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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

July 2016 • Volume 9, Number 7



Fireworks over Moosomin Lake at the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition.

Big plans for August long weekend

The August long weekend will be busy in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, with events at Moosomin Regional Park, Elkhorn, and Wawota.

The weekend will mark the seventh annual Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake, which has become a huge annual event, and will be the Elkhorn Western Weekend and the first Wawota Valley Ranch Rodeo.

LIVING SKIES COME ALIVE

Moosomin Regional Park will host the seventh annual Living Skies Come

Alive fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake July 30 and 31.

The weekend is built around two nights of fireworks, one by Canadian Pyro from Winnipeg and one by Paradise Fireworks of Regina.

The fireworks are set off across the lake from the main beach at Moosomin Regional Park, so the beach is the best place to watch them from, as the fireworks are reflected in the water.

Prior to the fireworks, there will be entertainment both nights, with Amy Nelson performing at 7:30 pm Friday and Eli Barsi performing at 7:30 pm Sunday.

There will also be beer gardens, meals both nights, and a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning.

Advance tickets for the event are \$8 per person per day, and admission at the gate is \$10 per person per day.

WAWOTA VALLEY RANCH RODEO

On the same weekend, the first ever Wawota Valley Ranch Rodeo will be taking place in the valley next to Wawota. This is the venue that was used for the Musical Ride last year, and it should make a great location for the ranch rodeo.

The MRRA Ranch Rodeo will go 4-8

pm Friday and 10-2 Saturday, and there will be lots of other events to round out the weekend.

ELKHORN WESTERN WEEKEND

The Elkhorn Elks Western Weekend is coming up Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31.

The annual event features two days of chuckwagon and chariot races. The races are set for 4 pm and 7 pm Saturday, and 1 pm and 4 pm Sunday.

The weekend will also feature a slo-pitch tournament, a four-on-four beach volleyball tournament, a pancake breakfast both days, and barrel racing.

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Petition seeks to overturn deportation order

Local couple and their children—one of which was born in Canada—being deported to Honduras

Couple say they fled Honduras as refugees and fear for their lives if they are forced to return

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

A petition drive is under way in Moosomin and area to try to have a deportation order against a local family overturned.

Victor Santos Chinchilla, his wife Lesi Cardoza Hernandez, and their son Victor Santos Cardoza fled to Canada and claimed refugee status in 2011.

They initially lived in Toronto, and now live in Moosomin, where Victor works at Denray Tire and Lesi works at the Borderland Co-op Food Store.

Victor says they fled to Canada after witnessing crimes, and believe their lives were in danger if they remained in Honduras. They have a second son who was born in Canada who is not subject to the deportation order, but would have to accompany the family out of the country.

On April 26 of this year, Citizenship and Immigration Canada rejected the family's claim for refugee status.

Victor and Lesi say they were informed of the decision at a meeting with Canada Border Services Agency in Regina on June 9.

At that time, they were told they must leave the country by July 31.

Victor says he still fears for his life if he were to return to Honduras.

"I came from Honduras, I didn't have a choice, I feared for my life there so I ran away. People from the government were killing journalists and I saw the situation and after that they followed me and tried to kill me because I was a witness. After that I decided to run away from Honduras because I was very scared. I crossed the border

because I didn't have time to go in and apply for Visas."

Victor says that he came to Canada through the United States. "I applied as a refugee right away," he said. "They denied my application. We applied for the first time in 2011. After that it was rejected, so we applied again. We don't want to go back, we have a chance here, so we did another application on humanitarian grounds and it was rejected again."

Lesi and Victor say that there was one immigration hearing before a judge in 2012.

"We explained everything with them face to face," said Victor. "We came here without experience, without anything, we tried to learn English and tried to get a translator and it was very complicated. At that time my little boy was born in Toronto and at the same time I had to give all the documentation."

Continued on page 8

Victor Santos Chinchilla, his wife Lesi Cardoza Hernandez, and their children Victor Junior, eleven years old, and Edward, who is four. The family fled to Canada from Honduras fearing for their lives, and claimed refugee status. The family lived in Toronto for four years, and have lived in Moosomin for the past year. Their application for refugee status was denied on April 26, and they were informed June 9 that they must leave Canada by the end of July. Edward was born in Canada and is not subject to the removal order.



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Multicultural event held in Moosomin

A multicultural event was held in Moosomin on Saturday, July 9 as part of the Moosomin Rodeo weekend, with the Filipino, Honduran, South Korean and South African communities in Moosomin showcasing their culture, song and dance, and food.

The event was a success with hundreds of people attending to take in the festivities.



The Filipino booth.



The Honduran booth.



The South Korean booth.



The South African booth.

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St. Jean Baptiste celebration at Bellegarde

BY TANYA REIMER

Over 100 participants attended this year's St Jean Celebration and the 25th anniversary of the French Cultural Centre in Bellegarde, June 24.

The streets were full of youth playing a scavenger hunt, showcasing Bellegarde's unique Francophone and Belgian ancestry. Face painting, a bouncy castle, free balloons, and even cotton candy kept the children gathered by the school in the fun zone while adults enjoyed the campfire and barbecue supper hosted by Voyage Québec.

The highlight of the evening was, of

course, the concert by Carmen Campagne. Children danced and sang to their favourite songs, taking part in a very interactive performance by the once local children's entertainer. Before the concert, local talent as the students from grades 3 and 4 from École de Bellegarde on the recorders, the music club on guitars and fiddles, and Pierre Tinant and Aimée Poirier playing folklore sets that had everyone tapping their feet and clapping their hands.

Students from grades 5 and 6 at École de Bellegarde did a rocket launcher demonstration that impressed the crowd. The

water balloon fight is always a hit among the teens. And an incredible fireworks display ended the evening thanks to more local talent.

Over all, the atmosphere was one full of excitement where the French language was heard in abundance and that proves the community is still vibrant and rich in cultural.

Such an event would never be possible without the huge support from the community and the sponsors: Canada Celebrates, Heritage Canada, Southeast Connection, Borderland Co-op, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries, Conseil culturel fransaskois, l'ACFB, and l'école de Bellegarde.



Above: Declan Belisle in the bouncy castle
Above right: Face painting on George Perreault
Right: Gabrielle Brisebois participating in the Carmen Campagne concert

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We can forget how good we have it as Canadians

This month's issue of Plain and Valley includes stories of two journeys to Canada that couldn't have turned out more differently.

One is a happy story.

On Page 16 is the story of Roman Chernykh and his daughter, Anna, who recently became Canadian citizens.

Roman tells of his journey to Canada from Ukraine, and how his dream came true when he was granted his Canadian citizenship.

He came to Canada for a better life, like many of our ancestors, and he has found it.

While there are lots of uncertainties around life in Ukraine, while the country is under constant threat from its looming neighbor, Russia, Roman and his family have found a safe, secure, prosperous life here in Canada.

The other is a very sad story.

Starting on page 3 and continuing below is the story of a family that is hoping against hope for a last minute reprieve from the decision that has



Kevin Weedmark

turned their dream of a better life in Canada into a nightmare.

The family came to Canada as refugees, believing their lives were in danger in their home country of Honduras.

They lived first in Toronto, then moved to Moosomin a year ago, where both have jobs and have become part of the community.

They have a son who was born in Canada, and has only ever known life in Canada.

On June 9, they were told they must leave the country by July 31. Their youngest son is not subject to the removal order, but would have to accompany the family.

A local group is taking up a petition in the hopes that the removal order can be reversed.

We often take for granted what we have in Canada.

As I listened to Roman talk about the conditions back in Ukraine and how much better life is here, and as I listened to Victor and Lesi speak about the violent world they left behind in Honduras, and how desperately they want to remain in Canada, it hit home once again just how good we have it in Canada, just how fortunate we are to live in this country.

I hope Roman and Anna enjoy their new life as Canadian citizens, I hope Victor and Lesi and their family will be able to remain in Canada as they so desperately wish, and I hope that all you reading this realize just how lucky you are to be living here.

