

Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

Esterhazy's Rockin' the Park coming up August 27

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a two-year hiatus, the town of Esterhazy is ecstatic to bring back Rockin the Park for this summer.

The event is happening on August 27 at Esterhazy Regional Park. Aside from the four bands scheduled to perform that day, there will also be bouncy castles and food vendors on site, including Chicken Chef, for the community to enjoy.

Brenda Redman of the Rockin the Park Recreation Foundation said the committee is expecting at least 1,000 people to attend the event.

"Ticket sales are going good, but we sure would like to sell a lot more. There's no deadline to purchase tickets but if you want them for \$80 it's best to buy them before the last day of the event, otherwise we'll be charging \$100 at the door," Redman said.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with Blu Beach Band performing, followed by Rock Candy, Snake Oil and Prism scheduled to play at 9:30 p.m.

Although there will be chairs at the event, people are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating.

"We're hosting this event because we're all very passionate for our community, for our town of Esterhazy," Redman said.

"We want to be able to help in ways that improve recreation in Esterhazy whether that's money towards facility upgrades or new facilities, we want to be able to help with that.

"We would like to raise funds to start this off and be able to give money back, whether it's to the pool, to the rink, to the regional park, wherever is necessary we would sure like to try and improve these things."

After recently retiring as rec director, Redman said she joined the town's Rockin the Park committee because she wanted to help contribute to community events.

"I love my community, I was rec director in 2019, I'm now retired, but I'm still involved because I have so much passion for these facilities," Redman said.

"I want to see them be improved and be successful. We're excited for this event, but it's also stressful. I don't think there's one committee member that doesn't feel this stress.

"The first year we did the event we only made \$5,000. That's not a whole lot of money so we weren't able to disperse anything, but surely we're still able to make this an amazing fundraiser for the town of Esterhazy."

The money raised from the event will go back to Esterhazy's recreation committee.

Redman said because this is the town's biggest fundraising event, it is important to the committee to sell as many tickets as possible so they can use the funds to support more recreation events in town.

"We sure love the support of our town, the people, and the communities around it. Our goal is to have all the funds raised from Rockin the Park to go back to the recreation committee, but if people want Rockin the Park to continue, we need to make more than \$5,000, even to put on another event," she said.

"We also don't know how much longer we can keep putting these events on if people don't support us. Our committee feels this event is something that can raise a large amount of money for Esterhazy and that it can make a difference to our town.

"It can bring a lot of people into our town, it can make our town alive, and it's a fun event. People have worked many hours leading up to the event and our passion for it is for it to succeed."

Redman said the committee has been working hard in preparation for the event because they believe recreation events are important for Esterhazy.

"We all believe in it, we all believe that our pool, our regional park is very important to our community," she said.

"It draws people to the community and it keeps people in our community. Recreation is a highlight, people need to



Rock Candy performed at Esterhazy's Rockin the Park in 2019. The band will be performing again at this year's event at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday August 27.



Snake Oil will be returning for this year's Rockin the Park event, along with Blu Beach Band, Rock Candy and Prism.

be involved, people need places to go and to do something.

"There hasn't been a whole lot of money raised for this committee, it's been all depended on tax dollars and it would be nice to put on a fun event that people can go to."

She said she is thankful for everyone who is a part of Rockin the Park Recreation Foundation, as well for the sponsors of the event.

"We have many sponsors that have come on board and without them we would not be able to do this show," Redman said.

"We have to thank the people and thank the sponsorship

of all the businesses in town that believe in this event, and have given sponsorship towards it."

Redman said people are encouraged to purchase tickets before the day of the event.

Advance tickets for Rockin the Park cost \$80 for adults and \$50 for ages under 18. Adult tickets will go up to \$100 after August 15.

People can purchase tickets at 501 Audio or Chicken Chef in Esterhazy.

They can also contact Redman at (306) 740 9175, or email rockinthePark@outlook.com

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Jess Moskaluke concert sells out quickly

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As part of her Mapdot tour this fall, country singer Jess Moskaluke will be performing for crowds in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Moosomin.

Organized by the Moosomin Shriners, an acoustic show on November 10 will be part of Moskaluke's cross-Canada tour. Tickets were advertised starting on August 1 and were sold out by the end of that week.

The show will be part of the Shriners' annual fundraiser, which includes a dinner in addition to the performance.

"We have a pre-concert meeting every year where we sit down and come up with ideas on how to move the concert along," said David Korth of the Moosomin Shriners.

"Someone suggested we should try and contact Jess, so we took a shot and it actually seemed to work out."

The Moosomin Shriners thought having a local country singer perform at their annual event would help reach a broader audience.

"The Shriners are sort of undergoing a makeover, we're looking to attract more members of the younger generation and we thought this type of performance would help with that," Korth said.

"From concerts in previous years we may have catered to a more mature audience. This year we thought we could liven it up a little bit because there's lots of people who like the opportunity to attend an evening show, but may not necessarily have this style of entertainment here," he said.

This will be the eighth year the Shrine Club is hosting their annual concert fundraiser. Korth said every year the show sells out.

"For the work we do, I think it's nice for everyone to have equal opportunity to purchase tickets for an event we're hosting," he said.

"The Shriners are very loyal to the support they receive through the community, we will be sending everyone who got tickets last year a heads up. That's already about 50 per cent of spots, it doesn't leave a lot of tickets available for everyone else so we're hoping by getting the message out more, we might attract younger or a broader audience.

"It's amazing the community support we get for it, it's very impressive to see that much community involvement," said Korth.

"I think it's a great way to help and give back to the community. We're trying to look to the future, there's a lot of ideals and practices that the Shriners have used for years and years, eventually you have to update and mod-



Organized by the Moosomin Shriners, country singer Jess Moskaluke will be performing an acoustic show in Moosomin on November 10.

ify to keep up with the times which is what we're hoping to be able to do because I think it's a very important initiative we're doing here. The longer we can keep it going, the better off it will be.

"Aside from Jess's performance, we're working on some dinner entertainment and trying to get a local band from here. There will also be a presentation from Carter Brown's family, he's a fellow who has been through the Shrine hospital system before. It will be great to have him so that everyone can know what we're doing here."

Korth said the purpose of the Shrine concert is to raise money and spread the message about what the Shriners do.

"The main goal of the Shriners is community fundraising, this event will definitely involve the community, it will get the message out for what we do, and certainly help with our fundraising," he said.

"The concert may have not been of interest to people before, we're hoping this might cater to a broader audience. We're also doing things this year that we haven't done in the past to reach a different audience that way and open it up to everyone is what we're hoping."

Proceeds raised go to Shriners hospitals

Korth said 50 per cent of the proceeds raised from the concert will be donated to Shriners Hospitals.

"Technically we're not allowed to say we're fundraising for the Shrine hospitals, but 50 per cent of the fundraising we do goes to the WA WA Shriners in Regina, in which they make a contribution to the Shrine hospitals every year," he said.

"The rest of the proceeds go towards events that happen in the community and for any projects that we support."

Korth spoke about what the Moosomin Shriners' initiative focuses on.

"We're a service club for the local community here, we generate all our income from fundraising. We try to donate most of that back to the community through different projects, as well the main Shrine club in Regina," he said.

"My personal motivation for being part of the club is I like to give back to the community. I moved out here six years ago when they closed our mine in Sussex, New Brunswick, and we received nothing but welcoming feelings and great support when we got to Moosomin."

See the advertisement on page 7 for more information on booking a table for the Shriners' event featuring Jess Moskaluke.

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Saturday
AUGUST 27



ROCK

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Esterhazy Regional Park



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PRISM
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Rock IN THE Park

ESTERHAZY AUGUST 27

Blu Beach Band will kick off the night

This young rock group based out of Langenburg will be the first group to hit the stage at Rockin' the

Park in Esterhazy at 4 pm.

The band is made up of Carter Vosper, Remi Berthelet, Eric Vosper, and Riley Buchberger.

When this indie rock group began performing together four years ago as high school kids, they became an instant sensation, quickly being booked for events around Southeast Saskatchewan.

