acre, less seeding and insurance intensities and a five per cent deductible.

"Farmers in many parts of the province have had difficulty seeding due to excess moisture," SARM President David Marit said.

"We appreciate this extension which will give producers more time to get their crops in the ground and still be insured."

"For the second straight year farmers have had to deal with excess moisture delaying seeding," APAS President Greg Marshall said. "This extension will allow more acres to be insured, which benefits the entire economy."

Producers are encouraged to call 1-888-935-0000, contact the Moosomin Crop Insurance office or visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

U of R studying wild weather

Storms, floods, droughts and forest fires on the Prairies have caught the attention of a climate change expert at the University of Regina.

Geography professor and scientist David Sauchyn has been given

\$1.25 million from the federal government to study the effect of climate change on rural agricultural communities.

Sauchyn says the best science suggests there will be more violent storms as the Earth warms.

He wants to know if wild weather on the Prairies is connected to global warming and what that means for people who make their living off the land.

Sauchyn's five-year study is to involve work in the Swift Current region

in southwestern Saskatchewan and in southern Alberta.

It is to be done in collaboration with a team that will look at similar agricultural regions in Chile, Argentina, Columbia and Brazil.

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**R.C.M.P. Musical Ride at Rocanville Soccer Field
Wednesday, June 1, 2011**

The RCM.P Musical Ride performed to a large crowd in Rocanville on Wednesday, June 1. The event was held on the Rocanville soccer field, and took months of planning by local volunteers. Rocanville applied to have the ride come to town a few years ago, and was approved to host the ride in 2011. Between 1,500 and 2,000 people attended the event, which also featured performances by the Cowesses First Nation drummers and dancers, and the Archie 4-H Light Horse and Pony Club before the RCM.P riders took to the field.

Below left: The RCM.P riders line up on the field, ready to ride, with the Commissioned Officer In Charge (OIC) at front and centre. **Below right:** One of the riders smiles at the crowd as she rides onto the field.



Stephanie Lange photo



Christeen Jesse photo



Taylor Berdy photo

Above: The riders perform their "rotation" pattern.



Taylor Berdy photo

The riders get ready to perform the "Dome" with their lances.



Stephanie Lange photo

Above: The riders perform "The Dome" with their lances.

Right: A rider wears a look of pride on her face.



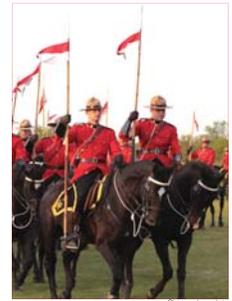
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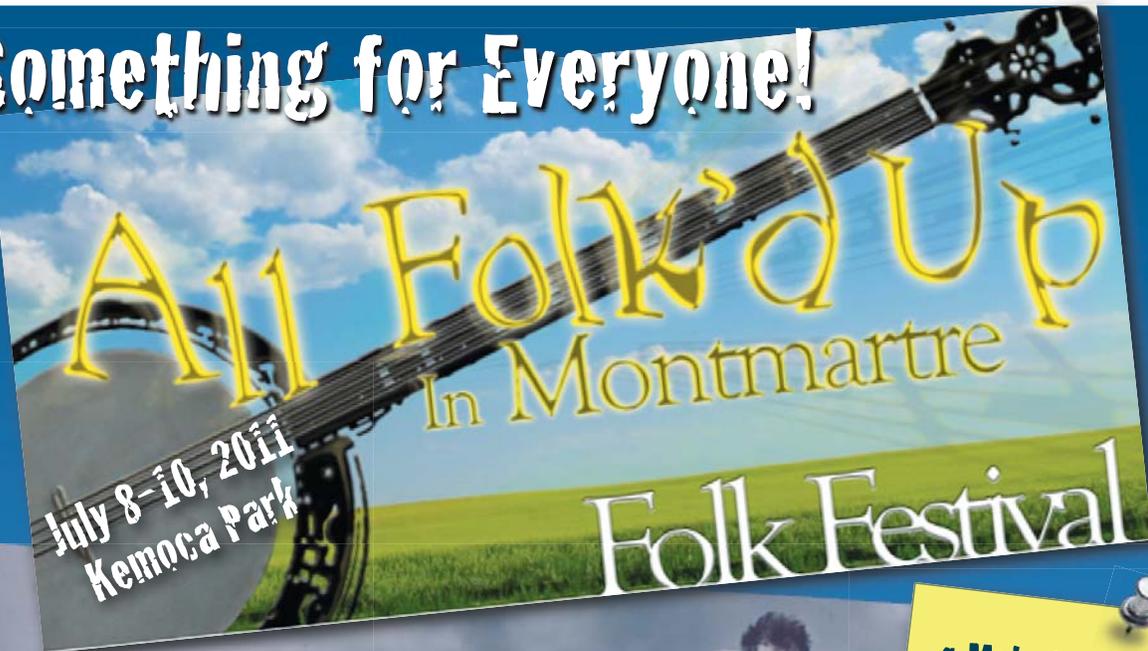
Above: The Officer in Charge (OIC) and two other officers watch the ride from the sidelines.

