

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Rainfall floods Saskatchewan and Manitoba

BY JULIA DIMA

A rainfall warning was issued for the southeastern corner of Saskatchewan for the June 28 weekend—but nobody could have predicted how bad it would get.

Between around noon on Saturday, June 28 and Monday, June 30 when the rain began to recede, the southeast corner of Saskatchewan and southwest corner of Manitoba was drenched—the hardest hit area was around Moosomin, where 200 mm of rain fell over the course of the weekend.

The result was massive floods that drowned crops, overloaded sewage and drainage systems, washed out countless grid roads, and even a number of major highways including the Trans-Canada Highway near Wolseley.

Ninety-six communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba declared a state of emergency.

Some communities were dealing primarily with overland flooding, but in other communities like Moosomin, the excess water overwhelmed the sewage system, pushing raw sewage into people's basements. Reports of flooded basements in Moosomin, Rocanville, and Maryfield ranged from one to six feet of water.

"I've never seen anything like this," says Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson. "I don't remember this kind of damage before."

In Moosomin, the town estimated that 30 to 50 per cent of households had been affected by flooding, mostly in the form of sewer back up, as both the storm and domestic sewer systems hit capacity on Saturday night. However an intersection on the west side of town at Windover Ave and Cook Road was covered by a few feet of water, and households in the area were fighting against seepage from the saturated ground surrounding their homes.



July 28 and 29, the entire Southeast corner of Saskatchewan and Southwest corner of Manitoba was pummeled by intense rain, leading to widespread flooding, sewage back-up, felled trees, and washed out roads. The floodwater even closed the Trans-Canada Highway by Wolseley.

Here, Sgt. Joe Telus and Cst. Max Cloutier look into the massive washout that destroyed a section of Highway #8 between Moosomin and Rocanville.

Check out more flood photos on pages 8 and 9.

Photo courtesy of Trina Brace

On the other side of town, a number of households lost power during the storm as heavy winds pummeled the town and uprooted trees.

Crystal Leshchyshyn lives on Carlton Street, and were it not for a neighbor's concern, her home would have been catastrophically flooded.

"It started at 3 a.m. on Sunday morning with a neighbour, Barb Neufeld calling everyone to warn them. Had she not done that, we would have awoken with more problems. And for them, their basement was flooding, and they had way more water, but still took the time to notify everyone else," Leshchyshyn says.

Leshchyshyn says she was lucky to only end up with about five inches of sewage in her basement—some of the homes on the

street were pumping two to four feet of water, and when the power went out for about two hours, anyone who could not access a generator for sump pumps could do nothing about the escalating sewage filling their homes.

Town crews were out non-stop over the weekend trying to pump out the domestic sewer system and relieve households. Town Administrator Paul Listrom says that town crews barely slept over the weekend.

"It's been a hectic week," Listrom says with a sigh.

While Moosomin had the most recorded rainfall, the situation was not better elsewhere.

Ashley Foulds lives in Maryfield, and while she fared well, not having a basement in her home, every neighbour around

her was dealing with sewage back-up, and the fire department spent all of Saturday night pumping storm drains.

Foulds says that she estimates all but two homes in Maryfield were dealing with flooded basements.

The biggest concern was that both Highway 48 and Highway 8 in both directions were closed down because of impassable wash-outs. Aside from a few precarious grid roads and back roads, there was no quick way in or out of town.

Foulds says water has receded around Maryfield, but the recovery process is going to be long because of the huge amount of people affected.

In Fairlight, Mayor Barry Metz says the village fared better than expected. There was flooding and some sewer issues, but no

major damage, he says.

"South of us was worse, but we fared much better than I thought," Metz says. The village of Fairlight is one of the few communities in the region who did not declare a state of emergency during the flooding.

"There was nothing that bad. Our basement flooding wasn't to the extent of what other places were seeing—we got some wet floors, but we usually get this in the spring anyway. I am just happy everything came and went and now we are able to just clean up. The water is going to go down, and we are going to be back to normal."

He added that the farmland was hit much harder than the town.

"Fields are a mess, pastures are a mess, it's going to be a bad impact for

quite a while for farmers."

There were some concerns in the RM of Rocanville when the Welwyn dam came within a few feet of losing the spillway, but by Wednesday, the dam was down to a normal level.

However, the RM was dealing with a number of washed out and damaged roads.

"There are some major washouts, so right now, we are working on the little ones that are quick to repair first, and then we start on the big ones. We have some major culverts washed out, and repair times are dependant on when we can get those pipes replaced—every RM is ordering culverts right now—so I am hoping we can get all the roads fixed within six weeks," says Reeve Murray Reid.

Continued on page 7

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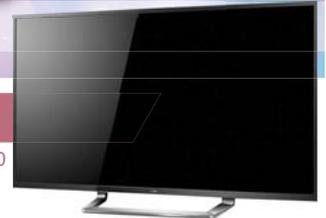
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The Moosomin Rodeo was held July 5 and 6 in Moosomin. Shown here are some of the events from that weekend: Barrel racing, bull riding, and saddle bronc.

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Fox rescued near Welwyn during flood

BY JULIA DIMA

On his farm near Welwyn, Colin Graham was dealing with flood waters on his land like most farmers on the July long weekend.

But when he spotted a stranded fox on top of a rock pile in a flooded field that Sunday, Graham knew what he needed to do—rescue the fox.

Graham and his friend Jordan Olson jumped into the water-filled field and swam to the stranded fox.

"It was an on-the-spot decision," Graham says. "We were going to go back and get a boat, and then we figured we could just swim out there and grab him."

Graham had spotted a family of foxes on his farm in the Welwyn area numer-

ous times throughout the spring, and knew when he saw the stranded fox pup and another fox pup on the road nearby that the family had been separated by the flooding.

