

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Roundup in the valley

### Cowboys, horses and cattle: An old-fashioned roundup

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

Saturday morning, June 12, found me hanging outside my car at the bottom of the Pipestone Valley, my face furrowed in consternation. I could hear the cows. I just couldn't see them.

Kevin and Penny Woods had been kind enough to allow me to come photograph the last roundup and branding of the year.

"You'll see us," Penny had assured me over the phone.

Sure enough, I topped a rise and saw maybe a dozen mud-splattered horse trailers parked on the side of the road. I pulled in beside of them. I grabbed my camera and ran toward the noise.

Mist rose thick and wet from the ground as light rain spat down from the rolling grey skies. The gentle green hills of the valley rose around us, and the entire scene was soft and muted.

A huge pen had been built out of heavy-duty corral panels. Hundreds of cows and their calves milled inside the pen, which had been divided into two sections. Four riders seemed to float above the mist and cattle, sitting calmly on their still horses amidst the melee of the herd.

The holding pen opened into the wide valley at the south end. A cowboy on foot casually guarded the entrance, and four more men on horses were hanging out a little further back. A man on foot was pacing back and forth just inside the pen, and there were the four people on horses deeper inside the pen, among the cattle.

Directly behind me was a holding pen for the calves. It was constructed with a special panel that had bars spaced far enough apart for a calf to step through into the pen, but too narrow for the cow to follow. When crowded against the panel, the calves would slip through to join its fellows, and the cow would turn.

The sorting began.

There is a particular language people use when working cows. It must have a long history because the sounds I heard that Saturday morning are pretty much the same sounds you hear on John Wayne movies, the same whistles, "hu-ups," and calls that Curly and the hands on City Slickers made when they moved the herd. There was no yelling or whooping as the riders began to send the cattle forward, where the man on foot and another rider separated the cows from the calves. The calves went into the smaller pen and the cows were sent shooting past me into the valley. As soon as they were past the people, they turned and stopped, and immediately started bawling for their calves. The more confident among them came back to the pen and pressed their muzzles against the bars, standing beside men and horses.

The man guarding the gate had to watch carefully, because the cows are clever. Sometimes, among a group of five cows, tiny calf legs are seen running past, its little body hidden and protected by its mother. The man at the gate leaps in front of the

running cattle to turn the calf back in with its brethren.

On rare occasion, a calf makes it past. That's when the men on horses at the end of the alley—so relaxed and nonchalant in the saddle I sometimes suspected them of dozing—leap into action. A long rope snakes out, captures the calf, and he's brought back to the pen.

The sorting was completed without incident. Well, almost without incident. One cow, running away from the riders, lost her traction on the slick grass and slid on her knees, straight for the man sorting near the gate. Lightning quick, he leapt on top of the panel, the cow coming to a stop literally right underneath him. Everyone was grinning and laughing as the cow righted herself and trotted out of the pen without a backwards glance. Appearing completely unfazed, the man in the red baseball cap went back to work.

Once the last cow had shot past me, one of the hands loaded a huge panel onto his shoulders and carried it up to the opening, closing the calves safely in the pen. Then the calves were herded into the north pen. For some reason chasing a bunch of little calves the equivalent of a town block takes more people and more effort than moving a herd of cows across a pasture.

A battered pick-up truck pulled a horse trailer just to the west of the holding pen. It seemed to me that no one was really talking; there were over a dozen men and women working, but they all seemed to know exactly what they were doing, and they each just did it.

The trailer was opened, and a table was quickly set up. In just minutes, boxes were neatly laid out, containing vaccines, liquid vitamins and minerals. A box of bolus tablets, to treat chronic indigestion in calves, was open and ready. There were radio tags,

and grease crayons to mark calves that had been treated.

A propane heater was brought out and set up; it looked like a very small barbecue. A pan of oil was laid out beneath it, and eight iron brands—four "V"s and four "W"s—were laid in it to heat.

Nearby, a cowboy carefully sharpened a tiny knife.

One hand pulled out some iron eye-hooks, and began pounding them into the ground with a sledge hammer. I had no idea what they could possibly be for. As I watched, four stakes went into the ground, perhaps ten feet apart. A sturdy rope was tied to the hook, which was attached to a deflated inner tube. Another rope was attached to the other end of the inner tube, and at the end of that rope a metal contraction was secured. I waited to see what would happen.

Riders began entering the pen. It's difficult for me to describe the way these horses work. Diffident, they picked through the enclosure, placing each hoof exactly where they wanted it. Unfazed by the milling and bawling calves, they stepped carefully and walked slowly through the crowd of young animals. Sometimes a calf would flash under a horse's nose, or even crash into its legs. Lonely, occasionally a calf would attach itself to a horse's flank and dog it, the same as it would its mother. If the horse stopped, the calf leaned into its warm flesh and rested, gazing about brightly. The horses took it all in stride.

The men roping calves reminded me of fishing. They cast, and cast again. As they picked their way through the calves, I watched them choose their quarry, measure the throw, take careful aim, and throw the line. Sometimes the loop came up empty and the calf scampered off. Sometimes only one hock was caught instead of two,

rendering the calf a tripod. The cowboy patiently shook the calf free, and tried again. Much of the time, however, the calf was safely secured by the back ankles, and horse and rider dragged it over the wet grass to the waiting catch.

That's what those metal things were. A self-catch head gate for calves. As the rider passed a waiting hand, the hand would have the catch ready. As the calf slid past the hand, he would drop the catch over the calf's head. The horse would stop once the calf was stretched out. Then it was like the bovine version of a Formula-One pitstop.

A team of about six people descended on the waiting animal. In a space of minutes, the calf was tagged, his tag recorded in a hand-held computer that scanned it like the scanner at the grocery store, he received his vaccinations and vitamins, he was branded, and if he was indeed a he, he was castrated. Then the calf was released to find his mother, who was looking for him with all the other waiting cows.

The men branding the calves showed me how the brands had to be hot and clean to be effective. They explained that it took about ten pounds of pressure to properly brand a calf, and showed me how it was rolled just slightly back and forth to make a clean brand. "Just enough to singe the hair and burn the skin," explained one of the guys.

I compared the process to tattooing, where the artist has to know exactly how deep to go; scar too shallow, and the tattoo will heal and fade, scar too deeply, and you'll do unnecessary damage. The man agreed the comparison was accurate.

The castrations were performed quickly and cleanly, the "prairie oysters" harvested into a waiting cooler. "They're really good," I was assured over and over again.

With about three quarters of the calves done, people and horses alike were getting tired. The crew broke for dinner—homemade spaghetti and stew with buns, coleslaw, and chocolate cake. Small children and grandmothers appeared from seemingly nowhere, and everyone ate companionably on the grass, leaning against haybales and trailer wheels.

After dinner the crew went back to work. As the pen thinned, the sun slowly conquered the wet gray clouds. As the last calf was sent scurrying off to find its mother, I suddenly realized how quiet it was. The wide valley was dotted with contented cows lying in the grass, their calves nearby, basking in the sun.