Right: The riders parading around the arena.



Christeen Jesse photo

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Jayne Galloway

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SATURDAY, JULY 9 (11 a.m. - 11 p.m.)

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- Charlie Deringer
- Jayne Galloway
- The Relative
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- The Ben Winoski Project
- Juno-winner Ken Hamm
- Jimmy G & the Cable Guys



Ken Hamm

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Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Act

Hickie says potash act may be reviewed

BY KARA KINNA

In an interview with the World-Spectator last Tuesday, Minister Darryl Hickie indicated that the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Act will likely be reviewed after the fall election.

Hickie, the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs, said a recent delegation from Rocanville and a number of other towns to discuss the potash tax sharing act, raised some good points.

"The group that did come raised some good concerns, and because of that, after the election we will be looking at reviewing this particular act to see if it's time to change it," said Hickie.

"After this election in November of this year, this part of the act would fall into review by ministry officials."

A delegation met with Hickie in Regina on May 9 to discuss the potash tax sharing formula, as well as representation on the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board. The delegation was formed after the town of Rocanville decided to meet with other communities near potash mines that receive municipal potash tax to discuss concerns about the tax sharing formula and the

board.

The town has taken issue with the formula that sees roughly 90 per cent of municipal potash tax go to RMs and 10 per cent to towns and villages. The concerns come in the wake of \$2.8 billion mine expansion at PotashCorp Rocanville that leaves communities such as Rocanville struggling to meet basic infrastructure needs in the face of rapid economic growth.

The town would also like to see representation from the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities (SUMA) on the Potash Tax Sharing Administration Board, which presently has one representative from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and two representatives appointed by the minister.

"It was good to hear they have local concerns," said Hickie. "I asked some very pointed questions about their infrastructure development, and advised that there are some programs available, such as SIGI funding, and some have accessed those funds, and some have not."

"One of the things brought to my attention was that they'd like to see SUMA on the board, and

that's a good point. I want that to be looked at when these broad-based consultations are opened up."

Hickie said that the Municipal Potash Tax Sharing Act was not slated to be reviewed this year, however that will likely change now. He told the delegation that any changes to the act would take a few years, however.

"When it is time to open up the act for review, we do a very broad consultation across the sector that will involve industry, RMs, the urban sector, SUMA, SARM and the public, and we'll get a feel if there is requirement for change," he said.

Hickie said that Municipal Affairs would first have to let all stakeholders know that they are going to review the act before consultations begin. After consultations, a draft of the revised act would be drawn up, which would then be presented to all stakeholders, before finally going to a legislative review committee.

"It's a very lengthy, bureaucratic process that must be debated in the house, and finalized in the next spring session," he said.

Hickie says there would be some cabinet discus-

sion, but it is ultimately up to the ministry to bring the review forward.

He says this is not the first time he has heard concerns about the act.

"At the SARM convention, there was some light conversation by delegates on the floor as to some of these issues," he said. "CBC did an interview with me at SARM about it, and it was one of those kind of ongoing concerns raised by individual RMs. Some groups don't want to see their share (of the municipal potash tax) change, other groups say they need to see their share change. We had some light conversations about it."