Graham says the fox wasn't very far from where they parked their truck and dove in after the fox, but what used to be a field was filled with several feet of water.

"We swam over top of our fence—when I was swimming and put my arm down, I could feel the top of the fence post."

Graham says the fox pup tried to swim away, but cold and exhausted, when Graham picked him up, the small pup—no bigger than a small dog—had no energy to fight.

"We threw him in the back of the truck, brought him back to the house and got him dried off and warmed up," Graham explains. "Then he came alive. After he was warmed up, he had lots of energy."

The next step was to reunite the stranded fox with his family. Later that day, Graham says he spotted the mother fox outside, and let the fox pup go to be with his mother.

The spur of the moment rescue seems risky, but Graham says they felt safe, and

it did not seem like a risk to rescue the fox that could have drowned.

"There were two of us out there, and a few more people on the road by the truck, so we felt fairly safe," he says.

Graham says the alternative to helping out would have been leaving the stranded fox to die, and he couldn't do that.

"I didn't just want to sit there and watch him drown, so I thought we should do something, and we did," he says.



Derek Roehrer photo

The young fox after being rescued from a rock pile in a flooded field.

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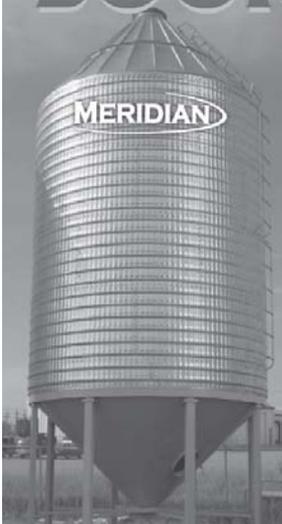
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Moosomin hit by flooding a second time

Continued from front

In Rocanville, sewage damage was prevented because of the bypassing of the sewage lift station, which would have flooded otherwise. Nonetheless, about 200 households in town are dealing with flooding.

In Manitoba, the flooding escalated as water flowing from the west increased water levels.

The RM of Ellice is dealing with a number of washed out roads, and around St. Lazare in the Assiniboine Valley, farmers' fields look more like lakes, according to administrator Rick Fouillard.

"It didn't look good to start with because it was a wet spring and so a lot of farmers were just becoming able to seed."

In St. Lazare, Fouillard says that households were dealing with flooded basements, so both the town and the village declared a state of emergency, since insurance will not cover seepage.

Highway 41 through St. Lazare is still closed due to flooding, and there is no word on when it will be able to reopen.

As for farmland, there is no doubt that there will be large crop losses this year.

Jeff Vanrobaeys at Parrish and Heimbecker in Moosomin says that many seeded acres will be lost. Because of a very wet spring, there are many late-seeded crops, and they are the crops struggling with the water. High humidity and moisture are creating risk for leaf diseases for the crops that survive. Overland water movement has also washed out plants, causing more problems than the typical standing water after a bad rain. Vanrobaeys estimates that there's been about a 15 to 25 per cent loss of crops in the region—but that could rise, as moisture stress appears to be more evident each day.

Kevin Woods of Westwood Land and Cattle says he's not sure what his losses are yet, since the fields are too saturated to get out on—he says that access to the fields to diagnose the damage is a big concern since there are many washed out roads. Woods says this is worse than 2011 because back

then, seeding couldn't get done.

"We've never seen water like we have now. In 2011, we never got to seed, but this year we did get started, and then we were plagued by wetness all along, and when you throw this on top, it just puts the icing on the cake—it's bad, there's no doubt about that," he says.

Craig Roy farms near Moosomin, and he's estimating a 20 to 25 per cent loss.

"It's just going to be one of those years where we're spinning our wheels, and just trying to break even—we need to have a very profitable crop to break even with the losses," Roy says.

Moosomin hit by second wave of flooding

The town of Moosomin declared a state of emergency last week, after a second downpour on Thursday, July 10 dropped several inches of rain on the town in about 45 minutes.

The State of Emergency was declared at a special council meeting at 10:15 Thursday night and will remain in effect for seven days unless renewed.

Town council also passed a resolution to request designation as an Eligible Assistance Area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program. An Emergency Measures Command Centre was set up at the Moosomin Firehall.

The EMO Command Centre has food and liquids available for people. The Moosomin Baptist Church is a location for accommodations for anyone displaced. Some people were forced from their homes Thursday night when flood waters reached electrical services.

The cause of all the chaos was a rain/hail/wind storm that hit Moosomin late Thursday afternoon, dropping several inches of rain in 45 minutes, leaving many streets and basements flooded.

For many, the flooding was worse than the flood on the July long weekend, with sewer backup affecting some and wa-

ter pouring into basement windows and down stairs for others.

The Moosomin Family Practice Centre was closed Friday morning after rain water caused some damage to the building.

Mayor Larry Tomlinson said the situation was unprecedented.

"We have never before had to put the full emergency plan into effect," he said. "We have people who have been displaced from their homes. They can go to the Baptist Church. There's a place there to sleep, there are mats, they're prepared to make food, the Co-op will get food to us at any hour. There were people out of their homes last night," the mayor said Friday morning.

"I've seen cloudbursts before, but I've never seen anything like this."

Moosomin's Family Practice Centre is closed indefinitely and doctors are working from satellite clinics and the Southeast Integrated Care Centre until the building can be repaired.

When about four inches of rain fell on Moosomin in 45 minutes Thursday, water started pouring through the roof and ceiling of the Family Practice Centre.

"I knew it wasn't going to be good when the water started pouring inside," Dr. Schalk Van Der Merwe said Friday. "We were just finishing our clinic. It was just after five. It was such a helpless feeling."

Staff helped clean up Thursday and Friday and rescheduled appointments.

