



**CHECK OUT OUR AD INSIDE FOR HOW TO HAVE A GREAT TIME THIS SUMMER!**



**Page 3**

# Plain & Valley

June 2025 • Volume 18 Number 6

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Above from left: The Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade. A junior steer rider at the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy. Canada Day threshing demonstration at Elkhorn Museum.

## Busy summer with lots of events planned for Southeast Saskatchewan, Southwest Manitoba

There are lots of events coming up across the area this summer, from Canada Day celebrations to rodeos, to fairs, to ball tournaments and much more. Check the list below for some of the events coming up in the region this summer:

### June 20-22 Reston Fair

This fun-filled weekend in Reston includes a trivia night, fireworks, gymkhana, and a cornhole tournament on the Friday. Saturday is jam-packed with a pancake breakfast, parade, cattle show, face painting, henna, kids activities, laser tag, a petting zoo, large inflatables, and beer gardens, as well as a summer kid-off concert featuring Quinton Blair. Sunday includes a pancake breakfast and horse show. There are also food trucks on site. Everything takes place at the fairgrounds!

### June 27-29 Carlyle Fun Dayz

Carlyle is going all out this year with a midway, games, bands, and fair food by Canuck Amusements out of Selkirk, Manitoba. There is also a pancake breakfast, parade, local talent, a market, a family fun zone, beer gardens, and a Main Street sidewalk sale. This year's performers include Teagan Littlechief, the Tilted Kilts, All About the Swifties, Switch, Docotor Rocktopus, Judah Wardrope, and Rein.

The fun goes down at the Carlyle Sports Arena!

### June 28-30 Bobby Vargo Tournament, Kipling

In Kipling from June 27-29, the Bobby Vargo tournament will be taking place. This is always a huge weekend for Kipling and an annual tradition that people in the area look forward to every year. There will be ball games all weekend, kids events, a pancake breakfast, a home run derby and calcutta, a silent auction and a cornhole tournament.

### July 1 Canada Day celebration, Elkhorn

This is one of the biggest Canada Day celebrations in the area. This year it will feature a pancake breakfast, a parade, kids' activities at the museum, entertainment, BBQ lunch, museum tours, a threshing display, supper, a saw mill demo, a catered supper, and a spark show at dusk, followed by fireworks.

### July 12 Bulls and Broncs, Moosomin

The Bulls and Broncs event will be a full day of fun in Moosomin, starting with the Firemen's pancake breakfast. The Chamber of Commerce parade will take place at 10 am. The Bulls and Broncs, consisting of bull riding, saddle bronc, bareback riding, and novice rough stock, takes place at the Rodeo Grounds at 7 pm. Beer gardens will be open all night and there will also be live music.

### July 19-20 Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo, Kennedy

The village of Kennedy is home to one of the only pro rodeos in the region, with many of the riders coming fresh

from the Calgary Stampede.

This year the weekend will kick off with a parade on the Saturday at 1 pm followed by rodeo action at 6 pm that night. On Sunday there is a pancake breakfast at 9 am followed by cowboy church at 11 am. The rodeo starts at 2 pm

The weekend also includes free camping at the rodeo grounds and food booths as well as other events that will be announced closer to the rodeo date!

### July 26 Maryfield Agricultural Society Fair

This annual event in the village of Maryfield features an agricultural society fair and horse show. The fair day is Saturday, July 26 this year. The day usually includes a pancake breakfast, exhibits, kids' events, music, supper and more!

### August 1-3 Elkhorn Western Weekend

Pony chuckwagon and chariot races are the centrepiece of Elkhorn's Western weekend August 1-3 on the August long weekend.

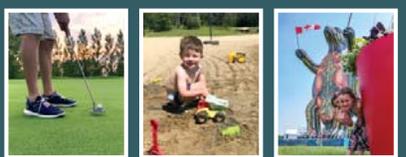
Chariot and Chuckwagon races are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and other events include beer gardens, live music and entertainment, kids events and entertainment, a cornhole tournament, calcuttas, a slow pitch tournament, concession booth, and breakfasts each day.

*Continued on page 3*



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# Busy summer with lots of events planned

Continued from page 1

### August 2-3 Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition

Saskatchewan and Alberta will go head to head on the August Long Weekend at Moosomin Regional Park with Saskatchewan setting off their fireworks on Saturday, August 2, and Alberta setting off theirs on Sunday, August 3.

This is the first time the competition has been back since 2019, and the park is looking to make it a major event again. There will be bands playing both nights, a market, food trucks, and lots more planned for down at the lake. This is an event you do not want to miss, as it will be one of the biggest events of the summer!

### August 2 Wawota Heritage Days

Saturday, August 2 will be Wawota's annual Heritage Day, featuring a pancake breakfast, a parade, Little Buckers rodeo series, Saddleridge petting zoo, bouncers, zorb ball, mini golf, a magician, archery, live stage entertainment, and a cabaret with The Country Band performing at 8 pm that night. The entire day of fun is capped off with fireworks at dusk.

### August 9-10 Spy Hill Sports Days

August 9 and 10 is a big weekend in Spy Hill that will feature the village's annual Chuckwagon and Chariot Racing both days, a kids' rodeo, slo-pitch, tractor pulls, barrel racing, beer gardens, a car show, roping events, mutton busting, and a chore horse competition. This weekend is always a ton of fun!

### August 15-16 Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo

The 25th annual Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo includes CCA rodeo action at 7 pm each night. Friday includes human chuckwagon races during intermission and Saturday includes mutton busting during intermission. There are also beer gardens both nights and a full canteen both days, with a DJ on the Saturday night.

### September 13-14 Carlyle Homespun

This year's Carlyle Homespun event features the annual craft and quilt show. The craft show and sale runs 10 am to 7 pm Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday and is located at the Carlyle Sports arena.



The Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition at Moosomin Regional Park on the August long weekend.



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Saskatchewan vs Alberta



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Saskatchewan Fireworks

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3:**  
Alberta  
Fireworks

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our video  
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## Bulls and Broncs back July 12

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

Bulls and Broncs will be returning to Moosomin Rodeo grounds on July 12th this year. The event starts at 7 pm. This will be the fifth year of Bulls and Broncs, and the committee is planning for approximately 1,000-plus attendees. Chelan Dequier, with Bulls and Broncs says the annual event continues to thrive, and they are excited to see this year's turnout.

"The growth of this event is unheard of for a rough stock event to be continuing and growing the way that we have been. We did a lot of things last year that really touched the community," said Dequier.

"Last year we donated to two different local organizations; Playfair Daycare, which we donated about \$12,000 to. That was thanks to our Calcutta that we did on bull-riding, and to Parrish and Heimbecker for donating back their winnings. Our second donation was to the Wapella Fire Department, that was for \$4,000. They worked our beer gardens, and did an amazing job, so they are coming back this year."

Bulls and Broncs will have the Calcutta again this year, in hopes to give a large donation back to an organization in the community.

*Continued on page 13*



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## CELEBRATE CANADA DAY IN ELKHORN, MB

### Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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- 🍁 Fireworks
- 🍁 Spark Show
- 🍁 Saw Mill Demo
- 🍁 Parade down Richhill Ave
- 🍁 Kid Zone
- 🍁 Pancake Breakfast behind Elkhorn RM Office
- 🍁 BBQ Lunch at the Museum grounds
- 🍁 Kid Activities, Threshing Displays, Museum Tours etc. at the Museum grounds
- 🍁 Beer Gardens
- 🍁 Catered Supper



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Elkhorn LUD Office at 204-845-2161



Kevin Weedmark photo

### Great crowd for Alzheimer's Walk

There were clear blue skies and a great crowd for the 2025 Moosomin Walk for Alzheimer's. Moosomin was one of five centres in Saskatchewan that held an Alzheimer's Walk this year.

## Alzheimer's Walk raises \$69,000

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

Moosomin raised \$68,967 at its second annual Walk for Alzheimer's on Saturday, May 24.

Over 100 people attended the walk and put the Town of Moosomin on the map across the province.

Maureen Harrison, the Director of Revenue Development for the Alzheimer's Society in Saskatchewan, participated in the Moosomin Walk for Alzheimer's and said she enjoyed seeing the community come together for such an incredible event.

"I am the Director of Revenue Development for the Alzheimer's Society in Saskatchewan. We had five in-person walks this year—Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Moosomin.

"We have five people on the revenue development team, and so we each of us went to one of the locations to be on site that day. I put up my hand when we were deciding on where to go and said, 'I would love to go to Moosomin!'"

Harrison says she had heard great things about Moosomin's first Walk for Alzheimer's last year.

"Last year the town did a 'Walk-in-a-Box', so they organized their own walk with a little bit of help from us, from the Alzheimer's Society, and they were so successful last year that I knew I would love to come out for the walk this year.

"Partly too because it is in my home area. I grew up in Rocanville so I said I wanted to go back—not that I would know a lot of people, but to see the Moosomin walk and be part of it."

Harrison says she enjoyed chatting with volunteers at the walk. "I did know Bill Thorn's daughter, Angela, because we sort of knew each other in high school and had spent some time together in university so it was good to catch up with her. I said and knew I was just going to send myself to Moosomin."

### Moosomin's walk

Harrison says she noticed the community's pride and support for the Alzheimer Society in Moosomin.

"My experience of the walk in Moosomin was amazing. There is such a big support group and crew of volunteers in Moosomin.

"When I pulled up, the volunteers were all there and had started setting up, and I had brought some additional supplies. Bill Thorn, Diane MacLeod, Rene Whelpton with the Alzheimer Society in Moosomin,



The Thorn family with an empty wheelchair in honor of Phillis Thorn who lost her battle with Alzheimer's Disease this year.

and Kelsey Nagy with IG Wealth Management, the rep in Moosomin—the ones in charge—were so helpful and we got all set up and ready to go.

"Lots of people started showing up with their donations and ready to walk. There was a lot of energy and excitement on site and it was just great to see the community come together and support such a good cause—obviously a cause that I feel is very important."

She says it was great to see kids participate in the walk. "I loved to see that there were all ages from kids—which was amazing to see—and younger families to older folks and couples. There were people there from all generations. It was great to see. It was a real good sense of energy and the people there felt strongly about supporting the cause. It was great to see the community rally together and raise such an incredible amount of funds. It was wonderful."

### Moosomin second in province

Harrison explains Moosomin's walk raised close to \$69,000.

"There are still some donations that can roll in over the next few days and weeks. I actually had Bill email me last Thursday saying, 'Oh, I got another \$50! How can I get it to you?' So we are still waiting on calculating some of those donations.

"The unofficial total for Moosomin is \$68,967. On the day of the walk, Bill, was what we call our, 'Why I Walk' speaker. We

like to have somebody at each location talk about why they choose to participate in the event and how they have been touched in their lives by Alzheimer's or other dementias whether it is a family or a friend. Bill was our 'Why I Walk' speaker, it was exciting when he got up and announced that an anonymous donor and family friend had made a \$50,000 donation to support the Moosomin walk. That is a really generous donation, but even aside from that—the community raising \$19,000 almost \$20,000 on its own is amazing as well. It is really incredible for the community of Moosomin."

Harrison lists the other communities fundraising totals in Saskatchewan.

"Including that \$50,000 donation, Moosomin is the second biggest total in Saskatchewan. Saskatoon was just over \$76,000, Regina was just over \$59,000, Prince Albert was close to \$40,000, and Swift Current came in at \$8,000."

### Proud of community

Harrison says Moosomin held another successful fundraiser for the Alzheimer Society.

"It is quite amazing for a smaller community—and the smallest community hosting an official walk—to raise that much money.

"It shows the incredible spirit of generosity in the community. I also think it highlights the fact that Alzheimer's and dementia does touch so many people and that people are able to open their wallets

and pocketbooks to support something so amazing. It is likely because they have been touched by it in some way, whether it is a family member, a close friend, or a friend within the family, we all know that Alzheimer's and dementia touches a lot of people and Moosomin's walk showed that."

She says the day brought sunshine and warm weather.

"The weather was fantastic, the sun was shining, so that was great. The community really came together and the volunteers did an excellent job, those four really led the charge, but they also brought a group of people to volunteer, and it was just really well put together. I spoke very highly about the committee and I kept in touch with a few of them after just to express our gratitude about how well they've done with this. We just want to support them as best we can."

### National statistics on Alzheimer's

Harrison adds some information regarding Alzheimer's and the Alzheimer Society in Saskatchewan and Canada.

"There are over 20,000 people living with dementia in Saskatchewan. That number is expected to more than double by 2050.

"The Alzheimer Society has programs and services to help people with dementia and their families through our Dementia Helpline and through our First Link program. We have Lori Tulloch in Broadview, as our First Link Coordinator in our area, and she works with the Alzheimer Society.

"She is available as a local resource for folks to facilitate the support groups. Lori has worked very closely with the support group in Moosomin and she also attended the walk in Moosomin.

"Last year the Alzheimer Society provided services to more than 3,300 people in over 300 communities. So we really do work all across the province.

"IG Wealth Management is the national sponsor for the walk. The walk is a set weekend all across Canada. There are 150 communities across the country who participate in the walk.

I believe the overall fundraising goal was \$6 million for the walk and it was looking positive that it will be another successful year.

"It is a great fundraiser and I think it is great to see the communities come together and walk for their loved ones or be part of a community initiative."

# Historic snow plane now fully restored Couple eager to showcase restored Fudge snowplane

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

On July 12, Lisl Gunderman and Darrell Hunter of Alberta, will be showcasing their fully restored Fudge Snow plane at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade.

At the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting in May, Gunderman and Hunter explain their connection to the Fudge snowplane and the connection to Moosomin.

"The machine we restored is a Fudge brand snow plane. The Fudge Industry shop was in Moosomin from 1929 until the 1970s.

"I am born and raised in Alberta, but I have family in Southeast Saskatchewan. Both my mom and dad are from Oxbow and the history project—my grandpa on my mom's side, he was a doctor in Oxbow from 1947 until 1991. When he started, roads weren't reliable for winter transportation. Most of his work would have primarily been going out to people's places to do house calls and he purchased a snowplane to have reliable winter transportation from the Fudge Industries Factory in Moosomin."

Gunderman says her grandpa painted an emblem on the side of the snowplane.

"My grandpa had a sense of humour—he painted a stork holding a baby bundle on the side of it, and he called it the delivery wagon."

She says the snowplane was misplaced after her grandparents passing.

"When I was growing up it was just a rundown vehicle in my grandparents' yard, and I had always just seen it sitting there," Gunderman said. "Once my grandparents passed, things were dispersed and we didn't know what had happened to the snowplane. I had uncles tell me it had been at the Elkhorn Museum, but then it wasn't there anymore—it was a dead end and we didn't really know what had happened. Then, by chance, my husband, Darrell, and I went to the Elkhorn Museum in the summer of 2022. When we were there we had asked the staff if there had been a snowplane there and the girl working said there had been the parts of one dropped off last summer so she took us out to a shed to take a look at it and on the side of the fuselage we could see the legs of the stork still on the side of it so I realized that it was my grandpa's machine."

## Restoring snowplane

Gunderman says they have restored the snowplane in their shop in Alberta.