Petition to allow family to stay

Continued from page 3

"I tried to get some documentation," said Victor. "And I gave them whatever I had. The lawyer, they took all the copies of the documents, but there were some mistakes with it. When the lawyer sent the original documentation to the court he only took a photocopy of part of the page and cut off the signature—he took a legal size paper and copied it onto a smaller paper, so the signature was missing. They rejected it because they said that it had no verification of a signature."

Lesi says that their older son, Victor, was with her and Victor when they got the news that they were being deported.

"My son, he was crying and crying. Now he's sad and doesn't want to interact with anybody," said Lesi.

"He doesn't want to hear anything about it now," added Victor. "He is a little depressed. Everyone wants to ask him what's wrong but he doesn't want to talk to anybody. I don't want to think about what would happen if we did have to go back to Honduras. I don't know where I have to go. They'll still follow me and look for me."

"I asked about what happens to Edward during the interview," said Lesi. "(The immigration officer) said that he didn't want to deport Edward, he just wanted to deport us. But what about Edward? He said that Edward had to come with us, but he didn't want to deport him because they don't deport Canadian citizens."

"He gave us three weeks, because we were told we were being deported on June 9 and we have to buy the tickets by June 30," continued Lesi. "I told him that we don't have money to buy the tickets and he said that he'd talk to his boss and see if they could buy us the tickets. If they buy the tickets they will send us anytime."

Lesi and Victor say that they are hoping that the petition will overturn the decision to remove the family from Canada.

"I hope that they'll overturn it so we can remain here and give a future to my family, that's what I'm looking for," said Victor. "If I was alone in this life I'd run away, when I get back, but now I have to think of my family. I have to stay with them. If they want to stay with me then I'm going to be there."

When the family's situation became clear to members of their church community, a petition drive was started to try to have

the decision overturned. The petition is being co-ordinated by Russell Slugoski of St. Mary's Catholic Church and Rev. Dr. Trish McCarthy of St. Alban's Anglican Church.

"We talked and they wanted to find out if there was anything else they could do," said Trish. "So the Anglicans and Roman Catholics had a joint service and we started to work together as a team representing the Christian community. So we've been on this journey and Russell and I have gone through their documents and we feel that what they're saying is authentic to what's on the papers and we're very concerned."

"My wife has been going throughout the community," said Russell. "She went to the Baptist Church and when she was there she met some of the congregation members and they were 100 per cent behind signing the petition. They said that they were going to encourage everyone in their church to sign it on Sunday. And that's what's happened in our parish. Nobody walked out of the church after mass without signing."

Victor and Lesi have met with Souris-Moose Mountain MP Robert Kitchen to discuss the situation.

There are a few petitions around town, at Co-op and at Denray Tire. There are two petitions to sign, one is being sent to Dr. Robert Kitchen and one is being sent to John McCallum, minister of immigration. People are being asked to sign both petitions, so that they both have the same original signatures. Victor and Lesi have also sent copies of the petition to the Spanish community in Brandon and to their family and friends in Toronto.

Victor and Lesi say that they are hoping that the petition will convince the government to change its mind regarding their deportation.

"We feel very grateful," said Victor. "We didn't expect all the support, for us it's amazing. We appreciate this a lot. We don't want to go back to Honduras, we want to stay here. People know us here, it's a small town. People help a lot. I like to say that this is my home, because everybody knows everybody."

"We are very happy with the community," added Lesi. "God has his purpose. We believe that something better is coming. In this community we work together for something and God likes that, he's very happy."

"I know that God is with us," said Victor.

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U of S developing early warning system for zebra mussels

A University of Saskatchewan research project is using DNA testing to check for unwanted visitors in the province's waterbodies.

Invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels cost industries and governments millions of dollars each year. Since their introduction from the Black Sea into the Great Lakes in the 1980s, preventing the spread of these tiny invaders has been a costly uphill battle.

Almost impossible to eliminate once established in a waterbody, these invasive mussels can severely impact aquatic habitats and devastate commercial and recreational fisheries. Mussels can also clog water intake structures and increase costs significantly for irrigation, power generation and municipal water supply.

Keeping tabs on invasive species is a challenge for a province like Saskatchewan. With confirmation of zebra mussels in Manitoba's Cedar Lake, Lake Winnipeg, the Red River and in North Dakota, the importance of monitoring is paramount for the province.

The U of S research is led by professors Tim Jardine and Markus Hecker. The university has partnered with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Manitoba

Water Stewardship on the project.

"Living things shed parts of themselves into their environment," Professor Jardine explained. "We are able to collect this environmental DNA from lakes and rivers, and it allows us to identify when a new species is present, sometimes sooner than would be visible in a search from shore or by boat."

To date, nine locations have been tested along the shore of Lake Winnipeg, where zebra mussels are likely to be present. Those tests resulted in three positive detections.

Jardine said researchers also sampled nine waterbodies in Saskatchewan and found no positive detections.

"This technique is also being used by other researchers to identify rare and endangered species that can be hard to capture or observe using conventional sampling techniques," Jardine said.

Water samples are collected from a waterbody, filtered and stored in very cold conditions to preserve any DNA present.

Once back in the laboratory, the DNA is extracted from the filter. The DNA is then copied many times. The resulting "product" is then analysed.

"If the species' DNA was present in the water sample, it will show up in

the analysis," Jardine said.

In total, the testing process takes about four days to complete and data is often available within a month of the sample collection. Several sites can be tested together, which could be very beneficial when looking at how many waterbodies there are in a province like Saskatchewan.

"Once this technique is further developed, it will allow the provinces to detect and manage aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels," Jardine said.

The U of S research is supported by funding from the ministry's Fish and Wildlife Development Fund.

As part of its prevention efforts, the province is asking all boaters to clean, drain and dry their watercraft and all related equipment, to ensure it is free of invasive species before returning home from out of province, coming to visit, or moving between waters within Saskatchewan.

Watercraft inspections conducted by the ministry's team of conservation officers are also being expanded throughout the province.

To report any sightings of aquatic invasive species, contact the Ministry of Environment or call the TIP Line at 1-800-667-7561.



Research—U of S summer student Trevor Gallagher filters a water sample to test for DNA of invasive zebra mussels.

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Debt clock passes through Moosomin

Aaron Wudrick of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation brought the federal debt clock to Moosomin on Sunday, June 19. The debt clock is being taken across the country to show Canadians just how quickly the national debt is increasing. While the CTF was stopped in Moosomin for a quick interview, the debt clock added another million dollars to its tally of the national debt. In the six weeks it will be on tour across the country, the national debt will be increasing by \$60 million a day or \$3.2 billion over the six weeks. "I think most Canadians are aware we have some debt but they are surprised when they see the actual number and how fast it's going up," said Wudrick. "That's exactly the message we want to convey. It's not a sexy issue. It's not something people are thinking about every morning. But it has a real impact on our children and grandchildren, and their ability to have the services and programs we want from government, because we're spending so much money on interest, paying off what was borrowed in decades past."

He said he would like to see the federal government do a full review of government spending.

The debt clock passed through Moosomin on its way to Ottawa.

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Bear signs entry-level contract with Oilers

BY KARA KINNA

Defenceman Ethan Bear and the Edmonton Oilers agreed to a three-year entry level contract on Saturday, July 2.

Bear, who is from Ochapowace, was selected by the Oilers in the fifth round, 124th overall in the 2015 NHL Draft.

The 19-year-old appeared in 69 games with the Western Hockey League's Seattle Thunderbirds last season, scoring 19 goals and adding 46 assists with 33 penalty minutes and a plus-14 rating.

He led all Seattle defencemen in scoring and had a team-high 12 power-play goals. The five-foot-11, 197-pound Bear has appeared in 197 career WHL games, with 38 goals and 84 assists, 74 penalty minutes and a plus-16 rating.

Bear says it's a nice feeling having the contract signed. "I couldn't believe it," he said in an interview with the World-Spectator last week. "I was hoping, but when I got the opportunity to sign the contract I was really happy. And when I signed it, it was a good feeling to get it out of the way. Now I can finally focus on my hockey and my training."

"It feels really special. It's a hockey player's dream to sign a contract with an NHL team, so I was very fortunate, and for me and my family it's a really big step for us—I'm really happy."

Bear says he will play with the Thunderbirds for another season yet.

