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Chinese Lion Dance set for Living Skies Come Alive
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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba
June 2017 • Volume 10, Number 6



Kim Poole photo



Above, New Zealand ball players perform the Haka before a game in Fleming.

At left, a scene from the 2016 Moosomin Rodeo

Below, Elkhorn's Canada Day Parade in 2016



Event filled summer in SE Sask SW Manitoba

It's going to be a busy summer! There are a ton of events to take in this summer in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba. Here are a few events to consider when making your summer plans:

- On June 23 and 24 is the fifth annual George Engle Memorial Invitational Fastball Tournament featuring the Fleming Jets taking on the New Zealand under 19 team in a double header on the Friday night and a full tournament on Saturday. The fact that Fleming is taking on New Zealand is one of those quirky things that makes this area great. Head on out to see some great fastball.

- July 1 will be Elkhorn's annual Canada Day festivities, including a pancake breakfast, parade and Museum Day. This is always a great community day with events for all ages!

- July 1 will also be the Canada 150 celebration in Redvers. Saturday's events will include a pancake breakfast, slow pitch tournament, bouncy castles, beer gardens, a Canada 150 art display, a pig roast catered by P&A Meats, and more!

- July 3-7 Welwyn Regional Park will host its annual week of swimming lessons at Welwyn Lake. Welwyn Lake is a beautiful little spot just north of the village of Welwyn and is very busy during swimming lessons.

- July 7 and 8 will be the annual Moosomin Rodeo featuring MRCA and CCA rodeo action both Friday and Saturday. The annual Chamber of Commerce parade will go on the Saturday morning.

- July 6, 7, 8, and 9 will be Moosomin's reunion and homecoming weekend. Rec Director Mike Schween has a full program planned for the Thursday night, which will be the opening of the Tim Hortons Eventplex at Bradley Park. The reunion will go all weekend. The international community will put on a multicultural lunch on the Saturday. It should be a great weekend!

- July 7, 8, and 9 will be the All Folk'd Up music festival in Montmartre, Sask. This annual festival is held at Kemoca Regional Park and features three days of music, food, a kids stage and shopping. Some of the big artists this year include the Hunter Brothers, Brad Johner and the Johner Boys, The Dead South, Andino Suns, Desert Island Classic and Nuela Charles.

Continued on Page 9

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Fairlight pumpkin growing contest

Growers get ready for another season of giant pumpkins

BY DONNA BEUTLER

What began in 1999 as a fundraiser for the community of Fairlight has become a growing phenomenon—a pumpkin growing phenomenon, that is. 2017 marks the 18th year for the Fairlight Rec Board with their annual Pumpkin Growing Contest, a contest that sees about 25 growers competing against each other to see just who can grow the biggest pumpkin.

Organizer Brad Metz says the money raised helps keep Fairlight's community hall and Drop-In Centre going, something that is good for the community and something that draws its residents together for a common cause.

"We hold a steak supper and Calcutta in June and then do a weigh-in event in October," Metz says. "The Calcutta is the biggest thing for our fundraiser. There is a 50 percent payout so the top six Calcutta winners get a prize and we (the Rec Board) keep the rest."

Bryson Melnick of Virden is an avid gardener who has been a contest participant for the past 10 years. Melnick starts his pumpkins in his greenhouse, eventually planting two plants in his garden where he allows just one pumpkin per plant to grow.

"They take a lot of water and a lot of fertilizer," Melnick said. "Lots of beer, too," he added with a laugh, "while you sit and watch them grow." And growing is exactly what Melnick's pumpkins are doing again this year because he has every intention of entering the 2017 contest.

Of course there's more to growing pumpkins than water and fertilizer. These prize pumpkins need protection from the wind and the sun so they don't ripen too soon and if by chance a storm rolls in and there is the threat of hail, Melnick makes sure his pumpkins are covered and protected from the elements. Melnick's biggest pumpkin weighed in at 550 pounds.

Melnick says he got involved in Fairlight's fundraiser after hearing about it from a co-worker and he says he is glad he did. For Melnick, it's not about winning, though he has grown the biggest pumpkin two or three times in the past 10 years and in fact has placed in the top three every year since he began entering the contest. It's more about the fun and the good people of Fairlight and their



A giant pumpkin is hauled in by eight people during the weigh-in last year.

fundraising efforts.

"It's interesting to see who wants to pay \$1,000 for a pumpkin," Melnick said of the Calcutta. "It's a lot of fun, competing against other growers. In the end, I give the pumpkins away to someone who wants to make a jack-o-lantern—big one!" The fruit of these monster pumpkins is not sweet enough to be edible.

Morten Jensen of Fairlight is also a pumpkin grower of the large variety kind. He's been growing pumpkins for about four years now and last year he grew the largest pumpkin in the contest—an 800-lb one!

In a telephone interview last week, Jensen talked about the event and how great it's been for the community.

"Getting people involved and coming out and having some fun, as well as benefiting the community of Fairlight is what it's all about," Jensen said of the fundraiser and the reason he supports it.

As for what it takes to become a giant pumpkin grower, Jensen said it doesn't take a lot of smarts, just some poor luck. With an 800-pounder last year, most people would likely think it takes a whole lot more than luck of any kind.

"I grow two plants, one fruit on each," Jensen said. "I

provide water, shelter, shade and fertilizer. Too much sun bakes them and they crack," he adds. Jensen doesn't consider himself a gardener really, saying he just "isn't super into it," but he does grow potatoes, tomatoes, peas and raspberries.

Of course, 'gardener' is a relative term for Jensen, as he is a grain farmer with 28 years of experience in Canada growing canola, wheat and barley. Originally from Denmark, this farmer fell in love with North America after a stint as an exchange student in Montana.

The June 17 event in Fairlight, Jensen explained, gives people a chance to bid on about 20 growers and pay big money for a pumpkin. "It's a great celebration, with another one in October at weigh-in time," Jensen said.

"It's all in fun and there are lots of laughs," he said of the event, one that he is looking forward to competing in again this year.

This year's event will also be Fairlight's celebration of Canada's 150th birthday and the organizing committee has added some extras to their fundraiser with fireworks, a bouncy castle and birthday cake, as well as their usual fundraiser supper which offers a choice of steak or hamburger and all the trimmings. Pumpkin entries can be made by contacting Fairlight's Brad Metz and paying the \$5 entry fee at the fundraiser event.



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Cst. Trina Brace of the Moosomin RCMP was handing out positive tickets to local children. When students are spotted doing something positive such as riding their bikes safely, they are given a positive ticket. Thanks to the support of the local business community, children are rewarded with treats when receiving positive tickets.

Kids getting 'positive tickets' for safe biking

BY KARA KINNA
This summer, children in the Moosomin RCMP detachment area are at risk of getting ticketed, but it won't be for doing something wrong.

Instead it will be for doing something right.

A number of people in local communities—including RCMP officers, EMS or firefighters, town employees, and even library staff—will be handing out "positive tickets" to children for practicing safe biking. Once children receive a ticket, they can cash those tickets in for treats at a number of local businesses.

Moosomin RCMP Cst. Trina Brace says the positive ticket idea came about as a way to measure the success of the safety messages shared in a number of bike rodeos held at local schools in May.

"I'm just amazed at how the community worked together. Hopefully we can encourage the businesses to give donations for the positive ticketing because that is a big part of it. It's a program we are going to continue through the summer," says Brace.

"SGI has community grants you can apply for, for safety initiatives in your community. I thought it would be really cool if we could apply for one of the community grants to purchase helmets for the bike rodeo. We were fortunate enough to be one of the organizations chosen. I sent the application in on behalf of the school community councils for all four of the schools in our area.

"With the help of the school community councils in each of the schools we did this grant application and we got

\$500 to put toward helmets. So we purchased a bunch of helmets for the kids. We ended up being able to buy some helmets to kids that didn't have them."

Brace says one of the requirements of the grant application is showing SGI how effectively the safety message is working.

"One of the ways for me to be able to assess the success of the bike rodeo is by giving out positive tickets," says Brace. "Whenever the people who have the tickets see the kids wearing their helmets or using safe biking skills they can give the kids a ticket. We got donations of coupons from local businesses for treats. The kids can go and cash those tickets in for their treats."

Brace says the initiative seems to be working.

"I have been hearing from lots of people that their kids are so excited to get caught so that they can get ticketed."

"In September I will meet with the schools again and talk to the kids about how their summer went and I will collect all the tickets that haven't been handed out, and that's how I will give my feedback back to the SGI grant people."

What kind of safe biking skills can get a ticket?

"Wearing their helmets and using their safe biking skills they used at the bike rodeo," says Brace. "If they are using their hand signals or they are stopping and looking at the traffic before they cross the street, just things like that where they are being courteous of other pedestrians or cyclists on the road."

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Scenes from Living Skies Come Alive at Moosomin Regional Park in 2016

Kim Poole photo

Canada versus China at International fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake on August Long

Living Skies Come Alive goes international

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Every August long weekend, the skies come alive over Moosomin Lake. For the last several years the Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition has pitted two fireworks companies against one another.

Each puts on their best show—one on Saturday night, one on Sunday night—and a panel of judges selects the winner.

The fireworks shows are unlike anything else on the Prairies. Timed to music, carefully choreographed, the fireworks shows are a different calibre than anything else on the Prairies.

The fireworks weekend has grown over the years, with thousands of people taking in the shows each night.

The competition will take on an international flavor for the first time this year, with Canada taking on China in the first international fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake.

The fireworks competition is planned for Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6 at Moosomin Regional Park. CanFire Pyrotechnics from Winnipeg will do the show Saturday night, and FireShow from China will do the show on Sunday night—a show that will include some fireworks that have never been seen before in Canada.

Taking it to the next level

Layne McFarlane and Laurie Renneberg of the fireworks committee at Moosomin Regional Park said they are happy with how the weekend has grown over the years, but they're expecting this year's fireworks shows to move the fireworks competition to the next level.

"Each year we try to improve it and make the show better and different, with the belief that if you leave it the same you lose the attractiveness," said McFarlane. "Last year was the first year we brought in entertainment to fill in the interval between supper and when the fireworks start. We had Eli Barsi and Amy Nelson last year and this year it will be Stuck on Red on the Saturday and the Back 40 Drifters on Sunday night."