In the past year the band has opened for bands such as Trooper and Streetheart, played live on Telemiracle, and performed at over 30 local gigs, gaining a local following.

They began writing and recording music themselves as high school students, releasing two singles under the band name "The Firm." They released their first album "Trail Mix" in 2019 as the Blu Beach Band, followed by single, "Drive-In Movie," in 2020. Their newest album, "A Dog's Breakfast," was just



The Blu Beach Band are a young rock group from Langenburg.

released in June of this year. Blu Beach Band plays a mix of rock, funk, and folk music, inspired by the many old tunes they have

played at local cabarets and dances for years. Trail Mix was released on October 31. With these kids being from just down the road in

Langenburg, they are sure to get crowd out on August 27 to enjoy their performance and cheer on the local talent!

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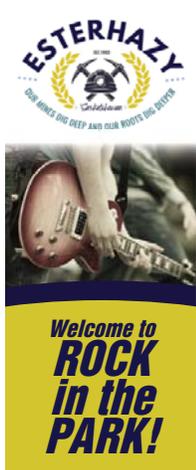
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Rock Candy: It's always a party when this band hits the stage



Anyone who has seen Rock Candy perform knows they won't be able to stop dancing when this band hits the stage at Rockin' the Park in Esterhazy on August 27.

This crazy fun party band covers everything from classics and rockers, to Top 40 songs. Dynamic lead vocalist Brooke Nickel dressed in a glittering romper with platform heels delivers classics by Hart, Pat Benatar, and Journey side by side with songs by Abba and the Bee Gees to Katy Perry and Cee-Lo Green. Michael Barrett brings everything from '80s pop to AC/DC to the song list.

Tunes like Meatloaf's "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" show off the talent of these two vocalists.

The band also includes some local talent, with Nicole Knezacek from Esterhazy on keyboards and backing vocals. With her musical training and sunny demeanor, she adds great music and a positive vibe to every show.

Niel and Irv are the drummer and bass player of Rock Candy. As a rhythm section they have delivered the beat that has pulled thousands of people all over the prairies up dancing, show after show, from festivals to cabarets and corporate events.

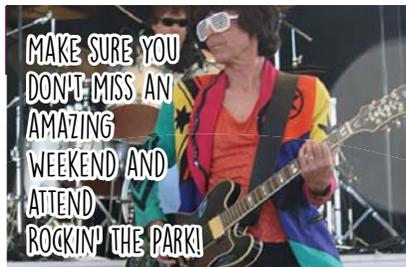
From the first moment this popular party band takes the stage until their final note, listeners are not able to contain themselves and spend the entire performance on their feet.

Rock Candy performed at Rockin' the Park in Esterhazy in 2019 as the opening band for the evening. It was the perfect way to kick off the night. It led to a crowd of dancers in front of the stage with beach balls being batted into the air.



Brooke Nickel and Michael Barrett performing with Rock Candy at the last Rockin the Park in 2019.

Rock Party really knows how to "bring the party" and that's what they've been hired to do again at Rockin' the Park 2022.



Don't miss out on a fantastic weekend during the Rockin' the Park event this year!



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ESTERHAZY AUGUST 27



Snake Oil



Prism

Snake Oil, Prism ready to rock the park

After two great opening acts at Rockin' the Park on August 27, rockers Snake Oil and Prism will take to the stage to put the big, bad rock in Rockin' the Park.

Snake Oil is known for an impeccable ability to impersonate 80's and 90's rock stars musically and visually, with spectacular costumes, hilarious audience interaction and an array of incredible special effects.

Their over-the-top theatrics are complemented with masterful illusions and video support.

The band portrays Kiss, Def Leppard, Alice Cooper, Ozzy Osbourne, Heart, Joan Jett, Cheap Trick, Alice Cooper, Van Halen, Whitesnake, Pat Benatar, AC/DC, The Scorpions, Rob Zombie, Lita Ford, Evanescence and more . . .

Snake Oil has an outstanding cast of world-class accomplished musicians, singers, both male and female to ensure an authentic and energetic arena rock show experience. The audience is guaranteed a good time!

Prism has sold millions of albums, with songs that have become standards—Spaceship Superstar, Take Me to the Kaplin, Flying, Armageddon, Take Me Away, Young & Restless, Night to Remember, Don't Let Him

Know among them. Prism itself is classic rock.

With two Juno Awards for Album and Group of the Year, multi-platinum albums and a continuing legacy of sold-out shows, Prism is a must-see live attraction.

The band rocks out the hits more energetically than ever, thrilling audiences nationwide.

Every day across the country, radio is playing the many Prism classics.

Snake Oil will hit the stage at 7:30 pm followed by Prism who will end the night at 9:30 pm.



Saturday
AUGUST 27

Rock
IN THE
Park

Esterhazy Regional Park

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Slack - Following Main Performance

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Richardson Pioneer Rider Nation
Community Celebration - Starting at 5pm
Steak Supper - 4:30pm to 6:30pm
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Intermission - Rider Cheer Team
Beer Gardens - 4pm to 2am
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The EDM will find sustainable solutions to economic, social and environmental issues to build a healthy viable community. The EDM will work to create and encourage an environment that retains existing businesses and attracts new ones to the Town of Virден.

Reporting directly to the Chief Administrative Officer, the EDM is responsible for facilitating community economic development planning initiatives that are consistent with town bylaws and land use policies. The job will entail identifying and fostering economic development opportunities and partnerships and securing funding for economic development programs and projects. The EDM will promote the community in order to expand economic development opportunities.

CORE SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES:

- Relationship building
- Communication skills- written and verbal
- Proposal writing & grant research
- Facilitation and presentation skills

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Community Economic Development degree or diploma or equivalent background education.
- Minimum of 2 years previous experience working in municipal government or with an economic development organization is preferred.
- The successful candidate will plan to complete the Community Edge Program as made available by the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba.

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Access to vehicle and the ability to travel and work beyond regular hours is required.

A copy of the complete job description is available on the Town of Virден Website: www.virden.ca.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, August 26, 2022 at 4:00 PM by emailing:
 Rhonda Stewart, CMMA – Chief Administrative Officer
cao@virden.ca
 Town of Virден
 236 Wellington Street West, Virден, Manitoba R0M 2C0 (204) 748-2440

Rocanville votes Yes for pool upgrade

BY KARA KINNA

Rocanville residents voted Yes in a pool referendum on July 19, meaning that the town can go ahead with its pool upgrade.

There were 262 yes votes to 64 no votes for a margin of 80 per cent to 20 per cent. A total of 327 people voted in the referendum and there was one spoiled ballot.

Voters went to the polls to vote on whether or not the town should go ahead with a major pool upgrade.

The town has received a \$1.2 million grant from the federal and provincial governments for a major pool upgrade that would include a new exterior building, new piping, a new liner, new pool decking, a new mezzanine, a new ventilation system and mechanical upgrades, among other things.

However the lowest tendered price that came in during the tendering process was \$4.1 million—much higher than the town expected, leading them to hold a referendum to ask voters if they'd like to move forward with the project as it will mean an increase to their taxes.

The town has \$300,000 committed from the RM of Rocanville for the project, \$100,500 raised to date for the project, and \$10,000 committed by the Thrift Store, but would still need to borrow \$2.6 million for the project over 10 years—an annual loan payment of \$318,318.12.

According to town council, if no other donations or fundraising money comes in for the pool, the worst case scenario would be a \$700 a year increase to every resident's taxes in Rocanville for at least three years (starting in 2023) until the town begins receiving additional potash tax sharing dollars in 2026 which it could put toward covering the annual loan cost.

Referendum question

Wording on the referendum ballot was

as follows:

I am in favor of the Council of the Town of Rocanville borrowing up to \$2,600,000 on a project that will commence in September 2022 and be completed in the fall of 2023 to carry out comprehensive upgrades to the Aquatic Centre (valued at \$4,100,000).

Legislation requires the Town to provide voters with the term of the debt, the amount of annual payment and its source of funding.