When asked if the act is unfair as it stands now, Hickie noted that the potash companies are actively involved in funding projects in the communities nearest to them, and pointed out that the act has not changed for many years.

"It's been in place for a long time," he said.

"As a minister looking at what's happening with the expansion of the (potash) sector, we have to include the fact that the urban centres are seeing an influx of employees right now. It's fair that the act is developed in such a fashion that unless you go into exten-

sive consultation, it won't be changed.

"It is what it is right now."

Rocanville Mayor Daryl Fingas says he is pleased with the minister's comments.

"I was quite confident

that he was going to go ahead and do something," said Fingas.

"Just by hearing this I'm very pleased he took us seriously. I guess that was all we were asking for at this time, so we are quite happy to hear that."

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Extraordinary Light Art Gallery: New gallery opens at Fleming

BY TAYLOR BENDIG
Photographer Brent Parkin came to Fleming just in time to see the historic structure that had drawn him there be destroyed—and just in time to preserve it forever with his lens.

Two years ago, Brent and his wife Heather were looking for a place along the Trans-Canada Highway to open a cafe and photo gallery, and were having no luck in their search.

“We hunted from one end of the province to the other end of the province, and didn’t really find anything. All of a sudden this piece of property popped up, and we realized ‘Well, it’s right across the road from the oldest elevator in Canada,’” said Brent. Since he specializes in photographing the sights of the Prairie provinces, Brent felt the plot of land across the highway from the historic elevator would be ideal.

He didn’t get to spend long in the shadow of the 105-year-old old building, though. It was burned down by a group of youths in February 2010, just months after he and Heather bought the land. Disappointed but still intent on getting their business up and running, the couple finished construction on the new Extraordinary Light art gallery—and found a way to help replace Fleming’s landmark in the process.

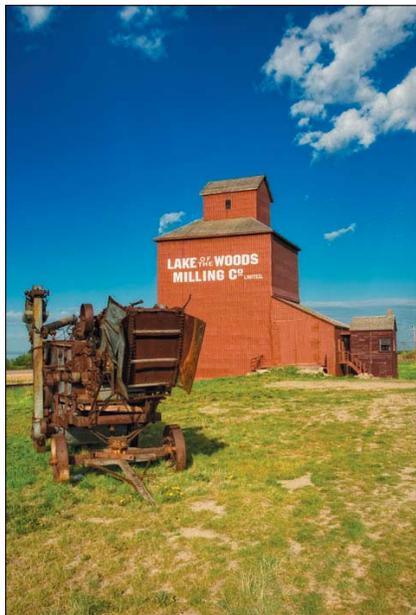
Hanging on one of the gallery’s walls is a photo of the elevator that Brent took in 2009, with one slight modification.

“They never quite finished the renovations—they were down to just a little bit left,” he said.

“And in that picture there, I actually finished off the picture in Photo-shop . . . so that everybody could see what it would’ve looked like.”

But the photo is more than a reminder of what the Fleming Historical Society almost achieved after raising \$152,000 dollars to fund the renovations. For every print of the photo they sell, the Parkins will donate \$50 to the historical society, which plans to move another elevator onto the original’s site. Brent is also considering putting in an elevator-shaped donation box, to help “twist tourists’ arms a bit” into going to the restoration project.

The photo of the Fleming elevator certainly isn’t the only image in the gallery that’s worth a look, though, and isn’t the only one that will look familiar to local residents. The roughly 400 of Brent’s photos on display—100 on the walls and in racks, the rest in a digital catalogue that can be browsed on an iPad and displayed on a wall-mounted big screen TV—have a definite Prairie theme. That’s a deliberate choice, says Brent, who’s come to love the Prairies since he moved here from urban Ontario.



“My original impression, before I came out was: flat, empty, nothing there. And I know now that there are plenty of interesting things to see in Saskatchewan, it’s not just a big flat place,” said Brent, who has shown off some of his photos at a fall show in Moosomin for the past few years. “So we wanted to try and find a reason to stop tourists, and show them that there are lots of beautiful things to see all the way across the province. They don’t need to just drive all the way across to go see the mountains.”

“We wanted to try and find a reason to stop tourists, and show them that there are lots of beautiful things to see all the way across the province.”