Renneberg explains that CanFire Pyrotechnics of Winnipeg, a competitor in the Fireworks competition for the last several years, brought up the idea of bringing a competitor from China and offered to help with the logistics and government permission to get container loads of fireworks and the competitors from China to Moosomin Lake.

"I think it's going to be a very different show," she said. "CanFire says it will be unlike anything we have seen before. I think it is going to be phenomenal."

Show an annual event for many

McFarlane says many people return to the fireworks competition year after year.

"One year I walked from camper to camper visiting with people, and the story I heard from person after person was that they came three or four years ago for the day and watched it, and have come back every year since. They enjoy the show, they enjoy the park, and they want to be here. They have a



The Chinese Cultural Society of Saskatchewan is bringing a traditional Chinese Lion Dance to Moosomin Lake for the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition. The Lion Dance will be held before China's fireworks show Sunday, August 6.

camper, they have friends with them under the canopy and they are just visiting and enjoying themselves."

Renneberg said people come from a huge area to see the fireworks shows.

"They come from B.C., and from the States so it's getting to be known out there," Renneberg said. "Camping wise, people just used to come for four days, now they are coming for a week."

Thousands of spectators

The event brings in between 6,000 and 7,000 people each year. Last year there was a paid attendance of 7,153 over the weekend, and the committee hopes the international angle will attract more people this year.

It takes a lot of work to put on the fireworks show, with 75-100 volunteers involved each night. "If anyone wants to volunteer even an hour or two, it certainly helps," said Renneberg. "It doesn't take much and it's not hard work. Volunteers can sign up at a volunteer sheet at the store or call the park and give their name on the answering machine or to the staff."

McFarlane says he hopes some people

who have never seen the fireworks competition before take in this year's shows.

"Moosomin Lake provides a unique opportunity to set the fireworks over the lake," he said.

"You have the reflection of the water and the sound ricochets off the banks as the fireworks go off. It happens to be a great place to do it. It's always been a great place to see fireworks, it's always been a great weekend, and for anyone who hasn't seen it before, this is the year to see it, with China coming."

Renneberg says she expects the international component will attract more people.

"Even before they committed we had interest from people asking where they can get tickets," she said. "It's always been good, but it should be amazing this year."

Chinese competitors should step it up a notch

Peter Palmer of CanFire Pyrotechnics of Winnipeg has been competing in Living Skies Come Alive for several years, and helped arrange for his Chinese competitor to take part in Living Skies Come Alive this year.

"We have an office in China and we have gone to a lot of shows in China, where there are both international and regional shows," he said.

"Liuyang is the hub of fireworks for the world. Michael Lee and Fireshow were doing a show that was a cut above the rest. They were pushing the envelope for their shows. For one show they were using eight aerial drones with fireworks. Their level of expertise is quite complex."

He said a lot of work has gone into bringing the Chinese group to Canada for the fireworks competition.

"We have been working on it for months," he said. "We have to get them Canadian visas. We made a contract and had to translate parts of contract into Chinese for them. With China anything is possible but nothing is easy."

Palmer believes the fireworks this summer will be a level higher than last year.

"It's definitely going to be going up a notch," he said. "They are going to step it up. They are going to bring their A game and we are going to bring ours—we have to."

"In fireworks competitions you don't get a second chance to repeat what you are doing. You only have one chance to get it right. That is part of the pressure for any competitor, us included."

He said Fireshow will be bringing fireworks from China that have never before been seen in Canada.

Chinese company bringing fireworks that are new to Canada

"Moosomin wanted something special this year for Canada 150, and this will be special. The products they are bringing from China will include some things people have never seen before in Canada," Palmer said.

"I believe we are going to see a product they call ghost shells in the show which are not available in Canada.

"The ghost shell looks like it is revolving and is changing colors. It will change colors in a rotating motion as it expands and opens, creating the effect of 3D motion. There's nothing like it—you really have to see it."

"Seeing the work that Fireshow does and their level of commitment and passion, I think they're a good fit with what we want to see."

"They're going to be a tough competitor, and whether we win or lose, the end winner is going to be the audience at Moosomin Regional Park."

Chinese Cultural Society brings traditional Chinese Lion Dance to Moosomin Regional Park

On Sunday, August 6, at 7 pm, before China's fireworks show, the Chinese Cultural Society of Saskatchewan will present a traditional Chinese Lion Dance. Two groups of dancers in two lion costumes will be involved. See page 25 for more.



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Event filled summer in SE Sask SW Manitoba

Continued from front

July 21-23 will be the 85th annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy. This is a massive event with a lot of pro cowboys who have competed at the Calgary Stampede.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6 will be the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition. Canada will take on China in the first international version of the fireworks competition. See Page 7 for details.

The Wawota Valley Ranch Rodeo will take place August 4-6. This was a new event last year, and the little valley just north of Wawota is a beautiful setting for the ranch rodeo!

The Elkhorn Elks Western Days are set for August 5 and 6, featuring chariot and chuckwagon races. It's always a great weekend!

Friday and Saturday, August 11 and 12, the community of McAuley is putting on the McAuley Hoedown. This will feature a ranch rodeo on Friday, slow pitch, suppers by the McAuley Country Cafe both nights, a lunch by the McAuley Fire Department, a pancake breakfast put on by the RM of Archie-Ellice, and of course a social on the Saturday night!

The Spy Hill Sports Days is set for August 12, and 13, and will be expanding this year from chariot and chuckwagon races, baseball and slo-pitch to include a full MRCA two day rodeo. There will calf roping, saddle bronc, bareback, steer wrestling, barrel racing, team roping and bull riding, junior steer riding and junior girls barrel racing.

August 7-18 will be the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party music camp. There are a lot of very talented musicians in southeast Saskatchewan, and many of them get together

at Kenosee Lake for two one-week sessions to teach, learn, jam, and perform. It's a unique event, wrapping up with a final concert at the conclusion of each week, Friday, August 11, and Friday August 18.

August 17-20, the 981 Predators and the Town of Moosomin are hosting the 2017 Senior Men's and Ladies' Western Canadian Fastball Championships at Bradley Park. The Moosomin Elks Club, the Moosomin Moose Fraternity and the Moosomin Kinsmen Club have made huge improvements to three diamonds at Bradley Park, giving Moosomin a facility that can host Western Canadians.

On Saturday, September 16, there will be Rocanville's annual museum day, featuring a pancake breakfast, flour milling, oat rolling, music, hay rides, and a threshing demonstration.

Get out and enjoy this beautiful summer!

South East Cornerstone proposes bare bones budget

Dealing with the still new realities of receding provincial finances, the South East Cornerstone Public School Division has sent a bare bones 2017-18 budget proposal to the offices of the Minister of Education for approval.

The division that serves the southeast region in Saskatchewan, employs approximately 1,040 people, including 550 educators, and caters to nearly 8,200 students in pre-kindergarten to high school programs in 38 facilities.

Shelley Toth, the division's business and financial manager, presented the pared down budget for final approval from the board members at their May 18 general meeting in Weyburn before filing it with the Ministry.

Toth said the operating expenditures in the next fiscal year are expected to be \$102.9 million with revenue of \$100.7 million.

Capital expenditures, including the decommissioning of the former junior high school in Weyburn and planning for a new elementary school in that city, will come in at \$5.2 million.

"When converted to a cash basis, the result of this budget is an operating cash deficit of \$1.2 million," Toth said in her report.

South East Cornerstone has witnessed a decrease in provincial funding of three per cent for the upcoming fiscal year that follows hard on the heels of the 2.1 per cent decrease the division had to cope with in 2016-17.

Toth noted that due to changes in the way tax revenues will now be collected and submitted to school divisions, there will be a reduction in administration expenses.

The Ministry of Education grants to Cornerstone will amount to about \$70.4



South East Cornerstone has witnessed a decrease in provincial funding of three per cent.

million according to the figures provided for the 2017-18 budget. Property tax revenue will be \$21 million and school generated funds will bring in another \$2.9 million while \$1.4 million will be realized through tuition fees and other sources. Other grants, sales and rentals (including cafeterias), interest and royalty and other sources will bring in a further \$1.6 million (approximately).

The two Weyburn projects will eat up about \$1.6 million from the capital project fund in the coming year with \$1.3 million of that coming from the provincial coffers. The shortage of about \$300,000 will be covered through the division's accumulated surplus.

The overall operating expenditures of \$102.9 million represents a decrease of \$4.5 million or 4.2 per cent from the prior

year's budget and a decrease of \$1.1 million or one per cent from the actual 2015-16 expenditures.

As usual, salaries and benefits will eat up most of the budget at \$74.6 million. That will be a decrease of \$2.6 million or 3.3 per cent compared with the previous budget.

Money spent on goods and services will be reduced by \$1.4 million to \$20.7 million. This represents a decrease of 6.5 per cent.

Servicing debt will take up another \$757,000.

Cornerstone will have 550.85 full time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions in the next academic year, which represents a decrease of 9.15 from the previous year. Those decreases were accomplished through attrition.

There are about 482 non-teaching FTE

positions in the public system, a decrease of just over 24 from the prior year.

Cuts were realized in the senior leadership group (1); division office support staff (0.75); accounts payable (1); instructional support (0.75); transportation and facilities management (1); educational assistants (8.37) and counsellors (1.5).

Other reductions in staffing were witnessed in the speech language sector where 5.67 assistants were laid off and caretaking staff numbers were reduced by three FTE through attrition. Community education liaisons were also reduced by one FTE across the division.

New government-imposed restrictions on school divisions in terms of governance expenditures, total salaries and facility maintenance (minimums) have been met by Cornerstone in the proposed budget she had

submitted, said Toth.

Besides the Weyburn projects, the other major capital purchases in the coming year's budget will include partial roof replacements at six schools, the purchase of five school buses (\$575,000); computer hardware and audio-video equipment (\$1.43 million), furniture and equipment (\$96,000) and phone system upgrades at Carnduff and Pleasantdale School in Estevan.

"We've had a good look at this budget for some time now and have done what we can to meet the obligations," said chairwoman Audrey Trombley in calling for a motion of acceptance which would allow Toth to forward the budget to the Education Ministry for approval.

The motion was passed unanimously without further comment.