Patients who had upcoming appointments have been contacted.

"We don't know when we will be able to reopen," said Van Der Merwe.

"If people need to make an appointment, they can call the clinic, and one of the staff will offer an appointment, but it will be in another town where we have a peripheral clinic."

Brad Wall visits Moosomin

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall was in Moosomin Monday, July 7—after the first of

two major downpours hit the area and led to flooding.

Wall has been touring a number of communities in Southeast Saskatchewan that have been affected by the floodwaters that have led to destroyed homes, evacuations, and washed-out highways across the region.

Just as people were well into recovery mode, another major downpour of several inches of rain in an hour led to more flooded basements and streets. Some basements were flooded for the second time in two weeks Thursday evening.

"If you think about the places that got hit hardest and fastest, first, Moosomin is ground zero," Wall said during a meeting with Town and RM councillors in Moosomin.

The visit was two-pronged, consisting first of a meeting with the town and RM councils to discuss concerns and issues in the clean-up phase of the flooding, and secondly of a tour around the town and RM to see first hand what damage the flooding did.

Wall told the councils that one of the goals of the meeting is to address shortcomings and problems they may be seeing with the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP). One of the big issues Wall has already been hearing about is timeliness.

"We know that we are at about 95 per cent claims closed from previous years. Last year, we had fewer claims, and are about 75 per cent closed there. The five per cent outstanding from the years previous to 2013 are mostly going to be disputes or infrastructure pieces that are still under water or unable to assess. But there are some reasonable criticisms of the program in terms of timeliness," Wall told the councils. "So what I would say is that we want to make sure that whatever we need to do to improve it, let's do those things. We announced and confirmed PDAP offices to open up here in Moosomin and the area, so people can get answers for questions they have. A lot of the disputes, we think can be alleviated—or a lot of delays can be alleviated if people are taking pictures and keeping receipts and have an understanding about what is eligible and what is not."

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Saskatchewan and Manitoba flood scenes



Shown here are some of the scenes of flooding in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba during the July long weekend.

Above and below: Provincial Grid Road 600 between Fleming and Welwyn
Kim Poole photos

Below: A washed out road 3 miles north of Rocanville just off of Grid Road 719.
Photo courtesy of Georgette Woods



Ed James photo

Above: Mayor of Elkhorn Roland Gagnon surveying the flood damage on Highway 256 outside of Elkhorn, Man.

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Round, Crooked Lakes hit hard: Flooding in some communities worse than 2011

BY JULIA DIMA

The floodwaters that hit Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba on June 28 caused a great deal of damage in many communities. Between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, over 100 communities declared a state of emergency. In some communities, the peak water levels topped those from 2011.

"2011 was supposed to be a once in a century flood—this is three years later and it was way worse," says Cheri Chartier who has a cabin at Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan. She says that after the 2011 flooding, cabin owners were prepared for water at that level, but the water came up a foot higher than it had in the 2011 flood.

She says when the water was at its highest, people were using kayaks and canoes to get around the community. Because her cabin is on a higher section of land, and not directly on the lake-front, Chartier was not dealing with flooding, and her cabin became headquarters for the rest of the community to put valuables and eat meals between clean-up.

While the flood was major, Chartier says the community was ready for it, and already sandbagging and protecting homes before the rain stopped. But it was the storm that followed the next Saturday that caused the devastation.

"We think it was a tornado that came across the beach. The waves were eight feet high, nobody down here has ever seen anything like that," she says. "It was calm where I was at the cabin, and all we could see was a wall of mist. Only 500 metres away, there were eight foot waves, and trees crashing down, and bathouses ripped right off their foundations. After 2011, the government gave the cabin owners these huge water tanks to use as wave breaks. They are these huge containers—this storm tossed them everywhere. Hot tubs that were full of water are a long way away from where they started, too."

She says that the destruction from the storm took away a lot of people's hope that they would make it through the flood okay.

"We were handling the flood—but when things started to get better, the storm hit, and people can't handle that. You're within inches of making it through this flood, and eight foot waves hit—it destroyed a lot," Chartier says. "When the storm hit, it broke windows and water came into homes that way. There are a lot of shattered windows, and the fronts of the cabins are pushed in and broken from the waves and debris hitting them."

She says about 50 cabins have been impacted, but the 15 cabins directly along the waterfront have seen the worst damage.

A few individuals live on the lake year-round, and have been left homeless, having to evacuate and stay with neighbours. Two of the three cabins hit the hardest were permanent



"2011 was supposed to be a once in a century flood—this is three years later and it was way worse."

residents at the lake, according to Chartier.

"One family just became residents, they sold their house in town, and moved down here for good only a couple of weeks before this happened, and now their house is completely annihilated. They spent all winter renovating it, and they got to enjoy it for a few weeks only. Next to them, the people at the very end of the road had to go live with neighbors further up the beach—the storm knocked their windows and doors out. So, there's a few people who are residents, and are left homeless right now," Chartier says.

Chartier says that if there had been people populating the beachfront cabins, the beaches, and boating on the lake when the storm hit, things could have been much worse.

"The flood was almost a bit of a blessing, because on a regular Saturday in July, this lake, the beaches and the cabins would have been full of people, and there's no way there would not have been some serious injuries or lives lost if there were boats on the lake, or people on the beach with the storm that hit," she says.

A large concern for many cabin owners is insurance.

The individuals who are permanent residents at Crooked Lake are eligible for Provincial Disaster Assistance Program funding (PDAP), but if you are not a permanent resident, you are not eligible.

"PDAP only helps if you are a permanent resident, so that is a very small percentage of the people down here. Even though they have quite a lot invested in their property, it doesn't qualify. As well, those who are permanent residents are capped out for funding at \$240,000. But some of the cabins are worth more than that and have more damage than that."

