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Plain & Valley

July 2023 • Volume 16 Number 7

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Kim Poole took these pictures of the firework show in 2019.

Drone shows, fireworks for August 5-6

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
For the August long weekend the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks and drone shows will be happening at the Moosomin & District Regional Park.

Both nights will have two different shows, and also feature different live performances.

On Saturday August 5, the live band Odd Man Out will be playing throughout the night, starting at 8:30 p.m. The fireworks and drone show will begin at 10 p.m.

On Sunday August 6, Blu Beach Band

will be playing from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., and the fireworks and drone show will start at 10 p.m.

The organizing committee said people should come out for both nights as both shows will be different.

"We talked to North Star Fireworks & Entertainment and they said it's going to be two different drone shows," said Jamie Hintz of the organizing committee.

"Then on Sunday night the fireworks will be different, the show will be bigger and two minutes longer.

"We budgeted more money for the Sun-

day night so it should be different. We were worried that it was going to be the same, but they kind of changed it."

Advance passes are \$20 for each day. After July 29, tickets will be sold for \$25. Children ages five and under will be free of charge.

Tickets are available at Moosomin Regional Park Toll Booth, The World-Spectator, Mullet's Home Hardware, and Pharmasave in Moosomin.

In addition to the shows, there will also be kids activities, food trucks and local vendors on site.

Karen Hebert said the committee is hoping for a good crowd for the shows.

"We're hoping for the best. I don't know if we're hoping to get the crowd we had before, but there sure is a lot of interest," she said.

"I'm hoping 3,000 to 4,000 people per night. I think our last one we had was over 5,000 people per night. I'm hoping 3,000 to 4,000 per night. The camp sites are booked, I don't know how many are in the overflow now, but we're definitely booking up."



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Cobblestone House, a 42-unit long-term care and assisted living facility is planned to be open by August 1, with residents moving in shortly after. Cobblestone House is on the left in this photo, next to Pipestone Villas on Wright Road in Moosomin.

Cobblestone House plans to open by Aug. 1

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Cobblestone House in Moosomin is expected to open by August 1 of this year.

The building will serve as a long-term care and assisted living facility with 42 units. It is located next to Pipestone Villas on Wright Road in Moosomin.

"We have staff starting on July 17 for two weeks of orientation, and hopefully we have residents starting to move in after August 1," said Amber Hintz, Home Administrator of Cobblestone House.

"Right now we're about half full. We're going to have an open house probably at the end of August or beginning of September.

"Once we get everything figured out I would expect it to fill shortly after that. I can't see it not filling especially after the tour. It's hard to put a deposit down on a room when you haven't or can't see it."

There will be around 16 employees working at the facility.

"We've hired 14 staff and we still have to hire maintenance and activity workers. There will be more relief and part-time workers once we fill up spots," said Hintz.



Amber Hintz, Home Administrator for the Cobblestone House in Moosomin, said she is looking forward to the facility opening soon.

"There's myself, as a relief nurse, I will probably hire one more relief nurse and the rest will be multi-service workers. They're responsible for the daily care of our residents, a little bit of housekeeping, laundry, a little bit of meal preparation and meal service. We also hired two cooks."

With Cobblestone House being the second long-term care facility in the community, Hintz was asked if she thinks the new centre will be a good fit to the community.

Layout of the facility

The structure of the new facility has three levels with each floor in the building being dedicated to a specific service.

"Moosomin is always growing so eventually we'll need more beds, but I think we have a lot to offer with there being three levels," said Hintz.

Continued on page 15

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Above is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride in the past.

RCMP Musical Ride in Virden July 25

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Tuesday, July 25 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Musical Ride will be taking place in Virden for the first time since 2016.

Organized by the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce and the Virden Agricultural Society, the hosting of the musical ride is in recognition of the RCMP's 150th anniversary.

The event will be happening at the Virden Ag Society Fairgrounds. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and entertainment will begin shortly after, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The ride will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each, and children ages five and under will be free of charge.

For the big event, Sergeant Major Scott Williamson—who serves as riding master for the RCMP—will be leading the troop of up to 32 riders.

"I was born and raised in Saskatchewan, in Rocanville.

It's going to be very special leading the ride. Of course Virden being not too far from Moosomin or Rocanville I'm going to have a lot of family and friends attending," said Williamson.

"No doubt it will be special. I think this will be the first time I will ever lead a musical ride in front of family and friends."

Continued on page 11

Rocanville Lucky Lottery Committee

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Living Skies Come Alive!!

August 5 & 6
Moosomin Regional Park



With thousands of people flocking to Moosomin Regional Park for the Living Skies show on the August long weekend, there will be food trucks on site to help feed everyone, plus the Moose Creek General Store will be open that weekend. Shown here are some food trucks at a previous Living Skies event.

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Living Skies Come Alive

*August Long Weekend
August 5 & 6*

*Saturday,
August 5*

10 PM Fireworks & Drone Show
by North Star Fireworks Entertainment

**Live band
Odd Man Out**



8:30 pm -12:30 am

**Different Show
Each Night!!!**



*Sunday,
August 6*

10 PM Fireworks & Drone Show
by North Star Fireworks Entertainment

**Live band
BLU BEACH
BAND**



8:30 pm -12:30 am



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- Bumper Cars • Bouncy Castles
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- Zorb Balls
- Saturday & Sunday
11 am-4 pm

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Sat & Sun
11am-9 pm

Bands
Sat & Sun
8:30 pm -
12:30 am

Vendors
Saturday
10 am-5 pm

Kids Activities
Sat & Sun
11 am-4 pm

Fireworks
Sat & Sun
10 pm

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Living Skies Come Alive!!

August 5 & 6
Moosomin Regional Park

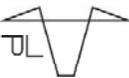


Kids activities are a big part of the Living Skies weekend. Above is a child enjoying a zorb ball on Moosomin Lake at a previous Living Skies event.

Right are some of the fireworks over Moosomin Lake.



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Living Skies Come Alive!!

August 5 & 6
Moosomin Regional Park



The Living Skies weekend has always been about much more than just the fireworks. The weekend is also packed with other events and activities, including children's events, bands both nights, food trucks, and vendors. This year there will also be pontoon boat rides, a sand castle contest, and beach volleyball as part of the weekend. For the kids there will be bumper cars, bouncy castles, a 40-foot obstacle course, and zorbing balls. On the Saturday night the band Odd Man Out will be performing until 12:30 am and on the Sunday night the Blu Beach Band will be performing until 12:30 am.

Above left: People on the park enjoying one of the activities on stage at a previous Living Skies weekend. **Above right:** The Blu Beach Band performing.



Kids having fun on one of the bouncers at the previous Living Skies weekend at Moosomin Regional Park.



Don't miss the
Fireworks
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Regional Park!



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RCMP Musical Ride in Virden July 25

Continued from page 5

Williamson spoke about how he was chosen to lead the musical ride in Virden.

"Part of my job here as the riding master and rank as sargent major is I'm second in charge of the entire musical ride," he said.

"Typically the commanding officer leads the musical ride, but from time to time I'll go out and relieve him while he comes back to Ottawa. That's what I'll be doing when I get out to Saskatchewan on Sunday."

Importance of the musical ride

The RCMP Musical Ride will consist of up to 32 riders—who are all police officers—and their horses performing intricate formations and drills that are set to music. Their movements involve the utmost control, timing and co-ordination.

Williamson explained why the musical ride is significant to the RCMP.

"There's a lot of reasons why we do it, but certainly the most obvious is it harkens back to the earliest days of the RCMP," he said.

"When we started off as the North West Mounted Police and did the march going west, we crossed the Red Coat Trail in Saskatchewan. It's just a way to link our history to today. It's also an opportunity to display a very Canadian entity."

Williamson said he is looking forward to coming home for the event.

"Certainly coming home is very exciting," he said.

"I think for me it's a full circle moment. It just seems like yesterday I was a young teenager at 18 going to Virden for the first time to my first local bar, and here I am 20 something years later leading the musical ride in Virden."

"It's going to be a really special moment for sure. I think it will be pretty special to my friends and families. Of course they've seen me with the ride and followed me throughout many of my journeys with the ride for a long time, but this will be the first time for them to see me so close to home. There's no doubt they're going to be quite proud."

Williamson was asked how significant the RCMP's 150th anniversary is to him.

"When you talk about full circle, it was basically 150 years ago that the original members of the mounted police set off on horseback. That was not very far from Virden," he said.