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The Wawota Pats of 1970 were Saskatchewan provincial champions. The Wawota Pats will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame this summer.

Wawota Pats to be inducted into Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame

The Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Association is proud to announce the selection of the Wawota Pats Baseball Team to be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame, Team Category, Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Battlford, Saskatchewan.

The community of Wawota has had senior level

baseball since 1915 with the exception of the war years. The team had many players over the years, with their most successful years found competing in many tournaments in three different senior leagues. Often the team would play in two tournaments a week, usually in Southeast Saskatchewan and Western Manitoba. Their best

season showed a record of winning 44 games with six losses. At one point they won five consecutive tournaments.

The Wawota Pats Baseball Team was formed in 1951 and has played continuously until the present time. Currently they play in a nine team Southeast Senior League.

The Late Lyle Weatherald, who was the first coach of the Pats, continued coaching the team for the next 20 years. The first players were Bantam and Midget age but competed

in the senior category. For the past 65 years the Pats have competed in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota, being one of the most competitive teams for the majority of these years.

The Wawota Pats were the 1970 Saskatchewan Provincial Champions, at a time when all senior teams competed in one category, with the exception of the Northern and Southern Saskatchewan Leagues that hired players. Baseball at that time drew big crowds, with one tourna-

ment in the small community of Bellegarde drawing 23 senior teams playing on three baseball diamonds. The Pats were in the final game with the game having to be called for darkness in a 0-0 tie!

During the years 1952 to 2015, Pats players and players from a second Wawota senior team combined to make a team that competed for Wawota. Their successes included the Wawota Pats winning the 1970 Saskatchewan Provincial

Senior Championship; the Wawota Cardinals winning the 1972 Saskatchewan Intermediate Championship; the 1995 Provincial Senior AA Championship and the Western Canadian Silver Medal, and in 2005, the Pats were the Saskatchewan Senior A Champions.

Several members of the Wawota Pats have also played on Wawota Twilite baseball teams at the Mini, Maxi and the Masters tournaments, winning several provincial titles.

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Sask has second highest weekly earnings growth among Canada's provinces

On a year-over-year basis, Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings saw a 2.6 per cent increase in March 2017 (seasonally adjusted), the second highest among Canada's provinces, according to new figures released by Statistics Canada.

The province's average weekly earnings grew by 1.1 per cent, compared to the previous month, above the national increase of 0.2 per cent and also the second highest increase among the provinces.

"Saskatchewan's strong and resilient economy is producing increased wages in the province," Economy Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "This is in contrast to Alberta where weekly earnings actually declined by 0.8 per cent year-over-year."

Average weekly earnings were \$1,008.48 in Saskatchewan, the third highest among provinces, an increase of \$25.45 from March 2016. With inflation factored in, Saskatchewan's real wage increased by 2.0 per cent year-over-year, reflecting the highest growth in real wages among Canada's provinces.

Nationally, the real wage (with inflation factored in) declined by 0.7 per cent.

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- Artist Display
- Mascot Meet & Greet: Percy, Fat Cat & Ricky
- Hamburger & Hot Dog Stand by Tourism
- Catered Supper by P&A Meats
- Canada Day Cake
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- Fireworks

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Sharon and Lyle Balogh, seated, with their children and grandchildren.



People lined up for a barbecue at Bear Claw Casino Friday with proceeds going to Lyle.

Outpouring of support for Lyle Balogh

BY KARA KINNA
From Langbank and Kennedy, to White Bear to Whitewood to Wapella, a number of communities have held fundraisers or are planning fundraisers to show their support for Lyle Balogh—a Langbank resident who is battling esophageal cancer.

Lyle—who has received treatment for his cancer and is awaiting surgery—is well known around the area for his extensive involvement in sports.

He is a long-time baseball umpire, has coached young athletes, and is the former coach of the Moosomin Rangers Senior Hockey team, having coached them to a Triangle Hockey League title.

Dorothy Hewson with the Langbank United Church says the church is collecting donations for Lyle and has already been able to make one donation to him and his wife Sharon. The church will continue to collect donations for a few more weeks.

"We've put posters out and said anyone who

wanted to make a donation could do it through Kennedy Pastoral Charge and Don Cox could issue receipts," says Hewson.

"He is a nice guy and he's done so much volunteer work through the years. He coached our son. He's quite a guy. They're our neighbors and our kids went to school together."

"Different people had said we should do something and I mentioned after church a few weeks back.

"I know that finances are always a little tight and it's expensive, you go to the city and it just eats the money up.

"It didn't get that much to get it rolling and people have been very good."

Hewson says cheques can be made payable to Kennedy Pastoral Charge c/o Don Cox, and can be mailed to Don Cox at Box 113 Langbank, S0G 2X0. They can also be dropped off at the Langbank Co-op where there is a donation box.

The town of Wapella also held a fundraiser for Lyle, donating proceeds

of a bake table to him and Sharon during their town-wide garage sale.

Whitewood Dodge held a fundraising barbecue, with proceeds from the barbecue donated on Lyle's behalf to a cancer research charity—Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer.

Bear Claw Casino in White Bear First Nation also held a barbecue, with proceeds going to Lyle.

Lyle is an employee at Whitewood Dodge and formerly worked at Bear Claw Casino.

Tim Kaban with Whitewood Dodge says \$867 was raised at their barbecue.

"There was a pile of people, we had to run and get more buns a couple times," he says. "It's to date our best barbecue and we've been doing these for two years during the summer."

Kaban worked with Lyle since October of 2014.

"He's not only a colleague but he is also a good friend of us," he says. "He's part of our Whitewood Dodge family so we always help each other out and look out for

each other. It's the least we can do, and he's a very important member of our Whitewood Dodge family here and to the community. So of course we want to do anything to help the cause."

Ball game and barbecue fundraiser planned for June 11

Another fundraiser is being planned for June 11 in Langbank—this one organized by some of the local umpires in the region who are long time friends of Lyle.

"We're planning two ball games and a barbecue in Langbank on Sunday, June 11," says Dave Hill, who is helping to organize the fundraiser.

"The Southeast Men's Fastball League has scheduled two league games and the first one starts at 2 pm and the second one goes at 5 pm."

Hill says all of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Lyle.

"He's well known," he says. "He knows everyone in the province of Saskatchewan and western Manitoba and Alberta because he's travelled lots with ball. He knows lots of

people and lots of people know him. He's been registered (as an umpire) for 30-plus years with fastball.

"We umpires thought that we wanted to do this for him, and he loves ball, so we thought we would try to get this organized."

"I've known Lyle for about 30-plus years. I've umpired with him for probably 25 years and he left hockey and umpired when I was still playing ball. He's a super guy. You couldn't ask for a better friend. He would be there for me if the roles were reversed and he's the type of guy who doesn't really ask for stuff."

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'What's the Big Idea?' encourages new entrepreneurs



The judges for the pitch party. From left are Charlotte Beaujot, CEO of Eve Realty, Jasmine Gray of Square One Business Resource Centre, and Nicole Siemens with Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan.

Have you ever dreamed of starting your own business? Thought of expanding the one you already have? It was people with questions like those that the Kipling Entrepreneurs Group hoped to attract on Saturday, May 6 at their event called "What's the Big Idea?" at the community centre in Kipling.

The free event ran from noon to 4 pm that day. At "What's the Big Idea?" people were able to discuss their ideas with experts from the finance sector, who answered their questions in an informal environment. People were given the chance to discuss their ideas one-on-one with specialists from Plainsview Credit Union, RBC, Community Futures, Square One, and others.

There were also presentations and guest speakers from various organizations to help and encourage people with their future businesses.

The featured speaker was Pat Beaujot, who along with family, investors and partners, established One Pass Implements (Seed Hawk) and grew it from an idea to a mega-business. Beaujot shared his insights with the audience and talked about what it took to grow a successful company from scratch.

The day included a pitch party, where people could explain their business ideas to a panel of judges and win cash awards to put toward their business. The winner with the best idea received \$500, while the other people who pitched ideas received \$100 each.

The winning pitch was for a business called Tabitha's Closet, pitched by Monica Switzer. Switzer is planning to open a fair trades goods and excellent quality new to you clothing shop in Kipling. She was the winner for \$500 for her idea.

"There is quite a large group in our town that doesn't have access to clothing without going to the city," she says.

"The store will provide a location to drop off clothing, and as an incentive to donate and not just sell their items themselves, we are going to provide an incentive card where for a certain number of donations you make, you will receive a percentage off at the store."

Switzer says her store will only include high quality used clothing and will also have children's clothing, some new clothing, tea, and fair trade products such as jewelry, scarves and bags.

Switzer says she heard about "What's the Big Idea?" at the last minute and decided to give it a shot.

"I just heard about it and knew that I should come. It seemed like a unique opportunity. We've been working on this but I haven't shared with a lot of people just out of fear that they'd say it's not a good idea."

"I just knew this was kind of a step I needed to take and I feel very affirmed in it today."

"This has become a real big passion for me, providing clothing for our community, because it's just such a need."

Organizer Scott Kearns said he brought the idea for this event back from a conference.

"I was down at an economic development conference in South Dakota last year and one of the speakers was from a larger city and they actually did this every Saturday to help businesses get started," he said. "From there we decided we will try it."



Monica Switzer was the winner of the pitch party, receiving \$500 for her idea to open a clothing store called Tabitha's Closet.



Anatalie Poirier with Little Bear Day Home in Kipling, receiving \$100 after the pitch party.



Jess Williams of Windthorst receiving \$100 after the pitch party.



Kelly Sawyer from Langbank receiving \$100 after the pitch party for her life coach idea.



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See us on Facebook at Great Saskatchewan Bacon Festival.



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Manitoba launches bridge and road program

The Province of Manitoba is now accepting 2017 proposals through a single-window application intake for the Municipal Road and Bridge Program, Indigenous and Municipal Relations Minister Eileen Clarke announced, along with Chris Goertzen, president of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM).

"Our government recognizes that investments in our roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure can deliver long-term economic benefits and support the sustainable growth of Manitoba communities," said Minister Clarke. "We'll continue to build on our streamlined single-window application process for municipalities to deliver investments that are strategic and deliver value for taxpayer dollars."