Funding plan for the town's financial commitment:

- Amount required to borrow: \$2,600,000
- Term of the Loan: 2023 - 2032
- Annual Payment: \$318,318.12

The funds required to make the annual payment for 3 years (2023 - 2025) will be generated from a property tax increase of up to a maximum of \$700/year as determined by any shortfall in expected donations, fundraising or additional grant opportunities.

The funds required to make the annual payment for the last 7 years will be generated from the increased Potash Tax Sharing Funds that begin in the year 2026 (2026 - 2032).

The referendum results are binding for three years.

Relief after referendum

Rocanville Mayor Ron Reed says it's a relief to know how the majority of residents in Rocanville feel about the pool, so that the town can now move forward with the project.

"I think people really realized that if it was a facility that went missing it would probably be something we'd never get back again," he said.

Continued on page 18

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Sask to add 150-200 addiction treatment spaces

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark recently spoke with Everett Hindley, Saskatchewan's minister responsible for addictions, about the province's plan to add 150-200 addictions treatment spaces across the province. It's possible some of the spaces may be in the south-east Saskatchewan area. The interview follows.

First of all, what is the importance of this? What made the province decide that now is the time we need to add those spaces?

Well, it was something we first talked about back last fall, if you remember back to the throne speech which basically sets the direction for the government in the months ahead, leading up to the next budget.

In the throne speech we talked about adding 150 additional treatment spaces in the province and so that's where the conversation began in terms of the actual numbers. What we know and what we found—and this isn't unique to just Saskatchewan—but we have some serious challenges when it comes to overdoses and addictions.

Part of the role of government includes prevention, it also includes harm reduction, but part of that, and I would argue a significant part, is the treatment. We know there is pressure on the existing treatment facilities in this province. Currently, through the Ministry of Health, the government funds 475 free treatment beds, also detox beds, and post-treatment beds across the province that are operated by both the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and also third parties.

So we started that conversation back last fall but then in this year's budget, which came out in March, we then actually tied some dollars to that and that helped to start the process. So this is the more formal start of the process where the Request for Proposal (RFP) has now been posted to Sasktenders.ca and that's open until September 6. We're really looking to receive submissions from groups and organiza-

tions across the province that perhaps either are existing as a third-party private operator, they might be a non-profit or whatever they happen to be, or it could be an organization that doesn't have a footprint here in the province that is interested in helping us in that regard. So we're really trying to gather some information and make some decisions as quickly as we can through the process to be able to add more treatment bed capacity across Saskatchewan.

How serious is the addictions issue in Saskatchewan?

It's pretty significant. Over the last couple of years in particular and the pandemic has definitely made things worse and we've seen the trends in other provinces as well. We see growing numbers of overdoses and overdose deaths across our province. That's really the thing, it is across our province.

Yes, the majority of the overdoses are occurring in our major centres, simply because of population, like Regina and Saskatoon. But that doesn't mean that other areas of Saskatchewan are immune to this. We see it in communities that I represent like Swift



Rural Health Minister Everett Hindley

Current and where you are in Moosomin—in smaller communities, First Nations communities, those in remote and Northern locations as well. So we're really trying to do everything we can with the dollars we have available.

"We're also trying to work with the federal government to get some clarity there as to what their role is going to continue to be in this area. We're really trying to do everything we can."

"It's such a complex challenge, that's the other thing. It's not something that can be easily fixed. It has to be flexible, it has to

have the ability to try to meet people where they're at, whether it's harm reduction services but also the treatment facilities. We have a number of existing treatment facilities. Some are government run by the SHA, through that arm of government, and some are privately run, but we know that there's demand for more of that across the province.

How far do you think the 150-200 beds will go to meeting the need?

I hope that it has a significant impact on it. I really think that it will have an impact.

What's interesting about it as well, the nature of these 150-200 treatment spaces—it's intensive therapy, it's intensive treatment. It's not the old 28-day model of treatment that we typically associate with when it comes to addictions, which was based on a model from a number of decades ago around alcoholism and that sort of thing.

The nature of what we're dealing with right now when it comes to opioids and overdoses is so much more deadly in terms of its impacts on families and communities.

Ultimately one of our best tools is treatment and trying to help people as best we can—to come up with a treatment plan that suits their individual needs. Every person is different that way in terms

of what they need and we need to address the other issues that lead to that addiction in the first place.

That's the other part of this too, there could be an individual that might not have a stable home situation or they might not have a stable job, for example, or other issues that have compounded that addiction.

So I'm hopeful that that number of treatment spaces, as quickly as we can get those going, that they will provide an impact and will help so that people are able to access treatment as quickly as they need it.

The provincial government has a request for proposals to add 150-200 treatment spaces across the province.

The government will decide in the fall in which communities the new treatment spaces will be established in.

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Jacey Lee's mother, Michelle Fredbjornson hanging up a poster at last year's Jacey Lees Memorial Race. Photo by Kim Poole.



Jacey Lee loved horses, barrel racing and hunting, among many other things.

Memorial event August 27 in Spy Hill: Annual barrel racing event in honor of Jacey Lee

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The family and friends of Jacey Lee continue to keep the memory of her alive through their second Jacey Lee Memorial Race happening on August 27 in Spy Hill this year.

"Jacey was very active, she loved barrel racing, hunting, riding in the pastures of Jetson house," said her mother, Michelle Fredbjornson.

"Family was everything to her, she enjoyed her friends. She worked at Fouillard Carpets in St. Lazare, she enjoyed her days working there, they became a family to her too."

After losing Jacey from a sudden

and unexpected tragedy last year in March, her mother said something had to be done to honor Jacey's spirit.

Fredbjornson said the doctors think Jacey passed away from an adult version of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) known as Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS) or Sudden Unexplained Nocturnal Death Syndrome (SUNDS) when it happens in adults while they sleep.

"She was completely healthy, it was one of those unexplained things in life that you don't ever expect to deal with," Fredbjornson said.

Because the 25-year-old was deeply passionate about barrel racing, horse riding, rodeo, and rounding

up cattle, her mother wanted to give others a chance to enjoy and participate in the same activities as Jacey did.

"We felt that doing the barrel racing kept her spirit alive. She was very passionate about people starting barrel racing," said Fredbjornson.

"Jacey pushed me to start barrel racing about six years ago and I'm so glad I did. She always said there should be a 5D barrel race for the beginners and that's why this barrel race is very special.

"We've made this day into a 5D barrel race so that everyone has a chance of winning a saddle."

Continued on Page 14

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Memorial event August 27 in Spy Hill: Annual barrel racing event in honor of Jacey Lee



\$70, the Youth 3D race will be \$50, and the Pee Wee barrel racing is \$15.

The event will start at 9 a.m. and continue all-day. Fredbjornson said she is thankful for the community's support and all the help she has received from volunteers in preparation for the event.

"Thank you so very much for all the sponsorship and prizes that are being donated," said Fredbjornson.

"Our goal for having Jacey's Memorial Race is truly about honouring Jacey, to have fun and it is for all levels of competitors. Let's share memories and make memories."

Fredbjornson spoke about what the day means to her.

"For me it gives me purpose to honor Jacey, it's a day of bringing her soul alive, I feel," she said.

"It's a way to get everyone together, to have fun, and honor Jacey."



Continued from Page 11

At last year's Jacey Lee Memorial Race, there were close to 400 riders at the event. Fredbjornson said she did not expect the day to be as successful as it did.

"We did the 5D barrel racing last year, and last year we had a huge amount of barrel racers," she said.

"My intention was to have maybe just 100 barrel racers show up, and it was an amazing event.

"It was a day where everyone forgot it was a competition and enjoyed the day. Everyone had smiles and memories, people were so happy to be together and honor Jacey."

Last year there was a total of \$20,000 in prizes that were awarded to the contestants.

"It was amazing, we had buckles for everyone, then we had large amount of prizes that are distributed to the contestants as well," she said.

How to register for this year's event

Entries for the races will begin on August 15 and close on August 22.

People can sign up by filling out a form on the event's Facebook Page: Jacey Lee Memorial Race.

Fredbjornson said entries for the Open 5D race will be



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Above: Some photos of the food and drinks on the menu at Rock Creek Tap & Grill.