"Now here we are on horseback 150 years later continuing that tradition. Although we're not marching across the Prairies to provide law and order to essentially what society was at the time, but we're showing a display of that historical past."

Williamson spoke about what first sparked his interest in becoming a police officer.

"I think the bug started for me as a teenager playing hockey in Moosomin, my coach was a RCMP officer and that's where it all started," he said.

"I know there was a part of me growing up that just felt this draw or this need to serve Canadians. I didn't



know exactly what that meant or how that would look, whether it was policing or the military, but it was always something that appealed to me.

"When I had this coach, who was a constable in the RCMP Moosomin Detachment, he kind of solidified to me that's what I wanted to be and do."

He said he hopes to see people from the community come out to celebrate in Virden on Tuesday July 25.

"This is a great opportunity to celebrate Canadian pride and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the RCMP," said Williamson.

"It's a great opportunity to meet some amazing police officers. I think my favourite part is meeting our amazing force."

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6 & under - Free

Kids Activities - \$5.00

FRIDAY

CCA Rodeo - 7pm

Intermission - Wild Pony Races

Beer Gardens - 5:30pm to 2am

Slack - Following Main Performance

SATURDAY

Kids Activities - 4pm to 8pm
(Bouncers, Petting Zoo & Face Painting)

Steak Supper - 4:30pm to 6:30pm

CCA Rodeo - 7pm

Intermission - Muttin' Bustin'

Beer Gardens - 4pm to 2am

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**SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:
Justin LaBrash & True North**

Following the Rodeo - Approx 9:30 pm
\$10 cover charge without rodeo pass

STEAK SUPPER - \$25

8 oz New York Striploin
(cook your own)

Includes baked potatoe,
garlic toast, salads & drink
(from beer gardens or canteen)



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Kennedy's Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo & Homecoming on July 21-23

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

This weekend, from July 21 to 23 is going to be a big one in Kennedy as the village celebrates the 90th year of the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo with a homecoming, and All Roads Lead Home concert, on the Friday night of rodeo week-end.

With all four of the performers in concert being from Kennedy—Eli Barsi, Blake Berglund, Heidi Munro with Scott Patrick, and Lane Easton—the concert will help make the big event even more special.

“The Friday night concert is free to the public, weather permitting it will be right in the rodeo arena,” said the president of the rodeo association Jill Lowe.

“I had lots of phone calls and lots of inquiries about it. “We’re expecting a good crowd. We usually get 1,500 people for the rodeo performance itself.”

Lowe spoke about how the association decided on the entertainment for the Friday night.

“Way back in the day, Heidi, Eli and Lane used to sing together when they were in high school,” says the president of the rodeo association Jill Lowe.

“They were well known here in this area when they were growing up. It’s pretty spectacular that they went their own ways and have all become great musicians.”

Lowe has been a part of the rodeo association for two decades. Celebrating the association’s milestone of 90 years means a lot to the community, she said.

“Personally, I just love my community and this is something that keeps Kennedy going,” said Lowe.

“My great-grandfather was one of the founding members for the rodeo. It’s really nice to continue it on.”

She said she hopes to see people come out for the weekend event.

“We’re excited. People should come out

Details for the rodeo weekend

On Friday July 21, the weekend will begin with the slack which starts at 5 p.m. Later that night at 8 p.m. is when the All Roads Lead Home concert will be held.

Center, then a cowboy church service at the rodeo grounds.

The final rodeo performance for the weekend will be in the afternoon at 2 p.m., followed by the demolition derby finals.

Both days before the rodeo starts there will also be a Luke Penner Aerobic Pilot performance at the rodeo grounds. Both rodeo performances will also feature the Daring Divas Trick Rider team.

Now until the event, Lowe said the rodeo association is preparing for the big weekend event.

“Right now we’re just doing prep work. We’re getting the grounds ready, we’ve done all the whipping under the bleachers and painting the picnic tables, all that kind of stuff,” she said.

“We’ve all pulled together and we’re ready to host the party of the century.”

“I’m looking forward to getting together with all of my family too, we’re having a Dorrance family reunion that weekend so it will be nice having them all here to celebrate with us.

“Anyone who is from Kennedy and has been to a Kennedy Rodeo, hopefully they remember what that’s like and that they bring their families.

“It’s a chance to get together, to see some old friends and meet some new people. Kennedy is thriving so it’s a great chance for all the new people who have moved to the area to see what we have to offer, and it’s not just Kennedy, it’s the whole southeast area that comes together.”



A saddle bronc rider at the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy, in July 2022. Photo by Grace Deptuck.

because you just can’t see a pro rodeo in a small town like ours,” Lowe said.

“The contestants we have here have been to the Calgary Stampede.

“I really wish I could be back there 90 years ago and have them think, ‘it’s still going on 90 years later.’ That truly is something.”

On the Saturday, there be a parade followed by a demolition derby, then a rodeo performance. The night will close off with beer gardens and a performance by the band Switch.

On Sunday, July 23, there will be a pancake breakfast at Kennedy Friendship

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Slo-Pitch
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Show & Shine
Bounce House
Bingo
Trade Show
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Wagon Rides
Supper
Cabaret & Dance

Sunday

Cowboy Church Service
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Barbecue
Music In The Park
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Food
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Cobblestone House opens on August 1

Continued from page 3
 “The top level is for independent living, the second level is for assisted living, and with the third level being for long-term care, if there’s more need for long-term care we can always extend it to the second floor.”

“Absolutely this should fill a huge gap. Hopefully we don’t have to send people down the line to Broadview or somewhere else.”

With half of the 42 rooms in the Cobblestone House already being reserved, Hintz spoke about which floor currently has the most spots booked.

“The most people that we have right now are booked on the second floor which is the assisted living floor,” she said.

“The reason I think that filled a little sooner is because those are the people who are maybe at home and can foresee themselves needing a little bit more care, but I do feel the long-term care floor will fill fast once we open the doors.”

“The fact that we have a couple of rooms already booked on that floor was surprising to me. I think that should fill fast once we open.”

Living in Moosomin her whole life and having worked in the health care sector, Hintz said the new facility will be a great addition to the community.

“This will be huge, of course because of the jobs, but also huge for the community,” she said.

“Because I’ve worked in all areas before, I’ve worked

in long-term care for quite a while, I’ve worked a little in acute care, and I’ve worked most recently in primary health care—which is home care and community services—I’ve seen a little bit of everything, but the most heartbreaking thing was watching people who have lived in this community their entire life, including my grandmother for one, having to go down the line to wait on a bed to get into Moosomin.

“Obviously our home is a little different than the long-term care facility, it’s not for everyone, but hopefully it takes the burden off of the long-term care facility here in Moosomin, and the people who can and want to be in our home are there. This is huge for the community and the aging population.” “I know I’ve talked to certain people in Moosomin that are moving into the third floor, or are looking into moving into the third floor, they’re looking ahead.”

“They’re securing their spot so when they do get to that stage where they know they need more help they

know it’s there, and they can move down to the floor below.”

“That way they’re not looking to see if there’s a bed at the long-term care home or if they have to go down to Broadview or Grenfell, or wherever.”

As the home administrator, Hintz will be responsible for supervising the delivery of care to residential patients in the facility.

“I will basically be doing a little bit of everything. I’m in charge of the staffing, and making sure the home runs efficiently, as well as the nursing on the floor,” she said.

“They approached me two years ago, right in the middle of Covid, to see if I would be interested in this position. Then I didn’t hear from them until it was time for them to hire.”

“I’ve always wanted to actually have my own home in Moosomin, but of course the expense of it and all those kind of things, so I started Family Tree Homecare Services and did that for a little while, so this position was the perfect fit.”



Cobblestone House, a 42-unit long-term care and assisted living facility is planned to be open by August 1, with residents moving in shortly after.

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Tundra gives \$100,000 for ice plant

BY ED JAMES
The Elkhorn and District Community

Centre is a major gathering place for many events in Elkhorn over the course of the



From left are Halley Stevens of the Elkhorn Rink Board, Craig Lane of Tundra Oil and Gas, Kaleigh Kyle, Vice President of the Elkhorn Rink Board, and Boyd Canart, President of the Elkhorn Rink Board, after receiving a donation of \$100,000 for a new ice plant and movable machine house.

year. It is not only used for ice related events but has also been used for wedding socials, grad events and even large funeral events.

However it's the great ice surface that has the most use. The ice is used for league and rec hockey events at all age levels and various ice skating groups from around the area.