For those who are not permanent residents, like Chartier, they are hoping that insurance providers assess damage caused by the storm when adjusters visit.

"Insurance doesn't cover floods, that is known, but when a storm like this comes in, you hope you can get it covered. The flood water did not break the windows, it did not destroy the bathouses, it was the storm, and wind and waves and we are hoping the insurance company will be understanding of that," Chartier says.

But with the difficulties also comes the blessing of community. Chartier says

there is still a lot of clean-up ahead for the community, but there's been a lot of community involvement that has made the dismaying situation a little bit easier.

"We have an amazing community down here. Through the 10 days of prepping for this storm, everyone was pitching in, kids, grandparents, all day long. By the time this all happened, we had a great community spirit of helping each other out, and everyone just goes to see who needs help. It's been amazing. . . . Thankfully, nobody was hurt in all this."

At his home at Round Lake, Laurent Istace feels lucky that nobody was hurt in the flooding.

As he and his family attempted to pump water out of the basement, one of the walls collapsed, sending a wall of water at him and his son Chris, nearly trapping them in the flooded basement.

Istace says the flooding really started on Canada Day, and that is when he and his family started sandbagging around the house, hoping to keep the water out.

By the weekend, water had breached the sandbag barricade, and then the focus was to keep water out of the house.

Ashley Pachal bringing her cat Pepper out of their home after a storm at Crooked Lake wreaked havoc on the area, which was already battling flood waters from June 28.

everyone is healthy and safe. That put things in proper perspective for us."

After that, Istace and his wife Wendy had to evacuate the property immediately.

"We all got out of there right away, and after that, there was nothing we could do, there was no use trying to pump water," Istace says. "All our furniture was still in the basement. We were able to get some deep freezers and the furnace out. The next day, my family and friends worked all day to get everything out of there."

Istace is going to meet with a structural engineer, and hopes that he's told the house is salvageable and will be safe to live in. Currently, he and his wife are staying in Whitewood with family.

Istace says that there is no insurance coverage for the flooding, and his only hope is that PDAP funding can pay for the major damages.

"If we don't get funding, we are in big trouble," he says. "But they sounded pretty positive, and so far have been very gracious and nice to us—I hope it stays like that."

Looking around Round Lake, Istace says the situation is dire—with large parts of the community entirely under water.

"There are people way worse off than we are now. I know one friend built his house only four years ago, and he was dealing with two feet of water right on his main floor. All his new kitchen cupboards are ruined. That was his retirement home, I really feel for him. There are a lot of people not doing well. There is a lot of work ahead of us, that's for sure."

Like Chartier, Istace is certain this flood was worse than what Round Lake saw in 2011.

"There were people there measuring the expected peak when the water was rising, and they put up stakes to show us how high it was in 2011, and how high it was going to be this year, and it was quite a lot higher. It ended up a heck of a lot worse than 2011—about 16 to 18 inches higher," he says.

Istace says losing the home was hard, but having his family there to help with the clean-up made the whole process easier.

"It was sad to see your life's work go away, but we've been through tough times, and we tough it out, and get at it again," he says.

Despite the hardship, Istace is determined to keep calling the community home.

"It is a great community. It's good for guys who are retired, the fishing is great, and it's peaceful. For a long time, it was Saskatchewan's best kept secret. I've always wanted to live in the valley because that is where I was born," he says. He's planning to clean things up and build the house on a higher foundation, so he can keep the place home.

"When something happens, we move forward, we don't go backwards."



A woman wades through flood water and debris at Crooked Lake.

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TransCanada holds open house in Elkhorn

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

TransCanada held an open house in Elkhorn in June to get information on its proposed pipeline out to the public.

The proposed Energy East Pipeline will be 4,600 kilometres long, and will carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Eastern Canada per day.

TransCanada wants to convert 3,000 kilometres of existing natural gas pipeline and build 1,600 kilometres of new pipeline in Quebec and New Brunswick.

Also planned are new pumping stations, oil storage terminals, and a joint venture with Irving for a new \$300 million deep water marine terminal.

In the Moosomin area a tank farm would be built next to TransCanada's Moosomin compressor station northeast of town with the capacity to hold 1,050,000 barrels of oil.

TransCanada would also build a feeder pipeline from Cromer, Manitoba to the Moosomin compressor station, where the Bakken oil would be added to the TransCanada system to be piped to Eastern Canada.

TransCanada is planning on filing the application with the National Energy Board in July or August.

"Both Energy East and Cromer Lateral are major projects," said Ian La Couvée of TransCanada. "We want to make sure that communities along the route understand what we're proposing to the National Energy Board, what the project is all about, what it involves, and make sure that we understand what their concerns are and address any questions they might have."

So far there have been more than 80 open houses across Canada, from Hardisty, Alberta to St. John, New Brunswick.

According to La Couvée, some of the most common concerns on the Prairies have been what the impacts will be on the land of farm owners, compensation, and how they build the pipeline.

"For the most part they're very supportive about the project," said La Couvée.

"I think the open houses are doing what they're intended to do, which is sharing information, and stimulating dialogue," he continued. "We have surveys, and our survey response data from the open houses we've done has been very extremely positive. The majority of people say they've found the open house helpful, they've found the company representatives very helpful and informed, they thought it was a useful event."

Since announcing the Energy East project, TransCanada has made changes to the original design based on feedback from communities and other stakeholders. More feedback is being collected, which is why the application to the National Energy Board has not been filed yet. Some of the changes may be made due to environmental concerns, community concerns, and landowner concerns.

"We're here to listen. So if we go out to a community and we're hearing extensive feedback about concerns of a certain issue, then we have to go back and address that," said La Couvée.