— Brent Parkin

The art is only part of Extraordinary Light’s attraction, though. The couple aims to draw in passersby who wouldn’t normally stop just for art with cappuccinos and lattes, full meals, and a variety of desserts.

“We’re trying to keep it fairly simple. We’re not offering a lot of stuff, but a little bit of everything,” said Heather, though she added that “the desserts will be the best, I think.”

She and Brent are particularly fond of stocking Saskatoon berry products made in southern Saskatchewan. They offer pies, chocolates, cinnamon buns, and even nonalcoholic champagne flavored with the berries.

With their business finally up and running, the Parkins say they owe a lot to the locals who helped them get things off the ground.

“We’ve been pretty well taken care of,” Heather says of their time in Fleming, where the town council has been eager to cooperate with their plans, and residents have made a point of welcoming them.

“One couple pretty well adopted us last year, when things we’re under construction and we were actually staying on site,” said Brent, who recalls that the couple often dropped by to bring them baking and offer them the use of their shower.

After such a warm welcome to the area, Brent and Heather have ambitious plans to expand their new business. Though Extraordinary Light opened on May 20, they expect to hold a grand opening on the Canada Day long weekend. The business will be open Friday through Sunday this year, while Brent works one last year as an information technology manager in White City to help pay for the couple’s new venture. The business will stay open full time after that, with the couple taking up residence in living space they built into the gallery’s basement.

As it opens full time, Brent and Heather hope to install a separate ice cream stand next to the gallery—they’ve learned at previous art shows that children, ice cream, and valuable art don’t mix. They’ll also be moving their large-scale printing equipment into a work-space on the gallery floor. That will give them the ability to do photo printing for local customers, and let visitors watch photos be edited and printed.

“Heather always told me ‘You can quit (your day job) anytime and just do photography,’” said Brent. “So I thought if I was going to quit and do that, I might as well sit somewhere people can stop and buy artwork and see the whole process.”



Taylor Bendig Photo

Above: Brent and Heather Parkin are the co-owners of the Extraordinary Light photo gallery, which opened along the #1 Highway in Fleming on May 20.

Below: Brent Parkin took this photo of Fleming’s historic grain elevator shortly before it burned down. Parkin is donating a share of the sales of prints of the photo to the Fleming Historical Society, which plans to move in another elevator.

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Visualizing musical vibrations

As the classic Disney animated film Fantasia opens, a symphony orchestra starts to play, and the music emerging from the instruments becomes visible as blasts of color and dancing shapes.

In real life, alas, music is primarily an auditory rather than visual experience. Although there is certainly interest to be had in watching a musician live (and, as I wrote recently, what we see may even influence our impression of the sounds produced, at least when it comes to percussionists), we're generally able to enjoy music just fine, and sometimes better, without any visual component at all: hence the people you see closing their eyes at symphonies. (Not the snoring ones, the other ones.)

But a number of researchers have found ways to make music visible—perhaps not quite in Disney fashion, but in a fascinating way all the same.

Chief among these is Bernard Richardson of the School of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff University in Wales.

For many years, the school's "acoustic group" has used a technique called "holographic interferometry" to study the vibrations of musical instruments. These vibrations are tiny: on the order of a micron (one thousandth of a millimeter). A hologram is a record of a light field, the light bouncing off of an object in all directions, created using a laser. A hologram allows the light field to be reconstructed so that the eye sees the object, apparently in three dimensions, even when the object itself is no longer present.

Holographic interferometry as applied to musical instruments involves creating a holographic record of the light bouncing off the vibrating instrument using a laser beam that has been split into an illuminating beam and a reference beam. The areas that vibrate the most show up as patterns of interference, basically dark bands on the image.

The results are both beautiful and informative. As Richardson puts it, "Guitar-making is a compromise between stiffness and flexibility. The struts on the



Edward Willett

underside of the soundboard help to create a lightweight but strong plate which creates lots of sound in response to the vibrations of the strings. At low frequencies, the guitar plate moves back and forth not unlike the piston of a loudspeaker."