The Municipal Road and Bridge Program was developed in partnership with the AMM and includes two program components: the Municipal Road Improvement Program and the Municipal Bridge Program. Municipalities and Northern Affairs communities can submit applications for cost-shared funding for municipal road and bridge projects.

In addition to the \$747 million that Manitoba Infrastructure has budgeted for roads, highways, bridges and flood protection outside of Winnipeg for capital, maintenance and preservation of assets, the province is making an additional \$14 million available directly to municipalities, the minister said, noting the program allows for up to 50 per cent cost-shared funding for municipal road and bridge renewal projects.

This funding will contribute to the renewal of strategic infrastructure in municipalities outside of Winnipeg, as will the Manitoba Water Services Board investments of \$18.8 million, which increased by \$2 million in Budget 2017, she added.



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Beautiful hooked rug donated to Fleming



Jan Hague presented a beautiful hand-made hooked rug to the community of Fleming on Saturday, May 6. The rug depicts the Fleming Lake of the Woods elevator. Hague, a long-time rug hooking fibre artist, created the rug as part of a series of elevator rugs created by Heritage Rug Hookers of Saskatoon. The rug, and 40 other pieces, toured galleries around Saskatchewan starting in 2010. At the end of the tour, Hague decided to donate the rug to Fleming. She says she felt sorry for the town after its elevator was burned down. The rug was presented on May 6 at the Fleming Community Hall, where it will be framed and hanged. At left is Jan Hague and Fleming's Phil Hamm with the rug.

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Kara Kinna photo

Partners, employees and family members stand in front of a brand new loader at Tutthill Construction's 70th anniversary celebration on Friday, May 12. From left are Victoria Tutthill, Larissa, Steven and Jaxson Tutthill, Lynn and Vicki Tutthill, Cynthia and Kenneth Tutthill, Royden and Sawyer Tutthill, Farran and Madden Tutthill, and Kelsey Lane.



Kara Kinna photo

Ken, left, and Lynn, right, cutting the 70th anniversary cake with their mother Etta at centre. Tutthill Construction was started in 1947 with Bernard and Etta at the helm.

Tutthill Construction celebrates 70 years

BY KARA KINNA

People packed into the Elkhorn Elks Hall on Friday, May 12 where Tutthill Construction held its 70th anniversary celebration. Speeches were made, photos were taken, and cake was served as people came out to congratulate the Tutthills on 70 years in business.

Seventy years and three generations later, Tutthill Construction is still a family business and is still going strong.

The business was started in 1947 when Bernard Tutthill started B.N. Tutthill Trucking. Over the years the business grew—from trucking and hauling gravel, to loader work to road building to crushing gravel to concrete work, to excavation, to doing oilfield work, commercial work, and heading up major construction projects. Today the company has 30 employees, and has employed up to 40 people during busy years.

In the 1970s, Bernard was joined by his sons, Lynn and Ken Tutthill, who became partners in the business. In 2008, Ken and Lynn's sons, Steven and Royden, became third generation partners.

Not only has the business stayed in the family, it has also employed many family members over the years, as well as many, many local people.

At the 70th anniversary celebration on May 12, Ken Tutthill said that Tutthill Construction has been fortunate in a number of ways.

"We have been very fortunate over the past 70 years to have an incredible working relationship with our community of Elkhorn and all of the surrounding rural municipalities stretching from Edmonton, Alberta to Gretna, Manitoba, Slave Falls, Manitoba to the U.S. border," he said. "We have been so very lucky to play an active role in agricultural, residential, commercial, and all aspects of the oil industry.

"Our biggest success factor over the past 70 years has been the incredible staff we have been lucky enough to call employees, and most we truly feel that they are family. So many of our great staff members have been local men and women who have worked for and with us for many years."

After the event, Ken said it was an emotional milestone for him.

"I'm very elated. You know it's a heck of a milestone, but to reach out and touch it, that's a whole different ball game. It's very personal for me," he said.

"We went through a lot of hard times as well as the easy times," said Lynn, Ken's brother and a partner in the business. "We lived through the 25 per cent interest in the '80s so that's kind of a testament to keep going."

"It's a hard business—there are no two ways around it," says Ken. "We've been very fortunate to have a good community, a good area, and we've got some excellent people who work for us. We think of them as family."

"We're pretty fortunate now the boys are in the business with us. You're more than married to this business. If you want to make a success of a business, it's your life and you have to treat it that way or you won't be successful."

"It's the third generation coming in now," says Lynn. "Dad started in '47 and then we both came in '75-'76, so we've been in the business since that time."

"It's what we were born into. I guess it's in one way like a farmer—if you're going to take over the farm you're either in it or out of it, there's no half way. And with our business you had to be in there the whole way."

What is the secret to being successful for 70 years? Ken says it's simply hard work and good service.

"I preach this to our guys. No matter what job you're doing, when you're done, get out the machine, do what you have to do, but take a look," he says. "If you wouldn't be happy with that, then the customer isn't go-



Ed James photo

Ken Tutthill speaking at the 70th anniversary celebration.

ing to be happy with it either. We strongly try to drill that into our guys, to make sure it's a good job. We try to be economical about it, and if someone is going to spend an extra \$100 and they are going to be happy with a job, they are a lot happier than if it cost them \$300 and it's a

mess."

Both Ken and Lynn says the company will provide service to who it can whenever it can, which is why Tutthill Construction has done work from Alberta to Ontario, and down to the U.S. border.

"Wherever people want to send us we go, because that's how you have to do it," says Lynn.

"You have to move ahead, you can't stop. If you stop you are done," says Ken.

The business has changed over years. Today the company takes on more large projects, and has entire crews dedicated to working on oil pipelines.

"We do more specialty work—taking on complete projects, doing the ground work the gravel work, subbing out the concrete work—we do more of that sort of thing than we did before," says Ken. "We also do a lot of work for the pipeline."

"We get a lot of referral work too because we've been in it so long, and because of our safety certifications," says Lynn.

Ken says those referrals have kept the company strong, even in tough times.

"We've had one slow year and we are back to normal," he says. "When you do a good job and your referrals are high you're going to get work."

Despite the abundance of work, both Ken and Lynn say their community is number one. During the flooding in 2014, Tutthill Construction was heavily involved in the fight to save the Elkhorn from flooding, with equipment and staff spending days to help the village.

Tutthill Construction has also been heavily involved with the Elkhorn Development Corporation, which has built 25 new houses in the village over the years.

Ken says he was thrilled to see the response from the community at the anniversary celebration on May 12.

"I was overwhelmed," he said. "We do a lot of community work here. We're old school and your community has to come first. Without your community you wouldn't be here."

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135 charges in total for Palmer

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
It was 6:06 am on Sunday, August 28, 2016 when Moosomin RCMP received a report that the Pipestone Hills Golf Course had been broken into.

This was the third time in a two-month period it had been targeted.

In a previous instance the ATM had been smashed and the tills were looted resulting in nearly \$5,000 in currency being stolen.

The investigation of the overnight break-in led to a local hotel where a 52-year-old Alberta man was staying.

Joseph Ronald Palmer of Eckville, Alberta was arrested and taken into custody on an outstanding warrant of arrest for fraud and possession of stolen property in Regina.

A search warrant was issued for the hotel room Palmer was staying in, and the warrant was executed by police.

This led to the recovery of a significant amount of cash, numerous tools commonly used to commit breaking and entering, and a loaded .38 calibre revolver later determined to have been stolen from a residence in Alberta over the winter.

That arrest and subsequent investigation by the Saskatchewan RCMP General Investigation Section with the assistance of RCMP investigators from B.C., Alberta and Manitoba has now led to a total of 135 charges against Palmer. An additional 89 criminal charges were laid last week.

The investigation has linked Palmer to crimes that occurred in 24 of Saskatchewan's RCMP detachment jurisdictions where many rural properties were being targeted.

75 of the 135 charges laid are linked to incidents that occurred in the province of Saskatchewan.

Palmer is accused in connection with multiple break-ins at businesses and recreational camper trailers, golf clubs and other locations across the Prairies. Some of the theft complaints range back to June, 2015.

Palmer is now charged with:

- 9 counts of theft of a motor vehicle
- 12 counts of theft
- 71 counts of break and enter
- 1 count of possession of a break enter instrument
- 19 counts of possession of property obtained by crime
- 4 counts of trafficking property obtained by crime
- 1 count of fraud
- 9 counts of mischief under \$5,000
- 4 counts of arson to property
- 1 count of laundering proceeds of crime
- 1 count of fail to comply with recognizance
- 1 count of unsafe storage of a firearm
- 1 count of possession of a weapon obtained by crime
- 1 count of unauthorized possession of a firearm

Palmer remains in custody. He is scheduled to appear

in Yorkton Provincial Court on June 16 at 1 p.m.
Back on Oct. 19, Palmer appeared by video in Broadview Provincial Court.

At that time, 30 additional break and enter and theft charges were laid against him in addition to the charges he initially faced.

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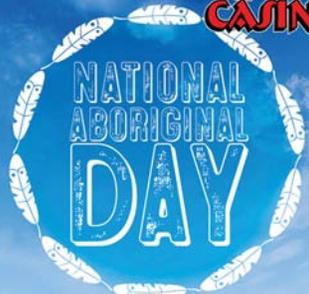


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Doors - 7:30PM | Show - 8PM
First Nations Band - classic rock, country, tribute

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July 21, 2017

- 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.:
- Open mic entertainment
- Beer gardens open

July 22, 2017

- 9 a.m.: Rodeo Slack
- 12 p.m.: Parade on Main St.
- Demo Derby & Quad Mud Flings to follow parade
- 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.: Trade Show
- 5 p.m.: Rodeo Grand Entry
- 2 p.m. - 2 a.m.: Beer Gardens with Entertainment after rodeo

July 23, 2017

- 11 a.m.: Cowboy Church Service at Rodeo Grounds
- 2 p.m.: Rodeo Grand Entry
- 1 p.m. - 1 a.m.: Beer Gardens

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Melissa Ruhland took this panoramic photo west of Rocanville May 11.



Kristjan Hebert seeding at Hebert Grain Ventures near Fairlight. This photo was submitted by Olga McCarthy.