Rock Creek Tap & Grill opening in Esterhazy

BY KARA KINNA
 Esterhazy will soon be the newest home of a Rock Creek Tap and Grill.
 The new business will be located on Park Avenue in the same building as the new liquor store.
 Apoorav Joshi is both the owner and the chef for the new business. He says he expects the restaurant to be open some time in August.
 The only other Rock Creek Tap & Grill locations in Saskatchewan are in Regina and Saskatoon. The Esterhazy location would be the fifth location in Saskatchewan.
 Joshi says he expects the new business to employ between eight to ten staff to start, and serve a menu with both bar food and fine dining options.
 "It's bar food plus fine dining. My focus is more on the bar," says Joshi. "And on Saturday and Sunday there will be a focus on fine dining so families can come out and have a good breakfast, lunch or supper. So the weekends will be kind of a

mixture. But the main focus will be more on the bar side.
 "We will also have a drive-through window. Very few fine dining or bar restaurants offer a drive-through window and lots of people prefer to pick up their food."
 "I'm also planning in the future to open in the mornings too. Not right away, but in the future I'm planning to be open in the mornings so that some of the workers working at the mine can pick up their food in the mornings easily."
 Joshi says he's excited to see the new business open and to start serving customers.
 "I have 10 years of chef experience. After Grade 10 I started cooking and did my course in cooking and my masters in business. So I am the cook also, and that's the best thing because I own the restaurant, I'll do the cooking, and I believe more in quality than quantity.
 "It's my business, it's my money that I've invested, so not just good, but excellent, customer service is my focus."

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Wapella Blackhawks will fly again this fall

BY TRAVIS LONGMAN

After a nearly 30-year hiatus, the community of Wapella could soon have a senior hockey team again.

The Wapella Blackhawks last played in the Triangle Hockey League during the 1993-1994 season. The Blackhawks were league champions in their final season. The team disbanded after the championship season but the memories never went away. For years the community had dreams of having another senior hockey team, and now that dream is one step closer to becoming reality.

A number of pieces are in place for the return of the Blackhawks. Dave Garvey will be one of the coaches, and as of last week they even have a league to play in.

"First we approached the Saskatchewan East Hockey League with a sales pitch and a bit of money to show we are serious with our application to join," Garvey says. "A couple of months went by with no word from the league and I contacted them again because I needed to know where our application stood. Players need to know where they are going to play. It's one thing to go year over year, it's another to start a team from scratch. We need to know sooner rather than later whether or not we were accepted."

"Last week we had to go to Langenburg for a meeting where we did another sales pitch along with Cote, then the SEHL had a vote. After the vote, both Wapella and Cote were conditionally accepted."

The major condition facing the Blackhawks this season is finding players. Anyone interested in playing is being asked to contact Dave Garvey (1-306-435-7694) or Karol Garvey (1-306-435-7044).

Dave is confident that enough players will step forward to ice a team in the 2022-2023 season.

"Wapella has a lot of home raised talent, past and present," Garvey says. "Our rink proudly displays league and provincial banners and memorabilia from all age categories over the years, which is a testament to the heart and determination of our players and coaches as well as the unwavering support of the fans in our community."

Having the Blackhawks back would be huge for Wapella. Right now, the rink is primarily used for figure skating, a rec hockey team and public skating.

"They put in the ice and it's a great facility for a town of its size, so to have a hockey team out there again where they play seven to nine games is huge for the community," Garvey says.

"If you have 200 to 300 fans and they pay an entry fee, then maybe have a drink or two, that's \$15-\$20 each person right there. That's huge to a small community. Hockey is a business, and just like any business, if you show them a good time people will come back for more. It might not be a hockey experience; it might just be the atmosphere of the rink."

For many small towns the rink is an integral part of the community and in Wapella that is no different.



Kim Poole photo

Moosomin Rangers players with Wapella Blackhawks jerseys during a game held at the Wapella rink last winter to honor the Wapella Blackhawks. Many of the Blackhawks alumni players were on hand at the game, some of them watching young relatives or immediate family members on the ice that night.

"Hockey is a social event and if your mental health isn't in good shape then you're not in good shape," Garvey says. "It is great for the community whether you're playing or a spectator. I feel it's great to get out with the people. I think things have changed after Covid-19. I think people have realized staying home isn't a bad thing and we do have local entertainment. If you went to the rink last winter, there were more people at the rink than there had been in five years."

Last season, five teams competed in the Saskatchewan East Hockey League. The Rocanville Tigers won the league championship in a hard-fought five-game series over the Theodore Buffalos. Whitewood, Ituna and Canora were the other three combatants in 2021-2022. As it stands right now, the belief is that the league will consist of nine teams. Wapella, Cote, Hudson Bay and Langenburg are scheduled to join Rocanville, Theodore, Whitewood, Canora and Ituna when the 2022-2023 season begins.



Kim Poole photo



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McAuley Corn Maze opens for the season



BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The McAuley Corn Maze in Southwest Manitoba is returning for the second year in a row.

The maze is about six acres and is now open to the public. There will also be a picnic table and porta potty on site for visitors to use.

"We're hoping to open August 1, the corn is a little bit behind this year with planting later, but it will be tall enough," said Alistair Pethick of McAuley.

"Last year we had a shorter maze for younger kids, where they would do the first loop and if they wanted to keep going they would go further in the maze, we'll probably do that again this year."

Pethick said it takes about 45 minutes to an hour to get through the entire maze. The corn maze is northeast of Moosomin and west of McAuley, just north of the correction line.

People can find the maze by following signs on Highway 41 south of McAuley, Highway 8 north of Moosomin, Highway 308 east of Welwyn, or by searching "McAuley Corn Maze" on Google Maps.

"The maze is for people to have fun in, it's something we just sort of thought of doing for fun. With Covid there was not a lot going on last year, but the maze did really well. We estimated about 700 to 800 people came last year, which was incredible," said Pethick.

"It's going to be bigger and better than last year, hopefully. The summer before last year we travelled in the States and went through a corn field, I always thought a corn maze would be neat. We were just joking around saying that one day we should make one, then we started growing corn a little bit on the farm, then one day just tried to make a maze out of it."

Aside from a handful of volunteers, Pethick said he and a friend are the ones who mainly prepare the maze. They started designing the route of the maze last week.

"We had a few helpers, but mostly Markie and I were helping prepare it. We mowed the corn with the lawn mower and we put some signs up," Pethick said.

"Last year we had corny jokes at every dead end in the maze and this year we're going to have something different.

"This year we also have a few different sponsors Pate-man Ag, who have planted the corn for free and supplied the corn sheets. Crossfire Oil and Ag Services already gave us a deal on bathrooms, we have a porta potty there now."

The maze is free of charge, however Pethick said the group is open to receiving donations.

"The farmers basically funded it, but any donations that come in we just invest it back into the corn maze, for better signage, maintenance, stuff like that. We're going to buy some newer picnic tables this year," Pethick said.

"The donations basically cover the cost on the signage, and advertising we do for the maze, as well as supplying garbage cans and such. The maze basically just runs itself. People were really good last year.

"It went so well last year we thought we would do it again this year. According to our feedback from last year, we seeded the corn with an air seeder and the corn itself, it wasn't very good, but this year we have much better looking corn.

"This year I think the maze will be nicer looking, and a little bit more challenging. It's nice to have for fun, it's something we can do and give back to the community."

Based on the feedback from last year's maze, Markie Morris of McAuley said they plan on having a guest book at the corn maze to help keep track of how many people come by.

She also spoke about what they plan on doing differently this year.

"Last year at every dead end we had corny jokes, this year we're doing something different but we don't want to say what it is until people get here," Morris said.

"We're doing a different layout for the maze, we'll still have picnic tables set up for people who want to enjoy their time they can go do that."

Haunted maze near end of October

Last year the group hosted a haunted maze for kids and adults to enjoy. Morris said they plan on doing it again this year in October.

"We did do a one night haunted maze last year, it turned out really great. We did a \$5 admission, I'm not sure if it's going to stay the same or if it will happen again

this year, it really happened because the community came together," she said.