It felt anti-climactic to me as horses were untacked and loaded, and pick-up trucks began slowly peeling away.

I shook hands, said good-bye to a couple of fellows and thank-you to Kevin Woods. I guess what seemed an adventure to me is just another day's work for these guys.



Cattle and calves are sorted at a roundup in the Pipestone Valley on June 12. Turn to pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

# PBR bull riding featured at Manor Fun Daze

BY KARA KINNA

The village of Manor, Sask. has only 235 people, but on July 24, the tiny community will once again feature PBR professional bull riding during its Manor Fun Daze.

"Our PBR event is well after the Calgary Stampede," says Manor Fun Daze chair Al Dunn. "Last year we probably had six riders from the Stampede, and we expect more this year."

This is the 31st year for the Manor Fun Daze event, and Dunn says it has grown every year.

Last year more than 1,000 people attended the event, and Dunn is expecting a larger crowd this year, as long as the weather co-operates. He says the event draws people from all over Saskatchewan, Manitoba and even North Dakota.

This year the event will include a pancake breakfast, a parade, a ball tournament, women's barrel racing, a show and shine at 3 p.m., a beef supper, beer gardens, and food all day, along with the PBR event at 5:30 p.m. and a dance to follow.

Dunn says they have

"It's the cities and the larger centres in our area that have PBR events. There's no doubt in my mind that we're probably the smallest one (community) in Canada."

—Manor Fun Daze chair Al Dunn

expanded the children's activities as well this year, and children will be able to enjoy games, bounce tents, and laser tag in a large, inflatable dome.

The following day—Sunday, July 25—will be

entirely dedicated to a horse show.

Dunn says it's rare for a community the size of Manor to host PBR bull riding.

"It's unheard of," he says. "It's the cities and

the larger centres in our area that have PBR events.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we're probably the smallest one in Canada."

Dunn says the entire event is organized by a volunteer committee of about eight people. The event costs about \$30,000 to host, and all of the money is raised by the committee members, who canvass for donations and sponsors.

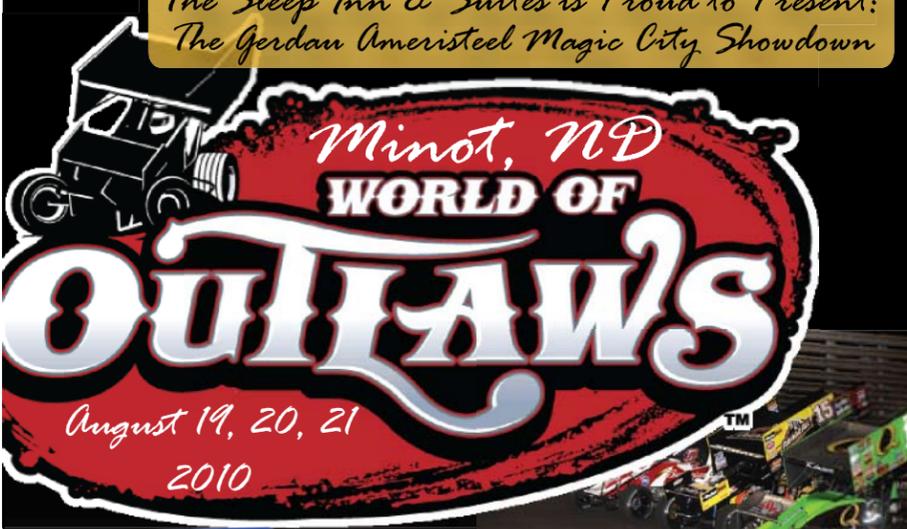
Money raised during the event goes back into planning the event for the following year,

and additional money is used within the village of Manor. Last year the proceeds from the pancake breakfast went toward improving the Manor rink, and this year proceeds will go toward renovating the facilities at the fair grounds.

"It just proves that if you get a group of committed people together and the support of the whole area, you can do it," says Dunn.

"It's determination. If we didn't have this, there would not be a summer event of any description in Manor."

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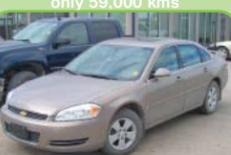
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# Event raises money for MS

BY HELEN SOLMES

Sharon McNeil will never forget the horrendous experience nine years ago when a neurologist point blank told her, "You have Multiple Sclerosis. Go home and wait for a wheelchair."

McNeil has been able to shake the edge off the anger that she harbored for many years toward the cold treatment at the hands of the neurologist by adopting what she refers to as "a lemonade" approach to life—by counting her blessings and busying herself planning and organizing the annual Music for MS that she and her husband Albert (Abby) McNeil host on their Lonesome Dog Ranch southwest of Esterhazy. This year the walk took place June 21.

It has not been easy dealing with the proverbial basket of lemons. During her bouts of Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Sharon has, at times, lost her sight and the use of her legs. Moreover, with each relapse she has undergone massive doses of Prednisone, which, in itself, is a sour experience.

To date, the McNeils and a growing number of volunteers have raised upwards of \$20,000 for MS research.

Now that MS research is focused on an imminent breakthrough, Sharon is more committed than ever to the annual Music for MS. In the past year, the work of University of Ferrara professor, Dr. Paolo Zamboni, has won international attention. Dr. Zamboni has presented his theory that a large percentage of MS patients suffer from Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI), a condition that is currently being treated surgically in parts of the world, but not in Canada. "Fifty per cent of MS research dollars go toward research," McNeil said, "90 per cent of which is committed to Professor Zamboni's theory and the use of stents to unclog the veins of CCSVI patients."

In June, the MS Society of Canada jointly with the National MS Society (USA) committed \$2.4 million to support seven new research projects focusing on CCSVI and its relationship to MS.

While some Canadian MS patients have mustered up the finances to pay \$10,000 or more to travel to Europe and Asia for the stent implant surgery, Sharon chooses to wait it out. She clings to the hope that the Canadian medical profession will endorse the procedure within the next two years.

"I am on Copaxone, a disease altering medication," she told Plain and Valley in June. "My relapses are two to four years apart. The recovery from each relapse is less severe than the ones before."

"I am not willing to go to another country to be put out, not knowing what would go on in the surgery room. I don't trust what might happen."

"Many have said to me, 'Why don't you take advantage of the money that the Music for MS has raised?'"

"That has not been the spirit of the event. The money has been raised to help all people."

"I am just happy that the medical profession is making big strides toward find-

ing a cure. But I wonder about all of the bureaucracy involved. I have been told that it will take up to two years to complete the studies, to complete the tests, and to set the protocols for the new treatment. That

is a condition where blood from the brain and spine has difficulty reaching the heart, due to stenosis, the narrowing in the veins that drain the spine and brain. The blood takes longer than normal to get back to the

heart and may reflux back into the brain and spine, may cause edema and leakage of red blood cells and fluids into the delicate tissue of the brain and spine, and may cause a lack of oxygen (hypoxia) in the brain.



bothers me.

"To my untrained brain, it doesn't make sense. And I have to ask, 'Why?'"