"I'll go back to Seattle for another year in Junior and then after that when I'm 20 I think that's when I'll really get my opportunity to prove myself. I'm either going to play for the Oilers or going to go an AHL team," he says.

Bear says his 2015-16 season was likely why he was signed by the Oilers.

"I had a really good season, I progressed well as a player and in my own zone as a defenseman. I really did a good job in my own zone defensively, and in the offensive zone I did well, putting up good numbers for myself and helping my team win. That was probably a big part of getting this contract finished. I think I did a really good job," he says.

Bear says, as a small child, he knew he wanted to be a hockey player after watching his older brother play the game.

"I started watching my older brother when I was about



Ochapowace's Ethan Bear, who plays with the Seattle Thunderbirds, has just signed an entry-level contract with the Edmonton Oilers.

four years old. He played Junior A in The Pas, Manitoba and I guess from watching him grow up I just really wanted to be a hockey player," he says.

"He helped me when I was younger to learn to skate and shoot, and I guess since then I've just always had a passion for the game."

"Ochapowace has its own minor hockey program, so I played for them until I was around 12 years old and then I started playing town teams that were a little bit higher level. When I was 12 I started leaving the Ochapowace program and playing for other teams, but I always went back to Ochapowace when there was a First Nations tournament. I'd always go back and play with them and I think that was one thing that always kept me close, just because I looked forward to playing with all my friends from home."

Bear says every young hockey player dreams of being in the NHL some day.

"When you're a young kid you obviously dream about it but you don't really know if you'll get there or not," he says. "Nothing's official yet, I still have a lot of work to put in and I still have a ways to go."

What does it take to reach an NHL level of play? "You have to sacrifice your time, your social life, you have to put in work on and off the ice," says Bear. "You have to make sure you're dedicated, you have to want to win. You have to want to make yourself a better player, and going along with that, it makes you a better person. Keeping good relationships with other people, it goes a long way in hockey and in life."

Bear says a lot of work needs to be put in now before he sees NHL ice.

"I have to put in a lot of work in the gym. I have to get stronger, I have to get faster. I think for me foot speed is the biggest thing right now and making sure I can keep up to the faster pace. I think that's the main thing right now and then later on I'll keep working on the other skills."

Bear says a hockey player should always feel like they've really earned their chance at playing in the NHL.

"You work for it. It's not necessarily waiting, you've got to work, you have to focus and you have to make sure you're on task with what you do and make sure you're not slacking around."

"You have to work for it, that's why you get a good feeling when you actually play your first NHL game, because you put in so much work and so much time and effort."

"When you've accomplished something that big, it's amazing."

Pats to be inducted into Sask Baseball Hall of Fame

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

The Wawota Pats baseball team of 1970 have been honoured in the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Wawota Pats baseball team was formed in 1951 and has played continuously until the present.

"Wawota is a community that's had baseball since 1915," said Tom Weatherald, who was a player on the Wawota Pats baseball team in 1970.

"The team had many players, and their most successful year found them competing in many tournaments and over time in three different leagues."

"The team often played in two tournaments a week. These events involved Southeast Saskatchewan and Western Manitoba, and in their best season they won 44 games and lost six. At one point they won five tournaments in a row. There were a lot of tournaments in those days," said Weatherald.

"There were no sports on Sundays because you couldn't charge," said Weatherald. "So everything was during the week."

Weatherald explained about the team in 1970 and what led to them being honoured by the hall of fame.

"The year 1970 saw them win the Saskatchewan Provincial Senior Championship. This was at a time when there were only two leagues, the Northern Saskatchewan League and the



The Wawota Pats baseball team from 1970. In back from left are Ron Porter, Lyle Weatherald, Paul Palendat, Larry Edwards, Dale Kennett, and Joe Weatherald. In front are Wade Sauter, Bev McVicar, Richard Beauchesne, Tom Weatherald, Neil Wilson, and Barry Cudmore.

Southern League. They hired players, but everyone else who wasn't in one of those two leagues, they just played in one category, so we played against bigger places. Baseball in that period drew big crowds and at one tournament in the community of Bellgarde, there were 23 teams there and three diamonds. The Pats were in the final.

"In the period from 1952 to 2015 several Pats players played with a combination from another Wawota team. During that time Wawota had two senior teams. They met with considerable success and they won the championship in 1970 and then they won again. They were called the Wawota Cardinals. They won

in 1972. In 1995 they won the Senior AA Championship and then went to the Western Canadian Championship and won the silver medal. And then they won the Saskatchewan Senior Championship again in 2005," said Weatherald.

"What happened was we hadn't done anything, but we thought we probably should," said Weatherald.

"One of the executives of the hall of fame came from Weyburn, so he said to us that we should apply. The only other teams in Southeast Saskatchewan I know are Griffin, they were in the hall of fame, and Lampman. The executive had their meeting in April sometime and about a month or so ago they sent

me a letter." Weatherald says being honoured by the hall of fame makes him feel accomplished.

"It's a certain sense of accomplishment," said Weatherald. "I guess it's like winning anything, but half of the members aren't living."

"What we did back then was we curled a lot in bonspiels, we played baseball. You had to have a certain level of skill, and we had a good time. We didn't go a long way, we'd go to Yorkton or Souris to play. Baseball took up the summer, but we did other things too. We'd go to two tournaments a week, from about the 24th of May to the middle of August, then

you had to harvest."

Weatherald says that he has many fond memories playing baseball.

"We always had a good time," said Weatherald. "We'd go to the lake a lot afterwards on the weekend. The day we played Yorkton at Kenosee, it was two out of three and we

beat Yorkton in Yorkton and then we came to Kenosee on Sunday and there were 600 people at the game."

Weatherald says that he is hoping all surviving members of the team will be able to attend the ceremony, which will be held in August of 2017.

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The long road to Canadian citizenship

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

A recent Canadian citizenship ceremony was a dream come true for Moosomin's Roman Chernykh, who grew up in Ukraine.

"There's a long story around why I decided to move to Canada," said Chernykh. "I used to work on the cruise ships, and Canada was one of the ports of call we used to sell to, from New York to Halifax and St. John's. I fell in love with Canada, I love everything about Canada, and of course, serving the Canadian customers made me understand the Canadian culture when I worked on the ships.

"I decided to move on and was looking for an opportunity to get my degree in Canada and that's how I ended up staying in Canada. I travelled around the world and I saw many countries and many nationalities. I worked on the cruise ships for 15 years, and Canada has the best people in the world. They are so respectful, so kind, and they are such culture oriented people, and they are educated. That's why I decided to stay here, it's the best country, it's the most peaceful, and it has the best people."

Chernykh grew up in Ukraine when it was still a part of the Soviet Union.

"While I was growing up, it was the communism time, it was all about freedom, and your freedom was eliminated. You couldn't speak or say what you wanted out loud. That's just not the right way to live your life.

"There was even a small incident in my family. My brother, who is older than me, wrote a letter to one of the congressmen in the United States. For the next two years we were followed by the KGB and people in black suits and they were asking questions, even in school. I was maybe nine, and my brother was 16."

According to Chernykh, he decided to become a Canadian citizen so that he could completely be a part of Canadian society.

"I had no choice when it came to becoming a Canadian citizen. I want to be part of this country, I want to contribute to this country, I want to live with the mind of a Canadian. Canada is basically made up of immigrants, and they all have something in common. That's Canada, to make this country strong and make it grow. That's why I want to be part of these people, I want to be Canadian.

"The citizenship process was long, it took me about seven years to become Canadian, it has ups and downs. I stayed for three years living without my family until I got my permanent residency. It's a long process, but I think everyone should go through that process. There's no such thing as an easy way. You want to be Canadian so you have to prove that you want it. You have to go through paperwork, background checks, and write a citizenship test and a language test, and the final step is the ceremony. There are many stages and every stage is probably two or three years apart."

According to Chernykh, the Canadian Prairies are similar to Ukraine in some ways.

"There's no difference. That's why I think Ukrainian Canadians who settled down in the 1800s, they looked at the prairies and they said, 'it looks exactly like Ukraine, we're going to stay here.' Climate wise, it's not much different. We also live in a pretty flat country. Some parts of Canada of course are different, but Saskatchewan itself is pretty much what Ukraine looks like."