"It turned out great and all the money we raised from

After a successful turnout last year, the McAuley Corn Maze opened for a second year.

that went towards the McAuley playground, I think we made about \$1,305 from the haunted maze."

Morris said they plan on hosting the event again this year.

"We're hoping to do it, if we get the support we're definitely hoping to. The regular donation money itself goes towards seeding cost and all the upkeep for the corn maze, then the money raised from the haunted maze was donated to the McAuley playground.

"It was a great turnout, we did talk about doing two nights instead of one, but because we all have small kids it will depend on who we can gather.

"It's usually near Halloween and near the end of the season for the corn maze."

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Rocanville votes Yes for pool upgrade

Continued from page 9

"There is a lot of talk already about the curling rink which was closed and came back to the town to take over recently. And people say 'remember when we used to curl in town,' and I'm thinking they didn't want to have that happen with the pool. They don't want to be telling their kids 'when I was a kid we used to take swimming lessons in town at the pool, through school, and have somewhere to go, and now it's gone.'"

"It was great support for the town. I'm just glad that the people who really felt strongly for it did show up to vote, we had a good turnout. Whatever that decision was, it was a good representation of the feelings of the town based off how many voters we had."

Reed says after a public meeting that was held on July 12, he realized there was a lot of support for the project. He says spreading awareness about the project also seemed to help.

"My personal thought kind of swayed after the town meeting, just to see all the people there that were in overwhelming support of the project. And definitely all those articles in the World-Spectator were sure a help because



there was information in there that I didn't even know. The Shelby Rushton interview was great, how she basically has a career now based on the swimming pool in Rocanville."

"My kids as well, they all have worked there in the past, and one of them has a part-time job at a swimming pool in Winnipeg while she's going to school."

"All those life lessons and just tidbits of information for people to see what the pool really meant to the community over the years, I think was a huge help. And just getting the information out there on what our plan was. Everyone took the first initial thought

of a \$700 tax increase, and then once they were given the actual information that that is a worst case scenario, I think it did sway a lot of people."

So what are the next

steps now that the project is a go?

"The next steps are to get back in touch with our engineering group, MPE, and work with them to go back to our tendered con-



Some artist renderings of what the interior and exterior of the upgraded Rocanville Aquatic Centre would look like.

tractor," says Reed. "We did get all kinds of extensions from them and let them know what our date was. So just to confirm that everything is still in place on their end and see what the timelines look like as far as the project starting."

It's just a matter of finding out from our engineering group what the next real steps are."

He says he's personally relieved to know that the town has the support from town residents moving forward.



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Moe visits SE Sask, faces barrage of questions

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe visited southeast Saskatchewan on August 4 for a public town hall meeting, and faced a barrage of questions ranging from health care issues, to the future of a senior's home in Carievale to continued masking requirements in health care facilities.

One resident expressed his gratitude for the way the provincial government has welcomed Ukrainian refugees to the province.

The meeting was held in Arcola, and Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison and Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk were on hand to answer questions as well.

A retired health care worker from Weyburn asked what the province's plan is to improve health care in rural areas.

One resident asked the premier if he has any regrets from the comments he made about people who were vaccine hesitant.

A resident spoke about Saskatchewan losing their canola crushing plant to North Dakota and said it was lost because of carbon tax.

A registered nurse commented on the shortage of nurses at the hospital she works at, and how hard it has been on frontline health care workers during the last two years.

A veterinary technologist from Redvers asked the premier if there's a plan to bring in more large animal vets due to a shortage of veterinarians for large animals in the southeast.

Regarding the questions about health care in the southeast, Premier Moe spoke about the three different plans the provincial government has for improving health care in rural communities, as well across the province.

"I 100 per cent agree. The largest concern and most immediate concern we have is human resources in our facilities across Saskatchewan, and I would even raise that to across Canada," Moe said.

"At the very highest level, all 13 premiers have asked the federal government to up the ante when it comes to being a full funding partner in health care.

"They're short, the federal government funds about 22 per cent of health care provincially delivered, but the funding formula in the original days was 50 per cent reduced to 35 per cent because there were tax points that were transferred to the provinces, and then it slipped down to 22. All 13 premiers have asked the federal government to increase that back to 35 per cent to give us some room to reinvest even more dollars into our health care.

"The challenge we have with human resources is not unique to Saskatchewan it's across Canada, but we're feeling it most certainly in Saskatchewan. What we're going to see in the early days of September is both of our health ministers will provide a lot more detail on exactly what we're proposing to do for human resources.

"If you look back about 12 years ago we had a physician shortage, and we introduced the Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan (PRAS). I think PRAS was quite a successful organization, we had over 1,000 positions in the province relative to 2007 and that was because we focused on it. We had that entity that would work



Premier Scott Moe answered questions from residents of Southeast Saskatchewan at a Town Forum in Arcola, on August 4.

closely with communities in recruiting physicians at that point in time.

"Since then we renamed it as Sask Docs and moved it over to Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) out from the ministry of health. I would say in the last seven years we lost some focus on recruiting physicians, in particular recruiting physicians from the College of Medicine right here in Saskatchewan.

"What we're looking at doing now is taking that entity, Sask Docs, and to pull it out to the ministry of health and refocusing it to what their mandate is, to not physicians solely, but to focus on all health care workers that we are in need of, which is mainly RNs at the moment in many communities.

"We're also in need of lab technicians in many communities and still needing some physicians. We can't take a back seat and not focus on our physicians and nurse practitioners. The health minister will be presenting that."

Continued on page 27

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Melville-Saltoats MLA Warren Kaeding and Saskatchewan Rural Health Minister Everett Hindley visited Esterhazy to discuss a possible new health facility for the community.

Discussion on new health facility: Hindley, Kaeding visit Esterhazy

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan Rural Health Minister Everett Hindley, Saskatchewan Health Authority officials and Melville-Saltoats MLA Warren Kaeding visited Esterhazy July 13.

The community has raised funds for a new health care facility and is waiting on funding from the provincial government to proceed.

The officials toured The Mosaic Esterhazy mine and local Health facilities.

They met with St. Anthony's Health Foundation and Esterhazy Economic Development and Council to discuss Esterhazy and area growth potential and potential of a new integrated health facility.

Esterhazy Mayor Grant Forster said there has been an ongoing process to convince the provincial government it's time for a new health facility in Esterhazy.

"It's been an ongoing thing with our Health Foundation folks," he said. "They've been dealing with various levels of SHA people and government over the last couple of years and trying to get individuals of a certain level of responsibility to come out here and take a look at the town, to get a feel for who we are and what we have, the state of our facilities, and that sort of thing. The Foundation Chair, Don Hood, and Don Bernath, the vice-chair, gave us lots of advice. They were the big pushers on this. They've been dealing with Warren Kaeding, to have him facilitate a meeting with the minister.

"It's been a two year process, if not longer. It's been certainly two years since I've been involved and it's been going on. We were finally able to pull it together Wednesday thanks to Warren's efforts in getting a commitment from Health Minister Everett Hindley to come out, and the senior staff from Sask Health."

Forster said there was a tour of the Mosaic Esterhazy mine in addition to meetings in Esterhazy.

"In the morning, individuals went on a tour underground at Mosaic K3 just to get a feel for what an underground operation is and how a need for a hospital is paramount with an operation like that.

"Then there was a tour of some of the bigger farms, they looked at the surface operations of K1 and K2. Then they had a meeting with some Mosaic individuals to wrap up the morning and then for lunch they were joined by some members of council and staff. The presentation that we made was a joint effort of town and EDC. Then the Foundation did a presentation on behalf of the Foundation as well as a local girl, Claire Norek, who was in quite a horrendous accident here a couple years back where she got hit by a truck while she was on a side-by-side. She was there and she told her story of how if it wasn't for our hospital she wouldn't be here today.

"She kicked off the afternoon session after lunch, told her story, and then the Foun-

ation had their presentation. We wrapped up the afternoon with our presentation and it basically said here's who we are and what we have in town, here's our demographics, our population is holding steady and the area population is holding steady. There are lots of kids, lots of seniors and why we need an upgraded or brand-new facility."