Due to health and environmental concerns, the existing ice making plant has to be replaced. Fundraising projects were started as soon as the problem was brought to the attention of the Elkhorn Rink Board. The board started to apply for various grants and funding projects, and recently Tundra Oil and Gas came forward

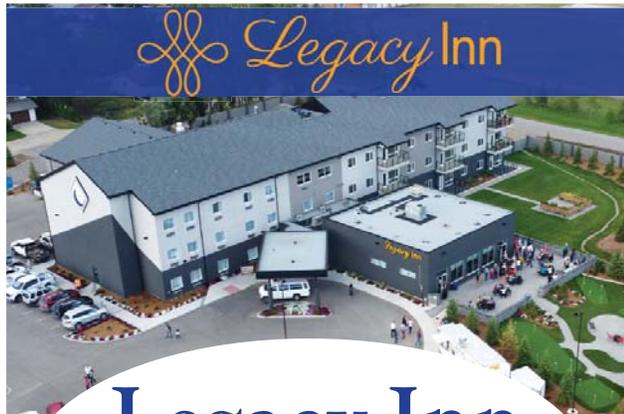
with a notable donation.

Craig Lane, the Vice President of Production Operations, gave the rink board a donation of \$100,000 towards the cost of a new ice plant that has an estimated replacement cost of \$600,000.

Boyd Canart, the President of the Elkhorn Rink Board was very thankful for the donation and his group is planning other fundraising projects, with the hope of having the new unit installed by 2024.

Boyd went on to explain that Tundra Oil and Gas has strong ties to the Elkhorn community with many local people employed by the company.

Over the years Tundra has been very generous to many other community projects in the region.



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Spy Hill Sports Days

August 12 & 13 2023

Saturday, August 12

Spy Hill Fire Department Pancake Breakfast
8:30 am - 10:00 am at Spy Hill Fire Hall
Kids' Rodeo: 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon
\$10 entry fee per participant
E-transfer info will be given when registered
Mutton Busting: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Working Dog Show: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Team Roping: 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Antique Tractor Pulls: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Slow Pitch – All Day
Chariots and Chuckwagons: 5:00 pm
Museum Open 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm both days
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Admission

Adults: \$12/Day • \$20/Weekend
Kids 15 & Under: \$6/Day • \$10 Weekend
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Sunday, August 13

Interdenominational Cowboy Church Service
at Sports Grounds 10:00 am
Kids' Rodeo 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
Car Show 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Chore Horse Competition: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Tractor Pulls 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Chicken Supper: 4:00 pm
Chariot Races & Chuckwagons: 4:30 pm

Contact Information

Kids' Rodeo: Pee Wee 11 and under,
Junior Roping 12-16:
Colleen LaRocque, 306-743-7501
Car Show: Bill Perrin, 306-740-8682
Slow Pitch: Corbin Barker 306-743-7456
Tractor Pulls: Cameron Duncan, 306-745-7428
General Information: Jeff Odgers, 306-740-8025



Aquatic Adventures opens at Kenosee Lake

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Aquatic Adventures floating water park has opened at Kenosee. The attraction opened just in time for the July long weekend. Saskatchewan Parks issued a Request for Proposals for a floating water park at Kenosee in the spring.

"We bid on the RFP and we were granted it, then after we were granted it, we did go out and look at the site," said Stephanie Baer, one of the owners of Aquatic Adventures.

"I haven't been there since I was 16 so I was excited. It's beautiful out there. It meets all of the requirements and it's going to be a good location."

"This will be number eight this year—so eight locations around the province."

The water parks are run on a walk-up basis with no advance reservations.

"Basically when we reach our maximum capacity we start a line, but we're making Kenosee's location a little bit bigger, so our capacity is quite big. If we reach capacity, that's where it becomes a lineup but the turnover is so fast because there's always people coming off."

Baer is one of three co-owners and founders of Aquatic Adventures.

"I live at Regina Beach and I just have a passion for water sports," she said.

"In my travels I've seen these in other provinces and I thought it would be great to bring one back to our hometown. So we started at Regina Beach and it was such a great reception that we just kind of mirrored how we run it

across the province.

"We've gone from one park to nine last year, in a matter of four years. So the demand and the popularity is definitely there. We're down to eight this year because we closed two locations last year. So we're at eight locations and it's been very good. It's fun! Our summers are short, people are looking for things to do and this is one way that people can get out on the water, enjoy themselves and cool down in the heat. It attracts people from across the country as well. We're known as the water park province, so it's been good."

"We do have a staff load that's ready to work for us and they're excited for this new adventure."

She said she enjoys the business.

"It is fun. Like any business it has its ups and downs but for the most part it is fun. You're on the beach for the majority of the summer so it's good."

She said ages 10 and up is the most popular age group for the water parks.

"The most popular age is ages 10 and up. We've become the babysitters across the province. At that age the parents don't need to attend the water park with the children so at ages 10 and up they can go on it alone. So that's the most popular age that we're finding—the 10-20 range is the most popular."

"What we've done new this year is we're having age range categories. So we're going to have adult only jump night just to make it so that people can enjoy it with more people

in their age category. The unique thing about us is that we offer family passes for a family of four and it encourages families to go out. They love it—going out together, laughing together and enjoying their time."

The water park is located at the main beach at Kenosee.

"It's right at the main beach, right in the heart of it," Baer said.

"It'll bring some joy back to the community, something fun to do for sure."



Stephanie Baer of Aquatic Adventures, above and other Aquatic Adventures water parks at top right. The water park is located at the main beach at Kenosee Lake.

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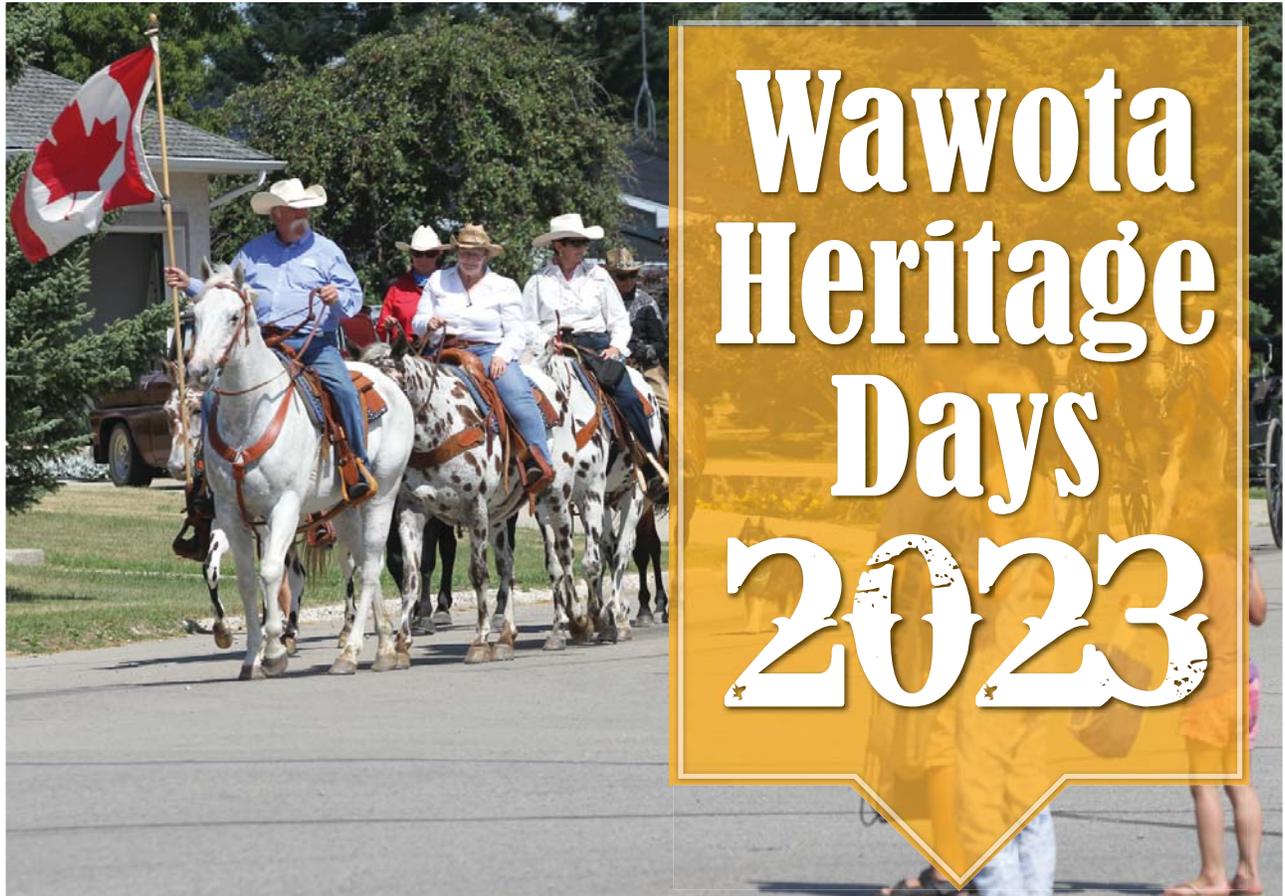
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Saturday, August 5, 2023

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- Wawota Haunted House Excursion



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SARM says farmers will face increased challenges due to new federal Clean Fuel Standards mandate

By Sierra D'Souza Butts
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)—along with member RMs—say the new federal Clean Fuel Regulations (CFR) will drastically impact Saskatchewan's farming community, leading to increased fuel prices and directly affecting farmers' bottom line.