Chernykh received his Canadian citizenship at the same time as his daughter, and his wife and son should receive their citizenship later this year.

"It feels great," said Chernykh. "You're a new person, with new obligations, you're completely different."

Some people say permanent residence is the same as citizenship, but it's not the same. Now I'm Canadian, and I'm so proud to be Canadian. I'd say there aren't many Canadians who are proud to be Canadians like I am proud to be Canadian, because it took me such a long way to come here. I'm including also 15 years working on the cruise ship because we were always dreaming about different countries and a different lifestyle, and then we ended up here, so it took about 25 years to get here."

Chernykh says that he does not know what would have happened if he had not taken the job working on the cruise ships.

"I was actually working as a carpenter



Roman Chernykh and his daughter Anna at the Canadian citizenship ceremony in Regina.



helping my father in Ukraine and a friend of mine came and asked if I wanted to work on the cruise ship, I was about 18 and everybody went to the army and I went to work on the cruise ship. They were looking for anybody who wanted to work on the cruise ship, so they gave me a call and I tried to explain that I didn't even speak English, but they said that it was no problem and all I had to do was send my passport. Two days later I was working on the cruise ship. I fell in love with it, even just serving food, as long as you make people happy you do something, and that's how I fell in love with the hospitality business. I was looking for something to help my parents to change their lifestyle and that's why I brought my brother here. He's older than me and he said, 'if not you, we'll all be stuck we don't know what will happen.' It just pushed me to go forward."

"We're living in a war in Ukraine, people feel like there could be a war at any time, and in our DNA we've already experienced that, we've experienced being treated by neighbouring countries basically as slaves and there has been great hunger, they always try to eliminate the nation as Ukraine. People don't really talk about that, but to compare Stalin and Hitler, they were pretty much the same person. That was in our DNA in the Ukraine, so until now our neighbours weren't there. My mom and my wife's parents are still there, they're pretty settled down so they don't want to move. They've been here to visit us but they still want to go back home. I think Ukraine is a great country but we

weren't lucky enough to have neighbours, but I hope that will change."

"Now that I've become a citizen I want to maybe create some sort of business and be a part of the community. Perhaps maybe a restaurant, I'm so passionate about that, so hopefully that will work out someday. I

just applied for some voluntary work I can do in Ukraine as a Canadian citizen, as an observer for the elections. They will send me there as a volunteer."

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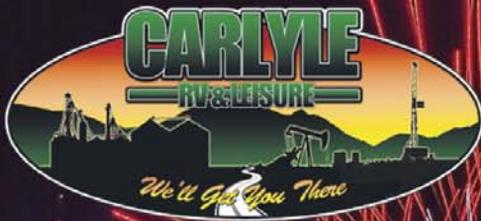
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Swimming lessons in Welwyn Lake wrapped up on Friday, July 8 with fun and games and a barbecue at Welwyn Regional park. Above, one of the lesson groups having fun with their instructors.

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It's rodeo season

Moosomin Rodeo was held July 8 and 9 at the Moosomin rodeo grounds. Despite heavy rain on the second day, the event still went ahead.

It's rodeo season in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo, one of the only pro rodeos on the prairies, held at Kennedy, Sask. is coming up July 23 and 24.

Left: A saddle bronc ride at the Moosomin Rodeo.

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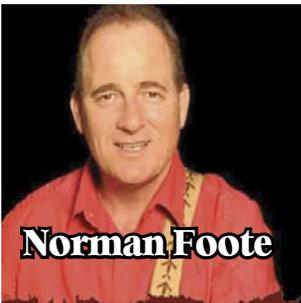
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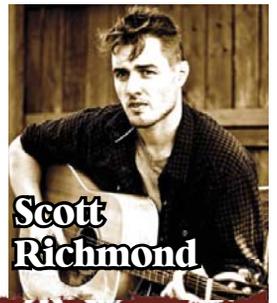
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Oak Island hosting Dan Halldorson memorial tournament

BY KARA KINNA

Oak Island Golf, at Oak Lake Beach, Manitoba, will be celebrating the life of professional golfer Dan Halldorson with the Dan Halldorson memorial tournament on Wednesday, August 3.

Dan Halldorson was a Canadian professional golfer who played on the PGA Tour and the Canadian Tour. Halldorson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and raised in Brandon, Manitoba.

He was the director of golf at Oak Island Golf from 2014 to 2015 and passed away in November of 2015.

According to Mike Martin, the current director of golf, Dan had plans to be back this golf season.

"There was an opening back in the fall of 2013. We had someone depart here who was in the director of golf position. I think there were applications open and I believe Dan approached them here and the two sides got together and that was it," says Martin.

"Dan was our director of golf for 2014-2015 and had plans to be back for this season until his untimely passing.

"He was our director of golf here for the past two seasons before this one. Dan was a local fellow. He grew up for the most part in Brandon and he ended up as a Canadian PGA hall-of-famer. He won tournaments around the world, he won on the PGA tour. This is a special individual.

"As much as him being the terrific golfer he was, he was as much a person as he was a golfer. He was just a great guy."

What kind of guy was Halldorson? "He was a very quiet individual," says Martin. "He seemed somewhat guarded at times, but when you got to know him, he was a very genuine person that would do anything for you.

"He helped a lot of people along the way as far as younger players coming up behind him. Kids were one of his main things, he always talked about the future of the game, you have to get



DAN HALLDORSON

the kids playing, you have to look after the kids. And over and above that too he was a very funny guy, he had a real strange funny kind a wry wit and humor to him. He was just a special person."

Martin says when the idea of holding a memorial tournament for Dan was broached, the idea went over well.

"A number of people were thinking about it and thought it might be a good idea," he says. "There are a few of his friends and associates from Brandon that are also on board with it. Golfers Richard Bull and Danny Roscoe, they were very much in favor when I approached them with our thoughts on it.

"I have personally talked to a number of people from around the area and from far away, past peers of Dan's and so on. It's difficult to pin down a number right now. I've got a lot of guys who say 'I'm going to be there for sure.'"

Martin says he hopes the tournament is well attended. While golf will be a big part of the day, he says remem-

bering Dan and raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and for Junior Golf will also be a big part of the day. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Junior Golf.

"I'm hoping to get at least 100 out," he says. "A golf tournament, that's one thing but this is to be a celebration of Dan's life and career.

"We just want to get out and enjoy the day and think of Dan. We're going to have a nice dinner after, and then hopefully there will be enough people around that we can tell a few stories and have almost like a wake—it will be a celebration."

Martin says it has yet to be determined if this will be an annual event.

"I think we'll probably make that decision after we get this first one behind us," he says.

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Focus on Agriculture

At the Fairmede Ag Fair

Right: Levi Jamieson with his winning heifer at the Fairmede Ag Fair.



Farm equipment sales to fall in 2016, rebound in 2017

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN
New farm equipment sales in Canada will continue weakening in 2016 before rebounding in 2017, Farm Credit Canada forecasts in a recently released report.

"Farm equipment sales have always been a leading indicator of farm health," says FCC chief agricultural economist J.P. Gervais.

First quarter sales in 2016 got off to a slow start, with total tractor sales down 19.5 per cent from first quarter 2015.

FCC expects that total new farm equipment sales for 2016 will fall 7.1 per cent. FCC categorizes farm equipment into five groups: tractors that are under 40 horsepower (HP), between 40 and 100 HP, over 100 HP and four-wheel drive, as well as self-propelled combines.

10 YEAR AVERAGE
Despite the declines, FCC says the sales figures remain in line with the 10-year average.

Driving sales lower is expected ongoing weakness in the Canadian dollar. A low dollar pushes up the price of mostly U.S. made and priced tractors and combines.

Additionally, softer commodity prices in early 2016 have made farmers reluctant to buy new equipment, FCC says.

"Farm cash receipts are a big driver of farm equipment sales," says Gervais.

TOTAL FARM CASH RECEIPTS EXPECTED TO RISE

While FCC predicts crop receipts will rise 5.8 per cent in 2016, it anticipates total farm cash receipts—crops and livestock—will rise only 0.1 per cent in 2016.

Offsetting higher crop receipts is a projected 6.9-per-cent drop in livestock receipts, driven by declining cattle prices, according to Gervais.