TAKE YOUR
BEST SHOT



Your view of Spring Seeding 2017

We asked our readers to submit their best photos of spring seeding 2017. We have a tie for first place. Both Melissa Ruhland and Olga McCarthy win \$100 for their submissions! Thanks to everyone who entered!



Dylan Springer took this photo—heading to the next field west of Rocanville.



Canada 150 and Moosomin Schools
135 Reunion and Homecoming set for
July 6-9, 2017

REGISTRATION

Name: _____
 Partner's Name: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- I am a former student or graduate (Class of _____)
- I am a former or present teacher
- I am a former or present resident of Moosomin
- Other: _____

Cost to register for homecoming/reunion:
\$20/person (dance extra)

_____ registrations at \$20/person = \$ _____
 _____ tickets for the Saturday night dance featuring the
 Back 40 Drifters at \$10/person = \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

(Dance tickets \$15.00 after June 15, 2017. Tickets will be available at registration desk or at the door.)

Advance registration will ensure that your reunion package will be ready for you when you check in.

Mail to: Box 1384, Moosomin, SK S0G 3N0
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 Association or drop off cheque at
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Jason Miller took this photo at Hruska Farms at Gerald.



Nevin Lowes submitted this photo of seeding barley at Ja-Lyn Farms near McAuley on May 13.

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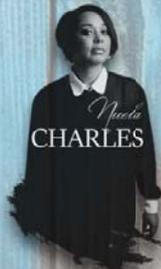


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Living Skies Come Alive August 5 and 6

Chinese Lion Dance added to fireworks weekend

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Plans just keep growing for the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition at Moosomin Lake on the August long weekend.

The two-day fireworks competition is going international for the first time this year, with Canada taking on China in the competition.

Canada will shoot off fireworks Saturday, August 5 and China will go on Sunday, August 6 with a show that includes types of fireworks never before seen in Canada.

The Chinese company FireShow will be competing for China on Sunday, August 6, and CanFire Pyrotechnics from Winnipeg will perform for Canada on Saturday, August 5.

Before the Chinese fireworks show on Sunday, there will be another first for Living Skies Come Alive. The Chinese Cultural Society of Saskatchewan will put on a traditional Chinese lion dance.

The Lion Dance is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries in which performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume.

The lion dance is performed during the Chinese New Year and at special celebrations.

In a lion dance, two performers are inside each lion costume. The performers replicate moves that are part of Chinese martial arts.

The participants in the Lion Dance at Moosomin Lake will be students of the Chung Wah Kung Fu School in Regina.

The lion dancers with Chung Wah are accomplished Kung Fu students who perform at a variety of events, such as the annual Chinese New Year celebrations in Regina, and the China Night fundraiser, an event at which the Chinese Cultural Society raises funds for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

The Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition has grown over the years to be a major event at Moosomin Regional Park.

In addition to the fireworks, there are all sorts of events over the course of the weekend.

The event brings in between 6,000 and



A traditional Chinese Lion Dance will be part of the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition at Moosomin Lake on the August long weekend. The costumes will look similar to this.

7,000 people each year. Last year there was a paid attendance of 7,153 over the weekend, and the committee hopes the international angle will attract more people this year.

Tim Mrazek is an instructor with Chung Wah Kung Fu.

"The Lion Dance is an important part of traditional Chinese culture," he said. "It has been around for a long time and the lion is a symbol of positive things. It is used to bring blessings to people and to the celebrations that tie us together."

"The lion dance in the traditional culture can be used for any important celebration from a grand opening to a community celebration to an important milestone in a person or group of people's lives."

"It serves two main ideas. "One is a unifying element and brings people together and reminds us of how we are connected and that we all share the same hopes and aspirations, and there is always strength in numbers, and when we are able to cooperate and work together we will achieve much more."

"The other part is a reminder of the morals of what human culture stands for. It doesn't matter what cultural background a person comes from."

"The symbol of the lion represents the best of who we can be, and that is the deeper meaning behind it as a modern folk art or sport than most people's perception of it as entertainment."

"It is gloriously entertaining—it is great fun for the whole family."

"It is very dynamic and exciting. It uses live instruments, specifically percussion drums, cymbals and gongs that are part of the traditional music."

"The lion dance's function is in part entertainment and to make people happy and to add to the festive celebration, and then the symbolic part is a wish for good things to come."

Chung Wah plans to bring a pair of lions and a group of musicians to Moosomin Lake.

"We will bring out a pair of lions. I am not sure which ones we are bringing out but they will choose a meaning that will be

appropriate for the type of event. This is a fireworks spectacle and is bringing different cultures and people from a wide area together, so we will try and embrace that. We will have a pair of lions and the lion dancers, and we will have instruments, so there will probably be a team 10 performers coming out there."

He said he is looking forward to bringing the Lion Dance to an area of the province where it has never before performed.

"It is certainly going to be a lot of fun. People who have never seen a lion dance will certainly enjoy it. You hear the music, you feel the rhythm of the music and see the lion move, and even if you don't understand the symbolic story of what the lion is doing, you can still see he is doing these movements—it is searching, it is looking for something, it is trying to overcome an obstacle, it is working to achieve something."

Mrazek said the performers are all accomplished Kung Fu students.

"Lion dancers are traditionally part of Chinese martial arts," he said. "The real roots of the lion dance are intimately tied with Chinese martial arts, evolving from both a military as well as civilian or folk tradition, so both those elements are fused into the dance. Classically the stronger kung fu students will be the ones that will be appointed to go play the lion because their technique needs to be very strong."

"The idea is that the stronger the person can dance and the more spirit they can put in their dance then the more effective the lion dance is."

Mrazek said the performers have performed the Lion Dance around the province, and are looking forward to performing at the fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake.

"We have been around for more than 30 years, so we have had a good chance to meet a lot of different folks from around the province. Some of our members haven't been to Moosomin Lake before and are looking forward to seeing it, and some have been there before—they have roots or family in that area—and they're looking forward to performing there."

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Starting this fall:

Southeast College offering first year U of R classes

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Many graduating students are making plans for further education—heading off to university, college or trade school.

But heading away for further education isn't the only option.

Southeast College is partnering with the University of Regina to offer first year university classes within the region.

Instructors will come out to deliver the programs in person at one of the college campuses, but anyone within the college region can take the classes remotely at home or at their local college campus.

Louise Legare, Vice President of Education for Southeast College said the university classes were not offered this year, but will be offered for the upcoming fall and winter semesters.

She said there was significant interest in the university programs when they were offered in the past.

This fall, September to December, the college will offer English 100, Indigenous Studies 100, Sociology 100, and Biology 100.

In the winter semester, January to April 2018, the college will offer English 110, Film 100, Math 101 and Religious Studies 100.

Many of the first year courses are required for a variety of programs.

"We have partnered with the University of Regina to offer first year classes in what we call a Liberal Arts certificate," explains Legare. "That certificate is a series of classes to make up the first year. We also have promoted entry into three other programs: the pre-social work program, the Bachelor of Health Studies, and the Bachelor of Education, so if a person is interested in those streams they can take the face-to-face classes. There is an instructor either in Weyburn or Estevan for instruction and they can also take one or two other classes that are available online, and that would complete the first year of that particular program. They can also transfer those basic first year arts and science classes to pretty well any degree program at any university."

The programs will go ahead as long as 10 students from throughout the college area sign up for each class.

"While we would be offering the classes in person in Estevan or Weyburn, any person within the Southeast region can access those face-to-face classes in real time via technology. It would be a live experience—it wouldn't be taped."

While the plan is to offer the classes this fall in Estevan or Weyburn, Legare said university classes could be offered in Moosomin in the future if there is enough interest.

"I was on the faculty at the University of Saskatchewan for 25 years so I am very familiar with the university setting and I see opportunities for other kinds of developments, and that's one of them," said Legare. "If we had a cohort of students, depending on where that cohort would come from, then those students and the enrolments would be responded to. We are also looking at doing second-year programming and also a masters-level programming. But we are starting with the first

"If we had 15 people in the Moosomin area interested, we would work with the university to have the instructor teach in Moosomin. It's very dependent on that factor alone—where is the student coming from?"

—Louise Legare, VP Education
Southeast College

year student complement. And then once we get that base we can move from there, in terms of location and/or other programming."

Legare said registrations are coming in now for the fall session. "People are registering right now," she said. "The registrations for off-site programming outside of the U or R programming just opened up a couple weeks ago. Usually, the time for reviewing enrolments is the end of June. We suggest, because it is a two-step process, the application and then registration, it should be done as soon as possible. Enrolling at the end of August would be too late. We need a guaranteed number of enrolments to provide the classes. The university looks at enrolments before a cut-off date. Enrolment statistics are looked at very closely by the end of June."

Legare said there appears to be strong interest in the university programming so far.

"We have had a very good response," she said. "We've had a lot of interest and inquiries and people are working with our student advisors. Registration is a two-step process. The first is that the prospective student can call any one of our advisors in our region and they can assist them with the process of applying to the university, and then once accepted, the registration process is the next step. You would get a registration number and then access the university's registration

system."

Everything is in place for the classes starting in the fall.

"These classes and jobs have been posted," said Legare. "The instructors have been hired, but all classes are contingent upon enrolment numbers."

While the classes are offered through Southeast College, they are offered by the University of Regina.

"We are housing the programming, but these people need to have certain levels of credentials and backgrounds and are vetted by the university."

Legare said she wants to expand university offerings their first year of university closer to home.

"There is a real financial benefit of taking first-year classes in your home or community," she said. "You can continue a part-time job or continue living at home."

Legare said she wants to expand university offerings at the college.

"At the college we try to offer programming for all ranges for education services, everything from your ABE and your upgrader courses for students who want to finish their grade 12 to business and industry programs, and safety courses, all the way to university."

"One of my goals in this position is to move university programming to off-site locations and offer masters level programming. Especially with technology today, we have so many ways to make university programming accessible for students."

She said if there is enough interest the college could offer university programming onsite in Moosomin.

"If we had 15 people in the Moosomin area interested, we would work with the university to have the instructor teach in Moosomin. It's very dependent on that factor alone—where is the student coming from? What is their community? There would be nothing stopping us from doing that, it is just the arrangement with the university and the university's relationship with the instructor. We plan to respond to what the students in the region are needing."






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This photo was taken at the 1982 reunion. Hundreds of people are expected for the 2017 reunion.