According to Sharon, neurologists have been researching the possible link between CCSVI and MS since the 1920s by examining corpses. Other sources indicate that the research linking MS to vascular diseases dates back to the 1860s. However, the theory that MS is an autoimmunity disease has overshadowed all earlier theories that MS is a vascular disease.

"Professor Zamboni's theory is not as new as we think," Sharon said. "But, the neurology community has brushed off his theory."

"That exasperates me." The MS Society of Canada does not have a waiting list of candidates for the procedure. However, Sharon is hopeful that she will not be overlooked and that she will be considered an early candidate for the procedure.

"I have three things in my favor," she said. "I participated in a study a few years ago and I have been told that the first pool of candidates will be from that study group. The study attempted to pinpoint geographical pockets of MS patients."

"The second pool of candidates will be chosen from MS patient who are twins, where one of the twins has MS and the other doesn't and from mothers and daughters where one has MS and the other not. My daughter was tested a few years ago and she is not carrying the gene."

"The third pool will come from patients who are on disease-altering medication. And I am. Copaxone works best on MS patients who are in remission. Copaxone is expensive. Not everyone has a drug plan that will cover the expense. I do."

Sharon is resolved to wait and to focus on her plans for next year's Music for MS. "The musicians all volunteer their time," she said. "Each year as they leave the stage, the first thing they ask is, 'Same time next year?'"

Note: Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency

## Clockwise from above:

Sharon McNeil (centre), organizer of the Music for MS on June 21, took time out to pose for the camera with her best friend and the annual event's top canvasser Maggie Amos (left) and McNeil's mother and event co-organizer Marian Walz.

Johnnie Gilchuk performed with Esterhazy-area rock band Shameless during the 4th annual Music for MS at the Lonesome Dog Ranch southwest of Esterhazy on June 21.

Neil Ottenbreit, left, and Kelly Juneck check the sound system during the 4th annual Music for MS.

Derrek Walz amuses himself in between performances during the 4th annual Music for MS.



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45:3c

# Dancsok wins two CGMA awards

BY HELEN SOLMES

Country gospel artist Rachel Dancsok has two more awards to her credit, and, once again, she has qualified to perform and compete during the Country Gospel Music Association (CGMA) convention in Branson, Missouri, in October.

Dancsok was chosen as the 2010 Canadian Silver Heart a cappella artist of the year and female vocalist of the year during the association's Canadian convention in Cranbrook, B.C. in June. She was chosen from among nine a cappella artists and 12 female vocalists. She was chosen as the Canadian female new artist of the year in 2007.

Dancsok is a well-known performing artist in the Esterhazy area, having performed at weddings, jamborees, church concerts, and community events. With one CD—Jesus Loves Me—and a second one to be released in 2011, she is now setting her sights on touring and performing at more venues further afield.

Last month, the song "It's Amazing" from her Jesus Loves Me CD hit the Country Gospel Connection's June Top 100 in Europe and in the U.S.



Right: Rachel Dancsok



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Jason Fath, left, and Kevin Woods in the pen before sorting.



Garth Woods hauls a panel to modify a pen to hold the calves.



At dinner time, the entire crew sat down to homemade stew. Children and grandparents joined them.



Above: Perry Rasmuson with a calf in tow.

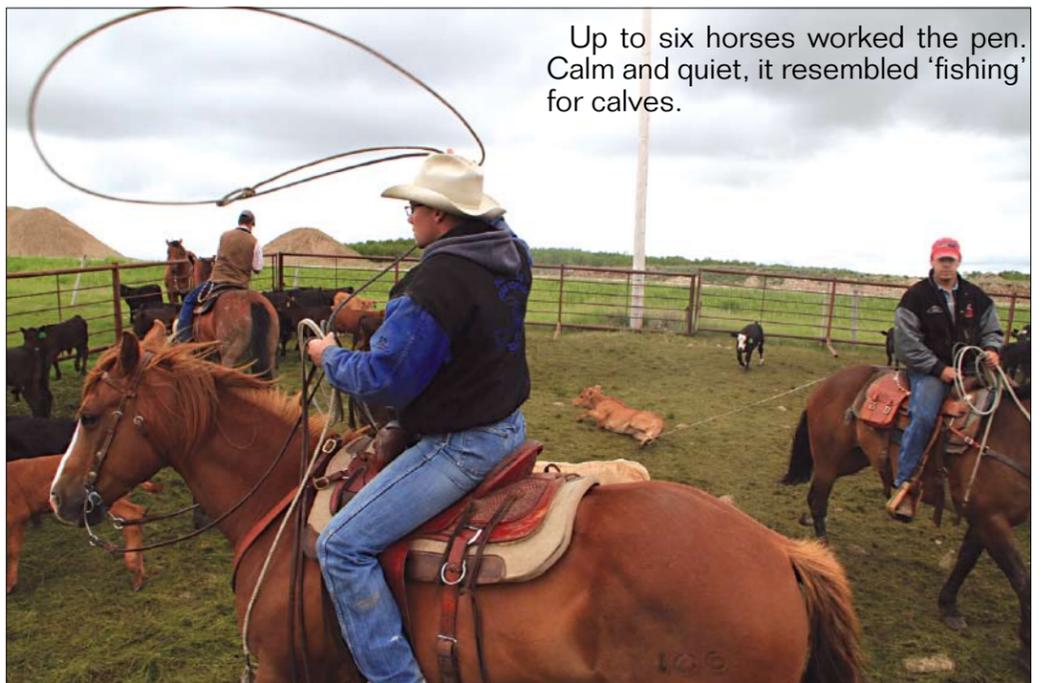


Right: The men on horseback pulled the calves past men waiting beside head catches. The calves were secured so they could be worked thoroughly and safely. Four stations were set up where the calves were attended by a team of up to half a dozen.

Tom Hagan pounds iron stakes into the ground, which will support the contraptions which catch and hold the calves.



Up to six horses worked the pen. Calm and quiet, it resembled 'fishing' for calves.





Left: Allan Quinn separates a cow-calf pair: the cow is sent to pasture to wait for her calf, while the calf is chased back into the pen with its fellows.

Monique McKay photos

# Valley roundup



Above: Once the calf is secure, it resembles a Formula-1 pitstop; the calf is branded, tagged, vaccinated, treated medically if needed, and castrated if it's male. Usually the calf is held less than five minutes.

Below: A freshly branded and treated calf mills about with calves yet to be handled.



Below: Allan Quinn was quick with the knife, efficiently castrating the bull calves and harvesting 'prairie oysters' for later in the day.



Above: Kevin Woods, Perry Rasmuson, and Harold Hampton share a laugh as the brands heat. The bucket below contains an oil which keeps the brands clean.



# Indian Head's Bell Barn nears completion

With only a few weeks left until the July 24 opening of the historic Bell Barn, the Bell Barn Society of Indian Head is pleased to announce that reconstruction of the circular stone barn and construction of the nearby washroom and maintenance building are on schedule.