"We went into a five-year agreement with the Elkhorn Museum to restore the machine. We would restore it at our own expense and then have it be back on display permanently in Elkhorn. So, we brought all the pieces back to our shop in Alberta and Darrell took over the restoration."

Hunter says he was excited to restore



Lisl Gunderman and Darrell Hunter at Chamber Meeting in Moosomin with a Fudge snowplane gifted to them during this project.

the snowplane. "I am a heavy duty mechanic. I love doing this stuff. I have a brand new shop and have had lots of help from Dean Godon—calling him steady on the phone asking about parts. It was a really fun project. The love for this machine is amazing and that is when we became connected with Moosomin. Moosomin is a special place."

being in Moosomin and being it is a Fudge machine, there is a lot of history that has to go with it all. Also, that Fudge shop was not just making snowplanes, they made swings for playgrounds, desks for schools, display cabinets for shops, and

not just in Moosomin, but across Saskatchewan and Western Canada. Moosomin is a hub of the prairies.

"As we met more people and there happened to be more media—lots of memorabilia has come our way. We have been given photos, articles, brochures—it would be a shame to keep it hidden in boxes so I thought with our snowplane restoration wouldn't it be awesome if we got ourselves an enclosed trailer and outfit the inside of the trailer to be a travelling museum," Said Gunderman. "We found a great deal on a 24 foot enclosed trailer in the spring that is going to be able to pull the snowplane. The snowplane is going back to the Elkhorn Museum in the fall of 2027, so we have three summers to share and show it."

## Travelling museum

Gunderman says they hope to be part of many regional events with their travelling museum and restored snowplane.

"We are hoping to make the trailer and mobile museum along with the snowplane an attraction at local and community events," she said.

"We would love to use our enclosed trailer museum to be an attractor for people to come and get a notion that they need to visit the museums. There are amazing regional museums in the area that would be great for people and kids to see. We're definitely open to just about anything. We have got a lot of amazing memorabilia to outfit the inside of it to make it a museum."

Gunderman says they will be joining the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade this July.

"We will be at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce parade July 12, and the Kenosee Moose Mountain Provincial Car Show was another event we hope to go to. We would just like to plant a seed for everyone to see how it may be used as an attraction at an event. I am interested in having it be super interactive for people and a real hands-on experience. Darrell is setting it up so you can put your hands on the prop and spin the propeller."

Continued on page 30

## Meeting local people

Gunderman says they have met many new people all over Southeast Saskatchewan since starting this project.

"With restoring the Fudge machine we've been meeting new people and directed to find certain people who have parts we need or history information. We've had a chance to meet a lot more people in the area. With the Fudge Factory

## Alameda Community Rink's

28th Annual FISHING DERBY



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The annual slo-pitch tournament is always a big draw during Hazy Dayz in Esterhazy.

## Esterhazy getting ready for Hazy Dayz

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Every year, folks in and around Esterhazy look forward to one big party in June. The annual Hazy Dayz will take place June 20 to 22, and this year promises to be the biggest one in recent memory.

"This is my third year up and running it, and it's getting a bigger as the time goes on, with more community involvement," explained Hayley Nixon, one of the organizers of Hazy Dayz. "I've got two other gals this year planning it with me, so I'm not on my own anymore!"

This year, the plan is to stretch Hazy Dayz over the entire weekend, beginning with the Friday market.

"I've been trying to work with the market that already exists on Fridays in Esterhazy to see if we can get them to extend their hours to last all afternoon, because I am planning an outdoor jam session open mic event at the museum here in town," Nixon said. "That will hopefully get some foot traffic there between the market and that going on."

"Then we've got my associate, Jen, she's with the Esterhazy Warriors Football Club, and they used to do an alumni game every year," Nixon continued, adding that the game will likely draw more people back home. "But they haven't done that in numerous years, so she wanted to bring that back."

At the outdoor rink, Nixon has a tailgate party planned for those who want to keep the good times rolling into the night.

Saturday is full of sports, highlighted by the annual slo-pitch tournament. This eight-team co-ed double elimination tourney hosted by Esterhazy Slo-pitch still has a few spots open. So far, there's one Esterhazy team registered, plus some from Yorkton, Melville, and Roblin.

"We've got someone who's organized a valley run, an organized 5 K or 10 K run at our regional park, so that will be a new addition," Nixon said.

Registration for the Hazy Trail Race is at 8:45 am with the race beginning at the campground.

"That's something that a friend of mine who just moved to town about a year ago planned, she usually goes to Regina and attends organized runs, because that's something she likes to do," explained Nixon. "She always thought that's weird that Esterhazy doesn't really have that around here, because we've got beautiful walking trails in the valley that people often go on, but no one really does the organized thing around here."

Saturday will also see a pancake breakfast, and there's also a car show planned for the weekend. Ultimately, what really drives the weekend is the sense of community bringing everyone together every year.

"I like the style of the homecoming, everyone coming back together, and it's the weekend before the Esterhazy grad happens," Nixon said. "It's just a nice way to get together as a community before everyone disperses for the summer."



# Hazy Days

## 2025

**JUNE 20/21**

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### FRIDAY

- **8:45am: Esterhazy Community Market** (extended hours)
- **5pm-1am: Tailgate Party with live music** @ Esterhazy Outdoor Rink
- **7pm: Warrior Football Club Alumni Game**
- **5pm: Lions BBQ**
- **Fireworks @ Dusk**

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### SATURDAY

- **8am-11am: Pancake Breakfast** @ SN Boreen Hall
- **9am: Hazy Trail Race-5km or 10km walk/run** @ Esterhazy walking trails
- **12-4pm: Kid Zone** @ Regional Park Ball Diamonds (Bouncers, interactive games, etc.)
- **2pm: Outdoor Yoga** @ EHS football field (hosted by Esterhazy Yoga Collective)
- **2&4pm: Free movie matinee** @ Maple Leaf Theatre
- **9am: Hazy Days Slo-pitch Tournament** @ Regional Park Ball Diamonds
  - Concession open 11am-5pm
  - Beer gardens open 12-7pm
- **8pm: Live music by the Kelly Brothers** @ Esterhazy Golf Course Clubhouse

FOR ALL DETAILS AND UPDATES!





*Bobby Vargo*  
MEMORIAL  
**Slo-Pitch  
TOURNAMENT**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27**

**Ball games start at 6 pm**

**Bobby Vargo  
Memorial**



**ALL WEEKEND LONG**

**LIONS FOOD BOOTH**

**BEER GARDENS**

Friday (6pm - midnight);  
Saturday (12noon - 12am);  
Sunday (11am - 8pm)



**SATURDAY, JUNE 28**

**Ball games ALL day**



**KIPLING FIREFIGHTER'S  
Pancake Breakfast**

7 am-11 am Kipling Arena



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**U13 AA Sask East Diamond Jaxx  
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# Canada Day events planned in Moosomin, Elkhorn

## Redvers, Kipling hosting events on June 28 weekend

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
With Canada Day landing on a Tuesday this year, it may throw a curve into planning where to celebrate the country's 158th birthday. But if your plans are to stick close to home, the town of Moosomin has a fun-filled day ahead.

"Being a Tuesday, it has its benefits, and its downfalls as well," said Moosomin Recreation Director Mike Schwan. "But for us, it actually works quite well because I imagine a lot of people will be around town that Tuesday."

The new pickleball court at Bradley Park will officially be open July 1, plus the miniature golf course at the park will also be re-opened on the same day.

A barbecue will be held from noon to 1:30 pm that day and the opening of the pickleball and mini golf is planned for 1 pm. There will also be live music at Remax Court over the lunch hour.

"We'll have a fun day out at Bradley Park, a barbecue, so we're excited about that," Schwan said. "The nice thing about these facilities is, for the most part, they're all free for the community to use. The pickleball court's a little bit of a fee, but not bad. I think as a department, we understand that some people are squeezed a bit for money, so we made a real conscious effort to make sure there are some leisure activities they can partake in without costing them an arm and a leg!"

Making leisure services accessible is the goal for Schwan and his team.

"Our motto has always been 'play for all,' so these are important facilities for our department to offer up to the community," he said.

In Elkhorn, they're starting July 1 off with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 am

at the RM office, with donations accepted for the museum roof project. The parade starts from the ag grounds at noon, followed by a barbecue from 1-3 pm. The afternoon will be filled with kids activities, museum tours, a threshing display and a sawmill display. Supper is served at 5:30 pm with tickets available at the Elkhorn RM Office (pre-sale \$18, on site \$20 with a deadline of June 27).

### Events on June 28 weekend

Some communities are choosing to celebrate a few days early during the last weekend of June. In Redvers, the follow-up to last year's highly successful Homecoming Weekend will see a party running June 27 through 29.

"It will be really good, and I think people are excited," said Redvers CAO Tricia Pickard of this year's Homecoming.

Friday night will see a slo-pitch tournament, cabaret, and swimming for a toonie. The action really kicks into gear on Saturday as slo-pitch continues, with food trucks, kids events, the first day of Ranch Rodeo, a live band, and fireworks at dusk. Sunday will feature a car show, kids activities at the Tourism Log Cabin Campground, a Canada Day parade and cake.

In Kipling, it's "batter up!" for the 13th annual Bobby Vargo Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament. There's action all weekend long, with ball games starting at 6 pm on Friday night, then all day Saturday and Sunday. The Kipling Fire Department will be serving up a pancake breakfast from 7-11 am at the arena on Saturday morning, with kids' events throughout the day. Opening ceremonies plus the homerun derby and Calcutta kick off at 6 pm, with a silent auction active throughout the weekend.



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**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY - AUGUST 1,2,3**

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**Manitoba Pro Chariot  
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**Friday, August 1**  
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**Saturday, August 2**  
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## Bulls and Broncs back July 12

*Continued from page 5*  
Last year, the rodeo grounds were renamed to 'Angus Turpie Memorial Arena' on behalf of the Turpie and Jamieson family.

"Angus did a lot of stuff within the community, as well as donate the portion of land that the rodeo grounds and parking lot sits on, so we renamed the arena after him. That was really big for their family," said Dequier.

Dequier says the committee has added some events to attract more people to this year's event.

"We are expecting twelve plus horse riders for novice and bronc riding, and twenty plus bull riders through the BRC (Bull Riders Canada), which is very big attraction for bull riding."

They will also be bringing back the jumbo replay

screen again. "The jumbo replay screen has a huge sponsor this year, so that helps to bring that back. It's a very big attraction in a little arena," said Dequier.

The committee has booked a new band to perform at the rodeo grounds this year. "Nelson Little from Winnipeg is coming, and he was recommended to us by Quintin Blair, who we have had for the past three years, so they are sure to be a great entertainer for the event. It makes it all the more fun to have these cool things happening" said Dequier.

"We noticed last year that many businesses in town promoted a rodeo weekend sale event, whether they were a direct sponsor to us or not, it really helped us get the word out about the rodeo, and we hope to get that again,"

said Dequier.

"I would like to thank the people, and town council for being direct support to us year after year, it means a lot, and we could not do it without you, so thank you for that."

The Chamber of Commerce will also be holding their annual parade, which will be held the morning of July 12th, with this year's theme being 'Firework Fiesta'.

"With the fireworks coming back this year, we thought that would be a good theme to have fun with," said president of the Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Weedmark.

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 Includes all access day pass and concert. Family must be in same household  
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# Deputy Minister of Advanced Education tours Whitewood Southeast College campus

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK  
The Deputy Minister of Advanced Education in Saskatchewan toured Whitewood Southeast College campus on May 26.

Louise Michaud, the Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan's Advanced Education, was impressed with the culture the college creates for their students.

"The tour was very good. It was an opportunity for me to learn how Whitewood is very well located to serve a number of communities. I learned the interesting ways in which the college adapts to the needs of the students. I think it is fascinating to see how they embody the concepts of Truth and Reconciliation. I find this is a school that is designed to learn and get to know their students and then adapt to be what the student needs in order to succeed and truly commit to the success of the students."

## About SE College

Michaud explains there are certain requirements Southeast College follows to best serve the communities and the province.

"The mandate is to do two things—to help people who maybe need a



Louise Michaud, the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education in Saskatchewan, MLA of Moosomin-Montmartre Kevin Weedmark, and President and CEO of Southeast College, Jody Holzmillier.

second opportunity to set their path in life so they do that very well through ABE adult education. An-

other mandate is to deliver the workforce skills that the province needs. *Continued on page 19* 33\*



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**Yvonne Down (Moosomin):**  
CALL OR TEXT: 306-646-7554  
Home: 306-435-2645

**Brian Beckett (Moosomin):**  
CALL OR TEXT: 306-434-5044

or contact any Gateway Parish member

Tickets can also be purchased at The World-Spectator in Moosomin  
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- 9:00 PM - 2:00 AM ENTRY TO CABARET/AUCTION ONLY

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# Kyle Jeannot gives update on Living Skies Come Alive

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

Kyle Jeannot with the Moosomin Regional Park gave an update for Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition, which will be returning to the park on the August long weekend.

"Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition is back this year. August 2nd and 3rd will be Saskatchewan vs Alberta," said Jeannot at the Chamber of Commerce meeting in May.

"We had the fireworks guy out last Friday at the lake and he said that it is going to be as good of a show as we have ever had before, so there is some excitement going on with that."

"Early bird tickets go on sale June 14th to July 26th for \$20, after that they are \$25 each. Children five and under get free admission."

Jeannot says they have food trucks booked; Mexican King, Perras Boys, Smoothie 'n Cool Tea, and Moose Creek General Store.

There will be kids' activities, live music and beer gardens both Saturday and Sunday night. "The Hideout is going to bring a trailer out with some kids' events so we are super excited, it's our first time having that," said Jeannot. There will also be local vendors set up at the park selling goods Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend.

Jeannot says to plan for a busy weekend in town, estimating about 5,000 people will visit the park each day. "This event is going to put a lot of people back in Moosomin. Whether they are coming to get camping supplies, groceries, drinks, using the hotels and restaurants, or whatever else they may need. At the end of the day this really benefits not just lake, but the community as a whole," said Jeannot.

Jeannot says the park is still looking for volunteers to help direct parking.

We are looking for volunteers for parking, so if anybody has any committees or organizations to recommend, we would like to hear any suggestion. In the past, the Filipino group volunteered, and the park made a donation back to the basketball courts. That is something we like to do if we can get volunteers out there for three or four hours, or an afternoon, is to make a donation back to them for helping out."

There will be a sponsorship going around for the park, and there will be signage at the park, covering all different levels of sponsorship. You'll have your sign coming in for your business on your way to the toll booth and you'll have 4-5 thousand people passing by, seeing your sign, it's going to pull people out from the community

"We will send an e-mail to the chamber committee and then go around to businesses as well."

Jeannot says this year,



the park has created a calendar, where there will be something going on every weekend. "There is a QR code to scan on our Facebook page, so there will be live updates soon. There will be something going on every weekend to pull people out from the com-

munity to experience what the lake has to offer." Jeannot is confident they will hit the 5,000 visitor mark, he says there is a lot of interest and the serviced campsites are already booked up, and they are already booking overflow camping sites.