Moosomin hoping for hundreds at homecoming, reunion

BY KARA KINNA

A reunion and homecoming is being planned for July 6-9 in Moosomin, with hundreds of people planning to come back for the event, which will be held the same weekend as the Moosomin Rodeo.

Following is a full schedule of events from July 6-9:

THURSDAY, JULY 6

7 pm: Homecoming Registration at Moosomin Convention Centre. Visitors who have pre-registered will be able to pick up their packages and those who have not yet registered will be able to do so.

5-11 pm: Entertainment, supper and grand opening of the Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex. Event includes ball game, happy hour, kids bounce tents, supper, ceremonies, grand opening of the Eventplex, Parks and Rec athletic inductions into the Communiplex Wall of Fame, and Parks and Rec Awards, followed by the Adam T Elvis show from 9-11 pm.

FRIDAY, JULY 7:

- **10 am:** Registration opens at the Moosomin Convention Centre.
- **12 pm:** Town BBQ at Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex
- **6:30 pm:** Rodeo events with music to follow in the beer gardens
- **8 pm:** Homecoming Dance and Social Evening at Moosomin Convention Centre. Music provided by DJ Doug Hull from Freedom Recording Inc. Bar will be

run by the Moosomin Elks.

SATURDAY, JULY 8:

- **7-9 am:** Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the Moosomin Fire Hall
- **9 am:** Moosomin Slack - Overflow of Rodeo events
- **10 am:** Moosomin Chamber of Commerce Parade begins.
- **11 am:** Registration opens at the Moosomin Convention Centre
- **11:30 am - 2:30 pm:** Multi-cultural Luncheon and Entertainment at the Moosomin Armoury, put on by Moosomin's international community.
- **1 pm:** Bull Futurity
- **2:30 pm:** Rodeo Idol Contest
- **3 pm:** Moosomin Homecoming and School Reunion Program at McNaughton High School. Includes speeches, entertainment, visiting dignitaries, and class pictures.
- **5-7 pm:** Supper at the Moosomin Convention Centre
- **6:30 pm:** Rodeo events with music to follow in the beer gardens.
- **8 pm - 1 am:** Moosomin Homecoming Dance at the Moosomin Communiplex. Music provided by the Back 40 Drifters. Bar will be run by the Kinsmen.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

- **10:30 am:** Non-denominational church service at the Rodeo Grounds. (Service will be moved to Legion Hall if raining).



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Grain thefts a problem in southwest Manitoba

BY SGT. SCOTT FECHAK, MOOSOMIN RCMP
 People who have grain farms, please be sure to secure your bins as there have been recent grain thefts in Southwestern Manitoba. Believe it or not, people will actually auger grain into a truck in the dead of night and sell it.

It may be useful to consider confetti so if it does happen we have a better opportunity to track it at elevators. This is much faster than comparing the grain enzymes sold at the elevator after the fact. Having a good crop to sell is not a given any year, and having your hard work stolen from you in the middle of the night by thieves is a rather maddening thought.

Take the time to secure your bins and check them throughout the winter. It looks like the theft in Manitoba was reported last week, but may have occurred in January. Communicate with your neighbours out there; these thefts

are likely happening in the middle of the night.

Some lessons learned about grain thefts from a file we had when I was stationed in Manitoba:

Some farmers thought they were missing grain and then chalked it up to bad bookkeeping practices so they didn't realize it was a problem until much later when they'd heard of other thefts.

A padlock isn't enough sometimes. The thief we were dealing with would scout the bins and buy locks that matched the one on the bin. He would then break off the original lock, auger out the grain or canola, then put the similar looking lock in place.

When folks would go to check to ensure their bins were still locked it looked okay, and it wasn't until the key didn't work that they realized they'd been stolen from.

Parking an implement in front of the bin can help prevent thefts in addition to locking it.

If you see someone or a

vehicle that doesn't belong in the area, get a plate and keep elevator numbers handy to have access to find odd sellers if you are stolen from.

This particular character, when confronted, would present as a farmer when he was just a thief, and he would sell the stolen product to an elevator far from where it was stolen from.

The sooner we learn of the theft, the sooner we can alert buyers who can be on the lookout for suspicious loads. That is over half the battle right there.

Having trail cams near bins that are located in abandoned yard sites at least gives you a chance in getting something we can work off if these types of people do show up. Use this article to articulate those cams as a business expense.

We had an excellent investigator on the file who understood farming and common practices which was fortunate. Cst. Luanne Gibb did a tremendous amount of leg work to investigate and charge the individual responsible, and her persistence and teamwork with the elevators and other farmers was what solved this case.

These are difficult and time consuming files that don't always have positive outcomes. In this particular case the suspect was convicted of possession of stolen property because all we could prove was he had stolen grain that he sold to the elevator, not that he'd actually stolen it from the farm it came from.

Take a look at your operation.

Nobody likes to think about these things, but

the fact is there are nefarious individuals out there who would not consider the morality of taking your hard earned work and sweat equity directly from your grain bin.

If you make it a bit more work to steal, chances are the thief will move along to an easier target.

Let's face it, most thieves aren't notorious for being hard workers.

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Kevin Weedmark photo

Sunset over the Red Lily Wind Farm just west of Moosomin last Wednesday.

Canadian farm debt grew 7.3% in 2016 – here's why that's not a problem

BY JP GERVAIS
Canada's total Farm Debt Outstanding continued to climb in 2016, reaching \$96 billion as of December 31st. That's a 7.3% increase over Canadian ag's debt levels observed in 2015 according to Statistics Canada.

Credit, as agriculture's primary source of capital, is both essential to operate or grow a farm business and is financially risky. Despite the increased risk to the sector that goes along with more debt, a number of factors have mitigated that risk. They've helped to keep Canadian agriculture financially healthy.

BORROWING COSTS STAYED LOW
As debt climbed, the costs to businesses

of borrowing—i.e., interest rates—steadily declined in 2016. That was a big reason producers maintained the ability to repay debt, because overall farm income, the basis of debt repayment capacity, didn't really grow in 2016. Crop receipts showed only a small gain and livestock receipts declined. Farm operating expenses declined 1% on average in 2016. Slightly higher revenues and lower expenses resulted in an estimated 4.6% increase in net cash income.

A strong balance sheet also matters. Across the country, farmland values climbed at an average rate of 7.9% in 2016. Overall farm asset values (including buildings, quota, equipment, etc.) likely grew slower than farmland values. The combi-

nation of a growth in debt and a slower pace of increase in farm asset values will raise the sector's overall debt-to-asset ratio which isn't necessarily a good news story. A low ratio gives you flexibility to extend the repayment period on existing debt when income is tighter, or borrow more money if an opportunity shows up.

But, as we pointed out in our March Financial Fitness series, Canada's farm debt-to-asset ratio remains favourable compared to historical averages. Further, AAFC expects net cash income in 2017 to be the fourth-highest on record.

financial position. Expect interest rates to increase, albeit at a slow pace, especially if the Canadian economy becomes healthier and interest rates in the U.S. continue to move upward. That will pressure debt repayment capacity because, while we project farm income to remain strong, it likely won't increase at the pace we saw over the last ten years. With lower growth in revenues, working capital will also be pressured – and that's your first line of defense when profit margins tighten.

The outlook for Canadian agriculture remains positive.

It's a great time to ensure your financial planning brings you success now and into the future.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH?
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- Entertainment in the Beer Gardens
- Following the Rodeo by two-time Manitoba Country Music Association Roots Artist of the Year Quinton Blair.

Saturday, July 8

- 9 a.m. Slack
- 1 p.m. Bucking Bull Futurity
- 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Kids Carnival
- 2 p.m. Beer Gardens Open
- 2:30 p.m. Moosomin Rodeo Idol at the Beer Gardens
- 6:30 Rodeo Performance
- Wild Pony Race at Intermission
- Entertainment in the Beer Gardens
- Following the Rodeo by two-time Manitoba Country Music Association Roots Artist of the Year Quinton Blair.

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Photos Courtesy of Lewis Images

More young farmers in Census of Ag

BY NEIL BILLINGER
Profitability will be the key in attracting more young people to agriculture in the future.

There were positive signs in the 2016 Census of Agriculture released last week, specifically a small rise in the number farm opera-

tors under 35 years of age. There were 24,850 farmers in the demographic - the first increase since 1991. The under 35s account for

9.1 per cent of operators, which remains well below the 54.5 per cent in the 55 and over category.

region and farm type with the best numbers in dairy, followed by oilseed and grain.

marginal.
The area of hay and alfalfa cropland declined 16.6 per cent or 2.8 million acres between 2011 and 2016. Pasture area also dropped by 4.4 per cent.

Viable career

Norm Hall, vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and a farmer from Wynyard, Sask., says as long there is money to be made in farming, young people will come back to the farm.
"But if we get back into a situation like the 80s or 90s when there was no profit in farming, young folks stayed away in droves and that could happen again," Hall says.

The stability in the expense-to-receipt ratio indicates farms were as profitable in 2015 at the national level as they were in 2010. For every dollar in gross farm receipts, the average farm had 83 cents in expenses. The expense-to-receipt ratios varied by

Cashing out on beef

The Census of Agriculture also reported a 12.3 per cent decline in the number of farms with beef cattle. Some producers chose to take advantage of higher prices and retire or concentrate on crop production.

"A large grain operation today with 100 cows doesn't really offset much risk on a grain farm these days," says Brian Perillat, Canfax manager and senior analyst.

"So, they basically pick one or the other and that's where we've seen an agruculture of those mixed farms." Perillat adds that improved technology and farming methods are now used to grow crops on land that used to be considered

Ontario's lost farmland

Expanding urban areas continue to cut into the agricultural land base in eastern Canada.

"Although the rate of loss of agricultural land in Ontario appears to have slowed over the last census period, we remain concerned about the loss of farmland," says Jason Bent, director of policy research with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

Ontario lost nearly 320,000 acres of agricultural land between 2011 and 2016; equivalent to 175 acres per day. That would be about half the rate recorded between 2006 and 2011.