In the holographic images, at low frequencies (low pitch) there's a bright line near the ribs: that's a "nodal," or non-moving, line. This mode of vibration, Richardson says, creates large volume changes in the air and thus produces a lot of sound.

At higher pitches the plate of the soundboard divides into distinct patches separated by nodal lines. Not as much sound radiates from these modes, but they color the sound: and since these patterns are different for different instruments, the shape of these patterns is a visual representation of the unique voices of various stringed instruments.

As the frequency continues to increase, the vibrating patches between the nodal lines get smaller and smaller. "Studies of these vibrations and the way they convey energy of the vibrating strings as sound to the listener can assist makers to 'fine tune' the tone quality of their instruments," Richardson comments.

But it's not just string instruments whose sound can be visualized. I played various brass instruments in high school: primarily trumpet and French horn, but I tried my hand at everything at one point or another, including trombone...which was why a story headlined "Shock wave from trombone filmed" on the BBC News website caught my eye.

Back in 1995 Mico Hirschberg of the Eindhoven Uni-

versity of Technology posited the notion that trombones are capable of producing intense pressure waves that could even briefly exceed the speed of sound. Now Kazuyoshi Takayama and Kiyonobu Ohtani from Tohoku University's Institute of Fluid Science have confirmed that idea: not only that, they've captured it visually.

They used a technique called schlieren photography that can image variations in the refractive index (the speed of light in a given medium) in air. Shock waves create a stark, sudden change in the refractive index . . . and sure enough, in their video (which looks rather romantic, actually, since it's of a trombone playing in front of a big round white background that looks like the full moon), you can see curved shock waves issuing forth from the instrument's bell.

The researchers measured the pressure at the instrument's mouthpiece, in the middle of its length, and at the output, and discovered that a train of compression waves built up through the trombone's length, emerging from the bell as shock waves that travelled, briefly at about one percent above the speed of sound.

Such shock waves presumably issue from the bells of other brass instruments, too, especially trumpets . . .

Just as in Fantasia. I always heard that film was "ahead of its time." Guess this is the proof!

Edward Willett is an award-winning writer of fiction and non-fiction from Regina.

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Grudgingly becoming our parents



Cristalee Froese

Slowly it's been happening. Despite every effort to resist the slow descent into this terrifying state, it is clear that I am well on my way. I've tried remaining young at heart to prevent it. I've tried acting like a teenager (even going so far as to put my hair in ponytails and don pajama pants for daytime wear to prove it). But despite every effort to slow the aging process and stop myself from turning into my parents, it's happening anyway.

There have been little signs along the way—small flashes of days gone by that have put fear into my heart and transported me directly back to 1979.

"Turn that music down," was one of the first thoughts that crept into my head a while ago, but I refused to say it out loud, as not only would my teenage son realize I was getting old, but I would have to come to terms with the fact that I was quoting phrases used by my very own parents.

"Put your dishes in the sink," was another one I've avoided saying. I can hear my poor mother lamenting, "how many times do I have to tell you?" in regard to my habit of collecting dishes in my room and in the basement rumpus room. That's another phrase I've been able to prevent from coming out of my mouth, but only by biting my tongue (literally).

I've vowed on several occasions never to become "parental" in my disposition, preferring to be "cool" around the kids who come over and striving to stay "hip to the scene." (Using the term "hip" in itself should have told

me that I was indeed quickly regressing into "outdated parent" territory).

Last week, it became official. With the uttering of one phrase, my entire youth flashed before my eyes in slow motion and the world came to a standstill in the middle of our outdated kitchen, as I realized that both my husband and I had turned into our parents.

It happened on a sunny spring Saturday as the neighborhood kids merrily made our home their home. We love the activity that follows teenagers around, so we've tried to be as open-minded as possible to the comings and goings of the Grade 8ers who frequent our '70s-themed basement.

Up and down the stairs, across the orange and brown carpet, they stomp the day away, carting gaming systems up and cords down and videos here and air soft guns there. Out to the street they head, onto the trampoline they go, then back down the stairs they stomp to spend the evening living like bats in the basement cave.

We were largely ignoring all of this to-and-fro activity

when it happened.

My husband noticed that the outside door had been left wide open.