# PIPESTONE 2025 HOMECOMING

**July 11 - 13**  
Friday - Sunday

**ALL WEEKEND LONG**

- > Memorabilia Displays
- > History Walking Tour
- > Slo Pitch Tournament
- > Scavenger Hunt
- > Canteen

Pipstone

HOMECOMING 2025

\$30,000  
50/50  
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FRIDAY JULY 11	SATURDAY JULY 12	SUNDAY JULY 13
<b>BBQ Supper</b> Hall 5pm - 7pm	<b>Farmers Market</b> 9am - 12pm	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b> Hall 9am - 11am
<b>Live Entertainment</b> Travis Barre 7pm - 10pm	<b>Pipstone Cemetery Walk</b> 10am	<b>Church Service</b> <b>PARADE</b> 10am 12pm
<b>Official Welcoming</b> Hall 8pm	<b>PAREC Kids Activities</b> 10am - 4pm	<b>PAREC Kids Activities</b> 1pm - 4pm
<b>Beer Gardens</b> 5pm - 10pm	<b>Pipstone School Reunion</b> 1pm	<b>Memorial Park Grand Opening</b> 1:30pm
<b>Fireworks</b> Rec Ground @ Dusk	<b>Roast Beef Supper</b> Happy hour 5pm Supper 6pm	<b>Lion Club 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> 2pm
	<b>Social</b> Armadillo Band 9pm - 1am	

**Live Music** **Kids Activities** **School Reunion**

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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## Prairie Built Classic Fundraiser

# Jessica Campbell hosts fundraiser in Rocanville this July

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Jessica Campbell, assistant coach of the NHL's Seattle Kraken, and the first female coach in the NHL, is returning home to Rocanville to host the Prairie Built Classic Social and Fundraiser this summer.

The event will be Saturday, July 19 at the Rocanville Golf Course.

Brad Hickman of Rocanville Minor Hockey is helping Jessica organize the event.

"It is the Prairie Built Golf Classic. It is the first one and hopefully it draws a lot of interest, and we continue this event yearly."

Hickman explains the event was Jessica's idea to support young hockey players within the community of Rocanville.

"It was another one of Jess's ideas. She continuously gives back to Rocanville and the area. She wants to help give students an opportunity with the scholarship, and also give back to minor hockey with helping develop young hockey players in the area."

### Big event

Hickman says the event will host Jessica Campbell as well as other hockey celebrities.

"It will be Saturday, July 19 at the golf course in Rocanville and then we will have supper and some hockey celebrities as well. Brandon Crowe with Hockey Canada is going to do a Hot Stove, and we'll have some fun with the different celebrities—it should be a good event. We will also have a live auction with lots of donated items—players and teams have donated items for the auction.

"The golf side of the event is pretty much full. It filled quick. There is only room for maybe one or two more teams. A lot of people outside the community have reached out.

"It just shows what kind of impact Jess has had on various areas—when you have that much interest in signing up it just goes to show what kind of person Jess is."

### Campbell's idea

Hickman explains Campbell's importance within the community.

"She is an important part of our town. She is continuously giving back to these kids, supports the area, and knows the importance of small town Saskatchewan. She is breaking barriers and is an exceptional coach and it is great to see her get the opportunity to coach at the highest levels in the NHL."

Hickman says Campbell is hoping this event will raise money for the Prairie Built Scholarship for students in Rocanville.

"It is Jess's idea and it is Jess's event that will be raising the funds for the Prairie Built Scholarship and helping with kids' skills and development and having it set up that various coaches are coming in to help on a regular basis."



Above and at right, Jessica Campbell of Rocanville. Campbell will be returning home this July to host the Prairie Built Classic Fundraiser.

Hickman says he was honoured to help Campbell organize the event.

"Jess reached out to me, and she has given back generously to minor hockey which my boys are a part of and that I am a part of, so it was a no brainer to help Jess out—she is on the road and busy lots. I think it is a great event and anything to help organize for Jess and the Campbell family, since they have definitely done a lot for our town and area."



### Community excited

Hickman says the town and surrounding communities are excited for the upcoming event. "There is definitely lots of buzz going around. It is early yet, but I think once more advertising is out, and letting people know about the supper and live auction will add to everyone's excitement. Anyone can attend, you don't have to golf to come. We are going to have a live band too, so it will be a good event. It will be a lot of fun and hopefully we get a lot of people out."

"We are just in the process of getting the tickets set up. I will have more details on that soon," Hickman said.

The community hopes to see the event become an annual fundraiser in Rocanville each summer.

"I think as long as everybody is available and Jess is able to come out and make a fun time of it, I hope it could be an annual event," said Hickman.



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# Deputy Minister of Advanced Education tours Whitewood Southeast College campus

*Continued from page 15*

The regional colleges are a key component along with our universities, and Sask Polytechnic, but our regional colleges give the opportunities to deliver people for trades, the opportunity for people within Saskatchewan to study near where they live, and that is what I think is going to continue to keep rural Saskatchewan vibrant."

Michaud says the college easily adapts to their students' and communities' needs.

"The continuing care is really good. It looks as though they are working to adapt to the changes in the international student policy. They are doing that very well.

"I really appreciate any opportunity to contribute to the health care human resources supply. Any opportunity to recruit out of schools at earlier age is certainly a good place to focus."

## Challenges within Southeast College

Jody Holzmillier, the President and CEO of Southeast College, says they face some challenges with the International student policy.

"I often like to look at challenges as both a challenge and an opportunity. Two challenges that come to mind instantly is funding—our base operating grant has decreased over the past 12 years so that is definitely a challenge. I like to add that one thing colleges do really well is that we are very resourceful, so we try to stretch our resources all over. Another challenge again is the IRCC policy that the federal government has instituted.

"Southeast College, we have only been a designated learning institution for about four years so we approached international students very sustainably, thank goodness. It was never intended for Southeast College to use the international students as—I will use the term 'cash cow'. We definitely

would have appreciated the additional revenue that it would have provided. We started our first year with five students, increased to nine, then went to perhaps 18, and then around 25, so we have increased modestly.

"This year I can tell you at our recent executive management meeting last week—we have close to 50 applications from international students, but we have one study permit approved at this point in time."

Holzmillier explains the difficulties with International Student applications all post-secondary schools are seeing within the province.

"It is unfortunate that all post-secondary institutions across the country have been painted with the same brush around international students. I think if folks were to look at specifically—I will speak for our province—I think they will see that as a province we have approached it very sustainably. We don't have students that have nowhere to live, or not enough money for groceries or bus fares. So, our CCA (Continuing Care Assistant) has been a big draw for international students.

"We have also had interest in our Early Childhood Education program, and this year we have one international student who has applied and been accepted, but still don't have their study permit approved in our Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport program. So the scope of programs of interest is broadening, it is just really unfortunate that the timing is what it is."

Holzmillier says that many of their students are hired by future employers before graduating.

"The majority of our CCA, whether domestic or international, are hired before they are done their program. So there is a need for that training. It is unfortunate there are some programs that won't run without international students because we

don't have enough domestic demand. So it is really unfortunate we have seen these hurdles."

## What Southeast College offers

Holzmillier says the college offers students post-secondary education within their community and home town.

"I think the big part why students find the college attractive is it is the ability to learn where you live. For some folks financially, leaving their home community isn't an option, the challenge there is we have to work with our communities to find the programs that we can get a critical mass for within those smaller communities to allow them to be sustainable. We pride ourselves on being flexible, but that comes with its own challenges—being flexible doesn't necessarily mean it is easy to move a program from one location to another year after year because we find as a college, you need a couple years in a community to start to build that reputation. It is also difficult to find an instructor often times. The requirements to instruct our programs are set by Sask Polytechnic and we have to follow those—in rural Saskatchewan it is often difficult to find somebody who is willing to leave perhaps a full-time career

to teach a program."

## Part of Southeast College family

Holzmillier says the students become part of the school's family for the school year. "Our college campuses of course are for learning, but our students become part of our family for the weeks they are with us. Because we are small, I think that is an advantage. I look at the small classes and small campuses as a real advantage for students. If they are hesitant about post-secondary to begin with, coming to a smaller location where they have far more one-on-one attention from instructors, advisors, whoever that might be, it is definitely beneficial."

She explains most programs offered at Southeast College offer work placements for students to learn more hands-on.

"In the majority of our programs—all of our trades and health programs have work placements and practicums. That requires a very strong relationship with industry that are tied to those programs. So, we often tell our students those work placements whether they are two weeks or four, that it is the longest job interview that they will ever have.

*Continued on page 37*



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**KENTON LUD/WARD 1 OFFICE MANAGER • KENTON OFFICE**  
**Job Description**  
 The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is looking for a **full-time (with flexibility for part-time) Kenton LUD/Ward 1 Office Manager**. Based at the Kenton Office and reporting to the CAO, the role includes customer service, utility billing, support to departments, safety program administration, and recreation support. Candidates should have strong administrative and communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft Office, and ideally have or be willing to complete a CMMA certificate, administrative and clerical duties related to the operation of the Municipality.

**UTILITY OPERATOR**

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is hiring a full-time Utility Operator based out of the Virden Office. Reporting to the Utility Manager, this unionized position supports water treatment, distribution, and wastewater systems across the municipality. Duties include system checks, data recording, maintenance, and assistance during water breaks. Applicants must hold or be willing to obtain Manitoba water/wastewater certification, possess a valid Class 5 driver's license, and be computer proficient. A full benefits package is available after six months.

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A complete job description is available online or upon request.  
 Interested candidates should submit a resume with three professional references by:

**E-mail:** info@wallace-woodworth.com  
**Mail/Drop-off:** R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
 154023 PR 257 Box 2200 (Corner of 83 Hwy & PR 257)  
 Virden, Manitoba R0M 2C0

*We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted. This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.*



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**Job Description**  
 The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a strategic, experienced, and innovative Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to lead its financial management and long-term fiscal planning. As a key member of the senior management team, the CFO is responsible for providing expert advice to Council and the CAO, ensuring the financial health of the municipality, implementing the asset management plan, and aligning financial strategies with the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and beyond. This position will report directly to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

**Key Responsibilities**

- Lead the preparation of annual operating and capital budgets and long-term financial forecasts
- Provide expert analysis on financial trends, risks, and opportunities
- Co-ordinate year-end financial statements and the municipal audit process
- Ensure compliance with PSAB standards and provincial financial regulations
- Develop and implement financial policies, reserve strategies, and internal controls
- Support the preparation and tracking of grant applications and related reporting obligations
- Collaborate with department heads on financial planning for capital projects and service delivery
- Prepare financial summaries and support the CAO with information for Council decision-making
- Ensure awareness of legislation related to payroll, pensions, and benefits to support HR/payroll compliance

**Qualifications**

- Degree in Accounting, Finance or Economics; CPA designation required (or legacy CA, CMA, or CGA)
- Minimum of 3-5 years of progressive experience in finance, with experience in a senior leadership or strategic role; experience in municipal finance an asset
- Strong knowledge of budgeting, financial reporting, and grant management
- Proficiency with municipal financial systems (e.g., Muniware) is an asset
- Understanding of PSAB and the Manitoba Municipal Act is an asset
- Strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills
- Familiarity with employment-related financial legislation and benefits compliance is an asset
- A Certificate in Manitoba Municipal Administration will be an asset
- Familiarity with asset management, capital planning, and rural infrastructure is highly desirable

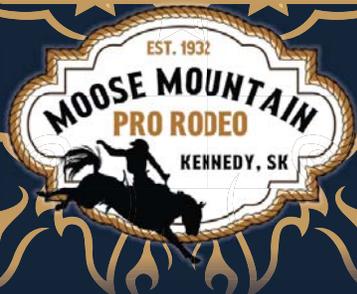
**Application Details**

The R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth offers a competitive salary and benefits package, commensurate with experience and qualifications. A complete job description is available upon request. Interested candidates are invited to submit the following:

- A cover letter outlining qualifications and interest in the role
- A current résumé
- Salary expectations
- Three professional references

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**Mail/Drop-off:** R.M. of Wallace-Woodworth Municipal Office  
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# Plain & Valley

June 2025 • Page 25

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

## Cooper Bratton National Telus Cup Champion with Regina Pat Canadians

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Cooper Bratton of Moosomin won the Telus Cup Championship with the Regina Pat Canadians in Chilliwack, BC this past April.

Bratton says winning the National Championship was a highlight of his hockey career.

He explains he grew up just outside of Moosomin on a farm with his parents and siblings. "I live on a farm 30 minutes west of Moosomin. I grew up in Moosomin and have played hockey and sports here since I was little.

"My dad, Mike, is a farmer and has helped coach me over the years. My mom, Sandra, teaches grade 2 at Mac-Leod Elementary. My brother, Mack, is in grade 8 and my sister, Harper, is in grade 6."

### Hockey career

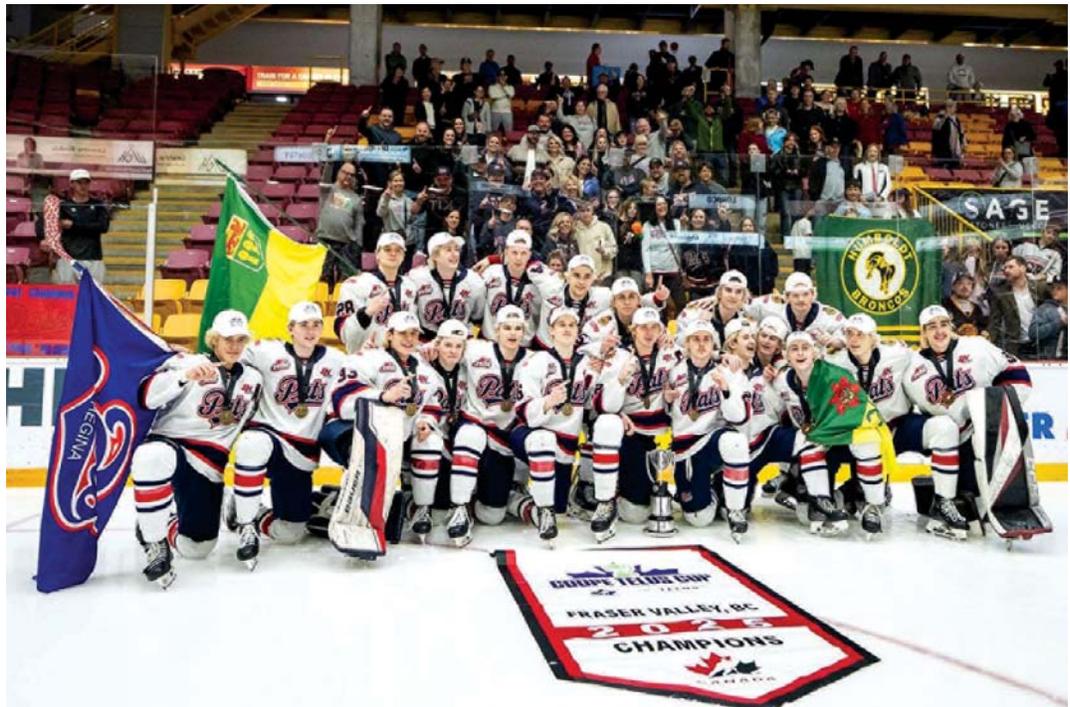
Bratton explains the beginning of his hockey career as part of the Moosomin Rangers.