Starting July 1, the Clean Fuel Regulations—which are a part of the federal government's climate plan—requires suppliers to gradually reduce the carbon intensity of the gasoline and diesel fuels they produce and sell for use in Canada.

Although the mandate intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels, improve air quality, and make low-carbon fuels more affordable and available, SARM emphasizes it will cause a financial strain to farmers, squeeze profit margins, and place additional pressure on an already challenging industry.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) predicts a price

increase of 17 cents per litre, in addition to the 37 cents the carbon tax will add to a litre of gasoline by 2030, causing an economic cost to GDP of roughly \$9 billion a year.

"We're not sure what the tax will be because it looks like it will be added to delivery for farm fuel," said Ray Orb, President of SARM.

"This will also affect RMs or anyone else that's using fuel in Saskatchewan. With that increase we know what the total accumulated effect will be, which will be about 17 cents. They're predicting that will be the total tax of diesel fuel by 2030.

"We're not exactly sure yet what will happen on July 1, that might even vary from company to company, but the federal government has put it on to the oil companies to lower their emissions. The goal is to lower their emissions by, I think, 15 per cent by 2030.

"They're looking at what was emitted in 2016. That seems very confusing to us. I don't know if the federal government actually knows what these oil companies

have emitted in 2016. It seems to be an arbitrary number the federal government is picking.

"They're really just forcing us to lower emissions and that's going to be another cost for farmers who can't pass that cost off because their grain prices are set by the market—based on whatever the market demands—and that's going to be another hurt for farmers for sure."

In addition to CFR and the carbon taxes farmers have been paying, the Government of Canada also announced their plans for reducing emissions arising from the application of fertilizer in Canada's agriculture sector last year.

Based on the various policies directed to farmers, Orb expressed his concerns.

"We feel the federal government is really targeting agriculture. They're really targeting, I think, Saskatchewan and to a larger extent Alberta because we have most of the agricultural land between the Prairie provinces," said Orb.

Continued on Page 41



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Next Issue: August 18, 2023

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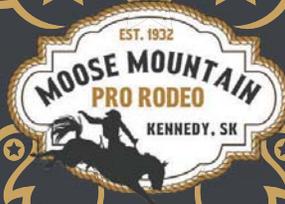


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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, July 21 - Sunday, July 23



FRIDAY

5^{pm} Slack.
 5^{pm}-12^{am} Beer Gardens.
 8^{pm} 'All Roads Lead Home' Concert. Featuring Eli Barsi, Heidi Munro & Scott Patrick, Lane Easton, Blake Berglund. Sponsored by Kennedy Rec Board.



SATURDAY

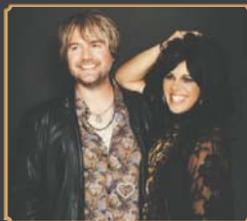
1^{pm} Parade. Demolition Derby following parade.
 2^{pm}-2^{am} Beer Gardens.
 4:15-4:30^{pm} sharp - Luke Penner Aerobatic Pilot Performance. Be on Grounds early.
 5^{pm} Rodeo Performance. Daring Divas Trick Riding team.
 9^{pm} Performance by Switch.
SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE

SUNDAY

9^{am} Pancake Breakfast at Kennedy Friendship Centre.
 11^{am} Cowboy Church Service by Kipling Peoples Church at Rodeo Grounds.
 1^{pm}-1^{am} Beer Gardens.
 1:15-1:30^{pm} Luke Penner Aerobatic Pilot Performance. Be on Grounds early.
 2^{pm} Rodeo performance. Daring Divas Trick Riding team.
 Calcutta Demolition derby finals following the rodeo.

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For more information call
Jill Lowe at 306-736-8967





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Daryl Harrison
Member of the Legislative Assembly
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Plain & Valley

July 2023 • Page 21

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



For the last two years, Vaderstad Industries of Langbank has donated their time and equipment to help seed for the not-for-profit organization Harvest of Hope. Photo credit: Vaderstad Industries.

Harvest of Hope seeds with volunteers, donations Vaderstad, local ag companies provide inputs

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Harvest of Hope growing project north of Moosomin had help from farmer volunteers, Vaderstad, and local agriculture companies to get the crop seeded this spring.

Funds raised from the crop are donated to local food banks, in addition to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which provides food assistance for people in need around the world. The federal government matches donations to the Foodgrains Bank, allowing the help to go further.

Vaderstad Industries of Langbank is key to the seeding effort, and several other businesses from Moosomin and surrounding area helped contribute towards the project.

"Vaderstad has done all of the seeding in the last two years," said Mark Bateman of the Harvest of Hope committee. "They bring out their seeders, and they're just a tremendous help, taking care of that for us."

"The wheat seed was provided by Crosson Farms and Parrish and Heimbecker Grain Elevator. The fertilizer and chemical was provided by Sharpe's Soil Services.

"The spraying was done by Pattison Agriculture Limited, John Deer. Also a huge thank you to Murray Bruce Farms for heavy harrowing ahead of the seeder, and to

Craig Roy for supplying semis, and hauling the fertilizer and seed."

Last year, Harvest of Hope brought in revenue of \$130,000 and after input costs, an estimated \$70,000 was donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Out of the 33 Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects that covered approximately 3,500 acres in Saskatchewan in 2022, Moosomin Harvest of Hope was the largest growing project in the province.

Although the organization has about six core members, there are 40 to 50 volunteers who help with the growing project over the course of the year.

"We're getting more and more help and we have been donating to the local food banks as well as the Foodgrains Bank, so we can help here and overseas. Last year we gave \$15,000 to the food bank here in Moosomin and \$4,000 went to the Rocanville Food Bank," said Bateman.

"Usually it all went to the Foodgrains Bank before, but I think that's paying more dividends for more help coming locally, if we can keep some of the produce here.

"The nice part is the government matches it. We had record breaking profits last year with \$20 a bushel canola and it ended up making over a couple hundred thou-

sand dollars."

After hearing feedback from the community, Bateman said the not-for-profit organization decided to donate their proceeds to local food banks as well.

"I was getting approached by people saying that others would be more willing to help if we donated locally as well as to the Foodgrains Bank," said Bateman.

"The Foodgrains Bank does great things too, this is their largest parcel in all of Western Canada. I just think it would go a long way if we keep some of it locally because I know we're going to get more help locally also, and there isn't just a need in other countries, there's a need here, too."

Bateman spoke about how supportive people from the community are during the growing season, and why he dedicates his time to the project.

"We get so much help," he said. "Pethick Farms always sends out combines from McAuley, and all of the machine dealers send their great big machines on harvest day."

"I volunteer because I've got the time to do it and it's very worthwhile.

"We have the ability to help, and so we should help, it's as simple as that."

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Saskatchewan Agri-Food exports up 75 per cent in first quarter

Saskatchewan's agri-food exports are surging in 2023 to an estimated \$6 billion in the first quarter of 2023, up 75 per cent from the same period in 2022. This increase solidifies Saskatchewan's position as a major player in global agricultural trade and demonstrates our commitment to meeting global food security.

Leading Saskatchewan exports continue to be canola oil, canola seed, non-durum wheat, durum and lentils.

"Increased export numbers demonstrate the strength and resilience of our agri-food sector," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Trade statistics like these reinforce Saskatchewan's sustainability story internationally, showing global investors that Saskatchewan producers are in an excellent position to feed the world today and in the future."

High agri-food prices, in some cases by as much as 100 per cent relative to 2021, and increased supply are fueling the growth in export volume and value for the first three months in 2023. Crop production in Saskatchewan rebounded from the 2021 drought thereby doubling the volume of Saskatchewan exports for the first three months of 2023.