"We're still in the early stages," said La Couvée. "This is what we call the pre-filing stage. All of the work that's happened in the last year, since announcing Energy East, goes into our National Energy Board application. So we have to report on what we've proposed, what we've heard, what we've found doing environmental studies, what we've heard from Aboriginal communities, and what we've heard from land-owners. All that has to be compiled, analyzed, and assessed. Then the National En-

ergy Board has to assess our application, which could be a year-long process.

"While that's going on we're going to continue to come out and engage and hold open houses, and continue to solicit feedback. Once we get a decision from the National Energy Board, hopefully we'll begin construction."

TransCanada plans on holding more open houses in the next while, and will come back to towns they have already visited.

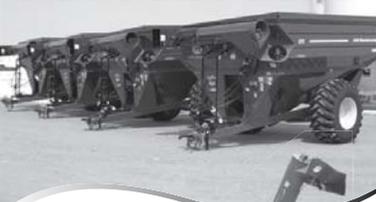
"We try to make sure the open houses are spaced fairly close to each other, so nobody has to drive too far to get to them," said La Couvée. "So we go back to many of the same communities, or we might mix it up a little bit. We try to get them within a 100 kilometre range."

The next round of open houses will begin later this year.

"It's a dialogue, so you can't start the conversation and then walk away," said La Couvée. "We've started the conversation, now we'll come back to resume it."

TransCanada hopes to begin construction in 2016 and be in service by 2018.

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Trans-Canada paving ongoing until mid-July

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

A four million dollar paving project is currently underway between the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border and Whitewood, along the TransCanada Highway.

Work on the project began on May 28 and is expected to continue until mid-July.

"The project is affecting traffic," said Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure Joel Cherry. "Traffic is down to one lane through the work zone, the speed limit

is reduced to 60 km/h, and there are flag people on site, so it's going to cause some delays for drivers. There's going to be fresh oil on the ground, people should be on the lookout for equipment and workers, and be prepared to stop."

Further west, near Grenfell, another repaving project is going to be underway later this year. This project will be a significant repaving project as well, and will be jointly funded by the Federal Government and Sask Highways.

"Investments on Highway 1 are important, because the TransCanada Highway is pretty important to Saskatchewan's economy and tourism," said Cherry. "We want to make sure we keep that highway in good shape."

To decide what work needs to be done, and on which roads, the department of highways takes into consideration traffic volume, whether the road is

connected to large centres, like cities, safety factors, such as collision histories or issues with sight lines, volume of trucks due to mining or grain hauling, which has an economic impact. The department of highways also does consultations with local representatives before under taking a large project.

"The budgets are getting bigger all the time," said Cherry. "We've invested about half a billion dollars a year in highways since 2008. That said, we have an extensive highway system."

"There are about 26,000 kilometres in the province, so we do have to prioritize when we do work."

"We do have a significant amount of public consultation as well."

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Changes to TFW program could affect local businesses

BY JULIA DIMA

Changes announced to the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program on June 20 may have detrimental effects for businesses in Southeast Saskatchewan, business leaders say.

The changes come after controversy surrounding the program arose following two cases of program misuse at British Columbia McDonald's restaurants and a restaurant in Weyburn. Initially, the federal government responded to these abuses by placing a moratorium on access to the program for the restaurant industry, where the program is heavily utilized.

The announced changes lifted the moratorium, but introduced new legislation that will introduce strict limitations to the program.

The first change is that there will be a cap on the number of temporary foreign workers a business can employ. No more than 30 per cent of employees can be temporary foreign workers, and by 2016, that number will drop to 10 per cent. Businesses with fewer than 10 employees will not have to comply with this cap.

The program will now only be available in areas where the unemployment rate is less than six per cent. As well, the cost of applying to hire a temporary foreign worker is increasing from \$275 to \$1,000. A new application method called a Labour Market Impact Assessment will replace the Labour Market Opinion, and be more thorough to ensure employers can prove that they were unable to hire a Canadian. There will also be more audits conducted to prevent program abuses.

Additionally, wage standards will now be based on provincial wages and not the national occupation code for specific occupations. Wages above the provincial median are considered high wage, and any below are low wage. The amount of time a temporary foreign worker can work in Canada is also being reduced from four cumulative years to two.

The Saskatchewan business community believes the changes are a disappointment.

"We think this is exceptionally poor public policy," says Steve McLellan, CEO of Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. "It is based on anecdotal evidence because the labour market information is not complete in this area. . . . We believe it will result in a reduction of service from a variety of companies—restaurants might look at reducing hours, businesses will not be able to offer services—it's that dramatic of an impact on the province of Saskatchewan. We think the federal government has

moved in a direction that is completely irresponsible for the continued prosperity and growth of Saskatchewan businesses, and the health and prosperity of the temporary foreign workers even."

McLellan says the largest problem with the program is that it still fails to address Saskatchewan's unique situation.

"The cap isn't reasonable. It does not recognize the different dynamics in the country, and even the different dynamics within the province," McLellan says.

"I understand that the government needed to put some parameters on it, but one of the premises we've tried to advocate right from day one is that every region in the country has specific needs, and creating a one-size-fits-all program does not work," McLellan says. "Saskatchewan has unique needs, let's design a program that addresses that. With many of our Saskatchewan businesses, to be only at 10 per cent would mean reduced service. When we have workers that want to come here, businesses that want to hire them, customers who want the products of the company, why would we stifle that economic growth?"

The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses believes that these changes will indeed stifle business growth.

"Labour shortages are our number one issue in Saskatchewan, and this is going to make it harder for business owners to grow and expand, because what our research shows is that 50 per cent of small businesses are already turning down business opportunities because they can't find workers," says Marilyn Braun-Pollon, VP of Prairie and Agri-business for CFIB. "We are finding that a majority of our partners can't fill jobs—we have over 13,000 jobs that have remained unfilled for over four months, so when you are a business owner in the service sector and you cannot find a Canadian to do the job, now you may not be allowed to use the program."