"I started playing hockey in Moosomin as a U7 Snowflake. I played hockey in town until Atom AA with the Badgers. Then, played Pee Wee AA with Melville for two years. I also played my first year of Bantam AA with Melville and then second year with Sask East—a combined AA team of Yorkton and Melville players.

"Last year, I was drafted by the Prince George Cougars of the Western Hockey League (WHL) and signed with the AAA Regina Pat Canadians for the hockey season."

Bratton says being drafted in the WHL was a highlight of his hockey career.

"It was pretty cool to be drafted in the draft, and a fun experience too. It was something I had dreamed of. You never really know where you are going to go in the draft and it is nerve-racking, but it all worked out and I attended Prince George's camp last August



The AAA Regina Pat Canadians 2025 National Telus Cup Champions.

after being drafted."

Bratton says his dad has been a role model for his hockey career.

"My dad got me into hockey and then I just kept playing because I enjoyed it so much. My dad played in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) with Melville so I have grown up to love and enjoy hockey like him."

Bratton was one of the defencemen on the Regina Pat Canadians this season.

"I am a defenceman and this year I was a shutdown d-man who just tried to play physical against other teams' top players, so then when I had chances to score and play offence I tried to capitalize."

He says he enjoys build-

ing friendships with his teammates. "I enjoy creating bonds with my teammates and getting to know everyone. There are a lot of good people in the game of hockey.

"Hockey means a lot. It is what I have grown up doing and what I want to do in the future so obviously it means a lot—I'm just trying to get better every day."

### Moving away for hockey

Bratton says this year was an adjustment with moving away from home and meeting new people.

"This year was definitely different moving away from home and going

'home' to a different family every night. Also, going to school with a whole new group of people and having to make new friends was a change.

"I lived in the south end of Regina with my second cousins—my dad's first cousins. I have a great-aunt in Regina, and two sets of cousins. I lived with one of my dad's first cousins and another one lived just down the road, so I was surrounded by family and that was nice."

Bratton said he attended Martin Academy in Regina for the school year with his teammates. "I went to Martin Academy in Regina. There, school and hockey are pretty involved with each other, es-

pecially since everyone on our team goes to the same school. Our head coach is actually a teacher at our school as well.

"Every Tuesday and Thursday we would skate periods two and three before lunch and then every other Friday we would go on a field trip as team building, as part of the academy. We only had three main classes and then the other two are with the academy and to do with hockey."

### Long road to Nationals

Bratton says the Western and National championship tournaments came quickly after winning pro-

vincials in Regina. "It was a long grind with lots of games in a short amount of time. Winning provincials was pretty cool because that was our main goal that we were aiming for at the start. Then, when we won that, we went to Kenora, Ontario for West-erns. We knew we were all in and were pretty dominant there. Then, we went to Chilliwack, BC about a week after—we practiced for a week straight, then flew out and practiced the night we got there, then played seven days straight so that is a lot of hockey in not much time. It all flew by so fast."

Continued on page 29

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# Family staying in Moosomin after fleeing from fires

BY KARA KINNA

Bobby and Chelsi Brown, along with their three children and pet dog, have been on the road for almost two weeks after being evacuated from their home in Creighton, Saskatchewan, where wildfires continue to blaze.

The couple are currently staying with friends and family in the Moosomin area.

"Creighton, Saskatchewan, is a border town with Flin Flon, Manitoba on one side and Denare Beach, Saskatchewan on the other," says Bobby Brown.

"A wildfire had started up just a couple of kilometers outside town. They could not get control of that fire, and it grew to a massive fire that joined up with two other fires that are burning. It has turned into a pretty wild situation up there."

"Eighty per cent of Denare Beach was lost in one day," says Chelsi. "That is where we went fishing, ice fishing, and did all kinds of stuff. Half of our town went there, and it is just gone."

"It is very frustrating to be honest," says Bobby. "Before we even got the evacuation notice, the company I work with, Big Ice Services, we had agreed and we had signed on with Saskatchewan Wildfires that we agreed to stay behind in the event of an evacuation, and of course when evacuation time came, I helped my wife and kids get out of town, and I stayed behind to help

fight the fires. There was a lot of frustration going on because we were trying to find places for family to go, and I was trying to deal with staying home to try and fight the fires."

"That whole area is thousands and thousands of people," says Chelsi. Flin Flon alone has around 6,000 people living there, and that is just the one community. Flin Flon, Creighton and Denare Beach—those are three communities, and then you have all of the little communities like Bakers Narrows, Schist Lake, Sourdough Bay, Cranberry, Portage, my dad lives at Twin Lakes—there are so many.

"Everyone is scrambling to try and find somewhere to go. Some residents came in from out of town, and they were just trying to get to their house so they could get some stuff to evacuate, because they were out of town at the time the fires started, and they left with just the clothes on their back."

Bobby says the evacuation was mandatory, and they were given very limited time to get out.

"They gave us a certain time limit that you had to get out. I think we had about an hour and a half maybe two hours to pack up from the time I got to the house to help Chelsi. So basically we had to gather up our important belongings and then we had to hit the road.

"We filled up the boat with as much stuff as we could fit inside in the little amount of time we had. We



Photos of the wildfires up north provided by the Brown family.

got our boat, I had to leave my side-by-side behind."

"Bobby was working at the time, he was about 20 minutes away from our home. I knew the danger was coming so I had a few things packed," says Chelsi. "All we got out was a suitcase with some clothes that all three kids are sharing, so not much, and we have just a tote of clothes for us, and a few toys and stuff so that the kids had something.

"I walked into my living room and was thought, what is the most important thing that cannot be replaced?"

Continued on Page 31



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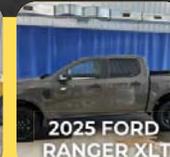
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# Cooper Bratton National Telus Cup Champion with Regina Pat Canadians

Continued from page 25

Bratton says his family came to Telus in Chilliwack. "My dad was actually on a golf trip in Kenora when we were there for Westerns, and then my whole family came to Telus in Chilliwack."

## Winning National Championship

Bratton says winning Telus was unlike anything else he had ever experienced.

"It was pretty unreal winning Telus. The team that we lost to in round robin was the team we played in the final, and in round robin we lost pretty good like 5-2. We had a rough start, but then we played with them the rest of the game so we were pretty confident going into the final. It was 2-2 going into overtime and Shultz scored within the first 30 seconds of overtime—when he scored I don't know what happened to be honest it was all so fast and we all jumped off the bench, threw our helmets, and it was just unreal."

The Pat Canadians had a good regular season fueling them to win provincials.

"We had a good regular season year too," Bratton said. "We played 44 games and we were about 36 wins and seven losses. We were pretty dominant at our league finals and when we went to Westerns, just looking at other teams' records, we thought there wasn't as good of competition and were confident in our game. Telus, obviously the best teams from all over Canada—we knew it was going to be tough."

"It was really cool being there and playing in Telus. We had to tighten up our game and stick to some systems not trying to do too much, just playing for our team."

Bratton says he has added provincial and national titles to his hockey achievements. "I have won spring tournaments, but no provincial titles in bantam or atom, and now I have won provincial and national in midget which is really cool."

## Among three other Telus Cup Champions from Moosomin

Bratton is among three other National Telus Cup Champions from Moosomin.

"That is pretty cool to think obviously, and the other



Cooper Bratton, a defenceman for the Regina Pat Canadians in the Saskatchewan AAA Midget League.

three guys who have won Telus in Moosomin I know them or know of them and it feels so cool to know, and now relate to winning Telus. Only three other people in this town shows how much of a grind it is. It is really cool to have

won such a huge championship and being from small town Moosomin along with three other local hockey guys years before me is even cooler."

## Future plans

Bratton says he hopes to join the Prince George Cougars in the WHL for the 2025/2026 hockey season.

"Next year I am going to try and make the Prince George Cougars in the WHL because you can make the WHL as a 16-year-old and that is my goal. If not and I get sent back, I will be playing with the Pat Canadians again in Regina. I would be second year U18 next year if I went back to Regina."

"I am going to Prince George for camp at the end of August. My dad is planning to come out with me as well."

Bratton has big goals for the coming hockey seasons.

"I hope to play in the WHL and then commit to a division one school in the states somewhere after, as my long-term goal," he said. "I already have three years of university paid for from signing with Prince George, so that is pretty cool. I hope to just go as far as I can and as far as hockey will take me."

## Hockey lessons

Bratton explains the lessons hockey has taught him over the years of playing.

"It has shown me lots of life lessons such as teamwork and hard work. It creates friendships. I don't think I would be anywhere I am today if it weren't for hockey and the people I have met."

Bratton says he will be training for the next few months in Regina and Melville.

"I am working out every day right now and then skating in Regina three to four times a week and then skating in Melville with Casey O'Brian in Edge-to-Edge a few times when I have time."

Previous Telus Cup Champions from Moosomin:

- Kyle Bochek won Telus with the Notre Dame Hounds in 2018, and Dakota Boutin with the Prince Albert Mintos in 2014.
- Rykr Cole played in the Telus Cup Championship with the Moose Jaw Generals in 2014 when Moose Jaw hosted the tournament.
- Jason Miller won with the Tisdale Trojans in 2002 when it was known as the Air Canada Cup.

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# Historic snow plane now fully restored

## Couple eager to showcase restored Fudge snowplane

Continued from Page 7

"I even found an inexpensive model car kit that has a little propeller on the back so kids can make a wind power car toy, but it is an opportunity for a kid to get a tool in hand and you just never know when that will plant a seed for someone to become a tradesperson or get interested into mechanics."

Hunter adds, "We gathered memorabilia from everywhere. Lots has been given to us, lots we bought, the trailer is going to be pretty good. People are going to be shocked."

### Connections to restoration project from all over

Gunderman says they have received comments and memorabilia for their snowplane restoration from all over Western Canada.

"The World-Spectator article was shared to different communities across the country."

"Up until a couple of weeks ago we had not connected with a Fudge family member, but now we have—George Fudge. The article was shared in Ontario and this Ontario person who saw it connected with George Fudge who is in Kamloops now, he is 80 years old.

"He had his granddaughter find Darrell on social media so we could share with him what we were doing and he was delighted about it."

### Learning experience

Gunderman says their trailer museum will hold four historical educational pieces.

"Young or old people have connection to it. Some people are interested in the mechanics, some are nostalgic about it. Kids are fascinated with the look of the contraption.

"The trailer—I see it sorting itself out into four themes of the story essentially—it is a health history transportation story of the Prairies and Prairie settlement, the Fudge Shop, Robert Fudge, and Fudge Industries in Moosomin that was so progressive and innovative, Darrell and I have a story of restoring it, and the fourth story there are—in Western Canada and even in North Central United States—a lot of snowplane enthusiasts that get together and have meets and it is like a car show for snowplanes with new and older models."

Hunter says they will be accepting donations to local museums in their trailer museum.

"In our mobile museum there are going to be boxes that people can donate for every museum in this area. We



Ashley Bochek photo

Lisl Gunderman and Darrell Hunter interviewed by CTV News Yorkton at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting in May.

had been to just about every museum within the area and they all say they have the same problem—many said to me, 'Darrell, what project do you want next from us? We need help.' So the little that we can do—we want to ask for donations for any museum your choice. We are looking to support the museums.

"Also, we are looking for a locked up and secure place to store the trailer while we are in town. We are also looking for businesses to collaborate with us and we can dis-

play signs of the business, and we could give out these toy building cars for free to kids and get them into trades and building. It is about getting people into the trailer to see historical and exciting pieces—talk about Moosomin, talk about Fudge Industries, snowplanes, and then get them into our museums. Anything in our museum is going to be hands-on as well.

"We are very passionate about it, so reach out and let us know of any events."

### What makes horses so powerful

The whole world will have the chance to see horses in action when the Belmont Stakes shines a global spotlight on equine athleticism. It's the subject of a growing body of research that cites a constellation of characteristics: big hearts, immense lung capacity, robust musculoskeletal systems and long legs - All of which helped horses survive in the wild.

"It goes back to the roots: They are an animal of prey, that's how they got away from being eaten."

A horse's heart and lungs are the source of its extraordinary power. The heart averages 10 to 12 pounds (4.5- 5.4kg) or about 1% of the animal's bodyweight, compared with half a percent for the typical human heart. Secretariat, the storied horse that won the Triple Crown in 1973, was found after his death to have more than 20 lbs of heart tissue (9.1kg).

A horse's heart is built for exertion. The average horse can go from a resting heart rate of about 34 beats per minute to 220 or 240 while racing - faster than a human heart during maximum exertion. "One thing that's really unique about horses is that they have an incredible capacity to move blood around their bodies - their heart rate can go really high and still be safe."

Horses also have a lung capacity of 60 litres - 10 times that of humans. "That massive lung field allows for oxygen to transfer from the air into their blood, which is vitally important for sustaining aerobic energy."

Recent research in the Journal Science found that a genetic mutation enables horses



1973's Triple Crown winner Secretariat, ridden by Canadian jockey Ron Turcotte, had a heart built for exertion, weighing in twice as heavy as the average race horse

to avoid negative side effects of super high energy production. "Horses are great athletes because they can deliver a lot of oxygen to their muscles. Way more than an elite human can - and by elite human, I mean Olympic athletes!"

They have a bigger tank of gas and they have a more efficient engine ... and this mutation is contributing to both of those things. Horses store extra red blood cells in their spleens. These cells are released to carry

even more oxygen around the body during intense exertion. "Adrenaline when exercising causes the spleen to release extra blood cells into circulation." What horses are doing is essentially "blood doping" themselves.

Meanwhile, horses' brains allow them to process sensory information and react quickly. That's despite having frontal lobes, parts of the brain used for thought and planning, that are proportionally smaller than those of humans. "Brainwise, they're designed with a real desire to play and run independent of any fear," said Dr Scott Bailey, a veterinarian at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky. Claiborne is a thoroughbred breeding farm where Secretariat is buried. Horses are also able to focus intently, which is "really important for an athlete."

Bone structure and musculature also help the ligaments and tendons in their hind legs act like springs, helping propel them forward. Like other large prey animals, they have "long, thin legs that are meant to run!"

### What makes a Champion??

Experts say a healthy, safe environment brings out the best in a horse - but they still don't know what makes certain horses stand out at the race track.

"You don't have to be this star-studded bred horse that cost a million dollars at safe to come and win and be a great runner." "There are a lot of great horses"

*I came upon this article along with so many others that impressed me and I could not let it fade away!*

— Jim Davidson of Moosomin, SK

# Family staying in Moosomin after fleeing from fires

Continued from page 27

"My mother passed away, so I got some of her belongings, Bobby's mother passed away, and we got some of her items, and that is about all we grabbed."