Before I could stop him, and before he could stop himself, the dreaded words spilled from his mouth and the collective consciousness of the universe seemed to scream in slow motion, "ooooohhh nnnooooo . . . you've just turned into your parents."

Under his breath, my husband uttered, "Did they grow up in a barn?"

Oh yes he did. He said it quietly, but it was definitely audible. And if we hadn't realized how old we were before, in that moment, he instantaneously morphed into his dad and I transformed into my mom as I eagerly agreed that they all must have been born in barns.

Now, if phrases like, "if this room isn't cleaned by the time I get home," or "that's the last time I'm going to warn you" don't make you feel old, then any reference to barns and growing up in them most certainly will.

Slowly it's been happening.

And now it's official—we've turned into our parents!

Cristalee Froese welcomes comments at Lcfroese@sasktel.net or visit www.westwords.net.

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STK#R2627, 5.4L V8, auto., silver, 71,487 km, 60th Anniversary Edition, centre floor console, p.w., keyless entry, fog ctrl., air, tilt, variably intermittent wipers, fog lamps, trailer tow, captain's chairs, p. adj. pedals, p. driver seat, p. moonroof, p. sliding rear window, ABS.

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2007 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR ULTIMATE
STK#4624B, 5.4L V8 cyl., auto., white, 132,165 kms, air, alloy wheels, ABS, backup sensor, CD, climate cont., console, cruise, ventilated front seats, leather upholstery, pedal memory, remote keyless entry, power steering, p. brakes, locks, lift gates, mirrors, seat, steering, sunroof, premium appearance pkg., adj. pedals, reverse sensing system, electronic stability, ABS, traction cont.

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2010 FORD F-150 XLT XTR SUPER CAB
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2008 FORD F-150 LARIAT 4X4 SUPER CREW
STK#4610A, 5.4L V8, automatic, stone, 51,162 kms, 4th door, air, alloy wheels, ABS, backup sensor, bucket seats, CD, cruise, intermittent wipers, keyless entry, leather int., power brakes, locks, mirrors, seat, steering, windows, running boards, sunroof, tilt, tow package.

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2010 FORD F-150 XLT XTR 4X4 SUPER CREW
STK#R2626, V8 5.4L, auto., grey, 18,810 kms, air, CD player, cruise, curb side mirrors, fog lights, intermittent wipers, keyless entry, power brakes, locks, mirrors, seat, steering, windows, satellite radio, tilt, tow package.

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2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL AWD
STK#R2617A, V6 3.6L, auto., gold, 90,900 km, 7 pass., air, ABS, buckets, CD, console, cruise, fog lights, int. wipers, keyless entry, leather int., p. brakes, locks, mirrors, seat, steering, windows, tilt, tow pkg., traction control system.

\$33,995



2010 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS AWD
STK#4623A, V6 3.6L, auto., grey, 21,720 kms, 3rd row seating, air, ABS, bucket seats, CD player, cruise, int. wipers, keyless entry, Onstar, power brakes, locks, mirrors, steering, remote start, tilt, traction control system.

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2009 FORD F350 XLT CREW CAB
STK#4622A, 6.4L V8 cyl., white, 65,810 kms, adj. gas & brake pedals, camper pkg., cruise, heavy service suspension pkg., CD, p. windows, remote keyless entry, speed cont., air, p. code remote start system, p. locks, steering, windows, hydro-boost brakes, CD/MP3 player, ABS brakes, security system.

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\$41,995



2009 FORD F350 LARIAT CREW CAB
STK#4623A, 6.4L V8 cyl., automatic, dark green, 38,700 kms, alloy wheels, ABS, backup sensor, camper pkg., climate cont., console, cruise, fog lights, int. wipers, leather upholstery, pedal memory, remote keyless entry, speed cont., captain's chairs, remote start, rearview camera, tow pkg., traction cont., ABS brakes.