Braun-Pollon says CFIB has proposed changes to the federal government that they believe would improve the program for businesses, as well as for workers.

"Some recommendations we made would be a pathway to permanent residency for all temporary foreign workers, a temporary foreign worker bill of rights to protect them from abuse, stricter enforcement, an accredited employer stream—so those who have complied with the rules for a long time should be able to access the program more easily than first-time users. As well, looking at reforming permanent immigration system to

allow access to employers in lower skilled categories. There's no pathway to permanent residency to low-skilled temporary foreign workers. . . . So we propose a system that ensures all temporary workers including those in entry level jobs have a pathway to become permanent residents."

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki says he is not happy with all the changes—particularly the tightening of the percentage cap over three years—but says it was this formula, or no program at all.

"Businesses will have to adapt and find other ways of meeting their needs, so it will have an impact for sure to some extent. But the alternative of no program at all would have been much worse—I know the opposition parties would have closed it down not only with respect to the service industry, but across the board," Komarnicki says. "Personally, I would have preferred to see the 30 per cent cap held throughout, as I think most businesses could adapt and live with that."

Komarnicki says that as the program begins to affect the riding, problems with it can be addressed.

"I think that Minister Kenney is open to hearing from employers about how we can better meet their needs, and I think that as MPs from Western Canada, Saskatchewan, in particular, we need to keep advocating, and seeing, after we've seen how this program works, if there is anything we can do to make it better."

McLellan says that it is clear already that this change will stifle business growth.

"It may mean businesses may have the money to open, the market is there, they have the right building, but not the staff. That will slam the door on that investment, there will be businesses that simply won't open because of this."

Dan Davidson, owner of Red Barn and Subway in Moosomin says that the changes may have changed his mind about opening a third Subway.

Continued on Page 19

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Princess Pat's Memorial Baton Relay to stop in Moosomin

On Saturday, August 23 the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Memorial Baton Relay team will be bringing their 100th anniversary Memorial Baton to Moosomin to honor the memory of PPCLI member, Sgt. Harry Mullin, Victoria Cross recipient of World War I.

This memorial relay begins on August 10 in Edmonton and will arrive in Ottawa mid-September. Moosomin is one of only two stops being made in Saskatchewan, the other being in Regina.

The celebration will be centered on the Memorial Baton, a device that carries the full Honor Roll of the Regiment, a scroll detailing the 1,866 combat deaths of PPCLI members. Roughly 32 Canadian

Armed Forces personnel will take part in the ceremonies and help carry the baton in communities along the way. A mobile museum display will accompany the team and will be set up in the parking lot of McNaughton High School.

The Moosomin Armoury committee along with the full support of Mayor Tomlinson and the town of Moosomin, the Royal Canadian Legion, the 802 Pipestone Cadets, Moosomin detachment of the RCMP, Borderland Co-op and the Generals Football League are working to put together a day of activities and celebration in honor of the Princess Pats.

There will be something for all ages throughout the day beginning with the ar-

ival of the Memorial Baton at 11 a.m. The baton will travel from Highway 1, south down Main Street to Mark Avenue and west to the Moosomin Armoury. The town of Moosomin will sponsor a noon barbecue lunch. PPCLI will have semi-trucks with story board displays featuring the history of the Princess Pats. Borderland Co-op is planning to have a variety of activities for children set up on the grounds in or near the hall.

At 5 p.m. there will be a cold plate buffet supper held at the Armoury with a five to 10 minute black light drum core presentation by members of the PPCLI Drum Core unit. Supper will be followed by a short program of local entertainment. Tickets for

the supper are \$20 each and will be available for sale on a first come, first served basis and can be purchased from the Moosomin Town Office or the World-Spectator.

A dance will follow at 8 p.m. with music by Ed Hickie. There will be no admission charge for the dance and people do not have to attend the supper in order to enjoy an evening of music and dancing.

The Armoury committee hopes to see the people of Moosomin and surrounding area come out to honor the members of the relay team as they run with the Memorial Baton and that people will come to the activities at the Armoury, meet the members of the team and show appreciation for the members' service to our country.

TFW changes could effect local businesses

Continued from Page 18

"Let's say I open one, and it's further south where there is two per cent unemployment. What happens when I open that door, and I've advertised everywhere, and I have one full time person interested, and I have four part time, and I need 10? What would I do, because at that point, I'd be forced to open, and I know that the labour market process to bring over foreign workers is 10 months away from helping me. I will wish that I never opened it, so I am not going to open it. With the uncertainties, you just won't grow with

it. I wouldn't have opened the Langenburg Subway if I knew that the government didn't support me. If they didn't have programs to support you if you couldn't find staff, you wouldn't open a business," Davidson says.

He adds that the government did need to address problems with the program, and action was needed, so he is not opposed to the new changes yet.

"I don't want to knock the formula they've come up with yet—it's a tough thing. They have to look out for what is in the best interest of the country, and business owners like

me will look out for what's in our best interest... We need to go down that path and see how it affects people first. I just want to go down that road now that we have these new rules, and let's see how it works."

Komarnicki says the biggest problem is that the program is no longer a temporary fix, as more workers in the region apply for permanent residency.

"Maybe with a booming economy in Saskatchewan that has seen sustained growth, we have to start thinking of something more permanent than the temporary foreign work-

er program," Komarnicki says.

McLellan says two different streams—one for workers who want to become residents, and one for those who don't, would indeed be a positive change.

"If the term temporary is the issue, let's change the name, but allow these people to come in on a temporary basis and flow through if that is what they want, or expand the other immigration programs to allow the workers who do want to come here and become Canadian citizens to do so," McLellan says.