"We probably could have took a little bit more time to pack up some things, but they said evacuate now and we just started panicking. We didn't want to be in the huge lineup to get out of town," says Bobby. "The Pas, Manitoba is 150 kilometers away, and normally that takes about an hour and 20 minutes to drive, and I was hearing reports from people in the evacuation line that were saying it was taking three to four hours to do that drive."

"That wind too just helped the fire take off. So much wind and no rain, we usually have lots of rain in May, we had none, not even a drop," says Chelsi.

While Bobby stayed behind to help fight the wildfires, Chelsi, their three young children, and their family dog left Creighton to find a safe place to stay.

"The first time we got evacuated, we went to Twin Lake, which is about 30 kilometers from Flin Flon, which is where my dad lives. And then we got evacuated two more times," she says.

"I was going 15-30 kilometers on a highway that is 100 kilometers an hour to get to my dad's place. Which is one the way to The Pas.

"I saw six to eight ambulances going back and fourth just trying to transport people from our hospital to the other hospital in The Pas. Trying to get through that was insane. We were all trying to pull over so ambulances could get through on the one-lane or two-lane highway and it was crazy.

"Denare is one one-way in and out community, you go through Flin Flon, Creighton, and Denare is 18 kilometers from Creighton, with only one way in and out. They decided to evacuate all three communities at the same time, it was chaotic.

"When we got to my dad's, we were hoping we could hold out there, and the fire would get under control. Then all of the sudden, two days later, it was getting dangerous towards Twin Lakes and we had to evacuate that area. We went up to Snow Lake, to my brother's place, and were there for a few days."

Bobby, along with several other volunteers stayed in Creighton to help the firefighters and emergency services contain the fires.

"We stayed for six days," said Bobby. "I was supplying all of the water trucks with water along with three other co-workers that were with me. We were actually in Denare Beach when the fire rolled into Denare Beach. We were wetting down properties, and doing our best to try and save what we could when the fire did hit. The fire basically came over top of one of the islands. They called it a Rank 6 fire, which is the worst of the worst fires you could get.

"It basically just rolls across the treetops and doesn't even touch the ground. That fire rolled in and we got the evac-notice over the radio to get out.

"All of the firefighters and emergency services had to pull out of Denare Beach and go back to Creighton for safety. It happened really fast. We didn't even have time to stop and do a proper head count, we were doing head counts over the two-way radio as we were driving out of there. Fortunately all of our crew members did get out safely, but later that night, about four to five hours later,

"When I left home that night, I left hoping for the best but preparing for the worst."

—Bobby Brown

"My six-year-old just keeps breaking me. She says 'mom can we go home now?'"

—Chelsi Brown

the wind changed direction and started pushing the fire directly towards Creighton. That is when we made our decision that we are not properly trained for this, we are volunteers that stayed behind to help. That is when we ultimately made the decision that it's time to look at our safety and maybe it's time for us to get out of here and let the firefighters handle it from here.

"The night after I left, I arrived at Snow Lake at about 4:30 am. I got maybe three to four hours of sleep, and then I got woke up to us being evacuated out of Snow Lake."

"It honestly feels like an apocalypse when you are sitting up there," says Chelsi. "Snow Lake is two and a half hours away from Flin Flon, and we were sitting there the one night, and it was just glowing orange.

"We decided to come straight down south where we don't have to get chased out by fires again. I have family down here—my cousin, Dallas, and I've got a bunch of Ikert family down here."

"We honestly don't know where we will stay going forward," says Bobby. "We are trying to line things up right now."

Currently, the Brown family is staying with Chelsi's cousin, Marc, on a farm just outside of Whitewood.

"It is kind of a stressful situation out there because we have our dog and a lizard, and our dogs get along with their dogs, but their dogs do not really like our dog, so it is really stressful on us," says Bobby.

"We are trying to line up an RV or a camper or something where we could have our own space with our family."

Chelsi says the whole ordeal has been stressful on her family, and especially on her kids.

"We have a 12-year old, almost-10-year-old, and six-year-old, and a very old 11-year-old dog. They have been stressed out, and they keep asking when we can go home," says Chelsi. "My six-year-old just keeps breaking me. She says 'mom can we go home now?' I wish I could say yes, but I don't know when we can go home. As of now our house is still standing, but it makes me nervous because it is right on the edge of town.

"The hard part is we keep seeing stuff about Creighton every day, how the fires are right on Creighton's door step. The street they have been showing, is the street right behind ours. We don't know if there is going to be a home to go to."

The Browns say they set up a baby monitor in their house, and have been checking the monitor every single day.

"We left the monitor behind so we could watch, and it is still there, so that is how we are living right now," says Chelsi.

"As long as we have power and internet back home, we can see inside our house. It just sucks because when you turn the sound on, there are alarms going off in the house from our security system, and it gives me anxiety when I hear it."

"I have to give a shout-out to Denare Beach Fire Department. Over 80 per cent of the fire department lost their homes in the fire in a day," says Bobby. "They chose to try and save somebody else's house while their house burned down. And here they are after losing their house, they are still with the Creighton Fire Department, trying to save Creighton."

"Three of Bobby's co-workers lost their home in the fire, two of them were part of the fire department, one of them had to leave because of mental exhaustion and one is still their trying to help fight fires," says Chelsi.

Chelsi says it is the people that are helping everyone get through right now.

"People that understand that your life just got turned upside down. I was wearing my Flin Flon Bombers shirt, that is our team, and somebody saw my shirt and said 'oh you are one of the evacuees, I am so sorry.' She was so nice."

"I have had many messages pour in asking if we need anything, and to not hesitate to reach out," says Bobby. "People saying they will help in any way possible. I actually had to reach out to a friend on the way down to Moosomin, I was having problems with my boat trailer and my friends ended up pulling through and helping me out with that. There has been an incredible amount of support coming in."

Chelsi and Bobby say if they have learned anything from this experience, it is to stay prepared for any emergency situation.

"Be prepared, always have a bag packed no matter where you live," says Chelsi. "Every summer, just have something, if you see anything about a fire. Make sure you have your favorite things, your most important things, in a safe somewhere that you can pick up and go."

"Especially if you live in a northern community," adds Bobby. "We are smack-dab in the middle of the boreal forest, so we know that forest fires are a common problem every year, but it's like something you see in the movies, you never think it's going to happen to you.

"When I left home that night, I left hoping for the best but preparing for the worst."

The Browns say almost anything people can do to help is welcomed.

"Even just a coffee. When your are running from the fires. Yesterday we couldn't believe how much a coffee felt good," she says.

"We are okay. We have been living on the food from our fridges. Every place that we have evacuated, we had to take all of the food out of the fridges, but other people are having trouble with lots of different things. Pretty much everybody has got something that they need.

"I have noticed where people are setting up evacuation centres, they have baggies for people full of meals, and other essentials you don't really think about, like socks. People have been so grateful for that. Especially the kids, the kids are missing their stuff more than anything."

## Moosomin prepared to help with people displaced by fires

BY KARA KINNA

Mayor Murray Gray says the town of Moosomin is prepared to help with people displaced by wildfires, and has contacted the provincial government to let them know that.

"The hotels reached out and said 'hey, we got lots of capacity.' We understand that the cities are a little bit overwhelmed with people that need places to stay, so they wanted to make me aware of that in case something came up," he says.

"I reached out to Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark and said let's be proactive here and offer what we have here just because we do have all the services here other than just the hotel rooms.

"If we do have some evacuees that do come here, our EMO would kick in as far as volunteering to feed them and some of the other things they are going to need. We would kick right into our EMO at that time and get some volunteers together.

"It just kind of happened quickly. Yesterday when it was suggested to me I hadn't really thought of it, but I think we to need to offer to help. We are a medium sized town, but the pressure in the city is getting overwhelming as more and more people are evacuating. I think Candle Lake is probably going to be next, so there is going to be more and more people looking for somewhere to go, so I suggested we can handle them here.

"It would obviously depend on how many show up, it would be a moving target. We'd do whatever we need to do in order to keep things happening smoothly. At that point in time definitely the EMO would kick in and our services that we can

provide to our evacuees. If you were totally overwhelmed, then you would have to go into using your halls with cots and that type of thing, but at this point in time we have rooms at hotels for families that need somewhere to go."

Gray says he feels it is important to help. "There are thousands of people displaced and as good Saskatchewan citizens, we need to offer whatever we can to help make things as smooth as possible, just as they would help us if we needed help with something."

### Offers of food, clothing

Fleming area resident Trevor Green contacted the World-Spectator last week and said he and his wife Cindy were willing to cook homemade meals for people displaced by the fires. There have also been offers of clothing from local residents wanting to help.

"I lived in hotels for years when I worked on the pipeline. Eating restaurant food gets old pretty quick," says Green. "I figured if there were a few people living in a hotel here, we could bring a lasagna up or cook a roast or something like that. We raise our own beef, so if we cooked a roast of something it wouldn't really be much to bring them a roast beef supper if there were 10 or 12 people living in a hotel. Restaurant food gets pretty old when you're eating it all the time.

"It's kind of the Métis way to share with others.

"If we did end up with a group of people staying here, I'm sure we'd end up with a group of people in Moosomin who would volunteer to help. There's enough people

in Moosomin to help like that."

### Sask government, federal government, Red Cross providing relief

Last week the Saskatchewan government announced it will be immediately providing \$15 million to the Canadian Red Cross to work with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to support wildfire evacuees.

The Government of Canada also announced that it will match every dollar donated to the Canadian Red Cross 2025 Saskatchewan Wildfires Appeal to support wildfire disaster relief and recovery efforts across Saskatchewan.

Donation matching will be open for 30 days, retroactive to when the appeal first opened on May 30. The funds raised will be used to assist those impacted by the wildfires in Saskatchewan, including those who have evacuated their homes.

Thousands of Saskatchewanians have been displaced as wildfires continue to threaten communities across the province. In response, the Canadian Red Cross is working closely with Indigenous leadership and all levels of government to provide emergency accommodations, personal services and critical information to people who have been forced from their homes.

"Saskatchewan people are known for coming together in times of need," Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe said. "This fundraising initiative to support those impacted by the wildfires reflects the generosity shown in our province and throughout the country. We thank the Canadian

Red Cross for their fundraising efforts and for providing support for evacuees as we continue to fight these wildfires."

"I would like to express my heartfelt support for the people and the communities that are affected by wildfires across the country," Federal Minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada Eleanor Olaszewski said. "As wildfires continue to impact communities across the province of Saskatchewan, we are committed to working closely with the provincial government, Indigenous leadership, and the Canadian Red Cross to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response. By matching donations to the Red Cross, we are encouraging the people of Canada to come together in support of those affected and to help communities recover and rebuild with strength and resilience."

"This has been a devastating beginning to wildfire season in Canada and our thoughts are with those impacted by the fires," Canadian Red Cross President and CEO Conrad Sauvé said. "The Canadian Red Cross is grateful for the generosity of people living in Canada, and to the Government of Canada for their support of people impacted by wildfires in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Red Cross is committed to providing support to people in the immediate days of the response, as well as for recovery."

Canadians wishing to make a financial donation to help those impacted by wildfires in Saskatchewan can do so online at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or by calling 1-800-418-1111.



## National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the traditions, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

# Kahkewistahaw First Nation undertaking major development projects

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

**LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER**  
With projects such as Lakeside at Round Lake, Kahkewistahaw Landing in Saskatoon, and Māmawi Landing in Yorkton, there are big economic development plans underway by Kahkewistahaw First Nation, and a lot on the plate for the Kahkewistahaw Economic Management Corporation.

"We truly are planning for seven generations ahead," said Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat.

"The leadership team that I sit with, the counsellors that I'm blessed to work with every day, we understand and we respect Treaty and what it's supposed to give to our people, but at the end of the day, Treaty gives the bare minimum, and that's what it was designed to do," Chief Taypotat explained.

"We're not going to sit over here on Kahkewistahaw, feel sorry for ourselves and try and make people honour Treaty at a greater extent. We can sit there and twiddle our thumbs, or we could just do something about it. We decided to do something about it in 2017 and ever since then, KEMC has been basically the economic planning force behind everything. And we made some pretty good plans."

A recent boost to the KEMC came along with Kahkewistahaw's portion of the agriculture benefits claim—more popularly known as 'Cows and Plows'—totalling \$133.6 million. Some \$10 million was earmarked for KEMC projects.



Plans for the Lakeside Project at Round Lake.

"We want to give them money because at the end of the day, that \$9 or \$10 million is going to become \$100 million, it's going to become \$200 million," Chief Taypotat said. "We were happy with the plan that we laid out. Everybody got a bit of

money."

Investing in economic planning is also an investment in people, according to Chief Taypotat.

"That's forward thinking. That's ensuring that the people of Kahkewistahaw al-

ways have opportunity. No matter who the Chief and Council are, no matter who the program managers are or the trustees are, our people are always going to have opportunity, and not be solely dependent on the government of Canada."

### Lakeside Project

Bird's Point at Round Lake has always been a special place for many people, with fond memories of gatherings at the scenic spot. Even The Guess Who have played at Bird's Point, and it is a popular spot for weddings, cabarets, and Christmas parties held there.

"When it flooded about 10 to 15 years ago, obviously it left a void in the community because it was wrecked," Chief Taypotat said. "We want to get back to where we can host social events there, the people want that, and they appreciated it, they used it."

The plans for Kahkewistahaw began in the fall of 2019 with the purchase of Billy's Pub and Restaurant at Bird's Point Resort Village. Renamed the Lakeside Grill & Tavern, there's now a new general manager at the restaurant.

"His name is Troy Miller," Chief Taypotat confirmed. "He's been in the restaurant and bar business for 20 years, so he's now down there trying to make changes."

Short term renovations to Lakeside Grill & Tavern include moving the VLTs, putting in a stage, and swapping out the booths for stand-alone tables.

*Continued on Page 34*

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## National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the traditions, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.



The Northern Plains Grass Dance Championships in Regina in April.

# About National Indigenous Peoples Day

For generations, many Indigenous groups and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on June 21 or around that time of year because of the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

National Aboriginal Day, now National Indigenous Peoples Day, was announced in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, through the Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day. This was the result of consultations and statements of support for such a day made by various Indigenous groups:

- In 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood, now the Assembly of First Nations, called for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day
- In 1995, the Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people chaired by Elijah Harper,

called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples

• Also in 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended the designation of a Na-

tional First Peoples Day

• On June 21, 2017, the Prime Minister issued a statement announcing the intention to rename this day National Indigenous Peoples Day.

National Indigenous

Peoples Day is part of the Celebrate Canada program, which also includes Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on June 24, Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27 and Canada Day on July 1.

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## Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day



Join us in taking part in the many community events and celebrations across the province. Let us also take this opportunity to learn more about the unique cultural practices, traditions and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Hon. Warren Kaeding, *MLA for Melville-Saltcoats*  
(306) 728-3881 | [warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net](mailto:warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net)

## Zagimē Anishinabēk

June is Indigenous history month in Canada. And just as many Canadian's ancestors had come from across the sea at some point in the past, our community's own oral traditions tell us that our ancestors migrated from eastern Canada a long time ago.