Forster said he thinks Esterhazy's message was heard by Hindley and the government officials.

"We felt we were very well-received by the minister as well as the senior staff," he said. "In fact, when the day ended everyone was smiling at how well it went. As we were making the presentation and watching the faces in the crowd and seeing the notes that they're taking at the specific points that we tried to make, we knew they caught the points that we were trying to make. That told us that we did a good job in that. Basically we're at that point where we're expecting some dialogue to happen between Sask Health and the Rural Health Minister, so I'm hoping that sometime soon—and realistically it's not going to happen until the next budget—but we're hoping that we've made a big enough impression between all the groups that spoke yesterday that we'll be able to get an announcement on some planning dollars, that says that the Esterhazy hospital is going to proceed."

Forster said fundraising for the facility has been going on for a long time. "The fundraising started with the charity golf tournament about 20 years ago. That was initially for raising money for equipment and then about 10 to 12 years ago the activity ramped up to start raising the money towards a new facility after Don Hood reached out and spoke to various members of government to just get some answers on what we need to do to get this going. Basically at that time it was determined that the standing requirement for any small town to be able to get an upgraded facility was a 20 per cent commitment. Our best guess is it's going to cost us somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50-60 million and we've raised in excess of \$10 million that we've raised locally. So we've met our 20 per cent commitment locally, so now we're just basically waiting on the next steps from the provincial government."

Forster said he believes Esterhazy made its case very well.

"The foundation people impressed on him that people are tired. They've been donating money, they've been donating time and things to the cause and they're frustrated because nothing has happened. He did acknowledge that he understands that there's burnout from people. They've been speaking with their wallets and nothing has been happening. To me, the fact that he made that comment tells me that he got it and understands where they're at.

"We understand that it takes a long time but we've come to that point where we need

something concrete that we can take to the people and say 'look, it's going to happen. The government is committed. They've given us X number of dollars now to begin planning and designing a facility and what we expect to see in the facility and those sort of things. That's really what we're after at this point."

Forster said he's happy the community had a chance to make its case.

"We've had our opportunity, now let's give him an opportunity to digest it and meet with his staff and the Sask Health people. Hopefully they come up with the

right answer for us. The good thing, in my mind, is that at least three of the staff that were there along with the Minister were all small-town people so we weren't a bunch of country-folk trying to convince the city-folk that you need to put a hospital in Esterhazy Saskatchewan."

Forster said he is happy to now leave the ball in the province's court.

"It's up to them, now. I believe that the next budget will be the time and I'm confident that it's going to happen. We have a lot more reason to be optimistic after yesterday's meeting than we had in the past."

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Pierre Poilievre visits Moosomin

Conservative leadership candidate Pierre Poilievre was in Moosomin August 4, where he met with a group of about 20 supporters over breakfast, and sat down for an interview with the World-Spectator. Following is the full interview:

What are you doing in Moosomin, Saskatchewan this morning? Are these meetings in Manitoba and Saskatchewan all about getting out the vote?

We've been travelling around Saskatchewan to get our supporters out to vote. So I did Prince Albert, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Weyburn, Estevan, Regina, and now here in Moosomin, then we are off to Brandon. It's good to connect with people, the rural people, the folks that do the work of the nation. I know this is a place where you produce the potash that we need for agriculture, the energy that we need for our economy and of course the agriculture itself, the ranchers and the farmers that feed us. Moosomin and area is a very important place for Canada's economy—and because of the farmers, for anybody who likes to eat.

What are you hearing from people from Saskatchewan on what they see as important issues at the federal level?

Well, they feel like the federal government is attacking Saskatchewan whether it is the carbon tax, the anti-energy policies or more recently the threat of cutting back fertilizer use by 30 per cent. All of these policies will drive up the cost of living for all Canadians, but will in particular hammer the energy producing and agricultural communities of the country. They want someone who will stand up and champion our energy and our agriculture and that is what I am going to do.

What would you do differently with the emissions caps that the federal government is proposing on the energy and agriculture industries?

I think we should incentivise farmers to become more efficient, but we have to remember that farmers have already cut back their fertilizer use because it saves money to do so. They don't use a milligram more than they need to because it costs a lot. If you are a farmer, you don't want to waste money buying and spreading fertilizer you don't need. Over time, that price incentive will continue to make farmers more efficient. However, if you have the government step in and say we are going to cut their fertilizer use by 30 per cent, that is going to have to cut back the amount of food that comes off of every acre. It is very simple, the reason you use fertilizer is because it enhances output, if you cut fertilizer without replacing it with some kind of enhanced efficiency, then you're going to have less food. If we produce less food or more expensive food in Canada, it will just mean we get more of our food from other countries. Ironically, that food has to be transported longer distances, burning more fuel, so in a sense we are doing a damage to our farmers and our environment by driving food production out of Canada to foreign jurisdictions.

Some people in agriculture and in energy are saying they feel their industries are under attack with these emissions caps. How do you go about repairing that when you have citizens of your own country feeling targeted by their own government?

Well, stop targeting them. It is pretty straightforward. We obviously need incentives to encourage all of the sectors of our economy to be more environmentally friendly, but that doesn't mean attacking our energy and agricultural sectors, and that is what the Trudeau government is doing right now. Forcing the energy sector to shrink will only drive more production in dictatorship regimes like we're seeing in Russia. Canada does not export a single drop of oil overseas or single cubic foot of natural gas overseas, because we can't get pipelines or export terminals in this country. The result is the world is increasingly reliant on dictators and Vladimir Putin is taking maximal advantage of that, using his strangle hold on the European energy market to fund his attacks on Ukraine. If we had approved some of the liquefaction facilities that investors proposed seven years ago, today, we would be exporting natural gas to Germany and breaking its dependency on Putin and we could cut Russia off from a lot of its war chest by supplying our own energy as an alternative. But it takes a government that will have clear rules to get projects approved in a reasonable time frame. That is the only way you're going to get our energy to market.

What's your vision for this country. What could this country be if we did allow a freer flow of energy exports and allowed our agriculture industry to continue to expand?

We could be the bread basket of the world. We could be the centre of responsible, environmentally friendly energy production and show the world how it is done. We have carbon capture and storage in Southern Saskatchewan that has the potential to neutralize the effects of oil and gas production. We have the most advanced treatment of workers and Indigenous populations, and we have growing technological advances every single day. We also have the ability to displace dirtier forms of foreign energy production by exporting Canadian uranium for civilian nuclear power and Canadian natural gas to replace China's coal fired electricity. All of these things would be good for the global environment while at the same time bringing paycheques home for our people.

So what is the main message you've got for conservative supporters? Why are the person for this job?

Because I have won seven consecutive elections in a big city Ontario riding and I can beat Justin Trudeau. I want to put people back in charge of their lives by making Canada the freest country on Earth.

Continued on Page 31



Pierre Poilievre being interviewed by Kevin Weedmark and Sierra D'Souza Butts at the World-Spectator office in Moosomin August 4. In centre is Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, who is Poilievre's southern Saskatchewan campaign co-organizer.

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1872 demonstrations in Canada led to rights we enjoy today

In a time when workers' rights are taken for granted and even workers' benefits have come to be expected, it's no wonder that the origins of Labour Day are confined to the history books. What evolved into just another summer holiday began as a working class struggle and massive demonstration of solidarity in the streets of Toronto.

Canada was changing rapidly during the second half of the 19th century. Immigration was increasing, cities were getting crowded, and industrialization was drastically altering the country's economy and workforce.

As machines began to replace or automate many work processes, employees found they no longer had special skills to offer employers. Workers could easily be replaced if they complained or dissented and so were often unable to speak out against low

wages, long work weeks and deplorable working conditions.

This is the context and setting for what is generally considered Canada's first Labour Day event in 1872. At the time, unions were illegal in Canada, which was still operating under an archaic British law already abolished in England.