Unreserved Public Farm Auction
Larry & Valerie Parrott
Pipestone Prospect Farm Ltd.
Grenfell, SK | June 29, 2017 · 10 am



2012 Case IH 550 & 2013 Seed Hawk XL Series 72 Ft w/800
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2010 Apache A5715 100 Ft
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AUCTION LOCATION: From GRENFELL, SK, go 6.4 km (3.9 miles) East on Hwy 1, then 9.3 km (5.8 miles) South on Range Road 2070, Yard on East side. GPS: 50.312000, -102.829000

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2012 Case IH 550 Quadtrac Tractor - 1991 Case IH 9230 4WD Tractor - (2) 2010 Case IH 9120 Combines - (2) 2014 MacDon D65-S 40 Ft Draper Headers - 2014 John Deere W150 35 Ft Swather - 2003 Peterbilt 387 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 2001 Kenworth T2000 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 1984 Chevrolet C705/A Grain Truck - 2009 Castleton 36 FT/A Grain Trailer - 2002 Penner 17 FT/A 5th Wheel Equipment Trailer - 1998 Canade T/A Converter Dolly Trailer - 2013 Seed Hawk XL Series 72 Ft Air Drill - 1997 Bourgault 8810 40 Ft Air Drill - International 4700 37 Ft Cultivator - 2013 Horsch Joker RT-370 37 Ft Disc - 2010 Apache A5715 100 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - 2010 Brandt 1020XR Grain Cart - (15) Grain Bins - Grain Handling Equipment - 2012 Lever 435 18 CY Pull Scraper ...AND MUCH MORE!

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Unreserved Public Farm Auction
HCI Pateman Farms Ltd - Eric Pateman
McAuley, MB | June 15, 2017 · 11 am



2012 Case IH Steiger 600HD & 2009 Case IH 535
2015 Case IH Patriot 4440 120 Ft
3-2014 Case IH 9230
2012 Bourgault 3320 XTC 76 Ft & 2012 Bourgault 6700ST
2-2013 Case IH WD1203 36 Ft
2014 Bourgault 8910 54 Ft

AUCTION LOCATION: From MCAULEY, MB, go 5.6 km (3.5 miles) South on Hwy 41, Yard on East side. GPS: 50.205900, -101.377500

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2012 Case IH Steiger 600HD 4WD Tractor - 2009 Case IH 535 Quadtrac Tractor - 1976 John Deere 4230 2WD Tractor - (3) 2014 Case IH 9230 Combines - 2014 MacDon D65-S 40 Ft Draper Header - 2011 Case IH 2142 35 Ft Draper Header - (2) 2013 Case IH WD1203 36 Ft Swathers - 2007 Peterbilt 386 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 2005 Kenworth T800 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 2014 Dodge 3500 Ram 4x4 Pickup - 2007 Lode King Prestige Super B Grain Trailer - 2012 Bourgault 3320 XTC 76 Ft Air Drill - 2009 Bourgault 3310 PHD 66 Ft Air Drill - 2012 Bourgault 6700ST Tow-Behind Air Tank - 2007 Bourgault 6550ST Tow-Behind Air Tank - 2015 Case IH Patriot 4440 120 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - 2015 John Deere 569 Round Baler - 2014 J&M 1521 Grain Cart - 2012 Brent 1594 1500h Bushel T/A Grain Cart ...AND MUCH MORE!

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Unreserved Public Farm Auction
Carl Couckuyt
Montmartre, SK | June 24, 2017 · 11 am



2003 John Deere 9650STS
2002 John Deere 9220
1991 John Deere 4555 & 2007 New Holland SF216 100 Ft
1996 John Deere 6400
2007 Seedmaster 44 Ft w/John Deere 1910
2003 Premier 2952 30 Ft
1994 Ford L8000

AUCTION LOCATION: From MONTMARTRE, SK, at the Jct of Hwy 48 & Grid 606, go 10.9 km (6.7 miles) South OR From Fillmore, SK, at the Jct of Hwy 33 & Grid 606, go 26.4 km (16.4 miles) North, Yard on East side. GPS: 50.127481, -103.428091

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2002 John Deere 9220 4WD Tractor - 1996 John Deere 6400 MPWD Tractor - 1991 John Deere 4555 MPWD Tractor - 2003 John Deere 9650STS Combine - 2003 Premier 2952 30 Ft Swather - 1994 Ford L8000 T/A Grain Truck - 1981 GMC 7000 S/A Grain Truck - 1975 GMC 6000 S/A Grain Truck - 1976 Chevrolet C50 S/A Fuel & Lube Truck - 1990 Chevrolet Crew Cab Pickup Truck - 2007 Seedmaster 44 Ft Air Drill - 1996 Morris MP912 35 Ft Cultivator - 1994 Degelman SM7000 50 Ft Heavy Harrows - 2007 New Holland SF216 100 Ft Field Sprayer - 2009 Brandt 1060 10 In. x 60 Ft Mechanical Swing Grain Auger ...AND MUCH MORE!

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Kevin Weedmark photos
Both P&H and Sharpe's Soil Services in Moosomin have recently undergone major expansions. P&H at top, added a 35,000 square foot fertilizer shed and has added fertilizer to its line of products. Sharpe's Soil Services, in the lower photo, has completed a \$3 million addition of a new fertilizer blending plant.

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DIRECTIONS: From Virden, MB (Jct #83 & #257 (White Owl) 13Kms West on #257 to Rd 162W 2.5Kms North on Rd 162W Sale is on East side. From (Jct #256 & #257 Hwys) 6.5Kms East on #257 to Rd 162W 2.5Kms North on Rd 162W Sale is on East side. ORDER OF SALE: 11:00 – 12:30 (shop items, hose, tanks, pumps, parts, and misc.); 12:30 (livestock related equipment followed by major equipment) NOTE: Cheques of \$50,000 or more must be accompanied by bank letter of Good Standing.

TRACTORS:

- 1982 JD 8450 4wd Tractor, 187PTO HP, Quad Range Trans, Triple Hyd, PTO, 18.4-38 Duals, 8809Hrs Showing, s/nRW8450H001519
- 1979 Versatile 500 4WD Tractor, 210 Eng HP, Cummins V8 Eng, 15 Spd Std Trans, Triple Hyd, PTO(Leaks), 18.4-38 Duals, 5280Hrs Showing, s/n130716
- 1982 JD 4440 Tractor, 130PTO HP, Quad Range Trans, Dual Hyd, Dual PTO, Belly Tank, 18.4-38 Duals, 1325Hrs Showing, s/n4440H05663RW
- 1975 MF 1105 Tractor, 111 PTO HP, Dual Hyd, Dual PTO, 6 Spd Trans w/Multipower, 0558Hrs Showing, s/n9B51752
- 1969 JD 2120 Tractor w/Allied 450 Loader & Bucket, 8 Spd

- Trans, Dual Hyd, Dual PTO, 18.4-30 Rear Rubber, Hours-n/a, s/n095816L
- 1968 JD 2120 Tractor w/Canopy, 8 Spd Trans, Dual Hyd, 540 PTO, 18.4-30 Rear Rubber, 3896Hrs Showing, s/n067983L
- Outback S2 Guidance System

HARVEST EQUIPMENT:

- 1990 JD 9600 Combine w/914 Pick up Header, Big Top Hopper Ext, Chaff Spreader, Dual Spd Cyl, 4880 Eng Hrs Showing, 3516 Sep Hrs Showing, s/nH09600x635628
- 1981 JD 7720 SP Combine w/214 Pickup Header
- 2000 Premier 2950 Swather w/25' MacDon Harvest Header w/DSA, PU Reel, Cummins Turbo DSL Eng, 2 Spd Hydro, 2702 Cutting Hrs Showing, 3701 Eng Hrs Showing, s/n132887

TRUCKS & TRAILERS:

- 1987 Mack T/A Grain Truck w/20' Loadline Box w/Hoist, Roll Tarp, Rear hoist controls, Maxitorque T2090 9 Spd Trans, Mack 6 Cyl DSL Eng, 22.5" rubber, 638,381 Showing, VIN#1M2N187Y2H4016795
- 1976 Dodge 500 Grain Truck w/14' Westeel Roscoe Box w/hoist, V8 Gas Eng, 5 Spd Trans, 8.25-20 Rubber, 94,081 Showing, VIN#057EG65006881

8' Poly Swath Roller

6' Blanchard Swath Roller

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New fertilizer plant opens

These two trucks broke the ribbons to officially open the new \$3 million fertilizer blending facility at Sharpe's Soil Services in Moosomin June 1. The truck on the left belongs to Jeff and Pam Foy and family, long time customers of Sharpe's (four generations of the family have been customers) and the truck on the right belongs to the Abrahamsons. Lynn Abrahamson was driving the truck. Gordon Abrahamson was the first customer of Sharpe's in 1976, and this truck was loaded with the first load of fertilizer back in 1976.



EQUIPMENT - RV - VEHICLE

AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 @ 9:00 AM

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CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT 1999 CHAMPION MOTOR GRADER, 12,200 Hours, Front Dozer, Rear Ripper Teeth, Recent Work Orders; 2005 NEW HOLLAND L5185.B SKID STEER, Two Speed, 2,210 Hours, Quick Attach Bucket; 2003 ELGIN ROAD WIZARD STREET SWEEPER, 6616 Hours

TRUCKS & VANS 2015 GMC SIERRA DENALI 2500 HD 4WD CREW CAB TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, 38,600 Kms; 2012 GMC SIERRA 3500 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Gas, Automatic, Dually, Service Deck & Amco-Veba 805-35 Picker, 99,965 Kms; 2011 GMC SIERRA 3500 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Dually, Service Deck & Amco-Veba 805-35 Picker, 100,976 Kms; 2011 FORD F550 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Dually, Service Deck & Amco-Veba 805-35 Picker, 132,175 Kms; 2009 FORD F-550 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Dually, Service Deck & Gin Poles, 320,000 Kms; 2009 GMC SIERRA 1500 EXTENDED CAB 4WD TRUCK; Gas, Automatic, 75,600 Kms; 2008 FORD F-350 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Service Deck & Danco 805-35 Picker, 307,125 Kms; 2007 DODGE 4WD 3500 DUALLY DIESEL LONG BOX, 6.7 Cummins, Automatic, 197,429 KM; 2006 GMC SIERRA 3500 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Service Deck & Gin Poles, 3166,690 Km; 2006 GMC 3500 REGULAR CAB 4WD TRUCK; Diesel, Automatic, Service Deck & Gin Poles; 2006 FORD 150 SUPER CAB PICKUP TRUCK, Automatic, 164,743 KM, Silver; 2005 CHEV EXPRESS 2500 CARGO VAN, White; 2001 GMC SIERRA 4WD 1500 EXTENDED CAB PICKUP, 350 Engine, Automatic; 1998 DODGE 2500 DIESEL 4WD 12 VALVE CLUB CAB TRUCK; 5 Speed Manual, Long Box; 1989 GRAND CARAVAN MINI VAN; 1993 FORD RANGER 2WD PICKUP, 66,326 KM