Our oral traditions still carry the memory of that. This month reminds us of the need to hold on to the memory of who we are and where we come from; and to not forget the communities and people who've gone before. In this very busy season on the land, we wish everyone a safe and productive Spring. During your reprieve from the busy spring work, please celebrate the memories of your own past.





# National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the traditions, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

## Kahkewistahaw development projects

*Continued from Page 32*

Chief Taypotat estimates it will take about five years to fully develop plans for the Lakeside Project, with plans for a gas station, golf course, then rental cabins and a 100- to 200-site campground. Timing is essential right now, though, as uncertainty still remains in material costs.

"These tariffs from the States have obviously affected business in every which way," Chief Taypotat said. "You have to take into consideration, is the juice worth the squeeze right now? Or do we have to change the plans?"

Later-phase planning includes a drive-in theatre and waterslide park—all items to further bolster continued economic growth.

"When you have all those different things—the drive-in theatre, waterslides, golf courses—they all go hand in hand, and at the end of the day, if my First Nation can make money off it, we're in the money-making business, and we want to ensure we capitalize on that geographically."

As each phase of the Lakeside Project comes to fruition, more jobs will also be created for the region.

"Round Lake is such a cool area," says Taypotat. "It's far enough away from the city and it's unique in its own little way. The people we have around Round Lake are good, honest, hard-working Saskatchewan people, and we want to make sure that we provide a product that they'll enjoy, but also that's just right for the area and right for Round Lake."

### Kahkewistahaw Landing

For many years, land near the John Diefenbaker International Airport in Saskatoon sat empty. That all changed in 2017 when KFN purchased 60 acres of unde-



Plans for Kahkewistahaw Landing in Saskatoon include retail space for lease, a hotel, and hockey arenas.

veloped land—a way to position the First Nation geographically.

"We saw this land in Saskatoon, and we said, 'why isn't anyone buying this land?' and it was because there was no infrastructure on the land," says Chief Taypotat. "Obviously, it was going to cost a bit of dollars to put infrastructure in."

Thanks to some timely federal government infrastructure grants, work began on the property with the Kahkewistahaw Gas and Convenience store and Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations head office opening their doors by late 2022.

"That piece of land in Saskatoon is going to be the Indigenous hub of Saskatchewan in the next five years," Chief Taypotat predicts, listing future builds that

include a hotel and convention centre, hockey rinks, and retail space for lease.

"We're entering into Phase 2 right now, we're finishing up the Māmawi Business Centre, which IGR—the Indigenous Gaming Regulators—they're the main tenant on the first floor."

Four commercial rental units are also set to be ready this year, plus the ongoing search for an anchor tenant.

Adding a more Saskatoon perspective to the project is former city Mayor Charlie Clark, who sits on the KEMC Board of Directors (of which Chief Taypotat is chair).

"Charlie has given us that inside look at

what does Saskatoon really need? What does it want? So we did that strategically," Chief Taypotat said. "Charlie's a non-Indigenous man that just understands reconciliation, lives and breathes it every day, and we're glad that he's onboard."

Given Clark's background on City Council, then as Mayor, his insight is very important to the Kahkewistahaw Landing project.

"He's helping us not only build Kahkewistahaw Landing so that it becomes economically viable, but he's helping us build a better Saskatoon," Chief Taypotat said. "We're really pleased and honoured to have him on our board."

### Māmawi Landing

In Yorkton, the province's third First Nations urban reserve can be found, Māmawi Landing. It's home to KFN's first foray into a gas and convenience store, plus the KEMC-owned Penipa Hotel, and Painted Hand Casino is on the Māmawi Landing property.

"We recently built the Yellow Thunderbird Lodge, which is the Child and Family Services wing of Yorkton Tribal Council," Chief Taypotat said. "You'll see it right beside the hotel, it's a brand new build that they opened up last fall, and we have a lot of cars and traffic going into that area. Hopefully they're staying at our Hotel Inn & Suites, and hopefully they're gassing up at our gas station."

The Yorkton amenities have turned a profit for KFN, and are certainly a draw for the city.

"We're blessed to have that, and it makes us a bit of money," Chief Taypotat said. "The casino is a driver for the City of Yorkton and we're happy to be part of it."



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# National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the traditions, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

## CIC Indigenous Bursary Program expanded

Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) now delivers financial support to more Indigenous post-secondary students in Saskatchewan than ever before. With the expansion of CIC's Indigenous Bursary Program to most regional colleges and the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), students in rural areas across the province can now gain better access to this educational funding close to their home communities.

"The Indigenous Bursary Program is one of CIC's direct efforts to advance economic reconciliation, through delivering more affordable access to training and education opportunities for Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan," Crown Investments Corporation Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Increasing the participation of Indigenous talent in our Crown sector and

all aspects of Saskatchewan's economy is vital to our province's continued growth."

The Indigenous Bursary Program had provided close to \$2.2 million between 2018-19 and 2023-24 to financially support students at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) and Lakeland College. Since its inception in 2004, more than 1,300 bursaries have been awarded to students.

The expansion now includes Northlands College, Suncrest College, Southeast College, Great Plains College, North West College and GDI, which offer education opportunities across Saskatchewan's rural communities and Tribal Council districts. In total, the program provides funding for 115 bursaries per year, valued at \$5,000 each - a total annual investment of \$575,000.

"Long-standing partnerships with our donors have been essential in advancing equitable access to education," Director of Advancement at SIIT Kendra Rowswell said. "Over the years, the bursaries provided by Crown Investments Corporation have significantly reduced financial barriers for Indigenous students, enabling them to pursue their educational goals. CIC's continued generosity ensures that this impact will be felt for generations to come."

"The Crown Investments Corporation's Indigenous Bursary provided to the Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation will help create opportunities for Métis students who are unable to access other sources of financial support, one of the major barriers to attending and achieving a higher education," Gabriel Dumont Institute CEO Brett Vandale said. "In our community, education is the great equalizer!"

### Manitoba translating government proceedings into Indigenous languages

The Manitoba government is piloting a new project to translate Hansard into the seven Indigenous languages used in Manitoba starting with Anishinaabemowin, Premier Wab Kinew announced in March.

"This project will generate a huge amount of Indigenous language text, which will help language learners, teachers and artificial intelligence researchers work with our province's first languages," said Kinew. "I'm proud to announce this initiative on National Indigenous Languages Day, which honours the languages of the Anishinaabemowin, Dakota, Cree, Anisiniwew, Métis, Inuit and Dene Peoples in Manitoba." Hansard is the official transcript of the debates and proceedings of the legislative assembly of Manitoba. The service will initially be focused on Anishinaabemowin, with an eye toward expanding to the other six Indigenous languages.

**Save the Date**

**National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025**

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## National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025

The summer solstice holds deep cultural significance for many Indigenous peoples — a time to celebrate their rich traditions and culture.

As our government honours this meaningful day, we thank the **First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Saskatchewan** for sharing their history, heritage and cultural practices for all to learn from and appreciate.



**Kevin Weedmark**  
MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre  
office@kevinweedmark.ca  
(306) 435-4005



**Hon. Daryl Harrison**  
MLA for Cannington  
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## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

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## National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It's a time to recognize and celebrate the traditions, cultures, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

# Sask Research Council celebrates new Indigenous workforce program

The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) has officially launched its Indigenous Workforce Program and celebrate the inaugural cohort of students in a reimagined Indigenous Summer Student Program, Kiskiyihta (Kiskee ih-taah). Kiskiyihta is a Cree word meaning to learn or to know.

One of several employment strategies within SRC's wider Indigenous Action Plan launched earlier this year, the Indigenous Workforce Program aims to increase the recruitment and retention of Indigenous employees at SRC. Coordinated through the Indigenous Workforce Program, Kiskiyihta provides Indigenous students studying at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution with opportunities for hands-on learning in a research and technology environment at SRC.

"Through SRC's Indigenous Workforce and Kiskiyihta Summer Student Programs, more Indigenous youth will have the chance to work in a specialized research and technology environment, gaining valuable job experience, coaching and mentorship," Minister Responsible for SRC Warren Kaeding said. "The new initiative complements SRC's Indigenous

Action Plan, with a goal to create new employment opportunities and further advance economic reconciliation in the province."

The First Nations University of Canada, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the Saskatoon Tribal Council are integral Workforce Program collaborators. Through these relationships, SRC will work collaboratively to identify skilled candidates for summer work placements, internships, apprenticeships, co-op placements and other job opportunities.

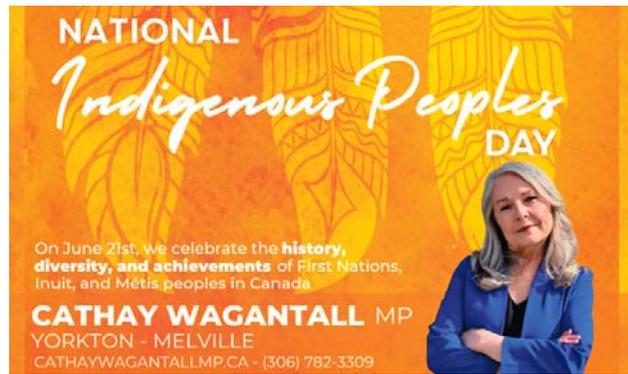
Four students are part of this year's inaugural program and will be immersed in learning experiences in SRC's Rare Earth Element Division and Nuclear Division, as well as its Environmental Remediation and External Relations teams.

"We want to be an employer of choice for Indigenous Peoples by providing unique job experiences they may not have had prior access to," SRC President and CEO Mike Crabtree said. "Our goal is to engage and empower Indigenous Peoples so they can thrive in a culturally safe workplace and achieve their professional goals."

SRC's Indigenous Workforce Program also places focus on developing strategies for the retention and advancement of Indigenous employees once they are part of SRC's workforce, such as increasing opportunities for participation in leadership roles and all-staff events to celebrate Indigenous culture.

SRC is Canada's second largest research

and technology organization with 1,400 clients in 22 countries around the world. With more than 350 employees, SRC has been helping clients solve technology problems, make improvements, increase productivity and develop new markets for more than 77 years. More details about SRC's Indigenous Action Plan can be found at [src.sk.ca/IAP](http://src.sk.ca/IAP).



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# Deputy Minister of Advanced Education tours Whitewood Southeast College campus

Continued from page 19

Those relationships we make with industry are critical and crucial to the success of our students as well."

## Future plans for Southeast College in Moosomin

Holzmilller says the college plans to rebuild relations within Moosomin and offer some programs in the future.

"We have some conversations that we need to get back into. We need to get back into the community of Moosomin and start to rebuild those relationships and

work with the high school, the community, surrounding industries, and the surrounding catchment area because we can't get a critical mass from one small town.

"Part of the plan going forward is I am hoping to construct a team from our college—we won't just have a business consultant in your community—we will have a program co-ordinator, a business consultant, student advisor, student recruiter, and they will all touch a different piece of your community. We will bring that information back and figure out as a team and a college to figure out what each community needs, and put in place a sustainable plan."

She says they have high hopes to return to Moosomin with some programming in the future.

"The plan has never been to abandon programming in Moosomin. We found ourselves in a position with lease space that was extremely under-utilized so as CEO and executive team we had to make a decision based on the timing of the lease expiring and what we currently had with programming in Moosomin, but we will still offer any programming—our Safety Business and Industry Training, if there are needs for that within the community we are definitely open to offering that in a rented space. We want to get back in the community of Moosomin."

Holzmilller will present the college's plan to re-engage with the community of Moosomin at the June 24 Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting.

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With Victor Santos, Edward Santos-Cardoza and Lesi Cardoza at the Southeast College grad where Lesi was a graduate.



With the crowd at the Walk for Alzheimer's in Moosomin on May 24.



Above: At the Rocanville Community Days parade.

Left: With Deputy Minister of Advanced Education Louise Michaud and Southeast College President Jody Holzmillier at the Whitewood Campus on Monday, and with Jess, Louise's guide dog!

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Me with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith at the First Ministers Conference June 1.



Me with Jess Moskaluke at the First Ministers Conference.



I got a chance to speak with Prime Minister Mark Carney at the First Ministers Conference.



Opening the new lift at the historic Bell Barn at Indian Head Saturday evening, and enjoying a lobster supper with Kara. It was great to reconnect with so many friends at Indian Head and meet a few new friends!



With elder Lorna Standingready at the Southeast College grad in Whitewood Wednesday.

## Very exciting times representing Moosomin-Montmartre

What an amazing and busy time it has been! Every day is so full! Take Saturday May 24, for instance. It was a busy day with the Moosomin Walk for Alzheimer's in the morning, McNaughton High School grad in the afternoon, and a lobster supper fundraiser for Indian Head's historic Bell Barn in the evening.

I was honored to attend the Moosomin Walk for Alzheimer's. The event raised close to \$70,000 for the Alzheimer Society. It was great to see so many people out on a beautiful day to show their support for an important cause.

It was an honor to share the McNaughton Grad Class's special day with them. I had a chance to address the grad class and the rest of the school Friday, and I was pleased to be there for the graduation ceremony Saturday as well.

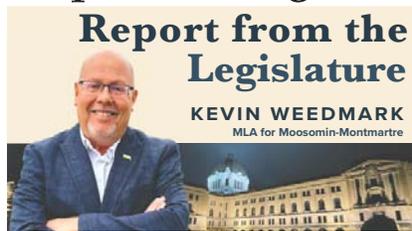
The Bell Barn fundraiser was an incredible event as well. The barn, built in 1882—143 years ago—by Major William R. Bell, is more than just stone and timber—it is a symbol of innovation, of prairie heritage, and of our shared past here in Saskatchewan. For over a century, it stood as a testament to the ingenuity of our pioneers. But as time wore on, its structure began to fade—and with it, a piece of our history was at risk of being lost.

That's where the people of the Indian Head area came in. Through their time, energy, and expertise, and above all, their passion, they brought the Bell Barn back to life. They didn't just rebuild a building—they restored a legacy, and work continues, to tell the story of the Bell Barn and to preserve it.

Volunteers are the heart of every great community project, and this one is no exception. Each stone laid, each dollar raised, each tour given and nail hammered—all of it has added up to something extraordinary.

The rebuilt Bell Barn stands proudly, not just as a monument to our history, but as a symbol of what a committed group of people can achieve together. Congratulations to every volunteer, every donor, and every supporter of the Bell Barn. They have done something historic, and we are all better for it.

Oh and the lobster and mussels were good, too! During the week of May 31 to June 7, I met with everyone from the Prime Minister to Premier Danielle Smith to some of the oncologists who provide valuable cancer care in Saskatchewan to paramedics providing front line detox services on the streets of Saskatoon to workers providing



a unique recovery option for addictions in Saskatoon to some amazing grads.

Friday night I spoke at Broadview Grad. How inspiring to see these brilliant young people embarking on a life full of promise.

Saturday I attended the Khalsa Day Parade in Regina where I met many members of our Sikh community, and I spoke at a successful fundraiser for the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan in Regina Saturday evening.