Good weather last fall enabled Gracom Masonry of Regina to complete the barn's round stone wall by early October, ahead of schedule. After that, Hahn Contracting of Fort Qu'Appelle took over and built the loft, roof, and lookout tower of the barn and built the nearby washroom and maintenance building, which is a copy of one of the original workers' cottages on the Bell Farm. The metal roofing on the barn was recently installed by Bonkowski Enterprises of Wapella.

Now, just a few exterior features are still to be finished. The soffit and fascia around the barn's roof is just about complete. In addition, the building and installation of the barn's two big wooden doors is being handled by Les Dales of Indian Head.

The inside of the barn has been transformed in the past few months. Two staircases have been erected from the main floor to the loft, and another staircase has been installed from the loft up to the lookout tower to enable visitors to enjoy prairie vistas in all directions. On the main floor, opposite the main (north) entrance to the barn, a fieldstone reception desk and service facilities have been constructed.

Board members of the Bell Barn Society have been lending a hand with the

work. Jerry Willerth, Bruce Olesen, and Thor Johnson recently rebuilt an old horse stall recovered from a barn being demolished on the Doug Hassman farm near Indian Head. Willerth was also responsible for putting in all 48 of the small square windows in the upper part of the stone wall.

Denis Beauchesne reports that he and his associates are on schedule with the production of the interpretative panels that tell the story of Major William Bell, the Bell Barn, and the Bell Farm. The display lighting for the panels is ready to go, as is the other lighting inside the barn. Some work is still being done on the barn's exterior lighting. All electrical work on the site has been carried out by Duce Electric of Fort Qu'Appelle.

The washroom and maintenance building's

plumbing and heating fixtures were installed by Certified Plumbing and Heating of Indian Head earlier in the spring. An underground water line between the barn and cottage still has to be put in, a job that will be handled by Tollefson Cable of Moose Jaw.

In a recent interview, board member Jerry Willerth was confident that the site will be ready for the grand opening on July 24. "Right now things are hectic at the site, with all the trades people finishing things up," he said. "But we

scheduled in lots of time for the finishing work, which was a good thing because the wet spring weather hasn't cooperated."

Still to do, after all the construction is complete, is some basic landscaping. A trail will be made leading to the viewpoint to the remains of the original Bell Barn south of the site. There is also some grass planting to do and work to complete on the parking area.

"We're looking forward to showcasing the site," continued Willerth. "As well as the Historic Bell

Barn being a tourist site and interpretive center, it will also serve as a facility that can be rented for special events. A telephone is expected to be hooked up soon, and the phone number will be 695-BELL for anyone requiring further information."

Anyone wishing to attend the grand opening ceremonies for the Bell Barn on July 24 at 1 p.m. should pre-register with Connie Billett. She may be contacted by email at [cbillett@sasktel.net](mailto:cbillett@sasktel.net) or by regular mail at Box 1882, Indian Head, Sask. S0G 2K0.



Dan Loran photo

Jerry Willerth hard at work installing the small windows in the barn's stone wall.



Dan Loran photo

Interior staircase leading to the lookout tower of the Bell Barn.

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Scenes from restoration of the Bell Barn at Indian Head. The restored round barn will be open on July 24.

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August  
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September  
7, 14, 21, 28

April  
7, 8, 21, 22

May  
5, 6, 19, 20

June  
2, 3, 16, 17, 30

July  
1, 14, 15, 28, 29

August  
11, 12, 25, 26

September  
8, 9, 22, 23

April  
1, 14, 15, 28, 29

May  
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April  
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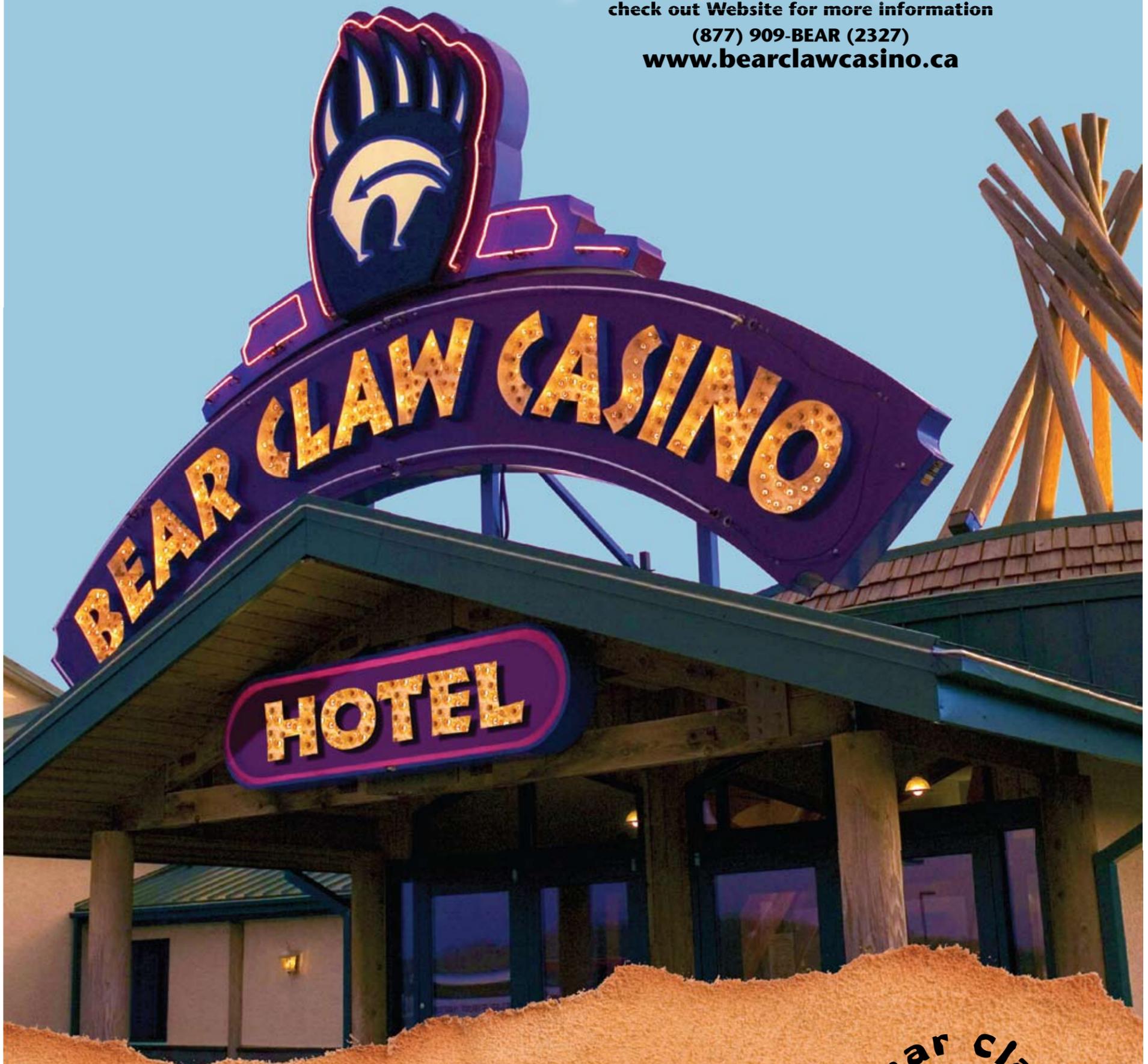
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2010	Versatile	435	435hp, ps, metrics, loaded	DEMO
2006	Valtra	T190	210hp, fwa, duals front and rear, front 3pt, 1,250 hrs	\$109,500
2006	MF	7495	175hp, fwa, CVT, front susp., fully loaded, 1,300 hrs	\$105,900
2007	MF	7480	140hp, fwa, CVT	\$104,900
2005	Fendt	818	180hp, 730 hrs, front 3pt/pto, 755 loader/grapple, loaded	SOLD
2003	Fendt	926	260hp, 750 hrs, 855 loader, loaded	SOLD
1989	Deutz Allis	9130	135hp, fwa, 18 sp ps	\$18,000
1978	Case	885	43hp, 3pth, new rubber	\$6,500