The equipment sales decline in 2016 follows a significant downturn in 2015 when total new farm equipment sales fell by 13.8 per cent.

Rebounding in 2017, total new farm equipment sales in Canada will increase seven per cent, FCC forecasts.

"The decline in sales in 2015 and 2016 indicates caution with respect to future farm cash receipts. But higher sales in 2017 still suggest an optimistic outlook for 2017 and beyond, with stronger cash receipts," the report says.

FCC projects 2017 crop receipts rising 3.8 per cent and total farm cash receipts increasing 3.3 per cent.

IMPACT OF THE EXCHANGE RATE

FCC's forecast is also dependent on the Canadian dollar remaining below its five-year average. The report predicts the average exchange rate will remain in the range of 75 to 80 U.S. cents in 2016 before moving slightly higher into 2017.

A weaker dollar than that, though, would pull down projected sales figures, Gervais indicates.

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Focus on Agriculture



At the Fairmede Ag Fair

The Fairmede Agricultural Society held its 124th annual fair on July 6 at the Fairmede fair grounds southwest of Moosomin. The day included the Fairmede 4H Beef Club achievement day and the Fairmede horse show, as well as domestic exhibits.

Left: Cheyenne Jamieson with her winning two-year-old cow-calf pair. At right is Rhett Woods.

Below left: Hayden Olson was the winner in the horse showmanship class for ages 11-14 years.





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Focus on Agriculture

CETA on life support after Brexit vote

The Brexit vote has left Europe in a mess—and dealt a serious blow to Canada's trade prospects.

The British pound is dropping, world markets are scrambling and most are wondering how the political establishment will address what appears to be a constitutional vacuum related to exiting member-states of the European Union. It speaks to how ill-prepared the union was to such an eventuality.

Yet the biggest casualty of Brexit will likely be global trading.

And Canada may pay a huge price, since our Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU is still under negotiation and won't be ratified any time soon. And with so much uncertainty in agricultural policies particularly, CETA is undoubtedly on life support, at best.

CETA emphasizes Canada's relationship with the EU and was Canada's greatest chance to become a significant portal between both continents. The United Kingdom is one of our top food trading partners within the EU and there was great potential to further increase trade in certain commodities.

The plan had merit. While more pork, beef and maple syrup went one way, more good European cheeses and other dairy products would come our way. Indeed, CETA would finally create a much-needed breach in our highly-protectionist supply management system that imposes high tariffs on imports and sets production quotas.

All provinces were highly engaged in these negotiations,



Sylvain Charlebois

offsetting potential backlash from quota-happy provinces like Quebec and Ontario. Unlike the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the political process that led to CETA was textbook. And the implications were potentially transformational for our nation, which has mainly been trade-reliant for decades.

At the same time, the United States was pursuing a deal with Europe. But given the protectionist policy undertones coming from the camps of presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, it is unlikely that the U.S. and the EU will sign a deal any time soon.

For Europe, Canada was second fiddle to the almighty American market and the fear of being overshadowed by the U.S. was real. CETA was our chance to leap ahead of our southern neighbours, at least for a while. It was a great opportunity to embrace a new status as a genuine trading economy.

Brexit, however, has made the situation much more convoluted for all nations involved, including Canada.

First, the EU needs to figure out what it will do with its

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). CAP is a big deal - it represents over 40 per cent of the entire EU budget. More than 55 per cent of farmer income support in Britain stems from CAP, which has been in existence since 1957. So CAP comes with extreme political and fiscal baggage.

Leaving the EU means Britain must find ways to support its agriculture industry and that may cost billions. Before thinking about new trade deals, U.K. farmers will surely want to address domestic issues.

One possible approach is the Swiss model, where food sovereignty is the driving force behind most related policies. Consumption of locally-grown commodities is paramount.

However, that approach tends to allow less efficient production systems to emerge and pushes up food prices. Food inflation has not been a recent issue in the U.K. but this approach could change that.

This would not be good news for Canada.

More than 60 per cent of farmers voted in favour of Brexit. That support was likely galvanized by prohibitive herbicides regulations and restrictive policies related to genetically modified crops. Now that Brexit is a reality, it will be interesting to see how the CAP situation is resolved through negotiations between the Brits and the EU.

Realistically, though, it will take months - and perhaps years - to settle the CAP situation. And that means that if CETA is ratified any time soon, agricultural issues would likely be left out.

Or, simply, that CETA is as good as dead.

Sylvain Charlebois is Dean of the Faculty of Management and Professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Dalhousie University.

How Canadian producers win with Mexico's new beef import rules

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN

Canada's cattle and beef producers say Mexico's recent decision to lift restrictions on Canadian beef will provide them with expanded opportunities to sell beef from over-30-month old cattle, and sends a signal to other restricted markets that Canadian beef is safe.

The federal government recently announced that effective Oct. 1, Mexico will amend its beef import requirements, resulting in access for all beef, beef products and beef by-products from animals of all ages from Canada.

"The months of October and November are traditionally the time of year when Canadian beef farmers send most of their mature breeding cows to market," Canadian Cattle-men's Association president Dan Darling says of the importance of the amendment's timing.

The Canada Meat Council estimates the move will result in annual incremental sales worth \$10 million for Canadian livestock producers and meat packers.

TOP EXPORT MARKET

Mexico has been Canada's third largest export market the past three years, and Canada averaged \$136 million in annual beef exports to Mexico between 2011 and 2015. Last year, Canadian beef shipments to Mexico reached 19,400 tonnes, valued at \$155 million.

"Canada Beef is already well-positioned and aligned with brand partners to take advantage of the newly expanded mar-

ket access," says Rob Meijer, president of the market development group.

Darling adds normalized access with Mexico will spur Canadian beef producers to expand their herds.

"When our production increases to previous levels, I believe that Mexico could again import more than \$250 million per year like it used to," Darling says.

Prior to BSE, Canada exported between \$270 million and \$290 million of beef annually to Mexico. About 20 to 25 per cent of that was over-30-month beef.

In May 2003, Canada's first domestic case of BSE caused Mexico shut its doors to Canadian beef.

Later that year, Mexico re-opened its borders to beef from Canadian cattle under-30-months, but remained closed to beef from over-30-month old cattle and some under-30-month offal, CCA notes.

Canada Beef says the expanded import requirements sends a message

to restricted markets like China and Taiwan "affirming the quality and safety of Canadian beef."

Canada and Mexico are each other's third largest trading partners, with two-way merchandise trade topping \$37.8 billion in 2015, according to the Canadian government.

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MNP's O'Rourke speaks on employee misconduct

BY KARA KINNA
Mark O'Rourke (CPA, CA) with Meyers, Norris, Penny in Moosomin spoke at the June Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting about employee misconduct and the negative impacts it can have on businesses.

O'Rourke spoke on a number of different kinds of employee misconduct, including non performance of duties, theft, fraud, abuse of computers, the internet and email, theft of intellectual property, secret commissions and kick-backs, and harassment and bullying in the workplace.

He stressed to Chamber members just how much harm could be done to a business or business owner if a blind eye is turned to any of these behaviors.

O'Rourke shared some surprising statistics with the Chamber. The statistics were compiled from an Ipsos Reid Poll in 2013, from 1,054 Canadians working in the public and private sectors in June of that year.

"Employee misconduct is more pervasive than you think," said O'Rourke. "Forty-two per cent of employees have seen ethical breaches in the workplace and only 48 per cent of those are reported."

O'Rourke shared the following statistics:

- 28 per cent of people said they had seen company property misused during the course of the day
- 25 per cent of people surveyed said they had seen harm done to employees during the work day.
- 17 per cent had witnessed violations of privacy, such as employees accessing files with private information.
- 17 per cent said they were involved in a fraud with their business.
- 13 per cent had witnessed conflicts of interest, bribery and corruption.
- 12 per cent had observed environmental violations.
- 11 per cent said they knew of "sketchy" financial reporting.
- O'Rourke says much of the employee misconduct was not reported for the following reasons:
 - 69 per cent said they chose not to tell anyone based on the fact they felt their bosses wouldn't con-

duct a proper investigation or do anything about it.