Sunday morning I was at the fundraising breakfast for Teddy Bears Anonymous in Moosomin. Great to see the incredible community support. Sunday evening I attended the opening of reception of the First Ministers Conference in Saskatoon. I got to meet the Prime Minister and several premiers. I told the Prime Minister that since his predecessor didn't make it to our Energy East 2.0 energy forum in Moosomin, if he's going to reset the conversation on Pipelines, Moosomin is the place to make the announcement. . . . and IJACK, which hosted the Energy East rally in their building when it was newly built tells me the timing would be great as IJACK 2.0 is underway.

Monday I had meetings in Saskatoon and then conducted job interviews for our Caucus Chief of Staff Monday afternoon and Tuesday in Regina.

Wednesday I spoke at the Southeast College grad. It was so inspiring to see these grads ready to embark on the next stage of their lives. It was especially inspiring to see Lesi Cardozo of Moosomin graduate with her CCA designation. I'm so proud of the community for the way it rallied around Lesi and her family to allow them to stay in Canada.

I was proud when Lesi and her family became Canadian citizens, I was proud when her son became the youngest person ever elected to Moosomin town council and I am so proud of Lesi on her graduation!

Thursday I had a very full day in Saskatoon. I was MC for two health care announcements, the funding of 40 mobile detox spots in Saskatoon and area, and the opening of 17 inpatient recovery spaces at The Carter House in a beautiful corner of Saskatoon.

I am learning so much about our health care system in my role as Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health. I enjoyed meeting people working on the mobile detox program in Saskatoon and the staff at The Carter House, and I enjoyed being part of both important announcements. I was back in Saskatoon on Wednesday June 11 to do a sodturning and to tour a couple of health care programs.

Also Thursday I had a meeting at the Saskatoon Cabinet Office with the Ya Thi Nene group from the far north of Saskatchewan regarding protecting certain areas of the far north for caribou habitat. Caribou herds migrate between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and northern Saskatchewan. We have to balance habitat protection with development of critical minerals in the far north.

Friday I attended a Junior Achievement fundraiser at a unique venue in Regina—the event was held among the Semple family's unique and extensive car collection. I spoke with Gavin Semple in Saskatoon Sunday evening at the opening event for the First Ministers Conference—he had worked with us on Energy East 2.0 and he was telling me how excited he was to host the Junior Achievement event at the Historic Motorcar Company.

Saturday I was part of the Rocanville Parade and spent the day at Rocanville Community Day.

So it was a busy week like every week. I woke up in Saskatoon Monday morning, Regina Tuesday morning, Moosomin Wednesday morning, Saskatoon Thursday morning, and Moosomin Friday morning—when Kara commented that at least during session she knew where I was four nights a week. . . .

I want to hear from you! Email office@kevinweedmark.ca, call 206-435-4005, or drop in at 622 Main Street Moosomin. And if you do drop in tell Charlene what a great job she does running the office while I'm away!

# Relatively young fleet may allow farmers to delay equipment purchases amid tariffs

**LEIGH ANDERSON, SENIOR ECONOMIST**  
Global trade disruptions have caused significant challenges for Canadian agriculture. Businesses prefer stability, but constant tariff changes create confusion, making it difficult to plan. Additionally, there's widespread uncertainty about the full impact of tariffs. The CUSMA exemption from the 10% blanket tariffs, and the 90-day delay in U.S. reciprocal tariffs, have given some relief to the agriculture industry.

However, farm equipment manufacturers still face a lot of uncertainty. Outside the automotive sector, it's less known that steel and aluminum tariffs are already in effect. Also, following CUSMA rules can be complicated for parts and components used in manufacturing.

Canada has a strong, primarily niche agriculture equipment manufacturing sector, but most equipment is sourced from the U.S. The U.S.-China trade war has significantly increased the cost of components from China, creating uncertainty in the farm equipment industry. This raises concerns about the availability and cost of equipment needed this year and beyond.

## Steel and Aluminum tariffs

The primary reason for implementing the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs was to boost domestic U.S. steel production, aiming to increase capacity utilization to over 80% (Figure 1). These tariffs have significant consequences for the farm equipment industry. When tariffs raise costs on raw materials like steel and aluminum, the price of new equipment also rises. This impacts demand for farm equipment and has broader implications for farmers and manufacturers. (See Figure 1 on page 41)

The good news is that the impact on equipment prices might not be immediate for most of the equipment required this crop year, as manufacturers have raw materials already sourced and typically buy steel under fixed-price contracts. However, they will eventually need to negotiate new steel price contracts. Currently, equipment manufacturers are adopting a wait-and-see approach, causing some production slowdowns in hopes of a trade deal. They are reducing production



to avoid excess equipment inventory and managing production costs. The steel and aluminum tariffs are likely to impact the various equipment categories differently, depending on where various steel and components are sourced from.

Canadian farm equipment industry was already facing declining demand due to

high equipment prices and reduced farm profitability. The current environment of tariffs and trade disruptions will further impede the farm equipment market and pressure pre-orders for 2026.

## Decline in new orders and a shift towards used equipment

Farmers were already focused on per acre equipment costs before trade disruptions added to their concerns. U.S. farm equipment manufacturing sales declined by -18.4% in the first two months of this year, while Canadian sales fell by -5.7%. Uncertainty is deterring Canadian farmers from buying new equipment, leading to reduced pre-orders. Instead, farmers are maintaining existing equipment and investing in used machinery. New equipment purchases are likely to be delayed until tariff issues are resolved, driving demand and prices for used farm machinery.

Continued on page 41

## Navigating CUSMA compliance amidst global component complexity

Manufacturers must provide a certification of origin to claim preferential tariff treatment. This involves detailed documentation proving the equipment meets CUSMA's rules of origin. For the majority of parts, it's not possible to be CUSMA compliant.

Newly manufactured farm equipment often includes components such as semiconductors or other electrical components imported from other countries including China. The U.S.-China trade war has significantly increased the cost of these components. Many parts, like hydraulic systems, belts, and bearings, are sourced internationally.

Tariffs, whether related to steel, non-CUSMA compliance, or the U.S.-China trade war, will raise the costs for manufacturers even for equipment being finalized for delivery and used this year. The

**Daryl Harrison**  
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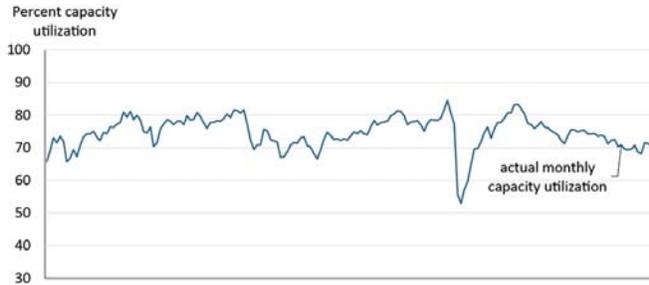


Figure 1: U.S. iron and steel capacity utilization remains below target

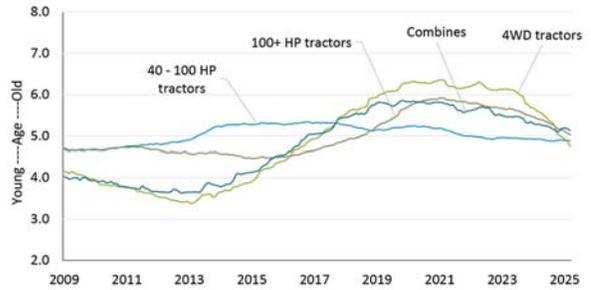


Figure 2: Proxy age of new farm equipment replacement cycle

## Relatively young fleet may allow farmers to delay equipment purchases amid tariffs

*\* Continued from page 40*

### Age of Canadian farm equipment fleet

Rising farm equipment prices due to trade disruptions will alter farmers' replacement decisions. Reduced demand for farm equipment will impact the age of the Canadian fleet. However, the fleet can likely withstand reduced sales in the short term as the estimated age of the fleet is now at a multi-year low for most equipment types (Figure 2). In the longer term, investment upgrades to the Canadian equipment fleet will be necessary.

*See Figure 2 on page 9*

### Trends to monitor

#### 1. Outlook for tariffs and potential trade deals

Monitoring the duration of tariffs, especially after the 90-day pause, is crucial. A trade agreement by July 9, 2025, is not guaranteed, particularly for steel and aluminum. The 2018 U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum lasted 11 months before being scrapped.

#### 2. Farm revenue

Crop prices and revenue so far this year have been difficult to predict. Profitability is getting tighter due to ongoing trade disruptions, impacting both commodity prices and costs. Even without tariffs, profitability projections for the year are already looking tight. Price volatility will continue as long as trade disruptions last. This year, prices are influenced more by geopolitical policies than by supply and demand, and these policies can change quickly. The good news is with this volatility there will be opportunities for farmers to secure higher prices.

#### 3. Strategic replacement decisions – a made in Canada focus

Annual equipment upgrades in some operations could face long-term issues if disrupted. Canadian dealers and manufacturers might benefit by promoting Canadian-made equipment, which could be less affected by tariffs if more domestic steel and components are utilized. Farmers need to strategically assess their unique equipment needs to minimize disruptions to their replacement cycle. Dealers can help identify equipment with the least manufacturing cost increases for replacement this year.

### Bottom line

Equipment currently being manufactured and used this crop year may have higher costs due to tariffs on components impacting overall manufacturing expenses. However, the 2026 equipment models face the most uncertainty right now. The entire industry is eagerly waiting for a resolution to the uncertainty and trade disruptions.



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# Spring seeding and the joy of fresh tilled dirt

There is nothing more "farm" than the smell of freshly tilled dirt or as my twin grands would say, "Dirt and freshly mowed grass." Personally, for me, it's the dirt. Slightly damp, little ridges from the tiller or the air drill and oh so black!

It's spring in Saskatchewan and the little rows of wheat are making their appearance across the fields. If the dirt is the best 'farm smell', the long rows are the best 'farm picture' at this time of year. No, they might not be a photographer's dream or a newspaper's front page photo, but when I see the rows, I love the anticipation that sight brings in the spring.

Speaking of spring, wasn't that warm weather a beautiful thing? The rain a welcome treat? The cold May-long temps? LOL, not so much! Since I decided I better get some walking back into my routine (three days before the May long), it has either been raining or freezing and my old winter coat is back out of the closet hanging close by on a coat hook. My winter mittens have also been resurrected from the winter-wear tub.

Cold doesn't seem to bother the twins much at all. The adaptable young fellows, now 14, are continually thinking and doing. From our 'rv home' on the farm, I can hear these fellows hard at work. The little tractor and tiller are going. The riding mower is rolling along. The chain saw is cutting fallen trees. The SxS is passing by the camper, its back loaded with old tree branches. The fishing rods are up over their shoulders as they trod over to the fishing hole, dogs by their sides.

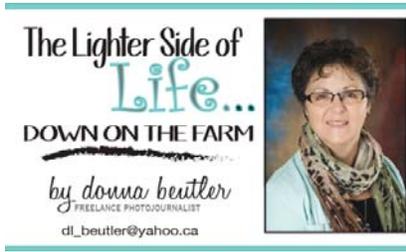
One night after 9 pm as one of the twins and his sister sat in the camper awaiting Grandpa's return from the field, we were enjoying strawberries and melted Tolerone after our evening campfire tradition. Through the back window I could see the other twin, shoveling dirt into the SxS. It was already dark—what exactly was he doing?

"What's Reid doing?" I asked Wyatt. "A make-work project or what?"

"Yep, most likely," was his response with a slight shake of his head. "Always making up work to do."

And since that night, he's planted the garden and some feed corn as well. You can always tell when he's been up to something because there's fresh tilled dirt somewhere! And logs! That chainsaw he wanted for Christmas has certainly been put to good use and those young fellows are keeping the wood pile on the back side of the camper fully stocked or stacked as the case may be.

When we started seeding, I was pretty excited to get those first days' meals going to the field. Of course, by day 3, I was less enthusiastic, however it's been coming together and wonder of wonders, after 48 years married to this guy of mine, the little 'seeding/harvest time



menu/cookbook' I sometimes attempt to create has materialized. Okay, so I only have two weeks of menus actually typed up, but the grocery list and prep lists and recipes that go along with my weekly plans have also been put together in a binder. Procrastination may prevent me from completing the next few weeks but when (if) I get it done, it's going to be a valuable tool and one that I can use both spring and fall. With my luck, hubby may decide this is retirement year.

Along with my nifty meal book, I have also spent some time creating summary-type workbooks for federal election workers, as well as what I call a 'rural poll key', also for election workers. This all stemmed from my time spent over the last couple of months with Elections Canada. Rural maps are a bit of a challenge for Elections Canada (in my mind), and so my commitment is (if I ever work this job again) to have better guidebooks and legal land description information for the poll workers who work for me at the federal polls. I am jokingly known by my in-office staff as 'the map lady' and I would love for my poll workers to have better tools next time around.

When I left the elections office almost exactly 60 days from the day I started, I went straight to the kitchen (surprise, surprise) and you know what an adjustment that was for the don't-like-to-cook person that I am. One of the things I really missed during March and April was having the kids come over from school at noon. Grandpa was pretty good at the pizza or chicken finger meals for the kids but I am pretty sure they missed my crepes. I commented at noon on my first day back with the kids that "Wow, I've been gone for ...." And before I could finish my sentence, one of the twins piped up, "Since January 27." Ahhh, yes, that was the day we went home. And so, according to my grandson, I had not been home to feed him, his siblings and cousins and their friends for nearly 3.5 months.

Now that that election time is all a thing of the past, I must concentrate on the things of the present: seeding to be exact. Yes, we started off with a good run (well, technically not but more about that later), only to be shut down by the rain, which in itself is good, but so is sun and warmth at this time of year. The men were rolling along, happily seeding wheat; I was in the groove to make meals (sort of) and I was back at my happy place at the farm, living the dream in our 'tiny home.' If it sounds glamorous, it's really not. But it's good, and that's what's important.

Hubby's frustrations began the day he started seeding oats. A problem with the old air drill left some fellows (not the young ones) scratching their heads. And then a start to the canola and still, the problem was not rectified because the air leak would not be found, until, finally, and after a stretch of time that lasted forever (three days can seem like a long time when you have machinery problems), the problem was discovered! That was a couple hours before the rain started so fingers crossed going forward that all will run better than before. My guy was getting pretty antsy and even I was googling air drill air leaks as if I even have a clue how an air drill works. I also might have reminded said hubby of "our" long-term plan to retire seven or eight years ago. Just saying.

Meanwhile, when we can (as in wind-less or rain-less) evenings, the campfire gets going behind the RV and we catch up on our day, check out the 'big dipper', and enjoy the great outdoors. And the ticks. Well, we don't enjoy them, but we are dutiful and persistent wood tick pickers. Puppy (now one year old) is long-haired so you can imagine what that's like. It appears it is time to use a medicine-based solution for tick control. Our granddaughter is even picking them off the 4-H calves, so plentiful are those awful parasites.