The export numbers build from a solid foundation in 2022 where Saskatchewan exported a record \$18.5 billion in agri-food products. Saskatchewan's numbers demonstrate the sector is on its way to reaching the target of growing Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion by 2030, as outlined in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan.

Saskatchewan remains committed to supporting the growth and development of the province's agri-food sector.

By investing in research and development, fostering partnerships around the world and promoting trade opportunities, Saskatchewan aims to further enhance its global market presence and reinforce its reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality agricultural products.

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Peach fundraiser kicks off for the sixth year

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A local annual peach fundraiser has started for the summer.

Organizers from the Saskatchewan Gateway Anglican Parish, which includes churches in Moosomin and Rocanville, are selling 20 pound boxes of peaches for \$50 each in support of raising money for their community church.

"Last year we sold 860 cases of peaches. After expenses we made over \$8,000," said Yvonne Down organizer of the peach fundraiser.

"The first year it went from 285 cases being sold, then 430 cases being sold in 2019, then 620 cases, then 780 cases in 2021, and up to 860.

"Every year it has grown and is different, the prices are going up all the time. When we first started selling them we were selling them at \$35, which isn't too bad because we only put them up by \$15 since we first started selling them."

The fresh peaches come directly from B.C. and are of great quality, said Down.

"We've had very good product. I've had people phone in and wondering if we're still doing it because they're good and it's not really expensive," she said.

"I ran into one lady in the store the other day and she said 'I don't want to have to look for what prices they are in the stores.' We're selling them at \$50



Hundreds of boxes of peaches were being distributed last summer in Moosomin and Rocanville as part of the Gateway Parish peach fundraiser.

for 20 pounds, that's like \$2.50 a pound. I don't think they'll be any cheaper than that in a store."

With this being the sixth year for the successful fundraiser, she explained how the community came up with the idea.

"Reverend Doctor Trish McCarthy, she was here for several years, and she

wanted us to try the peach fundraiser because she had been involved at the church in Regina and they did it there," said Down.

"We decided to try it and in the first year we sold 285 cases, which is pretty good for small town Moosomin."

She explained how the fundraiser helps support their group.

"We have a small number of people, but we have big expenses," said Down.

"This is for Rocanville and Moosomin, both churches are involved. It helps to pay for our power, electricity, water, gas and maintenance. We're looking at doing the roof on our church in Moosomin this year."

The deadline to place orders for peaches is Wednesday, August 16. Down said people must have the physical copy of their tickets in order to pick up their peaches on the delivery day.

The pick up date for peaches will be on Saturday, August 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Alban's Church in Moosomin and St. Thomas Church in Rocanville.



Yvonne Down of Moosomin Anglican Church is excited for this year's peach fundraiser. Last year the community group raised over \$8,000 from the initiative.



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Connor StandingReady of White Bear First Nations was proud to celebrate his bar call ceremony with his family on June 7, 2023 at Law Society of Saskatchewan. StandingReady is the first lawyer from his nation, and is partially legally blind. He said he is grateful to live in today's society where Indigenous people can be lawyers.

First lawyer of White Bear First Nations

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Connor StandingReady of White Bear First Nations is proud to be the first lawyer from his community.

StandingReady, who is visually impaired, said he was inspired by his family to pursue a career in law, and did not let his disability stop him.

"It was always my grandmother's dream to have a lawyer in the family," he said.

"My grandfather was the last hereditary chief of my reserve. Before the Indian Act elections came in, what we used to do is the chieftainship was traditionally passed down to generation to generation.

"My grandfather was one of the last hereditary chiefs and my grandmother would see how the government

would manipulate us and sort of impose their laws on us. Essentially she knew that we needed a lawyer in the family to protect, not only my community, but our family's interest and navigate us through this legal field.

"It was always encouraged by my parents. My father would always tell me that I should consider a career in law. I finished my undergrad in 2016, I graduated from First Nations University of Canada and I just decided to see if I could pursue this legal career that I've been thinking about.

"I applied to one law school and I ended up getting in, which was the University of Saskatchewan."

StandingReady celebrated his bar call ceremony with his family on June 7 after officially being called to the bar as a member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan

College of Law in 2021, StandingReady completed his articling at a not-for-profit law firm—Community Legal Assistance Services For Saskatoon Inner City (CLASSIC).

"I use screen reading technology on my laptop. The screen reader will read to you what is on the screen, it will read to you what you're typing, that's how I do my research," he said.

"I do make use of those assistive technologies, but a thousand things had to go right in order for me to get to where I am today.

"I'm so grateful that it worked out because I'm so fortunate to be born in a time where First Nations people are able to become lawyers, but I'm also born in a time where my disability wasn't a huge hindrance because of the technology. It was just the right place and the right time."

Continued on page 29

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First lawyer of White Bear First Nations

Continued from page 28
Proud to represent different communities

StandingReady said through his work he hopes to be able to represent visually impaired and First Nation people.

"The reason why I choose to do these news articles is to inspire someone else that might be in my position," he said.

"I've been reached out to by people in the visually impaired blind community. They reach out to me and need advice on how to navigate university, what to expect, and the different kind of challenges.

"That's part of the reason why I do this is because I want to help and try to give back in any way I can."

Despite his visual impairment, StandingReady said today's access to technology has helped him fulfill his dream to practice law.

"What I do differently is all the documents that I draft are the same, all of the cases I research are the same. Everything is basically the same, the only thing I really need help with sometimes is I'll get the support staff to help draft the final document," he said. "We have legal assistants, let's say I have a document that I need to draft. I can do all of the law part and the support staff will help me to make it so that's visually appealing," said StandingReady.

"When I was doing criminal files I would need a second set of eyes, let's say if I was looking at a video or evidence in a picture format, even sometimes I would have to get one of my support staff to read police reports because when you get disclosure from the police, they hand write a lot of the stuff and a lot of it is not transcribable to my computer.

"I'm very fortunate that the practice of law is structured in such a way that you do have that help."

StandingReady spoke about how he became partially blind.

"I have a visual disability. I was born blind and I had cataracts when I was a little baby so essentially when I was a few weeks old, I had to get surgery in my eyes to remove cataracts," he said.

"I was able to see with glasses up until 13 years old. Then I had a botched eye surgery down in Indianapolis, Indiana that resulted in me having optic nerve damage in my left eye.

"I'm blind in my left eye and my right eye is slowly starting to become that way too. Right now I can see enough to walk around and not bump into anything, but I use a white cane when I'm in the city."

Growing up, StandingReady learned how to make use of the resources available to him to help adapt to his new way of living.



Connor StandingReady of White Bear First Nations was proud to celebrate his bar call ceremony with his family on June 7, 2023 at Law Society of Saskatchewan.

"Technology has been very helpful, it was a huge learning curve just because when I lost my eye sight, I was fairly young, but I was still kind of used to doing things as a normal kid," he said.

"I lost my eyesight when I was 13, that's a hard enough age to begin with, you want to fit in, you want to make friends and essentially my world turned upside down.

"It was a huge learning process when I was in university because I had to become aware of all the resources that were available to me because even though you have a university orientation, there's certain things you have to find out on your own."

Despite challenges he faced when studying law, StandingReady said receiving support from people went a long way.

"It's been hard. I'm thankful for a lot of the people along the way. I just want to thank my family, the faculty at the College of Law for making this possible, everyone who I worked with at CLASSIC, everyone in my journey helped out a little bit," he said.

"I always say a thousand things had to go right just for me to get to where I am today. Maybe if 999 things went right, but one went wrong, maybe I wouldn't be here.

"I do recognize my band for helping me with tuition, student loans, all of the different things had to come together. Everyone was willing to help me out."

Hopes of inspiring others to pursue their dreams

In hopes of inspiring others who carry similar characteristics as himself, StandingReady said he hopes people follow their dreams despite their circumstances.

"I'm a big believer that if you have the goal, if you have the drive, and the desire and faith in yourself, I really do believe anything is possible," StandingReady said.

"It may be a little bit of an esoteric belief, but I think I'm a testament to basically what the human potential is capable of.

"I really do believe that if you have a goal in mind and you essentially make 100 per cent effort to reach that goal, then anything is possible.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, or if you're abled or disabled—for the most part—if you have a goal and you're very passionate about something, I often believe 'desire backed by faith knows no such word as impossibility.' That's Napoleon Hill.

"Anything is possible and I think if there's anyone out there that's a testament to that, then I think that's what I am."