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	\$349,000
1999	CaseIH	2388	chopper, spreaders, swathmaster	REDUCED
1997	NH	TX66	Chopper, pu	\$64,500
1994	MF	8570	Chopper, cs, swathmaster	\$48,000
1983	MF	852	Chopper, pu	\$2,500

### COMBINE HEADERS

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

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0% FOR 24 months on selected units - OAC

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2007	MF	9435	36', U2, skid shoes, gauge wheels	\$94,900
2005	Hesston	9240	30', U2, gauge wheels	\$74,900
2000	MF	220 II	30', p/u reel, gauge wheels, sch drive	\$48,500
1999	MF	220 II	26' DS, PU reel, sch drive	\$46,500

### SEEDING & TILLAGE

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2009	SEED HAWK	7212/400 PLUS	72", 12" spacing, 400 plus cart, 10" loading auger, Full Sectional Control Technology Kit	\$299,000
2010	SEED HAWK	60-12	60", 12" spacing, big rubber, 600 TBH cart	Demo-Big Discounts
1999	SEED HAWK	357	44", 12" spacing, onboard seed and fertilizer, shedded	\$72,500
2005	SEED HAWK	6412	64", 12" spacing, liquid fert kit	\$96,000

### SPRAYERS

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

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
1994	CASE IH	8380	Mower conditioner 16', s/s rollers	\$8,500
2008	MF	1756	5x6, auto tie, demo	0%-60 MOS
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh wrap	\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto	\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6	\$13,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6, auto tie	\$14,900
2000	NH	688	5x6 baler	\$15,500
2006	Hesston	9040	16' hay hdr, advanced double conditioner, fits 9240	\$19,900
2007	MF	1476	16', s/s rollers	\$26,900
2002	Hesston	1275	16' s/s, reverser	\$20,900
2004	Frontier	MC1216	16' s/s same as MacDon 5020	\$19,900
2005	Bale King	3100	rh dishcharge, fine cut	\$10,900
2004	Morris	1400	Hay Hiker	\$21,000

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2010	MF	GC2400L	24hp diesel, hydro, fwa	In Stock
2010	MF	ZT33	33hp diesel, zero turn mower 72" deck	Call

### MISCELLANEOUS

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
	Farm King	1050	10" x 50' swing auger	\$4,800
2010	Sakundiak	TL10-1200	10" x 39', 35 hp, SP kit, loaded	Call
2010	Sakundiak	HD8-1400	8" x 46' auger, 27hp, SP kit, loaded	In Stock
2009	Spray Air	4385	13" x 85' swing away	In Stock
2009	Farm King (Conveyair)	6640	grain vac	Demo
	Degelman		14' blade, 4 way, mounts to fit JD 40-50 series	\$8,000



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A scene from the first fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake last summer.

### Living Skies Come Alive

# Park board planning fireworks competition for Moosomin Lake

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Moosomin Regional Park will host the second annual Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition at Moosomin Lake on the August long weekend.

The fireworks competition attracted more than 8,000 people to the park last summer, and organizers have an even bigger show planned for this year.

Janice Walker of the park board said she is still hearing positive comments about last year's show.

"I'm still getting comments," she said. "I had a fellow call from the Mainprize park (near Estevan). He said he's hearing comments over there and he's wondering what we did and how we did it. They had heard that the fireworks were just fantastic and they want to do something like it for their 100th anniversary."

She said a lot of people have been asking about the plans for this year.

"I have had emails and phone calls already," she said. "People are planning their family holidays around the fireworks, inquiring when they are."

The event attracted a large number of spectators last year.

"We had approximately 8,000 people through the gate last year," said Walker. "There were 4,000 to 4,500 a day coming through the gate, and that doesn't include people camping, those were just people coming through for the fireworks."

"We had people from Saskatoon staying at the bed and breakfast in Wolseley because they couldn't get rooms any closer."

She said the feedback from last year's event was all positive.

"The feedback was fantastic," she said. "Everybody thought it was very well organized."

The committee had a shuttle bus running from a parking area at the top of the

hill down to the viewing area at the beach. As well, Taylor Charters ran buses from town both nights.

"We've learned a few things. We learned that we need a few more volunteers, probably 100 volunteers in total."

She said the event was a lot easier to coordinate thanks to the help of a large number of sponsors.

"We feel we could not do this without the support of all the sponsors," she said.

In addition to the two nights of fireworks, there will be races, games, and sandcastle building for the kids, an inflatable midway, barbecue suppers both nights, a pancake breakfast Sunday morning, and a Living Skies Idol contest one night.

"The idol contest went really well last year," said Walker. "We did very well. We have a lot of talent in this area."

The budget for the fireworks competitors will be increased this year.

"Last year, we let them have \$20,000, and we're increasing it to \$35,000 this year, so it will be bigger and better."

The fireworks competition will again feature Ruggieri Fireworks of Regina and Archangels of Winnipeg.

Regional Park board member Bruce Easton said the first fireworks competition went even better than expected last year, which is why the board decided to run the competition again this year and would like to make it an annual event.

"It's an appreciation weekend," he said. "It is our only fundraiser, and it worked out as a good fundraiser last year. It was kind of a trial and error thing, and it was a success so that's why we're going ahead with it again this year."

"It is a lot of work; it takes a lot of organization. We're open for volunteers of any kind."

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# In a galaxy far, far, away . . . the one my son lives in . . .

It may seem odd, but our five-year-old son, Coal, is obsessed with Star Wars.

I'm not sure how this fixation came about. It's not the latest Star Wars movies that caught his imagination; he has no idea who Anikan Skywalker is. No, it's the saga of my parents' youth; Mark Hammel is the only true Jedi warrior in Coal's world. And people who know Coal know that his world isn't necessarily on our planet. Creative, introspective, and not that interested in the day-to-day mundanities that occupy the rest of us, Coal has informed me many times he's sure he's an alien.