For over three years the Toronto Printers Union had been lobbying its employers for a shorter work week. Inspired by workers in Hamilton who had begun the movement for a nine-hour work day, the Toronto printers threatened to strike if their demands weren't met. After repeatedly being ignored by their employers, the workers took bold action and on March 25, 1872, they went on strike.

Toronto's publishing industry was paralyzed and the printers soon had the



A Labor Day procession in Winnipeg in 1908.

support of other workers. On April 14, a group of 2,000 workers marched through the streets in a show of solidarity. They picked up even more supporters along the way and by the time they reached their destination of Queen's Park, their parade had 10,000 participants—one tenth of the city's population.

saw the political benefit of siding with the workers. Macdonald spoke out against Brown's actions at a public demonstration at City Hall, gaining the support of the workers and embarrassing his Liberal rival. Macdonald passed the Trade Union Act, which repealed the outdated British law and decriminalized unions. The strike leaders were released from jail.

The workers still did not obtain their immediate goals of a shorter work week. In fact, many still lost their job. They did, however, discover how to regain the power they lost in the industrialized economy. Their strike proved that workers could gain the attention of their employers, the public, and most importantly, their political leaders if they worked together. The "Nine-Hour Movement," as it became known, spread to other Canadian cities and a shorter work week became the primary demand of union workers in the years following the

Toronto strike.

The parade that was held in support of the strikers carried over into an annual celebration of worker's rights and was adopted in cities throughout Canada. The parades demonstrated solidarity, with different unions identified by the colorful banners they carried. In 1894, under mounting pressure from the working class, Prime Minister Sir John Thompson declared Labour Day a national holiday.

Over time, Labour Day strayed from its origins and evolved into a popular celebration enjoyed by the masses. It became viewed as the last celebration of summer, a time for picnics, barbecues and shopping.

No matter where you find yourself this Labour Day, take a minute to think about Canada's labour pioneers. Their actions laid the foundations for future labour movements and helped workers secure the rights and benefits enjoyed today.

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Cut canola later for higher yield

BY SHAWN SENKO
 Growers who give canola crops time for all seeds to reach maturity can see a 10 per cent increase in yield. That is why the Canola Council of Canada recommends swathing when the main stem shows at least 60 per cent seed colour change. Evidence for this later cutting time has been gathered over the years, starting with a Canola Council study from the early 2000s. Results showed that canola swathed at 60-70 per cent seed colour change (SCC) yielded 11 per cent more than fields swathed at 30-40 per cent. In 2013, Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation compared two

swath timings – 20-30 per cent and 50-60 per cent SCC – and found that waiting a week until canola reached the more advanced stage increased yields by nearly nine per cent. BASF trials found that 60 per cent SCC is the “sweet spot” for hybrids without the pod-shatter trait. For hybrids with the pod-shatter trait, BASF trials showed higher yields for canola swathed at 80 per cent and highest yields for canola straight combined. A 2020 Canola Council survey of 1,000 canola growers suggests many are cutting too early, and leaving yield on the table. Of the growers who swath all or some of their canola, the

survey found that half of them target an SCC of less than 60 per cent when deciding to swath. Growers may have reasons to cut early based on frost risk and logistics, but where possible, we’d like to see the target shift to later cutting. **What does 60% SCC look like?** At 60 per cent SCC on the main stem, seeds from the bottom third of the stem will have completely turned brown-black in colour. Seeds from the middle third will be mostly brown, with some speckling and mottling. Seeds from the top third will still be green

Maximize yield by swathing at 60% seed colour change or later

What to look for on the main stem:



canolacouncil.org Visit CanolaWatch.org for staging tips

but firm to roll. Seeds that are mushy when rolled between the thumb and finger are not physiologically mature and will shrivel up after cutting. With the main stem showing this level of maturity, seeds from side branches should also be firm to roll. If they’re not, growers may want to leave the field standing a little longer. SCC will typically increase by about 10 percentage points every two or three days (quicker under hot dry conditions, slower under cool moist conditions), so waiting a week can provide a big boost in yield and potential profit.

Uneven fields
 Canola fields with plants at varying states of maturity often have growers wondering when to cut the crop. Ideally, the least-mature areas of the field will be

left until their seeds reach physiological maturity. Swathing remains the best and least risky option to manage extreme variation in maturity, however uneven crops could be left for straight combining. While early maturing plants may start to shell out, late plants have more time to mature. And straight combining eliminates the need to make the swath timing decision at

all. Of the farmers who participated in the 2020 CCC survey, 19 per cent straight combined all of their canola acres. For more on this topic, please read “Swath later for higher yield” in the Harvest section at canolawatch.org/fundamentals.
 Shawn Senko is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada.

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly
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Local farmer concerned about future fertilizer regulations

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin farmer Mark McCorrison is adding his voice to the farmers and industry groups saying that fertilizer curbs planned by the federal government will hurt agriculture, will hurt the Canadian economy, and will ultimately lead to less food being grown and people going hungry.

The federal government has set a target of reducing emissions from fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels, by 2030.

"I'm not saying that everyone planet-wide shouldn't try and do something about it, but we aren't big enough globally to make a difference if it's just us, Canada, and then the Netherlands is doing something about fertilizer. They've had lots of protesting. We won't affect things on a global scale so it will just be taking money directly out of Canadian farmers' pockets," he says.

"The other thing is, Canada is a country that's trying to help the world but we're just going to starve third-world countries if we use less fertilizer and grow less food. Until world hunger is basically eliminated, we should probably just keep moving forward the way we are."

McCorrison says fertilizer is crucial to modern farming.

"It's crucial," he said. "I'm not saying that there aren't the odd organic farms that seem to make a living doing it, but at one time everybody organic-farmed and it wasn't working so they came up with fertilizer and chemicals to get more bushels per acre."

"If you take fertilizer out of your scenario, it is still going to cost you the same amount of manpower, the same amount of wear and tear and the same amount of diesel fuel. You'll just be putting less fertilizer down with the seeds and growing less bushels. So the cost will be there and you'll just produce less."

"It's a voluntary 30 per cent reduction at this time, so whatever you're using, which varies—fertilizer is a very personal thing with farmers. Everybody has their own blend of fertilizer that they use. Some people use more and some people use less, but ultimately it's your choice based on what you feel your land needs or what your soil testing shows you need."

"If you cut back fertilizer, the impact wouldn't be as apparent right away, but after five years it would be apparent because slowly you would be taking the nutrients out of the land and not replacing them."

McCorrison said this is not the time for the government to introduce curbs on fertilizer use.

"I just feel like we've made huge leaps and bounds. There's new kinds of fertilizer, one being called ESN, which slowly releases nitrogen throughout the year as the plant needs it, then it becomes available so that



Mark McCorrison is concerned that cutting back fertilizer usage will have a negative effect on farmers, the economy, and world food supply.

you're not maybe putting on too much at the beginning. With farmers carrying as much stress as they do, I just wish that we'd be kind of left out of things for a while."

McCorrison said the federal government has not consulted with the agriculture industry on how curbing fertilizer use would impact the industry.

"I'm not even sure where it's coming from," he said. "The federal government announced this without even

consulting any of the Saskatchewan or Western Canadian Ag leaders politically. The Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture commented saying that they weren't even consulted over this radical idea."

"Ultimately, Saskatchewan carries over 50 per cent of the brunt. It will affect Manitoba, not as much Alberta, but between those two provinces Saskatchewan has to carry the biggest cross. Over 10 years they're predicting a loss just shy of \$50 billion from the agriculture industry."

He said a drop in Canadian food production would have global repercussions.

"Not only is it hurting farming, it's hurting the global food market. And there are all those retailers that have established business and that's their livelihood—selling fertilizer. It would be a huge impact to them as well. We're kind of our own economy in agriculture. We work together, we buy fertilizer and they sell it. It would be a huge impact to them as well."

He said there is no way to reduce fertilizer usage without impacting food production.

"Definitely the more fertilizer you use the more you grow. It's maybe not instantaneous—you wouldn't see it the first year, but say over three to five years of using more fertilizer, your yield is just slowly climbing. If you want to grow 50 bushels per acre of wheat, you'll have to use so much nitrogen, so much phosphate, so much sulphur, and so much potash. Then it's also a balance of if you use more nitrogen and phosphate, then you have to use more potash to help the crop stand up. Potash is the strength in the stem so if you're using more than the other, you need to have the blend stay the same within reason. But some people have blacker dirt so their land has more natural fertilizer than other people."