He said his favourite part about the legal profession is bringing justice to clients that he serves.

"What I enjoy about the profession is I knew I was a good lawyer when I started getting marginalized people their justice that they deserve," he said.

"A lot of these times at CLASSIC I'd be representing people, they weren't homeless people, but they were low income people that were maybe overlooked by society a lot of the time.

"I would be representing them and when I actually started to get them money and settlements, essentially the justice they were looking for because when you're in that environment there can be an imbalance of power, you have a landlord who sometimes is wealthier than your client and you're representing low income clients, and when I was starting to get these people money and get them justice, it was a good feeling.

"It's a good feeling knowing you're able to help someone when they're in a bind and to help people get the justice they're looking for. You feel like you're serving, that's what's appealing to me about it."

"I'm excited to see where the next chapter in my life takes me, and I'm excited to see how it all plays out."

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Sask Parks partners with 14 new businesses to encourage use of provincial parks

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport has partnered with 14 new local businesses throughout the province to enhance visitors' experiences at provincial parks during the summer season.

Amenities such as e-bike rentals, youth swimming lessons at the lake, farmers' markets, fully-furnished cabin rentals, new food offerings and more, have been added to different parks within the province.

"We've been partnering with private businesses for a lot of years now," said Jordan Huber, Director for Saskatchewan's Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

"We work with our private businesses to bring a full range of high quality services and recreational opportunities to parks that compliment our core services.

"It encourages development in the private sector, growth and investment in the province, and enhances the tourism sector and supports the local economies, all at the same time."

The new additions to the parks are to improve tourism within the province and to encourage people to get out more during the warm weather, said Huber.

"We have a lot of different businesses, we have mini-golf that's mostly operated outside, we have our fixed roof accommodations so people can go check out the park and if it's bad weather, they can go hang inside," he said.

"We have grocery stores, restaurants, concessions, e-bike rentals, there's just a lot of different options tourism related and any other services you're looking for in parks."

Over the last few years the provincial government has been making an effort to bring more businesses to help improve the park lifestyle

"It's been sort of a change in direction over the last handful of years. We've been trying to communicate regularly with the public and private sector that we are open for business," Huber said.

"Our business development team often provides communication on our Facebook page saying 'if you're interested in operating a business in Sask Parks, please reach out. We would love to work with you.'

"We're ready and open to operate with the private sector to provide some new services to the visitors."

Small business owners can still reach out to the ministry of parks if they are interested in bringing their business to a local provincial park for the summer.

"They can contact us at any time. Depending on what service they're offering, if it's less infrastructure intensive we can sign a one-year agreement to test out that product or service," said Huber.

"If there's more infrastructure we usually open it up



Rentals of e-bikes are available at Pike Lake, Blackstrap Provincial Park, and Moose Mountain Provincial Park.

and have a competition that's transparent and fair to the community. That usually takes a little bit more time, but definitely adds a little bit of value when you have multiple proposals."

The following parks in the province have new accommodations and new experiences for visitors to enjoy this summer:

- Fully-furnished cabin rentals offered by Lake Time Rentals at *Meadow Lake Provincial Park*
- Fully-furnished cabin rentals offered by Mistik Resort at *Good Spirit Provincial Park*
- Inflatable waterpark offered by Sask Aquatic Adventures at *Moose Mountain Provincial Park*
- Specialized paddle and marine-related training, specialist water and ice rescue courses, first aid and other specialized training, offered by Amphibious Response Support Unit ONE at *Echo Valley Provincial Park*
- Three styles of E-bike rentals offered by 306 E-bike Rentals at *Moose Mountain Provincial Park*
- E-bikes and fat bike rentals offered by Aurora E-bike Rentals at *Pike Lake and Blackstrap Provincial Parks*
- Youth swimming lessons on the lake with Shara Vick at *Makwa Lake Provincial Park*
- Youth swimming lessons on the lake with Shayla Huber at *Katepwa Point Provincial Park*
- Good Spirit Summer Market at *Good Spirit Lake Pro-*

vincial Park

- Greenwater Farmer's Market at *Greenwater Lake Provincial Park*
- Lakeside Market at *Buffalo Pound Provincial Park*
- Hot dogs, hamburgers, mini donuts, sweet treats and more offered by Perras Carnival Treats at *Echo Valley Provincial Park*
- Baked treats, specialty coffee, sandwiches and other snacks offered by Travelling Bakery at *Buffalo Pound Provincial Park*
- Handmade, locally-sourced pizza and burgers offered by La Fenice Pizzeria at *Candle Lake Provincial Park*

Huber said he hopes people and families enjoy their time at the regional parks across the province since the new additions have been supplied.

"We're just hoping this can add to their experience in Sask Parks whether it's customer service, recreational opportunities or being outside during the summer months, they are all very important to Sask Parks, and anyway that our visitors can go out and support these small businesses is definitely a plus."

He spoke about why it was important for the ministry to partner with local small businesses.

"One of our province's mandates is growth, and small business growth is definitely important to the province of Saskatchewan," said Huber.

"Anytime we can partner with the private sector to get them making some money tourism related, or otherwise, is always a positive."

Update on water park at Kenosee Lake

The well-known Kenosee Superslides at Kenosee Lake has been temporarily closed the past few summers due to Sask Health Authority requirements not being fulfilled.

Huber was asked what the provincial government's plans are for opening the water slides back up to the public.

"The superslides will not be open this year. We're still working through what the next steps are going to be with the old water park," he said.

"However, we do have the new inflatable water park that's going to be on Kenosee Lake at the beach there. I've seen the new designs and drawings of what that water park is going to look like and it's going to be big and attract a lot of visitors. It's going to be super fun for the summer that's for sure."

The ministry said plans for the superslides are still being decided.



Left: One of the new businesses in the parks is Sask Aquatic Adventures at Kenosee.

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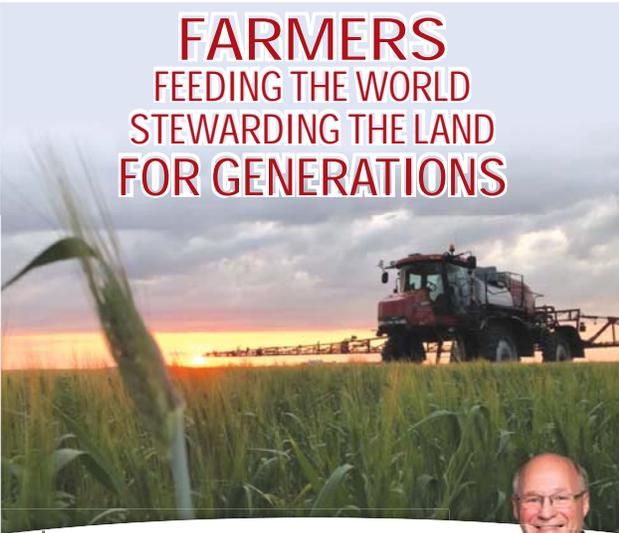
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Drone innovation by USask researcher comes from family farm roots

BY BROOKE KLEIBOER

Kaylie Kryz is on a mission to bring accurate drone surveillance technology to the forefront of agriculture in Saskatchewan, starting right at home on her family farm and expanding into the province's vast agricultural landscape.

As a University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Agriculture and Bioresources graduate student, her research is focused on investigating how unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)—more commonly known as drones—can help farmers count the number of early season canola seedlings in their fields to offer a more solid idea of crop yields and help determine next steps in the growing season.

"Crop emergence is important as the number of plants that emerge can affect the amount of yield harvested," said Kryz. "Producers want these plant population counts so that they can make early season decisions, such as if reseeding is needed, based on the results."

Although drones have been used to take footage of crops from above for producers to look at, Kaylie's work takes drone imaging to a new level by implementing a computer model that allows emerging seedlings to be counted and reported back to the farmer.

"Through my post-secondary journey, I have grown a passion for sustainable agriculture," said Kryz, who is pursuing a master's degree in Plant Sciences. "In my last summer of my undergraduate degree, I took an Agriculture Drone School by Landview Drones and absolutely loved it. I began looking into how I could apply UAVs on our own family farm and reading more about UAV use in the agriculture industry."

Kryz's method works by using a drone to obtain im-



USask graduate student Kaylie Kryz flies a drone above a Saskatchewan crop.