• 66 per cent said they didn't tell anyone because they didn't think any disciplinary measures would be taken.

• 23 per cent said they thought they would be the one in trouble, instead of the person committing the crime.

O'Rourke said it is imperative for businesses to create a culture in which employee misconduct is taken seriously and employees realize that.

"It comes down to the culture in business," he said. "It starts with the tone at the top. Are you open for them to come see you? Do you deal with issues as they come?"

O'Rourke said that not only should employee misconduct be dealt with to protect a business, but also to protect fellow employees.

He stressed that businesses that turn a blind eye to employee misconduct face the risk of the business being liable if the misconduct continues and causes harm to someone, and the risk of facing costly litigation in some cases.

He said it is important for businesses to have a plan in place regarding employee misconduct.

"It comes down to having a plan for your business," he said. "In some cases people have a fire prevention plan, but what have we done to create a plan to protect our business from employee misconduct? The answer is that businesses usually don't think it's going to happen."

O'Rourke said many small businesses believe that employee misconduct won't happen or isn't happening. He said that's usually not the case.

"One in five small Canadian businesses is susceptible to fraud or has a fraud occurring right now," he told the Chamber. "Small businesses are more susceptible than multinational businesses because multinational businesses often have controls in place. People will exploit it if you don't have those controls in place."

O'Rourke said some of those controls could be simple, such as keeping an inventory of equipment,



MARK O'ROURKE

and having employees sign equipment out, so that equipment isn't easily stolen, having a policy regarding bullying and harassment in the workplace, or ensuring that one person, is not in charge of all the company's financial duties, making theft or fraud easier for them.

"Sixty-four per cent of small businesses have experienced theft at some point," he said. "That's a pretty big number. It can be as simple as pads of paper walking out the back of your building, it can be office supplies or product."

O'Rourke said only 16 per cent of small businesses report fraud or theft to the police—a problem, as the person committing the fraud often moves on and commits it somewhere else.

"Every time it's not reported, there's a chance they will do it again because they got away with it the first time," he said.

O'Rourke said theft and fraud often occur for different reasons.

"Theft occurs when there is an opportunity there and they can do it. Fraud usually occurs when there is a lifestyle change."

He said lifestyle changes such as a spouse being laid off from a job and a reduction in household income

are what often lead to long-term frauds in the workplace.

He gave one example of an employee who defrauded a company in a small town of 150 people for six years to finance her husband's gambling debt.

He said people will often do things like max out their credit cards first to finance their costs before finally getting desperate and turning to their workplace.

"They try to find ways to finance their lifestyle and the place of employment is the next place of attack."

He said employers should remember that misconduct can reach all levels of an organization. It's not necessarily rank and file employees, it can be senior management, and it can involve more than one employee. It can also involve an outsider to the organization.

He said senior employees can be quicker to commit fraud as they have more access and more freedoms within a company.

O'Rourke said companies have many questions to face when it comes to what to do about employee misconduct, from determining whether to seek legal counsel, determining if an investigation should be done, determining who

should do an investigation, or whether or not to file an insurance claim.

He said companies could do nothing and let misconduct continue, terminate an employee right away with or without cause, suspend the employee with or without pay while doing an investigation, or do an external or internal investigation.

"Is doing nothing ever okay? Definitely not," he said.

O'Rourke said there are a number of risks associated with doing nothing about employee misconduct. He said it creates a perception among other employees that you are okay with it, and businesses can face liability issues or be sued if a situation gets out of hand. He said an insurance company may also choose not to cover losses if employee misconduct happens more than once and a business has shown they have not taken action to prevent it after the first time.

He said it's always smart to do an investigation.

"If you let them go without an investigation, your allegations may be false, it could result in costly litigation, other employees may be involved, you cannot determine the cause of the misconduct, you need to

prevent further occurrences, and your losses may be higher than expected," he said.

He said the benefit of investigating is that you can stop the misconduct, determine who is actually responsible, determine how it occurred, determine the value of the loss, implement procedures that will limit or prevent future or similar incidents, and protect yourself civilly.

He said internal investigations can be risky for employers, as they can accidentally commit crimes themselves or find themselves liable if they don't conduct the investigation properly.

He said the benefit of an external investigation is that it limits the number of employees who know about it, it maintains confidentiality, employers can be engaged by legal counsel, and the external investigator has nothing to gain or lose based on the results.

O'Rourke says employers should always be watchful for employee misconduct.

"As much as we think nothing is happening, statistics show it might be," he said. "Statistics and history show that it's likely something is happening or has happened somewhere along the way."

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Chilean beekeepers hope to do business in Canada

BY KARA KINNA

On Thursday, June 23, a group of people sat down to supper at Moe's Place in Spy Hill to enjoy themselves briefly before talking business.

Ten of those people were from Chile. The others were from around Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

All of them had one thing in common: Bees.

"I started moving bees in 1976 out of California. I started with a half ton truck and a homemade topper," says Morley Clarke, the owner of Moe's Place in Spy Hill, and the owner of Clarke's Bees, today the largest bee moving business in Canada.

"It was getting difficult to get bees because everyone was doing the same thing and there were only so many guys who were hauling bees, but everyone was bringing bees in (to Canada) so there were too many people looking for packages to what there was trucks to move them.

"So I moved them with a half ton truck the first year with a guy from Rocanville who gave me a lot of information, and an older guy who had hauled bees with a one ton.

"And then the following year I used a one ton.

"Not too long after that I went to a goose neck trailer with a van on it. And we got up to be able to move 2,000 packages of bees at a time.

"We hauled four loads of bees out of California and one load of bees out of Alabama in the spring each year up until 1987.

"1987 was the last year that we could move out of the States. The border was closed to the American market so we had to look at something different, on account of mites. The States were the first to have the mite problem and they weren't allowed to bring the packages in because they were loaded with mites.

"I thought there's only one thing to do and that's to go to Australia, which was a country that was separated by water and was clean—they didn't have any of the mite problems."

Clarke hopped on a plane for Australia and has been doing business with the country ever since.

"I got a ticket and I went over there and we moved the first packages of bees that were ever moved by air to Canada," he says. "The only other ones that were moved that same year, one guy moved 10 packages. Well we moved 10 pallets. A pallet of bees is 480 packages. Each package contains 17,000 bees.

"I haven't been back since. Everything has been done by telephone and computer."

Today Clarke is the biggest bee mover in Canada.

"Last year was our best year ever. We moved 24 pallets of bees into Canada," he says. "This year it has backed off a little because there was excellent wintering (meaning many bees survived the cold Canadian winter) and the price of honey was down



The Chilean beekeepers outside Moe's Place in Spy Hill, along with Morley Clarke, second from right, the owner of Clarke's Bees, the largest bee moving company in Canada.

so guys weren't buying.

"But even this year I moved bees to every province in Canada. We moved them into Newfoundland and that's the first time ever into Newfoundland. I've moved to the other provinces consistently in the last several years because of the blueberry pollination."

Today, all of Clarke's bees come from Australia. Shipping bees keeps Clarke busy. The shipments are moved in giant pallets and come to airports around Canada. Clarke oversees many of the shipments personally, ensuring they get to their customers around Canada.

No longer keeping bees himself due to time restrictions, Clarke, now in his 70s, says moving bees is his passion.

"I'm maybe getting up in years a little but I don't plan on quitting," he says.

"You can only look after so many things properly and my bees were not being looked after properly because I was the only one who could look after them. I farm. We have a 250 cow-calf operation. We seed probably 5,000 to 6,000 acres. So the day isn't long enough. This is something that I like doing, I like meeting people, I like moving bees. I'm probably known in every province of Canada."

Clarke says there are only two more people in Canada that he knows of who ship bees, both of them bringing bees from New Zealand and shipping smaller quantities of bees than he does.

In June, Clarke was contacted by a delegation of Chilean beekeepers hoping to supply bees to the Canadian market. The Chileans were coming to Canada in June and want-

ed to meet with Clarke.

Clarke has been to Chile before to see some of the beekeeping businesses there, but has never shipped bees from Chile, as he says the beekeepers have traditionally been too small to provide the quantities of bees needed for the Canadian market.