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Fairway Sales

Virden:

Andrew Agencies

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Rocanville:

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27 of 34 Upcoming Summer 2011 Auctions

Scott, Lena & Ken Thatcher
St. Albert, AB June 4 – 11 am
Scott Thatcher: 780.445.9788
Ritchie Bros. Managers – Ryan Eacrett: 780.619.3319 or Jerry Hodge: 780.706.6652



Dennis & Theresa Danroth
Beaverlodge, AB June 4 – 11 am
Dennis Danroth: 780.354.2104 (h), 780.933.4085 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Mike Slen: 780.518.6249



Glenn & Louise Mitchell
Avonhurst, AB June 6 – 10 am
Louise Mitchell: 306.771.2802 (h), 306.530.6770 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



Cliff Roberts
Rockglen, SK June 8 – 10 am
Cliff Roberts: 306.476.2505
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



Duckworth Bros.
Courval, SK June 9 – 10 am
Dale Duckworth: 306.354.2311 Robert Duckworth: 306.693.3415 David Duckworth: 306.394.2145
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



Fischer Farms - Jim & George Fischer
Plamondon, AB June 10 – 11 am
Jim Fischer: 780.798.2126 (h), 780.623.8637 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Managers – Ryan Eacrett: 780.619.3319 or Jerry Hodge: 780.706.6652



Mac & Jane Taylor
Dawson Creek, BC June 10 – 10 am
Mac Taylor: 250.843.9997
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Doug Vreeling: 780.836.5536



Estate of Robert Karst
St. Victor, SK June 10 – 10 am
Joanna Croissant: 306.692.1844 or Jim Willis: 306.642.5712
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



John & Wanda Halerewich
Grimshaw, AB June 11 – 11 am
Wanda Halerewich: 780.332.4923
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Doug Vreeling: 780.836.5536



Estate of Harvey Federspiel
Stalwart, SK June 11 – 10 am
Brad Federspiel: 306.230.9849
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Jon Schultz: 306.291.6697



Dan & Val Gorniak
Montmartre, SK June 13 – 10 am
Dan Gorniak: 306.698.2366 (h), 306.697.7904 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



Ken & Leonor MacPherson
McLean, SK June 14 – 10 am
Ken MacPherson: 306.699.2512 (h), 306.699.7675 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



South Country Equipment
Used Inventory Reduction
Regina, SK
June 18, 2011 - 10 am

Lethbridge Auction Site
June 21, 2011 - 10 am

Saskatoon Auction Site
June 23, 2011 - 8 am
Includes— 10 Lake Front & 13 Lake View Homesite Acreages at Katepwa Lake, SK (Sweetgrass Ridge)

Regina Auction Site
July 13, 2011 - 9 am

Vanya Glessing & Estate of Dusty Hill
High Level, AB June 17 – 10 am
Vanya Glessing: 780.926.2432
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Doug Vreeling: 780.836.5536



George & Jeanette Cygan
Warburg, AB June 18 – 9:30 am
George or Jeanette Cygan: 780.848.2592
Ritchie Bros. Managers – Ryan Eacrett: 780.619.3319 or Jerry Hodge: 780.706.6652



Bill & Lorraine Gaugler
Hawk Hills, AB June 18 – 11 am
Bill Gaugler: 780.836.3652
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Doug Vreeling: 780.836.5536



Schell Farms Ltd.
Lampman, SK June 20 – 10 am
David Schell: 306.487.2752 (h) 306.487.7419 (c)
Michael Schell: 306.487.2817 (h) 306.487.7819 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



Rob Morrow
Weyburn, SK June 21 – 11 am
Rob Morrow: 403.862.9740, morrow414@hotmail.com
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



Tom & Jean Sideroff
Hines Creek, AB June 24 – 11 am
Greg Sideroff: 780.835.5634
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Doug Vreeling: 780.836.5536



Ron & Eva Swanson
Rocanville, SK June 27 – 10 am
Ron Swanson: 306.643.4814 (h), 306.435.9350 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



John & Agnes Boutin
Langbank, SK June 28 – 11 am
John Boutin: 306.583.4527 (h), 306.735.7990 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



Benson, SK Public Auction
July 6 – 10 am
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Estevan Office: 306.634.9909
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darryl Martin: 306.421.5066



John & Martha Kraus
Muenster, SK July 19 – 10 am
John Kraus: 306.366.4701 (h), 306.231.8129 (c)
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Dan Steen: 306.361.6154



YT Bar Ranch Inc.
Consort, AB July 14 – 11 am
Jean Jones: 780.857.2128
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Cody Rude: 780.722.9777



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Taylor Bendig photo

How many generations does it take to change a tire?