It's interesting that the seventies-era pop culture icons have made such an impression on him, since we don't even own the movies. He watches them at my mother's house when we're visiting her in BC. He draws Star Wars inspired pictures, is constantly roping his brothers into playing games based on the struggle for control of the Empire, and one of his favorite topics of conversation is the redemption of Darth Vader. If we ever do have a daughter, Coal wants to call her Leia.

When I learned Star Wars in Concert was playing in Regina Wednesday night, I couldn't pass it up, family budget be blasted. Coal is the second child in a family with four children, so all too often he coasts between the growing needs of his elder brother and the demands of the baby. I wanted to do something for him.

My girlfriend volunteered to sit the babies, since Keith is out of town. My car was in the shop, but my boss lent us a car, and almost miraculously, Coal, Alex, and I were off to Regina.

Star Wars in Concert basically consists of a live orchestra playing movie scores to cleverly edited video vignettes compiled from all of the movies, which are displayed on a huge screen accompanied by a laser light show. The entire extravaganza is narrated by Anthony Daniels, who portrayed CP30 in all six movies. Memorabilia from the movies was on display, and the truly hardcore fans dressed up as their favorite characters.

The boys were impressed. The look on Coal's face made it more than worthwhile.



**Monique McKay**

From my point of view, however, I have to say it was one of the weirdest popular events I've ever attended. It really showed me how technology obsessed our society has become, and in a way that makes me uncomfortable.

I thought the point of Star Wars in Concert was the music. I thought it would be a wonderful introduction to orchestral music for my children, and was pretty thrilled to see so many young children and twenty-somethings attending an event that feature violins and cellos. However, the way the stage was crafted, there was almost no focus on the orchestra at all. They were lit in silhouette low against the gigantic screen. I had to point out the orchestra to the boys, or I'm sure they would have assumed the music was canned.

I was glad to see, though, that once they were aware of the orchestra there were times they focused on the musicians instead of the action on the giant screen. For the last two scores, the screen displayed only the musicians. "That's more like it" the eldest said in satisfaction. "I've already seen the movies."

Touring the memorabilia during the intermission was an interesting experience too. People stood back with their digital cameras and cell phones, snapping pictures, with or without their kid or spouse or buddy standing next to Padme's costumes or Chewbacca. The memorabilia was safe in Plexiglas coffins, and there were surprisingly few fingerprints on the cases, despite the myriad short people running around. Since I didn't bring my camera and I don't have a cell phone, it was almost like my kids didn't have a ticket to get close to the displays. Shrugging at the

people waiting to snap a picture, I shuffled the boys in to peer at the weapons, masks, and costumes. Their eager, interested faces as they gazed at the displays were very much in contrast to other kids, posed beside the displays and being told, "Look at the camera!" before being ushered out of the way for the next photo-op.

Just an observation.

That being said, it was still an awesome experience. The music was sweeping and grand, and brought home how often I've heard those scores, and how in many ways I have a more intimate relationship with the compositions from movies like Star Wars and Lord of the Rings than I do with even my favorite Mendelssohn compositions.

It also brought home just how much Saskatchewan has become my home too. I've lived throughout North and South America, and although there are a few places I've lived longer than the two years we've stayed here—Vancouver, the Kootenays, Edmonton, and Montreal—I've never felt this kind of kinship with a place before. I used to talk about Montreal as though the city were a woman I knew—but she was a fickle, dramatic woman who sometimes turned on me suddenly. No, the relationship I sense with even the landscape, the smell of the air, the history and spirit of the people who live here; it's very hard to describe.

I know it must be deep though, because I don't care at all about organized sports. At all. But when the cameras swept over the orchestra during their encore, and we saw that the french horn section had donned Roughriders ball caps, I was shocked to find myself screaming madly along with the rest of the stadium.

Again and again the cameras panned the musicians, as more and more Roughrider caps appeared on their heads. Soon the music began to suffer, because the horn and flute players were laughing too hard to play. Not that it mattered. The cheers were deafening.

The boys were exhausted but thrilled. Coal rode home next to me, his big brown eyes wide and shining in the dashboard light.

I think the force is with him.

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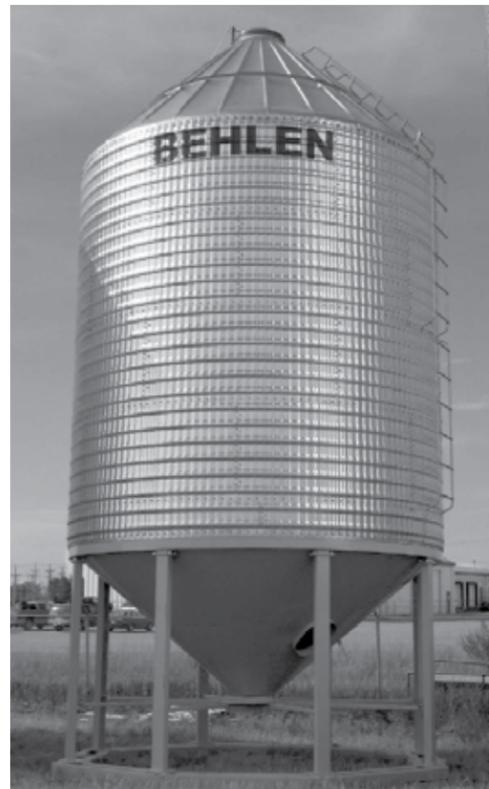
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Above: The White Bear Singers perform a victory song in the lobby of the Bear Claw Hotel.

Below: Chief Guy Lonechild with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, speaking at the grand opening.



# Bear Claw hotel officially opened

The Bear Claw Hotel officially opened its doors on Thursday, July 1. A ceremony and ribbon cutting was held for the new hotel. The hotel is located on White Bear First Nation, and is attached to the Bear Claw Casino.



A ceremonial strip of leather is cut by a local elder to officially open the Bear Claw Hotel on Thursday, July 1.

## Goodale says help farmers

Liberal MP Ralph Goodale is calling on the federal government to give flooded western grain producers reassurances about what kind of help they can get and flood assistance they can expect.

Goodale toured flooded areas in Saskatchewan earlier last week and says farmers are stressed out.

He says it's the worst spring seeding season in Saskatchewan history.

Goodale says with 85 per cent of prairie farmland affected by excess rain, the federal and provincial governments cannot rely on existing programs alone to fix "this mess."

The MP says the Saskatchewan government has shown a willingness to co-operate, but Ottawa has yet to provide a firm commitment.

### Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. is seeking applications for the following position:

#### Permanent Supervisor – Winkler Office

Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization mandated under the General Authority to provide intake and on-going services under the Child and Family Services Act and the Adoption Act within the Central Region of Manitoba. The agency has been in existence since 1934.

This is a permanent supervisory position operating out of the Winkler Office. The successful candidate will be an active member of the Management Team of the Agency and will assist the Executive Director and other members of the Management Team in resolving identified issues in administration and service delivery.