The spring farming season sees everyone running in a different direction, doing their thing, whether hauling fertilizer or seeding or spraying or repairing while the young farmers in my world are working with 4-H animals, seeding their own 'crops,' be it corn, gardens or extended grassy areas. We're happy to have another driver in the family as we travel from field to field and move machinery. Life on the farm keeps us hopping and the muscles aching by nightfall, at least from what I hear when hubby rolls over to go to sleep at night. Not sure if it's that nasty shoulder of his or the bonk on the head from a hit as he comes up from under the air drill. Ahhh yes, sweet bliss to be able to lay our heads down at night and sleep right through until .....well, 5:30 at best. Ugh!

Here's to all our farmer friends and readers everywhere —enjoy the spring season and with any luck at all, by the time you read this, the winter coats will be retired! Have a safe seeding season y'all!!

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# Farming with purpose: Embracing the CEO mindset



Evan Shout, CPA and CFO of Hebert Grain Ventures

The CEO mindset isn't just about decision-making; it's about balancing priorities in personal and business life. This is essential for making farms more self-sufficient, says Evan Shout, CPA and CFO of Hebert Grain Ventures (HGV), a 40,000-acre grain and oilseed operation in Moosomin, Sask.

With expertise rooted in both innovation and sustainability, Shout brings valuable insights to the agriculture industry. He also serves as a consultant, business coach and speaker through Maverick Ag, the consulting and financial management division of Hebert Group. This group is the "family group" and parent company that holds the investments and non-operation-based assets.

Growing up in rural Saskatchewan, Shout was immersed in a farming community where agriculture was both a lifestyle and a central economic force. He developed a deep understanding of farm life and a clear vision for areas of growth. "We're a very proud industry. We're built on families, we're built on legacy, we're built on the lifestyle of agriculture," Shout says. "But the part that's changing, or that we've realized, is that the lifestyle didn't create the business—the business

changes the lifestyle. Many farms have the lifestyle, but it's making it much more difficult to be a producer these days with the amount of costs and the number of zeros behind every decision."

To Shout, the CEO mindset is about running the farm like a business. He emphasizes the importance of having procedures, people and processes—ultimately transforming the farm into a self-managing enterprise.

### Building a collaborative culture

Delegation and trust are central to Shout's leadership philosophy. "I got hired more or less just to take a few tasks off Kristjan's plate," Shout says, referring to Kristjan Hebert, president of the Hebert Group and managing partner of HGV. Many farmers, he notes, struggle with guilt if they aren't directly involved in every aspect of their operations, often putting in exhausting hours.

Trust in the team is critical to overcoming that guilt, Shout explains. "In today's society, we always reward performance, but we never reward trust. In agriculture, to get over the guilt factor and not be out there 24 hours a day, you need to have trust."

Shout emphasizes empowering others by building processes that enable independence. "The biggest thing for us is that we've got teams and management in charge of each team, and they've got processes and procedures in place that allow them to solve 98% of what comes across their plate."

"We trust that if they can't handle it, we'll get that phone call," Shout says.

### The role of emotional detachment in decision-making

Shout stresses the need to remove emotion from major business decisions. "When you're in the boardrooms, it's a business discussion," he says. On family farms, however, emotions often creep into decision-making.

His advice is to maintain clear, logical communication that prioritizes the farm's long-term success. Shout recommends using systems like the Identify, Discuss and Solve (IDS) model, a core tool of the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS). It's designed to help businesses align their vision, strategy and operations by enabling teams to identify the root cause of issues, engage in focused discussions, and

implement effective solutions to drive progress. This helps to avoid emotional biases common in family-run farms, such as being emotionally attached to farmland or machinery that's been in the family for years.

### Engaging the next generation

Shout emphasizes that clear roles and responsibilities are essential for smooth farm transitions. "We all know that succession and transition on farms are massive issues, and part of it is just that nobody has a role or responsibility. Everybody is just in charge of everything," Shout says. To ease transitions, he encourages assigning clear roles so each family member has defined responsibilities, reducing conflicts over tasks.

As agriculture evolves, younger farmers are adapting to these shifts in new ways. "Technology has made that a lot easier because the next generation is more technologically savvy than the generation before them probably was," Shout says.

"It's giving them different roles and different responsibilities. So, when they do come back to the farm, they're not all stepping on each other's toes because the parents know that their children are better in agronomy or tech or better at marketing, and the children know that their parents have the experience, have grown 30 crops, and know how to put things in the ground."

According to Shout, this clarity in roles fosters the "big CEO mindset" where "everybody's in charge of their own thing."

### Redefining success in agriculture

Shout sees a shift in how success is defined in agriculture. In the past, success was often measured by hours worked. "If you put in 3,000 hours, you were successful," Shout says. "That mindset has changed."

Today, success is a more holistic concept that values personal time and quality of life. Farm operators can foster a sustainable lifestyle that supports both their work and family by prioritizing mental and physical health alongside agricultural responsibilities.

### Embracing change for future success

"In agriculture, we've always had that line: 'It's always been done this way.' It's one of the most dangerous lines," Shout says. "I agree that we need to respect what's been done in the past, but we're also in a different generation now."

Looking to the future, Shout sees tremendous potential for innovation and diversification. "I can remember when I was a kid—and probably even a decade ago—things changed, but not a lot. In the last decade, I've seen farms become things that I never thought were possible, whether it's technology, data or just the mindsets of farms today. We're

starting to see something special in agriculture, and we're beginning to adapt to the speed of change."

By fostering a culture of collaboration, adaptability and community engagement, agriculture can thrive in today's rapidly evolving landscape. "Success is independent in each farm," Shout says. "No farm has the same goals."

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# USask research team's discovery breaks new ground in swine disease management

A University of Saskatchewan (USask) research team has discovered a bacteria-killing molecule that enhances a pig's immune system response and could transform how swine producers treat and prevent contagious diseases in their animals.

USask researchers recently published a paper in Scientific Reports that identified a promising alternative for controlling infectious diseases such as swine dysentery. Porcine  $\beta$ -defensin 5, or pBD-5, is a host defence peptide (HDP) that may help to reduce the industry's reliance on antibiotics.

Also known as antimicrobial peptides, HDPs are naturally occurring, innate immune molecules found in all complex living organisms. The antimicrobial properties of HDPs allow them to play a vital role in combating pathogens such as bacteria and viruses.

"As researchers, we have an important role and responsibility in advancing animal welfare. I'm very excited to work on this novel project knowing that the disease responses of pigs can be enhanced through exploring the properties of this new molecule," said Dr. Arthur Nery Finatto (DVM), a PhD student based at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCV) and the research paper's lead author. His supervisor is Dr. Matheus Costa (DVM, PhD), a WCV associate professor and a board-certified veterinary practitioner in swine health management.

Caused by the bacterium *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*, swine dysentery is a production-limiting disease that leads to significant economic losses for swine producers. There's



Dr. Arthur Nery Finatto (DVM) and his research team have discovered porcine-defensin 5, a novel molecule that may help to reduce the industry's reliance on antibiotics

no effective vaccine for the infectious disease, and the only treatment option is antibiotic drugs.

Finatto said pBD-5 holds promise as an alternative to traditional antibiotic treatments—an important factor in global efforts to address the growing threats of antimicrobial resistance and food security for the world's increasing population.

"We currently need antibiotics for animal welfare reasons—we cannot let the animals suffer from treatable diseases," said Finatto. "But the development of this novel molecule is important because it is naturally produced by the pig. We can selectively breed animals that produce more of this protein—essentially creating pigs with stronger innate immunity."

The team's discovery was inspired by their observations of how some pigs developed severe clinical

signs of swine dysentery while others in the same herd remained relatively unaffected by the disease.

Through detailed genomic analysis, the researchers identified a region of the swine genome associated

with this resilience, which encoded a peptide resembling  $\beta$ -defensins, a family of host defence molecules known for their antimicrobial properties.

Building on this discovery, Finatto and the team

synthesized the peptide in the lab. USask researchers completed this challenging task in collaboration with chemistry scientists at the Université du Québec à Montréal. When the researchers exposed pBD-5 to various bacterial strains, the synthesized peptide demonstrated broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity—effectively inhibiting bacterial growth.

"What was really exciting was that when we exposed pig immune cells to pBD-5, we saw changes in gene expression," added Finatto. "The pig's own immune system began to express different immune-related genes, which suggests that pBD-5 not only has antimicrobial properties but also acts as an immunomodulator."

As well, the researchers observed that pBD-5 caused downregulation (a reduction of response) of certain genes in macrophages—immune cells that play a central role in the inflammatory response. By modulating the immune

response, pBD-5 could help reduce the damage caused by swine dysentery and other production-limiting diseases.

In addition, pBD-5 appeared to enhance the activity of mitochondria in immune cells, particularly in cells responsible for antibody production. This finding suggests that adding pBD-5 to vaccine formulations could improve their ability to produce antibodies and to provide strong, long-term immunity to pigs.

Finatto hopes the research will help strengthen Canada's swine industry.

"At the end of the day, our goal is to make pigs healthier and provide the population with high-quality pork, and I'm proud to contribute to this important responsibility."

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), le Centre de Recherche en Infectiologie Porcine et Avicole, and the Government of Saskatchewan funded this research.

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# Provinces renew commitment to veterinary training in Western Canada

Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba have renewed their financial commitment to the University of Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), continuing a long-standing interprovincial agreement that has been in place for six decades.

The renewed agreement provides more than \$194 million to the WCVM over the next five years, helping ensure the college can deliver critical veterinary medicine programming, research and clinical services that address the needs of each province.

"We are proud of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the exceptional education opportunities it provides to veterinary students from across Western Canada," Saskatchewan Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "We are grateful to have this internationally recognized college right here in Saskatchewan and are fully confident in USask's ability to produce highly skilled veterinarians to care for both our livestock and companion animals."

"Our partnership is a great example of how provinces can work collaboratively to achieve our shared priorities and economic goals," Manitoba Advanced Education and Training Minister Renée Cable said. "We are pleased that this partnership creates opportunities for our students to access high-quality education right here in Western Canada. Communities across Manitoba benefit from the caliber of veterinarians that graduate from the program."

"We are proud to continue this long-standing interprovincial partnership to provide world-class veterinary medicine education," British Columbia Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills Minister Anne Kang said. "This agreement ensures that our communities have access to skilled professionals who play a significant role in animal health, food



The Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

security and public wellbeing."

The WCVM is a leading centre of veterinary education, research and expertise in Western Canada, serving the needs of the livestock, fowl and fisheries industries, pet owners, and public health and food safety networks. The college is internationally accredited and includes a veterinary medical centre, a provincial

diagnostic laboratory, and large-scale research facilities that serve as resources for both students and professionals across the region.

"Ongoing financial support from the Governments of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia has played a vital role in maintaining the WCVM's reputation as a centre for excellence in

education, research and clinical services," WCVM Dean Dr. Gillian Muir said. "We look forward to working together with the college's funding partners on strategies that address Western Canada's increasing need for veterinarians and animals health care services."

The new interprovincial agreement is in place until 2030.

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### Harvest of Hope crop seeded

The Harvest of Hope crop just north of Moosomin was seeded last week. The crop was seeded by Pattison Ag with Ernest Rushton overseeing the seeding operation. Craig Roy hauled the wheat seed, and Smart Farms handled the fertilizer. Crosson farms supplied the wheat seed.

In total, 270 acres of crop were seeded to wheat. The proceeds of the crop will be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and matched 4:1 by the federal government to help feed hungry people in areas of the world struggling with food security.



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\*Offer available March 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. Rebates and/or financing based on the purchase of eligible equipment defined in promotional program. Pricing and rebates in CAD dollars. Additional fees including, but not limited to, taxes, freight, setup and delivery charges may apply. Financing must be through DLL or Sheffield using one of the available financing options. Financing is subject to credit approval. Customers must take delivery prior to the end of the program period. Some customers will not qualify. Some restrictions apply. Offer available on new equipment only. Prior purchases are not eligible. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. See your dealer for details. Offer valid only at participating Dealers. Offer subject to change without notice. © 2025 Kioti Tractor Company a Division of Daedong-CANADA, Inc.

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# KICKOFF TO Summer!!

 STOCK# 4T182B <b>2013 Ford F-150 XLT</b> Tailgate Step - 5.0L V8 <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$14,999</span> 207,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T141A <b>2017 RAM 2500 Laramie</b> Diesel - Htd & Cld Seats <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$54,900</span> - \$299/WK OAC 146,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T042B <b>2019 Ford F-150 Lariat</b> Special Ed. Pkg - FX4 Off-Road Pkg <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$45,900</span> - \$196/WK OAC 87,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5S114A <b>2023 Ford Bronco Outer Banks</b> Off-Road ready - Unique Styling <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$51,900</span> - \$201/WK OAC 52,000 KMS	
 STOCK# 4T112B <b>2019 Ford F-150 Lariat</b> Skid Plates - Rem. Release Tailgate <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$40,900</span> - \$175/WK OAC 113,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T087A <b>2023 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 High Country</b> Diesel - Chrome Pkg <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$88,900</span> - \$340/WK OAC 87,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T100A <b>2012 Ford F-250 Lariat</b> Diesel - Upfitter Switches <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$38,900</span> 261,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T050B <b>2023 Ford Ranger Sport</b> Local Trade - LOW Kms <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$46,900</span> - \$183/WK OAC 12,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5S137A <b>2022 Ford F-150 Sport</b> LOW Kms - Heated Seats <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$54,900</span> - \$213/WK OAC 33,500 KMS
 STOCK# 5S089C <b>2017 Ford F-150 King Ranch</b> Twin Pnl Moonroof - Chrome Pkg <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$41,900</span> - \$230/WK OAC 133,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T134A <b>2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 High Country</b> Diesel - Work & Fun Ready <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$94,900</span> - \$362/WK OAC 33,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5S085A <b>2021 GMC Yukon Denali</b> Htd/Cld Seats - 6.2L V8 <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$56,900</span> - \$241/WK OAC 148,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T074A <b>2021 Ford F-150 XTR</b> SuperCab - One Owner <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$37,900</span> - \$163/WK OAC 122,000 KMS	 STOCK# 5T058B <b>2010 Dodge RAM 3500</b> Dual Rear Whls - Diesel <span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">\$25,900</span> 477,000 KMS





  
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## Why More Locals Are Switching to Fiber Internet

In today's world, a fast, reliable Internet connection isn't just a convenience — it's essential. Whether you're running a business from home, connecting with clients online, or simply trying to stream your favourite shows without buffering, the speed and stability of your connection matters.

That's why more people across Saskatchewan and Manitoba are turning to fiber Internet — and seeing the difference it makes.

By delivering reliable, lightning-fast Internet connections straight to homes and workplaces, fiber Internet has the power to **bring new business to town** and **raise property values by up to 3%**. All while you get more from your connection — whether you use it for work, TV, phone, or more.

RFNOW's vast fiber optics network has been creating connections across eastern Saskatchewan and western Manitoba for more than 20 years. Working locally within the communities we service, we ensure every home and business has the fast, reliable Internet they need, with:

- ∞ **Unlimited data**
- 1 Gbps **Speeds of up to 1 Gbps**
- \$ **No activation fees**

Whether you're looking to grow your business or just upgrade your everyday Internet experience, fiber can take you further — and RFNOW is here to make that happen.

Discover the difference fiber can make

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