Chris Hendrickson photo

ages of a crop, and then uploading the images to a computer where a specialized model is trained to recognize canola seedlings. The computer program can provide a seedling count and a percentage of plant ground cover. This information is helpful to farmers as it provides an accurate method for keeping an eye on the growing season while being a relatively low labour-intensive activ-

ity. "Many crop fields are 160 acres or larger, and current practices consist of walking across the field to manually count the plant populations," said Kryz. "Not only do UAVs provide a remote and fast alternative, but the images and data can be stored for later use or reference if needed."

The computer model Kryz is assisting in developing can currently count seedlings with 90 per cent accuracy. She notes that she and her research team have been working to increase the accuracy of the count by further training the computer model with additional images.

"To create the computer model that counts the canola plant seedlings, I am collaborating with Erik Andvaag, a graduate student from the USask Computer Science Department," said Kryz. "I have learned a lot about computer sciences, machine learning, and computer coding from this amazing connection created through my project."

Continued on page 39

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New Finland District celebrates 135 years

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Saturday June 24, people gathered at the New Finland District—St. John's Lutheran Church located west of Rocanville and north of Wapella—to celebrate the community's 135 years of settlement, and its church's 130th anniversary.

"We wanted to celebrate because the community still exists, and to honor our ancestors," said Valerie Knuuttila of the New Finland District.

"Then on Sunday it was 130 years since the New Finland church was established. St. John's Lutheran Church is the longest running Finnish Lutheran church in Canada. There's others that started sooner, but they're closed. We've been consistent since it began."

New Finland is a small rural district in southeastern Saskatchewan. It began when people from Finland started homesteading in 1888, which resulted in the first Finnish settlement on the Canadian Prairies.

Knuuttila spoke about why she thinks some of the Finns still live in the area.

"There is this concept that Finns have where you hang on, it's like dogged determination," she said.

"There's pride in our roots and in our Finnish heritage.

"I think it's important to recognize how difficult it was for our great-grandparents. We are the recipients of generational wealth, and it's also important to recognize that we're on Treaty 4 land. We're Treaty 4 people."

She spoke about the history of the first Finland settler who came to the district.

"It's a lovely story, but it's not really in the history books," said Knuuttila.

"His name is David Kautonen. He was possibly a murderer, he was definitely someone who owed money, but he started the community (here) and changed his life around.

"He was instrumental in starting the church and encouraging other people to come. It's also a story of a bad guy gone good."

In hopes of keeping the New Finland District community active, Knuuttila said people are always welcome to join their events.

"New people move into the old Finn houses, and we hope that they would come join us and be part of our community," she said.

"It's to strengthen the New Finland ties, but also to strengthen ties with different churches and different communities and towns around us.

"Saturday (June 24) was our mid-summer picnic, it was not held during Covid, but other than that it's been held every year. It helps bring people home, it also builds community not just within the Finns, but we're Canadians so it's a day for other congregations and other people to come in and meet each other. Also it's a day to just have fun.

"The picnic is important and a lot of people who have moved away, we had people from Vancouver Island, from Vancouver, Winnipeg, the furthest person came from the Philippines, it's just a way of connecting with your relatives and with people from your community."

On the day of the celebration, Knuuttila said she was thankful for Rachel and Darwin Dancsok for their live entertainment, as well as Darren Luhtala who allowed his photo to be used for the commemorative magnets that were being sold.

"He took this amazing photo of the St. John's Lutheran Church with the Northern Lights behind it," she said.

"He gave us permission to use his photo for our magnets. I like to thank Darren Luhtala for his fabulous photography.

"These magnets are very popular and orders have come in from several places in Canada and also from the USA."

Left: A lot of people came out to celebrate the New Finland District community's celebration of 135 years since the first settler came to New Finland, located near Rocanville, Saskatchewan. **Right:** Darwin and Rachel Dancsok sang gospel music during the celebration.

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Each year, scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 will be offered at each of the five local high schools—Maryfield, Wawota, White-wood, Moosomin and Redvers.

Students apply by submitting an application form via a website (www.deeproots-foundation.com/scholarships) and providing a minimum 500-word essay on 'My involvement in the future of agriculture.'

This year, applications were reviewed by the Hebert Group team members and recipients were selected based on their community involvement, the essays they provided and those that best aligned with the Hebert Group core values.

This year Hebert Group was able to award six scholarships to Grade 12 students—three at McNaughton High School, one at Maryfield School, one at Whitewood School, and one at Wawota Parkland School. Since it was the first year offering the scholarship, Hebert Group says they consider it a huge success.

Scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Brynn Easton - McNaughton High School - Attending University of Saskatchewan - Animal Bioscience program
- Conor Fath - McNaughton High School - Attending University of Saskatchewan - Agronomy
- Wyatt Moffatt - McNaughton High School - Attending Lakeland College - Animal Science Technology - Beef Science program
- Walker Porter - Wawota Parkland School - Attending University of Saskatchewan - Agronomy
- Hunter Olson - Maryfield School - Attending Olds College - Agriculture Management Program
- Kenneth Bartlam - Whitewood School - Attending Sask Polytech - Agriculture Equipment Technician Pro-



From left to right are, Wyatt Moffatt, Brynn Easton, Walker Potter, Karen Hebert of Deep Roots Foundation, Conor Fath, Hunter Olson, and Kenneth Bartlam.

gram
 "Agriculture is arguably the world's most important industry, and it is one that will see monumental change over the next decades," says Jeff Warkentine with Hebert Group. "By choosing a career in agriculture, these stu-

dents are choosing a career that is meaningful, rewarding and innovative. Congratulations to all of the recipients on what we hope is a lifelong learning journey. We look forward to seeing them as industry leaders in the future."

Drone innovation by USask researcher comes from family farm roots

Continued from page 32

Collaborating with local producers has also been an integral part of Kry's work.

"I had the opportunity to cold-call and connect with five outstanding Saskatchewan canola producers who let me apply my research on their crop land," said Kry. "This research project helps to fill a gap in precision agriculture at the seedling stage of the crop, allowing for a more thorough understanding of the emergence uniformity and how that may affect grain yields."

Kry plans to present her work at the USask Soils and Crops Conference in March 2023, and at the European Conference on Precision Agriculture in July. Her research work has been supervised by College of Agriculture and Bioresources professor and plant science expert Dr. Steve Shirtliffe (PhD).

Kry's work has applications for many crops besides canola, and she has conducted the research with the



goal of making sure local farmers are able to access and implement the technological solutions she is developing.

"What drives me forward is a passion for my family farm, and those like it, that have prompted me to learn more about agroecosystems, dig deeper into scalable precision agriculture practices, and strive to find the balance of providing for our land while it provides for us in a more sustainable way, so that we can continue to farm for generations to come," said Kry.

Funding support for the project has been provided by the Canola Council of Canada, the USask-based Global Institute for Food Security and Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre, Canada First Research Excellent Fund, and Case New Holland International.

Right: USask graduate student Kaylie Kry.

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Life after seeding is complete

Three point some odd weeks later, it was all a done deal. Seeding that is. And a return from 'camping on the farm' to home life in town once again. And for me—no more cooking! Well sort of. At least no more cooking and hauling meals for the time being, Woo-hoo!

On the flip side, it also means no more campfires out behind the camper with the grands. Methinks though that harvest time will arrive soon enough and back to the farm we'll go.

The farm grands were prepping for a 4-H event their family was hosting back a couple of weeks ago so I offered to head out to the farm with my weed wacker and do a bit of trimming. The twins (12) told me the spots they thought needed doing but didn't suggest (this time) that I try to trim around their mini oats and wheat plot they have fenced off near the dog house. Last time they suggested I trim the outer area of their plot, I couldn't figure out how they got into the plot without taking some of their fence down and then I realized the 'V' in the tree was their entry point. They are either visually challenged or just extremely hopeful that I could actually fit (like their tall, skinny bodies can) through the 'V'.

In the midst of my weed whacking moments that particular day, the twins had taken a 'tour' via side-by-side to the old farm yards adjacent to the home quarter. Upon their return, I heard, "Grandma, Grandma, we just saw the biggest black bear ever!" This is not an unusual sight as the farm is near a creek but just the same, I couldn't help but get as excited as they were, though I hadn't yet seen the bear. "Let's go,"

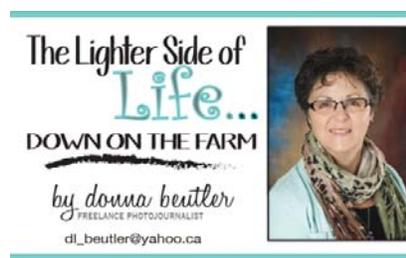
I said as I jumped aboard their ride and they headed north. We didn't spot the bear that afternoon but several days later on a trek with hubby, we saw a couple of bear near the creek and I wouldn't doubt the big black one I saw was the same one as the twins saw that day. I never imagined that life on the prairies would include seeing bear and moose just like I did when I was a kid in the Ontario forests where I had once lived.