Al Jaenen (right), his son Leonard, and his grandson Andy made a family affair of changing a flat tire on their cultivator on their farm near Fairlight. Though he doesn't typically cultivate in the spring, Al hoped the machine would help dry some of his 5,500 acres enough to get seed in the ground.

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Men (and women) at work

Left: Contractors work on the roof of the Elkhorn Development Corporation's 12th house. Next door, number 13 also awaits completion.

Bottom Left: Project manager Jolene Toder stands in front of the Elkhorn Development Corporation's ninth house, which is being shown to prospective buyers as its interior work is completed.

Bottom Right: From Left: local builder Mike Remple and his apprentices Erin Lewis and Tanner Watson work on the foundation of the Elkhorn Development Corporation's 14th house, which will be a 1130-square foot bi-level.

Taylor Bendig Photos



New homes revitalize village of Elkhorn

BY TAYLOR BENDIG
 Jolene Toder doesn't mince words when discussing the state her town was in a few years ago. "Elkhorn) was filled with abandoned houses," she said. "Nobody new was coming to town. We were losing kids from our school and losing kids from our hockey rink." Part of the problem, Toder and several other residents realized, was that those who wanted to own a home in Elkhorn usually faced two unattractive choices: buy a run-down old house, or build a new one for a cost that was so high new construction had stopped entirely. Wanting to create a third option, they pooled their time and money to create the Elkhorn Development Corporation (EDC), a non-profit group that bought up lots throughout the town with the intention of having houses built on them and then selling them at cost. The corporation was designed to keep costs low—funding came from local investors who

would receive only a tiny dividend, and a volunteer board was formed to oversee the process. Skepticism was high when the EDC started work on their first house, says Toder, who has become the group's project manager. "Nobody thought in a million years that we'd sell it," she said. And there was good reason to doubt: property values in Elkhorn were low, and it was a rare feat to sell a home for over \$100,000. To avoid taking a loss, the EDC needed to recoup the roughly \$140,000 they had spent on construction. As it turned out, selling the house proved almost two easy. The EDC's first house sold before construction was even completed, as did the next 10 homes they finished. Soon the skepticism turned to demand for more and different houses to be built, and the group switched from building small, accessible seniors' houses to larger family homes. Things moved quickly from there on in, and the

EDC now has its 12th, 13th, and 14th houses under construction. And in a town of less than 500, those who've already moved into the finished houses have made a significant impact on the size of the community. Toder is proud that the new houses have created a space for Elkhorn residents who had moved away to return now that the mining, oil and construction industries are hiring. Those returning residents include 20-year-old Colin Paull, who has come back from playing junior hockey in Dauphin, Manitoba to run his own oilfield contracting business. "Elkhorn's my hometown—I'll always live here," says Paull. But he's glad that the two-bedroom EDC home he bought in early March gave him a much better place to live than what was otherwise available. "There were older houses, but they were all overpriced compared to this one," he said. "It was either a new house, or a 100-year-

old house redone to look new." The EDC's work has had a positive effect on more than just the home buyers, though, said Elkhorn mayor Roland Gagnon. "It changes the whole outlook of the community and the town, and kind of brings everybody's spirits up when they see the growth of the town," he said, adding that property values have been rising along with local spirits. As the EDC puts up modern, high-quality homes, often bulldozing abandoned houses in the process, other homeowners in Elkhorn starting to improve their own property in response, said Toder. "It's always what the neighbor does, you do," she said. "There are quite a few big renovations going on now." With so much success behind it—enough that other towns are beginning to ask about their methods—the EDC has no plans to stop anytime soon, says Toder. They're even considering

putting in some rental accommodations or a town office in the future. And as the development picks up momentum, Gagnon is thinking of arranging a public gathering to discuss what kind of housing and infrastructure Elkhorn's residents want most. "We'll just keep going until we fill the town, I guess," said Toder. "Whatever people need, we'll build."

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