#### Primary Responsibilities:

- To assume overall service delivery responsibility for all child and family services within a designated program area based in the Winkler Office.
- To assign cases to his/her team and to ensure that all case assignment requirements are met.
- To assist and monitor case planning and evaluation.
- To ensure compliance with Agency and Authority policies and procedures.
- To set team priorities for collective activities on an annual basis.
- To take the lead role in coordination of services and collaboration with other relevant professionals.
- To assist and advise the Executive Director in planning and implementing service reviews and evaluations.
- To provide supervision to After-Hours workers on a rotational basis as scheduled.

#### Qualifications and Requirements:

- MSW Degree or a BSW Degree with a minimum of five years experience in child welfare.
- Ability to speak a second language (French, German, Spanish) would be an asset.
- Consideration may be given to candidates with other relevant combinations of education and years of experience in the child welfare system.

Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. provide services to families from various cultural backgrounds and is a designated French Language Service Agency.

Salary Range: \$53,921.00 - \$73,194.00

To apply please submit a resume including three references by 4:30 p.m. July 30, 2010 to:

Kathleen Wightman, Executive Director  
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# Health ministry asks for report on Schmidt

**BY KEVIN WEEDMARK**  
Based on investigative reporting by the World-Spectator, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health has asked the Sun Country Regional Health Authority for an investigation into, and an explanation of, the hiring of Sun Country vice-president of finance and corporate services Hal Schmidt.

Associate Deputy Health Minister Louise Greenberg told the World-Spectator that incidents in Schmidt's past came to the attention of the ministry through the World-Spectator.

As a result, "Deputy Minister Dan Florizone sent off a letter on June 18 to the board chair asking for a report," Greenberg said. The letter was sent four days after the World-Spectator broke the story.

"Our deputy minister wants to ensure proper procedures were used in hiring the CFO," Greenberg said. "He wants to ensure that due diligence was done. Did they follow the guidelines you use when you hire someone? Were references checked? Were global references used? He also asked whether or not the regional health authority was aware of the activity. Those are serious allegations."

She said Health Minister Don McMorris is keeping on top of the situation.

"The minister is aware of what is going on but the ministry is carrying on the work," she said.

The letter was addressed to the board chair.

"We entrust that the board chair will carry forth the duties required to ensure the health region is being run in a proper way through the CEO," Greenberg said. "The ministry is responsible for overall delivery of health care in the province, so we asked the board chair to evaluate whether the proper procedures were done in hiring Mr. Schmidt."

Hal Schmidt was investigated for financial irregularities at St. Mary's Hospital in New Westminster, B.C. when he was CEO of the hospital.

Forensic auditors compiled a 100-page audit of irregularities in St. Mary's administrative expenses between June 1997 and December 2002—the period that Schmidt was CEO.

The irregularities consist of Schmidt's credit card expenses and personal loans made to Schmidt from hospital funds, according to a *New Westminster Record* article.

Tom Crump, the CEO appointed to St. Mary's by the province of B.C. following Schmidt's tenure "said that the hospital's auditor uncovered serious issues, namely Schmidt's credit card expenses and personal loans," reporter Alfie Lau wrote in the *Record* article.

Schmidt was later fired from IWK Health Centre in Halifax after only a few weeks on the job when it was discovered he had falsely claimed to be a chartered accountant.

Schmidt told the World-Spectator he had never claimed to be a CA, despite dozens of media reports, and the fact that he

held three positions that required a CA designation. The World-Spectator obtained a copy of the CV Schmidt submitted to IWK. It contains the words "C.A. Chartered Accountant" under the heading "Professional/Education," and says he articulated at Desmarais Arsenault and Company, Chartered Accountants in Sudbury, Ont. It claims he "completed article requirements. Post-designation I was recruited by their largest client . . ."

Sun Country Regional Health Authority chair Sharon Bauche said Schmidt told the board that he had not claimed to be a CA, and she believes him.

Greenberg said the minister can't simply call up a board chair and order someone fired, as NDP health critic Judy Junor suggested in the World-Spectator last week.

"The minister shouldn't be doing that," she said. "A minister should not be getting involved in the day-to-day operations of a health district. I don't think that's sound governance policy."

She said the ministry has written to the board chair on this issue because the chair must ensure that the CEO has done his job properly, and the ministry wants confirmation of that.

"The only employee responsible to the board is the CEO, and all the other employees are responsible to the CEO," Greenberg said.

"The board has to ensure the CEO follows due dili-

gence in hiring people. The board has to ensure that the CEO is carrying out his

duties properly. "The board is responsible for making sure the

budget is followed. The board does not micromanage—but it has to ensure the CEO is carrying out his duties properly."

Greenberg said the Sun Country Regional Health Authority was given until mid-July to respond to the letter.

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1977 - 1979  
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- Promote collaboration and cooperation within the B.C. health system to achieve efficiencies in information management.

The CV Hal Schmidt submitted to IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Schmidt was fired from IWK for falsely claiming to be a chartered accountant. Schmidt told the World-Spectator and his current employer—the Sun Country Regional Health Authority—that he never claimed to be a Chartered Accountant.

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Two First Nations dancers in full costume participate in a traditional dance competition at the White Bear First Nations' 2010 Annual Summer Celebration. Using their elaborate costumes, dancers interpret the songs and rhythms provided by the drum circles in attendance. The powwow, held July 2-4, featured participants from Saskatchewan, Alberta, as well as the northern United States.

Miranda Minassian photos

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# Elkhorn museum revives the past

BY MIRANDA MINASSIAN

Traveling east along the Trans-Canada, distractions from the straight-stretching highway are few and far between. Offering a welcomed break from the monotony of the road is the Manitoba Antique Auto Museum located in Elkhorn.

Not just for car lovers, the Elkhorn museum houses the history of life in the area over the past hundred years.

"It started as an auto museum, but it has definitely evolved over time," said Lorna Sander-Ladd, the current manager of the museum. "People are amazed by what we have got."

From the road the museum's grounds—including a main showroom, a building for agricultural machinery, a garage for restorations, as well as a renovated one room school house—do not do justice to the impressive collection of local history and artifacts held on-site.

The lawn out front has a number of old card and tractors wait to find a roofed-in home. While the oversized ornaments add character to the museum's lawn, Sander-Ladd would like to see them better preserved.

"Our biggest difficulty is finding space, or getting the funding so that we can build more," said Sander-Ladd.

Besides admission, museum relies on a \$3,100 community museums grant, contributions it receives from the Village of Elkhorn and the RM of Wallace, and its own fundraising efforts.

"It is a challenge to showcase this amazing collection," said Garth Mitchell, treasurer-secretary of the museum board. "We are struggling to operate what we do have."

The current spending priority is upgrading and maintaining the museum's current operation, said Mitchell.

## VEHICLES A-PLenty

A must see for any automotive enthusiasts, the museum contains one of the most extensive antique car collections in Canada.

Tightly packed cars line every inch of the walls in the 300-metre long building. The collection contains a variety of vehicles, including everything from a Model-T converted into a truck to a hose-drawn hearse.