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Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition coming up August 2 and 3

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

The fifth annual fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake will be held August 2 and 3.

The two companies that will be competing this year are Canadian Pyrotechnics from Winnipeg, who competed last year, and Paradise Fireworks from Regina, who will be new to the lake this year.

There are many other events being planned for the lake this year as well.

"We're going to have children's games, bounce toys, and face painting," said Michele Shaw of the Lake board.

"There will be live entertainment both nights, we're going to have pontoon rides, beer gardens, a dance, suppers, ball games, and a canoe tug-of-war."

According to Shaw, the park is expecting to see about 10,000 people over the two days the fireworks are held.

"We never expected that many people to come out, we were pleasantly surprised," said Shaw.

"We want people to come out and see

what a gem we have here by Moosomin. We have people coming from two provinces away for the show. The park is fully booked already."

Shaw says that the park will continue to hold the fireworks competition for as long as it is in demand.

"It'll be held for as long as people keep coming out to it," said Shaw.

This year the funds raised over the weekend will go toward upgrading the water system at the lake and installing a permanent stage.

The park board is made up of 10 members, who start planning for the fireworks a year before they are held.

"All together it probably takes 100-150 people to pull it off, but we still need more," said Shaw.

Anyone interested in volunteering with any of the events over the weekend can call Wyatt Shaw at the park at 306-435-3531, and leave their name and information on what they'd be interested in helping out with.



Right: A scene from last year's fireworks competition.





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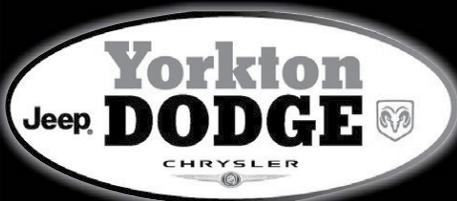
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Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo this weekend in Kennedy

For one weekend each year, the population of Kennedy, Saskatchewan grows to several times its normal size.

Cowboys in campers pull into town, and rodeo fans from all over the world converge on the small community to watch those cowboys compete in the rodeo arena.

"We have people from England, Africa, and in North America they come from as far as Texas, B.C., and Quebec," said rodeo committee president Iye Cancaide. "About 1,500 people attend each day."

The rodeo competitors come from all over the world as well.

"They come from all over Canada, the U.S., and Australia," said Cancaide.

Derek McMillan of the rodeo committee said that a lot of the cowboys who compete at the Calgary Stampede follow up that event on the "eastern swing" of pro rodeos in Saskatchewan and Manitoba—Maple Creek, Kennedy, and Morris, Manitoba.

"We catch a lot of people going back to

the States," he said. "We've had a lot of the top cowboys from the Calgary Stampede. We get a good turnout of cowboys and they're the cream of the crop."

"A lot of the cowboys are from smaller places and they like coming out to a small-town rodeo after the stampede," he continued.

The Kennedy Pro Rodeo is one of only four pro rodeos east of the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, and only one of two in Saskatchewan.

"Any profits we make we try to put back into our community," said Cancaide. "It takes probably 100 or 150 volunteers to put on something like this."

There are many events that go on at the rodeo. "There are six major events," said Cancaide. "There's saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, ladies' barrel racing, tie down roping, and steer wrestling."

The Moose Mountain Rodeo Association will be hosting its 82nd Annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy this Saturday and Sunday, July 19 and 20.



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Located near Rocanville. Total of 944 acres with 480 cult acres (G soil) & 430 pasture. Capable of carrying 100-140 cow/calf pairs with creek & flowing springs. 1264 sqft. Bungalow (1984), 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Many livestock buildings with efficient handling facilities. Beautiful yardsite with orchard. Contact **Alex Morrow**. MLS 471882

RM Storthoaks - 3191 acres

13 quarters in a block and the remaining 7 quarters within 2 miles. Good slope and drainage. Soil classes F, H and J. Average asmt of \$71,450. Competitive lease in place through the 2018 year making this a great investment package. Lease is paid on cultivated acres, bin storage and pasture. Call **Guy Shepherd** MLS 503249

Acres of Expertise.

Farm Equipment Auction Keith and Sherry Line Napinka, MB

Saturday, August 9, 2014 at 11 a.m. DST
To be held in the village of Napinka, MB

Sale features:

2008 McCormick XTX145 w/FWA, 3 pth, 540 & 1000, 20.8 x 38 rear 16.9 x R28 front, 32 spd. trans., 6,776 hours at listing. Sells w/ L165 loader, bucket and grapple (nice); 1986 JD 7721 pto combine; Case IH 25' pto swather; Sakundia HD 741 pto auger; Westfield 8 x 46 pto auger; 2009 Case IH 16' hydro swing; 2007 NH FP230 silage chopper w/ PU & 3 row corn header; 1999 JD 566 round baler w/rebuilt PU & new belts in 2014; Luck Now 425 mixer wagon w/4 augers, scale and 1000 pto; Richardson 5 ton high dump silage wagon; Hay Buster Big Bite tub grinder Model H1000; PJ triple axle 30' gooseneck; 2 wheel fifth wheel dolly; 2006 SPC 20' gooseneck stock trailer; 1974 Ford 600 3 ton grain truck; 24" oil pipe livestock chute; Self catch head gate; Quantity of 24' steel feed troughs; Quantity of 10' steel feed troughs; Quantity of 30' free standing pipe panels; Quantity of tubing panels various lengths. Plus a full line of farm equipment, livestock supplies and much more.