One evening we decided we would make a return overnight visit to our mini-home on the farm and we came prepared—strawberries and Toblerone to melt and enjoy around the campfire with the kids. One of the twins helped get the fire going but shortly thereafter disappeared. As hubby and I enjoyed berries and chocolate with the other two, we could hear the little tractor running.

"What is Reid doing?" I asked his brother. "It's nearly dark. Is he roto-tilling somewhere?"

"Nope," came the response. "He's cutting grass." And for the next hour or so, as the sun was definitely setting over the horizon, we could hear the tractor. Finally, at 10 p.m. we retired to the RV. The other kids went up to the house and then that one lone straggler walked into the camper looking for his share of the strawberries and chocolate. His work was done and he was ready for his share of the evening's yummys. I am pretty sure school somewhat interferes with this young fellow's desire to keep the grass cut and the weeds tilled under.

Now that we are entering 4-H and fishing/camping season, it's definitely feeling like the time for a break from the busy spring



seeding time and no one is as ready as I am. (Well, more likely it's the men who need it most, though they never actually say so). With school out in the next few days and an end to ball games, I am pretty sure kids everywhere are anticipating nothing but fun-filled days and long, lazy summer evenings.

Our lake days are just a few days off but my bucket list had a mini-jant wish on it and when spraying was complete, we literally threw a few things in a suitcase and headed east. From the Saskatchewan plains, the two of us who virtually always go south or west headed east this time. There was this childlike excitement that filled me, especially when we hit eastern Manitoba's tree-surrounded highway. The anticipation was high, knowing I would soon be in Northwestern Ontario, the place I grew up in and to which I had not been for at least 30 years, best guess. There is something that happens when I hit the bush line—I feel like I am home at last.

Having lived on the prairies for 50-plus years now, it seems a little odd that the pull of 'home' had become so strong to me over the past several years, even though I knew 'my' house would no longer be on the Trans Canada Pipelines

station where it once stood. Not even the school I attended in the 60's would be in existence as it burned to the ground after I moved away. Something in me though was calling me—and I literally dropped everything at home (including a town council meeting) to hit the road. My guy was a good sport

throughout the journey east although he tended to ask, "Are we there yet?" a few too many times.

And yup, nothing was the same. I walked along the road where the eight houses on the pipeline station once stood and could just barely make out some of the driveways. The yards have totally been overtaken by forest. Finding the sidewalk amongst the trees brought me to tears. The only thing that remained the same was the hum of the engines in the distance, something that once lulled me to sleep every single night. A thousand memories overtook me and I was once again a pre-teen biking and walking along the pathways, getting together with friends next door, picnicking or blueberry picking at nearby waterfalls

and berry patches. It was so emotional for me to be there though my better half was already yearning for open spaces.

And so as I trip down memory lane out here in Ontario as I write this, I realize this is no longer home for me for truly, home is a place where I am surrounded by family and friends and yes—the farm as well. It is as much a part of me now as the forests and rocks and lakes once were for me long ago here in northwest Ontario.

And so, to all our farmers and friends—may you keep building memories—especially with those of the next generation. Some day they will be recounting the days of their youth and all those warm, fuzzy things that made their days so special way back when.

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The Rural Municipality of Wallace-Woodworth is seeking a motivated individual for the position of Public Works Superintendent. The Public Works Superintendent assists the Chief Administrative Officer in overseeing the R.M.'s Transportation Department, along with urban transportation sidewalks and urban road networks. The candidate will also be responsible for overseeing sanitation & landfill management; and operation & management of the R.M. Equipment Fleet. The successful candidate should possess a high level of maturity; proven management and leadership skills in developing an effective and efficient team; excellent communication; strong analytical problem solving and conflict management skills. Leads by example. Shows respect and support for others & the goals that are set out from management. Exhibits positive and professional attitude to keep building a strong team.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

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A more comprehensive job description is available upon request. Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references by:

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SARM Clean Fuel Standards mandate will create challenges

Continued from Page 21

"We also have higher uses of energy because we use a lot of fuel on our farming operations, in the field, and to maintain the roads.

"It's really going to hurt Saskatchewan and it will really hurt Alberta as well, if the federal government goes ahead with it. That's why we issued a press release urging the federal government to delay and think about the seriousness because we know it will impact us and the Prairie provinces."

SARM points out that because agriculture is an energy-intensive industry that requires fuel for machinery, transportation, grain drying and heating, the imposition of the various carbon taxes will directly increase the cost of essential inputs, resulting in farmers' profitability being strained, and jeopardizing the viability of their operations.

"They fail to consider the unique circumstances of Saskatchewan's farming sector. The province experiences long and harsh winters, necessitating the use of heating systems to protect livestock and maintain optimal growing condi-

tions in greenhouses and barns," SARM's news release stated.

"This increased energy demand directly translates into higher carbon tax costs, creating an unfair disadvantage for farmers in Saskatchewan compared to those in regions with milder climates."

Orb emphasized that the different weather conditions farmers face in Saskatchewan should be taken into consideration when rolling out policies such as the Clean Fuel Regulation.

"We have a lot of mileage to port, I'll use an example of us shipping our grain. The majority of our grain gets exported through Vancouver. Those costs will be borne by the railroad because they have to pay for their purchase of fuel. Then the railroads pass that off to the farmers," said Orb.

"It kind of singles out provinces like Saskatchewan and that goes for a lot of our products like our mining products as well as what's produced in rural Saskatchewan. That's what makes us stand out and that's where we believe this is unfair."

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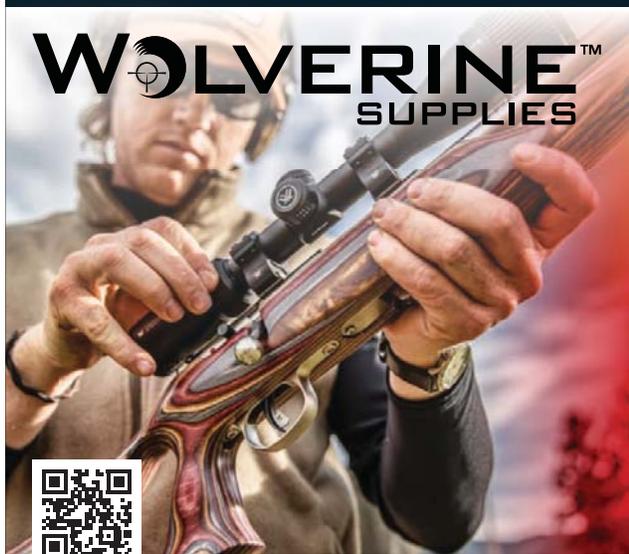
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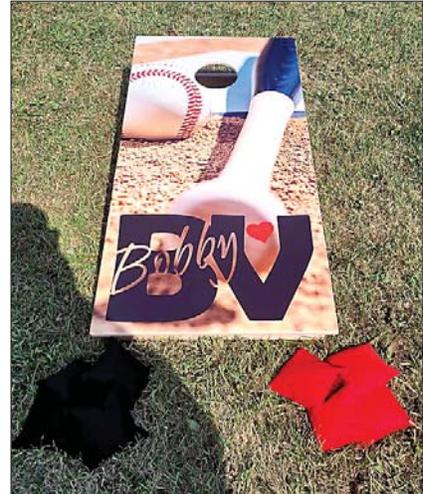
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Bobby Vargo annual slow-pitch tournament



Team ABC were the champions of this year's Bobby Vargo Memorial Cup slow-pitch tournament.



Above: Tara and Stu Sobering donated a Cornhole for the beer gardens at the weekend event.

During Canada Day weekend, families and friends gathered together in Kipling for the annual Bobby Vargo Memorial Slow Pitch Tournament. This year was the 11th year since the tournament began.

In honor of the late Bobby Vargo, who was an active member of the Kipling community, families and local groups in town volunteer every year to help with the well-known event.

Throughout the weekend there were back-to-back slow pitch games at the Bobby Vargo Memorial Fields at Kipling Lions Park. There was also a 50/50 draw, a silent auction, along with a Kipling Kidcare Cabaret.



Left: This year's Nutrien Ag Solutions Home Run Derby Champion Tyler Vargo.

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