This time, the Chilean beekeepers were hoping it would be different. Landing in Winnipeg on June 20, they toured facilities in Manitoba before sitting down to supper at Moe's Place in Spy Hill, their last stop on the trip before heading back to Winnipeg and boarding a plane for Chile.

"They were in touch with us, they sent a message they would be here in Canada and were interested in meeting us," says Clarke.

The group suggested that Clarke come to Winnipeg, but Clarke suggested that they come to Spy Hill, and also tour some bee yards in the area before heading home.

A number of beekeepers from Saskatchewan and Manitoba joined the group for supper on June 23, with one beekeeper coming from as far as northern Saskatchewan.

Clarke says there would be a benefit to doing business with Chile.

"Doing business with Chile, I could have sold another 4,000 to 5,000 queens if I'd had them," he says.

Weather is a big factor in the beekeeping world, with Canada's winters determining how many bees die off over the winter months each year.

"It was a good over wintering situation across Canada this year," says Clarke. "So beekeepers here are looking not so

much for packages, they are looking more for expansion, and they do that by splitting their hive and they need an extra queen. So that's what we're looking at is access to more queens and the availability of good queens at that time of year for a good price."

Because it is summer in Chile when it is winter in Canada, bees from Chile would be ready when Canadian producers need them most.

But why not continue to ship queens out of Australia?

"There's only so many people shipping queens out of Australia," says Clarke.

Clarke says if a few of the beekeepers in Chile can work together, he thinks they can supply the Canadian market.

"I think if we can get amalgamation with the same breeding stock that it would work because if they want to work as a cooperative then there will be enough bees.

"I think they could do it with 10 of them together because they are all close together down there and if you have leadership down there that will work that way, there's no reason it won't work."

Mauricio Martínez and Ernesto Caamano Cornejo were two of the beekeepers from Chile who were in Spy Hill on June 23.

Martínez runs a family business managing 15,000 colonies of bees, mainly raising bees for pollination of orchards in Chile.

Cornejo has 2,500 colonies mainly for honey production and is also a supplier of beekeeping equipment.

Both producers also sell honey to Spain.

Cornejo says it's not

his first time in Canada, and he has met Clarke before, when Clarke went to Chile.

Both Cornejo and Martínez says they are eager to be able to provide bees to the Canadian market.

"The aim is coming to respect the market and see what we can produce for this country for the producers," says Martínez.

"We realize there are a lot of requirements from Canadian beekeepers because there is a lot of demand for queens and packages of bees . . . We want to see how we can supply that demand."

Cornejo says Chile has the advantage of the seasons in order to provide bees to Canada.

"We have the advantage of the season," he says. "When it is summer here it is winter in Chile and it is the perfect timing to produce queens there and send them here. It's a good relationship with the weather and we feel confident in dealing with Canadians—we trust Canadians."

Cornejo says the delegation from Chile also learned a lot on the trip, and would like to emulate some of the techniques used by Canadian beekeepers.

"We'd like to figure out why the beekeeping is so intense here and how Canadian beekeepers produce so much honey," he says. "We'd also like to copy some of the Canadian management techniques."

"A lot of what we saw here is not really new but we're surprised at how the Canadian beekeepers feed the bees, and that is something we would like to change in Chile, the way we feed the bees in order to improve production."

Both Cornejo and Mar-

tínez said they were confident that a deal could likely be made to provide bees to Canada.

"In the beginning we didn't have many expectations, but now we have a large expectation to do business because we found there is a lot of demand in Canada, and we will try to make a deal to sell queens here or packaged bees," says Cornejo. "But the main thing the beekeepers here encouraged us to do is to bring the quality that the Canadian beekeepers need."

"Canada has a lot of queen suppliers and they say the main concern of the beekeepers is the quality, so we want to supply that quality," adds Martínez. "We want to be another supplier but we are being encouraged to supply quality queens."

Both Martínez and Cornejo say they think they are big enough producers to be able to supply the Canadian market. They are both optimistic about the potential for the Canadian market.

"We are surprised at how big the beekeepers are in Canada, and at how much equipment and technology they are using and the amount of honey production," says Martínez. "It is a good market opportunity, especially because in winter there are a lot of winter losses every year, so there is an opportunity to sell some product."

"If we supply bees to Canada, we want to supply the best queens and try to dominate the market," says Cornejo. "We want to conquer the market, stay in the market and keep the quality steady every year so that people know that our company name means quality."



Community Constable Trina Brace, above, in her Red Serge, and left, delivering Meals on Wheels. Brace is a member of the Moosomin RCMP detachment with a special focus on community policing.

Trina Brace enjoying role as community constable

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK
Moosomin's Trina Brace has come full circle. She formerly worked in law enforcement, she ran her own business in Moosomin for several years, she left her business to work in the office at the Moosomin RCMP detachment, then she went to Depot Division and has become a Community Constable with the RCMP.

The role of Community Constable is similar to a regular police officer but with a few differences. "I decided to do it because when I moved to Moosomin I couldn't do the job I was doing anymore, and I was a detachment clerk and I kept wanting to get out in the public more instead of always being in the office.

"When I saw the ad for the community constable program, I thought that it would be perfect for me to be able to work doing the same kind of thing but be out in the public some more," said Brace.

The community constable program is new and the job did not exist before Brace went into the training.

"It's a new thing. Before, I was a peace officer working in law enforcement and I always enjoyed that so when the opportunity came up to be able to do this community constable thing, at that time I thought that it was something I wanted to do. Up until I even knew about it, it wasn't something I had even thought about. But because I couldn't continue what I was doing before we moved to Moosomin, I had to look at other options, so once I knew about it I decided that it was something I wanted to work towards. Before we came to Moosomin I was a customs officer," said Brace.

"I did that for several years before we moved to Moosomin, I was kind of missing it and when I started at the detachment doing the detachment clerk stuff I was really enjoying that, so when I saw this I thought about it and I actually talked to Joe about it, talked to my family about it, and

decided it would be a good way for me to get back to what I was doing before."

According to Brace, the community constable program application is the same as the regular RCMP application.

"The application process is the same as any other cadet training program that you apply for. Basically you send in an application and then you go through a number of steps, tests like fitness tests and aptitude tests, and that sort of thing, and you go through all those processes and if you pass everything, your security clearance and all that, then you can start your training."

Brace says that there are a few differences in the training process for the community constable program and the regular RCMP program.

"My training was 21 weeks long, a regular cadet training program is 24 weeks, so our was a few weeks shorter. The things that aren't included in our training is only the applied police sciences part of it. We learn some of it and we learn some stuff that's different to it, more related to crime prevention and community policing, so rather than the reactionary policing part of it. All the other training like the driving, the firearms, the police defensive tactics, the fitness classes, those are all the same, we do the same number of hours, the same classes."

Brace says that the community constable program is a pilot project and applications for the program are not currently being accepted.

"Because they ran this program with the one troupe that went through, what they want to do is have us go back to our homes and work in our communities, and then they'll do a review of the whole process, the application, the training, the work in the community, and see what sort of changes need to be done if any, and then go from there. I think the long term goal is to get community constables in

more places."

"A typical training day starts at about 6:00 in the morning, and the work day ends at about 4:30, but then outside of that there is other work to do, assignments, workouts that you have to do and practices for the driving and the firearms and the police defensive tactics. We have a whole bunch of things that keep us busy pretty much until curfew at 10:30."

Brace says that the job of community constable is similar to a regular police officer, but there are a few differences in their roles.

"Right now, as community constables, some of what we do is very similar to what the regular members do, we have the same shifts that we work, the

same file work, but we do more of the presentations to the schools, and go to community events, and that sort of thing. We don't do the major investigations, so I wouldn't be doing an investigation on a major collision on the highway, where the other members would do that and I would assist them. Mostly I'm out in the community doing things and arranging the community policing aspect of what's going on at the detachments, meeting with the towns and the RMs. What was something that attracted me to this job specifically, was that we go back home to the community we came from and we don't transfer, so I will stay here for the rest of my career with the RCMP."

"The benefit of the community constable program is that you live in that community and you know that community and you have those community connections already, whereas when you move, you're just like a new member, you don't have all of those connections, which is kind of a drawback."