For information call Keith or Sherry at **204-665-2450** or Ross Taylor Auction **toll-free 877-617-2537** or **204-522-5356**

Acreage Real Estate Auction Ruth Annetts Alida, SK

Monday, August 25, 2014 at 5 p.m. CST
Sale to be held at yard site 1/2 mile west of Alida, SK

Sale features

1.3 acres w/1983 modern 4 bedroom home, lined and insulated shop, detached garage, small hip roof barn. Immaculate yard with garden and fruit trees. This acreage has town water. Located 1/2 mile from Alida. 1991 Indy Lite 340 snowmachine; 1990 Sport 440 snowmachine; Craftsman 42" 17 hp yard tractor; Push mower; Oak china cabinet; Cedar chest; Wood table and 4 chairs; Mastercraft drill press; Delta bench grinder; Table saw; Plus lots of shop & power tools, household furniture, appliances, dishes and much more.

For information and viewing call Ruth at **306-482-3466** or Ross Taylor Auction Service **toll free 877-617-2537** or **204-522-5356**



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Summer Sale

<p>2013 Chevrolet Suburban 4WD LT</p>  <p>4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 8 pass, htd. fr. & 2nd row seats, htd., stw, rear camera, sunroof, 17" alum., remote start, UK3 pwr pedals, steps, pwr 2nd row tumble seat, white, 20,194 kms, Stk.# 9566</p> <p>was \$49,995 NOW \$46,995</p>	<p>2012 Cadillac SRX V6 AWD Premium</p>  <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd./cld. leather buckets, sunroof, 20" alum., NAV, UVC, UD7, BT, DVD, v92, white, 58,663 kms, Stk.# 9594</p> <p>was \$44,995 NOW \$43,995</p>	<p>2012 GMC Acadia AWD SLT 1</p>  <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, PCM, C.J2, 19" alum., BT, UD7, UVC, pwr liftgate, CD, black, 58,268 kms, Stk.# 3588A</p> <p>was \$37,995 NOW \$36,995</p>	<p>2011 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD</p>  <p>3.0L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, buckets, 18" alum., BT, bluetooth, stw controls, white, 81,367 kms, Stk.# 14366A</p> <p>was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995</p>
<p>2011 Buick Enclave CXL FWD</p>  <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, 8 pass, 18" alum., BT, pwr liftgate, rear camera, steps, bluetooth, gold, 89,110 kms, Stk.# 14279A</p> <p>was \$31,995 NOW \$30,995</p>	<p>2010 Chevrolet Traverse AWD LT</p>  <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7 pass., quad buckets, 18" alum., BT, UD7, UK3, gold, 118,221 kms, Stk.# 14326A</p> <p>was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995</p>	<p>2007 GMC Yukon Denali XL</p>  <p>4x4, 6.2L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. fr. & 2nd row buckets, 7 pass., sunroof, 20" alum., AP3, DVD, G80, JF4, pwr. liftgate, ud7, black, 196,158 kms, Stk.# 15018H</p> <p>was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p>	<p>2002 Jeep Liberty Sport</p>  <p>4x4, 6 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL, buckets, keyless, alum. wheels, CD, blue, 231,484 kms, Stk.# 14290a</p> <p>was \$7,995 NOW \$6,995</p>
<p>2013 Chevrolet Suburban LT</p> <p>4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 8 pass., htd. leather buckets, CF5, 17" alum., AP3, JF4, UD7, pwr liftgate, black, 27,555 kms, Stk.# 9567</p> <p>was \$49,995 NOW \$46,900</p>	<p>2010 Buick Enclave CXL AWD</p> <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, 7 pass., remote start, 19" alum., conv. pkg., rear park assist, UK3, silver, 110,864 kms, Stk.# 14194A</p> <p>was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p>	<p>2009 GMC Acadia SLE AWD</p> <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, 7 pass., quad buckets, BT, 18" alum., V92, CD, gold, 186,410 kms, Stk.# 14114A</p> <p>was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995</p>	<p>2007 Buick Rainier CXL AWD</p> <p>4.2L, 6 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, 5 pass., keyless, 17" alum., sunroof, C.J2, grey, 156,060 kms, Stk.# 14353A</p> <p>was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995</p>
<p>2012 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD</p> <p>2.4L 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. cloth buckets, keyless, PDD, 17" alum., BT, UVC, UK3, bluetooth, black, 53,036 kms, Stk.# 14104F</p> <p>was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p>	<p>2010 Cadillac Escalade AWD</p> <p>6.2L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd./cld front leather buckets, htd. 2nd row buckets, a/m rims & tires, UVC, AP3, UD7, JF4, NAV, silver, 68,593 kms, Stk.# 14474A</p> <p>was \$40,995 NOW \$39,995</p>	<p>2010 Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD</p> <p>2.4L 4cyl, A-C-T, PW-PL, buckets, keyless, 17" alum., Z1141, grey, 40,558 kms</p> <p>Stk.# 14283A</p> <p>was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995</p>	<p>2007 Cadillac Escalade SUV AWD</p> <p>6.2L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, JF4, AP3, 22" chrome wheels, UD7, UK3, BOSE, 6-CD, 7 pass., 2nd row htd. buckets, silver, 148,000 kms, Stk.# 14376A</p> <p>was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995</p>
<p>2011 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT AWD</p> <p>4cyl, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. cloth buckets, BT, 17" alum., UK3, UVC, sunroof, bluetooth, gold, 81,170 kms, Stk.# 14390A</p> <p>was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995</p>	<p>2010 Chevrolet Traverse AWD LT</p> <p>3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7 pass., quad buckets, 18" alum., keyless, BT, V92, UK3, UVC, UD7, gold, 119,328 kms, Stk.# 14323A</p> <p>was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995</p>	<p>2007 Pontiac Torrent AWD</p> <p>3.4L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, htd. leather buckets, sunroof, remote start, 6-CD, 17" alum., V92, UK3, silver, 149,935 kms, Stk.# 14104B</p> <p>was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995</p>	

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