HEAVY TRUCKS 2008 PETERBILT PB340 TANDEM GRAVEL TRUCK, Diesel, 6 Speed Automatic; 1988 GMC 3 TON OIL TRUCK, 5&2 TRANSMISSION, 133,953 KM, OIL TANK, SPRAY BAR, SPRAY WAND, REAR ENGINE; 1979 FORD F700 TANDEM GRAIN TRUCK, Tag Axle, 5&2 Transmission, 429 Engine, Inland Roll Tarp, 66,242 KM

TRAILERS 2013 PJ TANDEM AXLE GOOSENECK FLATDECK TRAILER; Dual Tires, 30 Feet, Beaver Tail, Ramps; PJ TRIPLE AXLE GOOSENECK FLATDECK TRAILER; 3X7000 Lbs Axles, 30 Feet, Beaver Tail, Ramps; M & R MACHINES TANDEM AXLE FLATDECK TRAILER

ACREAGE EQUIPMENT 2012 DIXIE CHOPPER 3674 ZERO TURN MOWER, 74" Deck, 267 Hours, CAT Diesel Engine; 2012 DIXIE CHOPPER 2760 ZERO TURN MOWER, 60" Deck, Gas Engine, SN. 1098710; 2003 KUBOTA F2560 FRONT MOUNT MOWER, 1294 Hours, 60" Deck, 81897 Hours; 1970 MASSEY FERGUSON 2135 2WD TRACTOR, Construction, 3PTH; CUB CADET HDS 2185 LAWN TRACTOR; 72 Hours; 2012 DIXIE CHOPPER 3674 ZERO TURN MOWER, 74" Deck, 267 Hours, CAT Diesel Engine; 2012 DIXIE CHOPPER 2760 ZERO TURN MOWER, 60" Deck, Gas Engine, SN. 1098710; 2003 KUBOTA F2560 FRONT MOUNT MOWER, 1294 Hours, 60" Deck, 81897 Hours; 1970 MASSEY FERGUSON 2135 2WD TRACTOR, Construction, 3PTH; CUB CADET HDS 2185 LAWN TRACTOR; 72 Hours

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Tractors: 1998 John Deere 7810 fwa, cab, 3pth, dual hyd and pto, 4007 hours showing, serial #, power quad shift 1013478; John Deere 6400 fwa, with cab, 3 pth, 640 loader w/ joy stick, dual hyd, and PTO, power quad shift, 11,000 hrs; John Deere 1840 with 3 pth, 245 loader, quick attach bucket.

Haying Equipment: John Deere 566 round baler, excellent belts, all around nice; John Deere 946 Moco Discbine 13 ft; IHC 18 ft # 75 PTO swather; John Deere 702 3 pth 8 wheel rake; New Holland 1033 PTO model square

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Census of Agriculture shows farms still growing

The 2016 Census of Agriculture was released Tuesday, providing an updated snapshot of the sector.

The last 20 years have shown Canadian farms declining by a steady 10% in each Census period.

That stability was up-ended this year, when the total number of farms declined by 6.0%, a pace cut almost in half from each of the previous four periods.

A move to more cropland

The face of Canadian farms is changing. The efforts to find efficiencies have meant farms are getting larger in the Prairies, especially in Saskatchewan, where the number of farms continued to decline in 2016, but the average farm increased 7.0% in size.

The total number of Canadian farms in grains and oilseeds increased between 2011 and 2016 (from 30.0% in 2011 to 32.9% in 2016). They increased in most provinces except, most notably, in Saskatchewan, where they declined. But Quebec's 17.1% increase (from 3,849 to 4,506 G&O farms) and Alberta's 6.0% increase (from 12,692 to 13,451 G&O farms) helped spur a nationwide move to more area devoted to field

crops. Increasing from a total of 69.7 million acres in 2011 to 78.5 million acres in 2016, the gain in field crop area was still most pronounced in the three prairie provinces.

Some of that was due to area recovered from flooding as reported in 2011 and converted acres from hay and pasture to cropland.

Canola continues as the largest Canadian crop; the area devoted to soybeans (Manitoba) and pulses (Saskatchewan) both dramatically increased. The number of cattle and dairy operations declined as the number of other livestock farms (pig and poultry) increased.

Canada's dairy sector produced more with less between 2011 and 2016; milk production grew 8.7% with gains in productivity and despite fewer cows.

Who are Canada's producers?

The farming population is, very slowly, aging. In 2011, the average age of a Canadian farmer was 54; in 2016, it was 55.

And the number of young producers (operators under 35 years) increased everywhere except Newfoundland and Que-

bec. While they made up 8.2% of the total farm population in 2011, these youngest producers now make up 9.1% of Canadian producers.

In Manitoba, young farmers comprised 10.8% of the province's agriculture, up from 8.8% in 2011. The number of farms headed by males and females both shrank, but farms with one female operator were the only farms to increase in number between 2011 and 2016 (from 10,740 to 13,110 – or a 22.1% increase).

Rented acres increase

There's now less owned land being farmed, falling from 64.6% in 2011 to 62.8% in 2016 – a decrease of 3.8 million acres.

The number of overall acres rented or leased grew 8.8% between 2011 and 2016.

Rented acres showed the greatest increase in Saskatchewan (from 14.7 to 17 million acres, or a 15.8% increase) and B.C., where an 11.7% increase – or almost 100,000 more acres – were reported as rented in 2016.

Alberta saw close to an additional million rented acres in the same period, an 8.9% increase.

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Mark Steinger, the manager at Flamans in Moosomin, presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Sue Shepherd with the local chapter of KidSport.

KidSport gets \$5,000 from Flamans

Last week, Flamans in Moosomin made a \$5,000 donation to KidSport, and according to Sue Shepherd, the president of the local KidSport chapter, the donation will make a big difference.

Shepherd normally does some fundraising herself for KidSport—a charity which helps cover the cost

of getting underprivileged kids involved in a sport.

Shepherd—who likes to cook and cater—is usually able to raise \$5,000 for KidSport on her own, but this year, due to medical reasons, she says she has not been able to raise the money.

Mark Steinger, the manager at Flamans in

Moosomin, says he is proud to be able to help KidSport out.

“I’ve got two boys, I know what it means to kids to grow up with sports,” he says. “Most of the time that’s where kids learn to deal with people and deal with life, instead of being on the streets. So I think it’s a great thing to

keep kids in sports. They learn a lot more than we can imagine. I’m pretty proud to do this.”

All of the money donated locally for KidSport stays local, going to local kids who can’t afford the cost of getting involved in a sport.

Last year 58 local children benefitted from Kid-

Sport and a total of \$7,865 was donated, working out to approximately \$130 per child.

Forty-two children were able to take swimming lessons because of the charity. Seven children were able to play soccer, four were able to play football, two were able to play basketball, and two were able

to go in gymnastics. One child was able to play minor hockey.

Shepherd says forms for KidSport are available at the local schools, at the Moosomin town office, and at the thrift store in Moosomin. She says she has already started receiving applications from Moosomin for 2017.

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Saskatoon Auction Site – Aug 1



8 Golf Course Residential Lots – Candle Lake, SK

Leonard & Martha Schultz



2012 Case IH 140A Farmall
Sonningdale, SK – June 12

Gerigale Farms Ltd



2005 New Holland CR940
Outlook, SK – June 14, 2017

HCI Pateman Farms Ltd



2012 Case IH Steiger 600HD & 2009 Case IH 535
McAuley, MB – June 15

Bar E Acres Inc



2009 Massey Ferguson 9795
Sonningdale, SK – June 15

St. Croix Falls



3 Parcels of Commercial Estate –
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
Minneapolis Auction Site – June 16

Estate of Bill Kurbis



McCormick Farmall H
Biggar, SK – June 16

Syd & Linda Tondevold



2008 Challenger MT855B
Ogema, SK – June 17

Morrie & Colleen Raes



2003 John Deere 9650STS & 1996 John Deere CTS
Fir Mountain, SK – June 19

Gordon & Caroline Johnson



2012 Case IH 7120
Davidson, SK – June 20

Palmer & Joyce Wenzel



2010 Case IH 8120 & 2007 Case IH 8010
Consul, SK – June 20

Gloria Karpinski & Kelvin Karpinski



2011 New Holland CX8080
Ituna, SK – June 21

Morsan Farms Ltd.



1997 Case IH 9370, 1997 Case IH 9350
& 1995 Case IH 9250
Naicam, SK – June 22

Carl Couckuyt



2002 John Deere 9220
Montmartre, SK – June 24

Abbey Consignment & Benefit Auction



2012 Case IH Patriot 3330 120 Ft
Abbey, SK – June 24

Sunridge Resort



10 Parcels of Recreational
Real Estate – Reid Lake, SK
Saskatoon Auction Site – June 26

Dave & Margaret Ball



2005 John Deere 9760STS
& 2004 John Deere 9860STS
Holdfast, SK – June 28

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2-2010 Case IH 9120
Grenfell, SK – June 29

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1997 John Deere CTS II
Edgeley, SK – July 5

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2010 John Deere 4730 100 Ft
Willowbrook, SK – July 6

Kitchen Brothers



2013 Case IH 500 & 2007 Case IH 480
Oakville, MB – July 7

Henry Trumier



2004 Case IH 2388
St Louis, SK – July 12

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Deere 9650STS & 1998 John Deere 9610
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Estate of Gordon Redlick



2010 Versatile 375
Biggar, SK – July 18

Steve & Chrisa Kastning and Robert Jones



2010 & 2012 Case IH 8120
Govan, SK – July 24

Craig & Emer Gudmundson



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