Brace says that although their jobs are slightly different, she still has all of the powers as a regular police officer, including issuing tickets and arresting people.

"There were about 16 of us that graduated in my troupe, and we all have different roles in our communities because our communities are all unique and different. Some people may

have a crime prevention traffic based focus, where mine is a lot of building relationships with the youth of the community, also with the towns and RMs, making sure that there is open communication."

"I love the job now, the training was very difficult," said Brace. "It was almost six months all together, because after I graduated I still had some more training I had to stay there for. The other day I was telling my husband I had such an awesome day, I am so glad I did it. It was great, I was doing so many things in the community, that is what I did the six months for, that's why the kids went with me not being there for six months about. It's good, I love it."

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- 1 p.m. - 1 a.m. Beer Gardens with Entertainment after Rodeo

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Tim Hortons Heritage Park opening June 23 • Homecoming and Reunion July 7-8

Moosomin has big plans for Canada 150

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Canada's 150th anniversary is coming up next year, and two celebrations are planned in Moosomin to help mark the occasion.

A grand opening celebration for the Tim Hortons Heritage Park is set for Friday, June 23, 2017 as part of Canada 150 celebrations, and a local committee has come together to plan a massive school reunion and homecoming for Friday and Saturday July 7 and 8. The homecoming will coincide with the 2017 rodeo weekend.

TIM HORTONS

HERITAGE PARK OPENING
Heritage Park is being developed within the Bradley Park sports grounds and will include a park area, a permanent stage, picnic tables, and a playground.

It is being developed next to the new Potash-Corp Sportsplex, which will open this fall.

The opening of the park will include an event over the noon hour hopefully involving the school students, kids entertainment, and evening barbecue and different events in the park.

"Our concentration is the park and the Canada 150, and I thought it would be important to include the school," said Moosomin recreation director Mike Schwean.

REUNION AND HOMECOMING

The reunion and homecoming committee is being co-chaired by Sinc Harrison and Marg Tomlinson.

The organizers are hoping to attract many former residents back for the weekend, and replicate the success of a massive homecoming that was held in 1982 to mark the community's 100th anniversary.

Both Sinc and Marg were part of the committee that organized the 1982 reunion.

The 2017 homecoming and reunion will mark the 135th anniversary of Moosomin's schools, as well as Canada's 150th.

Organizers are hoping individual classes from McNaughton High School will organize their own reunions to be part of the weekend.

Organizers decided to hold the reunion on the same weekend as the rodeo in a bid to help make both events a success with classes attending the firemen's pancake breakfast, participating in the rodeo weekend parade, attending the rodeo and the dances.

"My class was tossing around the idea of doing a reunion next year, because it will be 50 years since we graduated," said Marg.

"It has sort of grown from there into the idea of a whole school reunion."

A planning meeting is set for July 26 at 7 p.m. in the Communiplex lobby.

Organizers are hoping that reaching out to former Moosomin students and former residents will be easier for this reunion than in the past.

"In '82 we didn't have Facebook or any kind of electronic communication," says Sinc.



"In '82 we sent out over 3,000 invitations," adds Marg. "Brenda Ireland and I spent two years going through school registers and finding addresses and looking for people. I've got over 1,000 names. I set up a McNaughton High School Friends Facebook page this winter, and within an hour I had about 400 people."

She said that some of those people had been asking if anything is planned in Moosomin for Canada's 150th anniversary.

Sinc suggested the weekend would be a good time for families to plan get-togethers as well.

"I think our kids will all come home, so there might be some family reunions that weekend as well. It will be a good time to get together."

"I think the big thing is to nail down the date, and let people know about it, and I think we should get 2,000 people easy."

The organizers will be looking for a prominent former Moosomin student to speak at the reunion. "There are all kinds of people from Moosomin who have contributed greatly to the world," said Sinc.



A scene from the big school reunion in 1982

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School's out!

Students at MacLeod School in Moosomin head home on Tuesday, June 28

Kara Kinna photo



Bonkowski wins \$80,000 for third place at WSOP

BY CHRIS ASHFIELD

A former Whitehead product earned a third-place finish at the 2016 World Series of Poker (WSOP) event in Las Vegas, Nev., earning a payday of more than \$80,000.

Tyler Bonkowski, 32, played in the \$1,500 limit hold 'em event at the WSOP tournament at the Rio All-Suite Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. The event, which drew a strong field of 665 entrants, paid a total prize pool of \$897,750.

The WSOP in Las Vegas is non-stop poker action that takes place from May 31 to July 18, 2016. In its 47th year, it is poker's longest-running tournament series.

Bonkowski's winnings were in the \$1,500 limit hold 'em event, which got underway on June 14. After two days of play, only 15 players remained, including Bonkowski and fellow Canadian Daniel Idema from Vancouver, B.C., both of whom have won WSOP bracelets. Bonkowski bagged the second-best stack of 731,000 while Daniel Idema sat in the middle of the remaining 15 players with 315,000.

Idema met his end in 12th place, collecting \$9,763 in winnings and leaving Bonkowski as the sole Canadian in his opponent's all the way down to the final table. And when play went three-handed, he held the chip lead.

"Unfortunately, Bonkowski had a tough run against his final two hurdles in the tournament and his stack was whittled away until he was on life support and then eliminated in a series of three losing hands," reported PokerNews.com.

Bonkowski's third-place finish resulted in a payout of \$80,706, the third highest payout of his career. The winner of the \$1,500 limit hold 'em event, American Danny Le collected \$188,815 while fellow American Scott Farnsworth received \$116,663 for being runner-up.

Bonkowski has been an avid poker player for most of his adult life, having played in tournaments throughout Canada, the United States, Italy, France, Australia, Caribbean, Ireland and Belgium. In 2011, he won Canada's first gold WSOP bracelet with a win in the \$3,000 limit hold 'em tournament. The victory earned him \$220,817 for defeating a 337-player field. Since then, he has a total live earnings of \$879,023 and WSOP earnings of \$494,596, including one WSOP gold bracelet.

Bonkowski, the son of Ken and Audrey Bonkowski, originally hails from Whitewood but also grew up in Moosomin. Now residing in Regina, his grandparents, Wes and Wendy Sippola, still live on a farm north of Whitewood.

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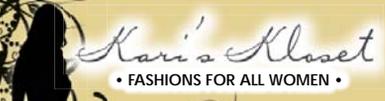
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MORE HOT DEALS

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 2014 Ford F150 STOCK# 6P213 Limited, 39,000 kms \$46,900 \$179 PER WEEK	 2013 Ford Edge STOCK# 6T207A Limited, 55,000 kms \$29,900 \$113 PER WEEK	 2009 Ford Escape STOCK# 6T195B 4WD, 105,000 kms \$13,900 \$71 PER WEEK
 2013 Ford Edge STOCK# 6T131A Limited, 99,000 kms \$23,900 \$95 PER WEEK	 2012 Ford Mustang STOCK# 6P221 Shelby GT350, 22,000 kms \$52,900 \$228 PER WEEK	 2010 Buick Enclave STOCK# 7T005A Fully Loaded, 79,000 kms \$26,900 \$116 PER WEEK
 2004 Cadillac XLR STOCK# 6P187 Hard Top Convertible \$29,900	 2014 Chrysler Town & Country STOCK# 6P215 Room for 7, 61,000 kms \$20,900 \$83 PER WEEK	 2015 Ford F150 STOCK# 6T194A XLT, Sport, 50,000 kms \$43,900 \$162 PER WEEK
 2015 Ford Expedition STOCK# 6T076A Local, PST Paid, Limited \$55,900 \$205 PER WEEK	 2013 Ford F150 STOCK# 6P164A 35,000 kms, FX4, Lux \$39,900 \$149 PER WEEK	 2010 Ford Fusion STOCK# 6T199A SEL, Leather, 105,000 kms \$12,900 \$69 PER WEEK
 2014 Ford F150 STOCK# 5P246A 51,000 kms, FX4, Lux App \$42,900 \$158 PER WEEK	 2010 Ford Fusion STOCK# 6C154A SEL, Auto, 121,000 kms \$11,900 \$65 PER WEEK	 2015 Ford Edge STOCK# 6P197 SEL, 29,000 kms \$35,900 \$138 PER WEEK

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