Among the museum's attraction are a number of rare cars built by niche companies, including a two cylinder, 1909 Metz. The 1909 model represents the first

staff, the cars most notable feature is its single-headlight front-end, which Briscoe claimed to be a result of a French design studio's plan.

Walking through the packed aisles of early century cars, it is difficult not to be struck by the historical tales held inside the museum's walls.

One of the museum's more controversial pieces of car history is its collection of original Dodges, complete with their original six-point emblems.

The origin of logo, which uses two triangles arranged to resemble the Star of David, has been debated over the years. The founder of the automobile company, the Dodge brothers, were not themselves Jewish, making the original intent of the design unknown. The logo was changed to a single triangle in 1938 when, not coincidentally, the trucks were being sent over to Europe as export models.

More than cars, the museum also showcases a number of turn-of-the-century farm vehicles. The complete evolution from hand thresher to steam powered machine to gas-run cutters are showcased.

The restoration of all the museum's vehicles is done in-house by a dedicated group of volunteers. It can take years to fully restore a vehicle, depending on funding and the availability of labor, explains Sander-Ladd.

## PRAIRIE HISTORY

Elkhorn's museum also contains a complete collection of artifacts that capture the history of the area during the early 1900s.

With an impressive collection of tools used for agriculture, blacksmithing, carpentry, early print and commerce, more than the automotive industry is represented.



Miranda Minassian photo

This 1914 Briscoe, affectionately called the one-eyed monster by museum staff, is one of the Manitoba Antique Auto Museum's rarest cars.

dies with the drop of the pin and a crank of the handle.

Another of the museum's newest historical displays features an original Eaton's delivery truck standing amidst items it would have, at one time carted to the homes of shoppers.

"We went through old Eaton's catalogs, which we have a complete collection of, and found items that they would have delivered at the time," Sander-Ladd said. "They had everything from nuts and bolts to a pre-packaged house."

Sander-Ladd believes that seeing the artifacts arranged by room, alongside their related pieces gives a complete, an accurate, representation of life at the turn of the century.

"I want to give everything a place in context," she said. "My goal is to have all the rooms done by the end of the summer."

Among the many items yet to find a space are the antique musical instruments, which currently sit lost among a collection of old radios.

Even the wall space has been maxed out, lined with museum pieces. Painted tractor seats hang like art above a massive collection of founder Isaac Clarkson's original restoration tools.

An array of early weaponry, including guns, swords and bayonets hang beside a complete collection of First Nations artifacts. Gathered by former advisor for the Museum of Man and Nature, Robert Clarke, the collection includes tools, articles of clothing and weapons of the many tribes that lived in the Assiniboine River Valley area.

Sander-Ladd's dream's for the museum to one day get the space it so desperately deserves.

The museum has recently acquired a century farm home, but is still in the process of moving it to the Highway 1 location, said Jackson.

Once the house is relocated, the household artifacts will be moved out of the main showroom, leaving more space to showcase the vehicles.

The restoration club has also recently received a donation of a storage shed, which will also help alleviate the stress of overcrowding. However, the rain has made it impossible to erect the structure on the over saturated ground.

## ONE MAN'S VISION

Founder of the museum, Elkhorn resi-

dent Isaac Clarkson, has become one of the community's most beloved figures since spearheading the project.

A local farmer, hunter and trapper, Clarkson started his personal car collection in 1946 when he first restored a 1909 Hupmobile Roadster.

"He fixed up his first car, and was bitten by the bug," said Lillian Jackson, a long-time resident of Elkhorn. "Ike would travel around the country to gather parts for cars, and buy new ones."

If he couldn't find the parts, the resourceful car-enthusiast would make his own, explained Jackson.

A witness to the handyman's ingenuity, Jackson noted that his love of engines didn't stop at cars.

"He was one of the first people around to have a snowmobile," she said. "He would come tearing through out yard on that contraption of a machine and we would watch."

Jackson believes that Clarkson got his ingenuity from his father, who she remembers developing his own threshing machine with the neighbors.

As his collection of classic cars grew, Clarkson would build more sheds to house them.

"It wasn't long before people heard about what he was doing and would come to see his cars," said Jackson. "He loved to start up his cars and let everyone know just how smooth they would run."

Over the years, Clarkson received many offers to buy his cars, wanting them to stay close to home he donate the entire collection of 60 vehicles to the village of Elkhorn.

After the cars were gifted to the village, the Manitoba Automobile Foundation was created in 1961. The foundation's main responsibility was to erect a building to house and showcase Clarkson's collection. In 1967, the original Manitoba Auto Museum, which Jackson describes as "Ike's dream," was completed.

He continued to manage the museum and work on cars until he passed away in 1971, at the age of 58, from cancer.

Since then, volunteers for the foundation and the restoration committee have worked to not only keep the museum open, but to improve the services it offers.

Like Sander-Ladd, Jackson is looking forward to the day when both the newly acquired century home and storage unit alleviate the clutter of the main showroom.

Jackson also hope that the tradition of the museum carries on to the next generation.

"This museum has been something to build a community around," she said.

The sentiment is mirrored by Sander-Ladd, who as a fourth generation Elkhorn resident, understands the museum's importance not only as a tourist attraction, but as a pillar of the community.

"This is our history," she said.



Miranda Minassian photo

Lee Hodson, Les Freeman and Oliver Frattinger work the kinks out of a 1968 Mercury Meteor Montcalm for Elkhorn's annual Canada Day antique car parade.

attempt to build a car by brass era automobile makers from Massachusetts. Restored by Isaac Clarkson, the hundred-year-old vehicle still runs today.

With only one headlight above the radiator, the 1914 Briscoe is another of the museum's unusual models. Originally from Michigan, Briscoe entered the automobile industry during its infancy, but eventually financial instability led him to relocate to Billancourt, France. Affectionately called the one-eyed monster by

Looking to overcome the limitations the cramped space offers, Sander-Ladd is in the process of reorganizing the museum to better showcasing the historical pieces.

Turn-of-the-century bedroom, kitchen and parlor displays have already been erected within the limited space of the main showroom.

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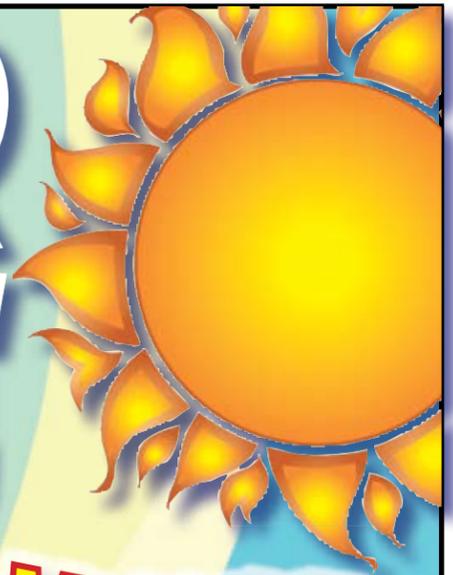


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