"It varies area to area and it varies from farm to farm. Everybody in the area on average uses fertilizer and a fair amount of it."

Continued on page 26





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Moe visits SE Sask, faces barrage of questions

Continued from page 19

Moe spoke about the other two phases the provincial government plans on taking to improve health care across the province.

"The second step we're focusing on is training. We have increased the nurse training seats in this province from 300 in 2007 to 1,000, including the 150 nurse training seats that we had in the last budget," he said.

"That's going to take some time obviously to work through and see the fruition of that, but we need to have this agency set up so that we have someone in front of those graduates as they come out of school. We want our graduates to stay in this province, as many of them come from our communities when they go off to school.

"We've fallen down on this and we've lost focus on this over the course of the last few years. We need the training capacity and we're getting that in place. I don't know if 1,000 is the right number, as we move forward if more is needed then we have to add more, but we're almost twice as far ahead of where we were 15 years ago.

"We're also back in the immigration business, in particular when it comes to health care, even beyond health care, you talk to people who run restaurants, oil field companies, potash mines or health care facilities, they're all short of people.

"We're back in the immigration business in a big way, you would've seen the immigration ministers from across Canada get together last week. We put a proposal on the table that was equivalent of the Canada-Quebec Accord, what that allows Quebec to do and no other province has this ability, is to set the number of how many immigrants they can go out and find, then accept how many of those immigrants and what they would be recruited for.

"For example, we would set a number for how many workers we need in health care and actually go out and get them. The federal government sets those numbers for all of those provinces, we put a document on the table and we expect the federal government to sign in the not so distant future.

"Other provinces agree with this, which is called the Canada-Saskatchewan Accord, which mirrors that Quebec accord. We're 6,000 immigrants a year that are provincially selected now, a little over 3,000 are federally selected, we ask to go to 13,000 to have them all provincially selected.

Concerns about not rebuilding Carievale senior facility

A resident from Carievale asked Premier Moe what the provincial government's plan is for repairing the senior living facility in Carievale, that was burned down in a fire in January of this year.

The resident also read a letter that was written by a 15 year old from the community, that stated how important it is to have a home in the community for the seniors of

Carievale.

Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison responded to the question.

"I believe the fire happened mid-January and it destroyed the boiler room, it did significant damage to the south and north end of the villa," Harrison said.

"When the insurance came back, I think the number was \$1.6 million to repair the villa. Sask Housing Corporation self-insures portion of the villa, they also have third party insurance as well, which I think was almost \$1.2 million of insurance. The difference is what they weren't going to extend themselves to repair.

"I've worked with two ministers now, we're going to try and see if we can do something. The other situation Sask Housing Corporation is concerned with is vacant suites. We'll work to get that rectified."

Premier Moe asked the resident to come and speak with him after the Town hall meeting to talk about potential solution for the villa in Carievale.

Resident asks about former provincial vaccine mandates

One resident asked the premier if he has any regrets from the comments he made about people who were vaccine hesitant.

"Some of the conversations we had as your government caucus, what were some great challenges over the course of the past two years, but sure, would I mind taking some of my words differently, yes," Moe said.

"Here's some context to the vaccine passport systems and as to why we made the decisions that we did. We had numerous caucus discussions about significant costs discussions, we in this province have 79 ICU beds, at that point in time we had 135 people with Covid in those ICU beds.

"We had a trajectory of cases that said that number was going to immediately increase, we were at negotiations with Ontario to take 30 of those patients into a bed in Ontario. In addition to having the 135 people who had Covid with the 79 ICU beds we have across

the province, we shut down essentially all of our non urgent surgeries because we couldn't take any more people into ICU departments.

"We still had 40 or 50 people who had all the necessary surgeries that needed to occur and who also needed an ICU bed. That was the situation we were faced with, an upward trajectory with more people coming into those beds and we were moving our resources into those areas.

"I will address another area which is a big controversial issue as well, with respect to the Emergency Act we had in the province which was implemented for very different reasons than what the federal Emergency Act was implemented for. We appeared before the federal committee, we don't think the federal government should've implemented it and we don't think they had the reasons for why they did.

"If you read the front page of our Provincial Emergency Act it goes through all the reasons to why you could implement the Emergency Act for. On the second page is to why you actually implement it and what the Emergency Act is in place for.

"We needed to direct people in our health care system, our human resources, to vaccination and to our ICU departments, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority doesn't have the ability to do that. They negotiated that right away, a couple decades ago.

"In private industry when you say (to an employee) you have to go over and do that, the health authority doesn't have the ability to do that, and that's why we had the Emergency Act in place so we could actually populate the areas and use our human resources where they were required, mainly in the ICU department in various places across the province.

"Not all of you will agree with the decisions, I think in fairness we had a pretty robust discussion coming from all sides as well as with our caucus. These weren't easy decisions, we tried to make the best decisions that we could with the information that we had at that point in time."

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An eventful summer in Saskatchewan

"The boys are missing!" That is not what you want to hear from your 11-year old grandson when you have two other grandsons camping with you at the lake. Gramps and I jumped out of bed and raced all 12 feet to the sofa pull-out where we had put all three to bed some five hours earlier.

Fortunately we hadn't lost any young boys - the two presumed missing ones were snuggled under the covers in a deep sleep and the one who thought his twin brother and younger cousin had vanished sheepishly crawled into bed and went back to sleep.

Yes, summer finally arrived in Saskatchewan and after a late start and finished to seeding, we headed to the lake to enjoy some great fishing! The twins were determined they would catch the "big" one that got away last year and wouldn't you know, we had just thrown our hooks in when Wyatt caught something! And it was big! With his rod bent right over, even I stepped in to assist. Trying to reel that thing in took everything we had and finally Gramps had to use brute strength to bring up what had to be a whale-sized fish. Well it wasn't whale-sized and it wasn't even a fish but rather a two-foot square piece of carpet.

Last year's 'big one' never did materialize and after a couple of great weeks at the lake we thought we better head home and regroup.

That night, like many other nights this year, the sky lit up with lightning, the thunder literally rolled and the wind made its mark on Saskatchewan. Losing power is one thing but losing trees and shingles and bins and who knows what all was downright disheartening.

The day after a particularly nasty storm and just mere hours after my brother and his family left on vacation, we

The Lighter Side of
Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM

by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
dl_beutler@yahoo.ca



went to check his farmyard only to find bins over and the old hip roof barn in pieces all over the yard. "Do I need to come home," he asked. "No," I said. We picked up all the barn wood strewn all over the yard and left the big old roof part right where it was for when he gets home. "I didn't want you to miss out on any of it," I told him alongside the pic I texted him. "We left some for you to do!" As for the bins that toppled, yeah, we left those for him too.

It's been an incredibly challenging year on the farm between wet fields, flea beetles, rain, hail, wind and hail. Hubby, even at the lake, is thinking mostly about the crops. How much rain did we get and how much of the crop is lodged.

The farm grands were busy in the spring as they prepared for the local and regional 4-H shows and sales and I came home for the local to watch them show their

steers. And while I beam with pride at these youngsters and their 4-H peers, you will see me making a quick exit long before regional. This part of the business when the steers are sold is tough on me. After all, if it was up to me, I would keep all steers for pets forever!

Our 13-year-old granddaughter had a "sad" day at the lake the day the steers were going to butcher and she was glad she wasn't at the farm. I was totally in tune with her that day. Her twin brothers on the other hand were a bit more matter-of-fact about it all. "Should be dead by now," one says. "Yup, somebody will soon be enjoying great steak!" Said the other. Alrighty boys, let's just leave it at that. And they grabbed their fishing rods and headed for the boat. "Come on Grandpa, let's get going!"

As I write this, my daughters and their kids and I have just arrived in Calgary. All seven of us in one vehicle and we are all still sane—that's something! Our objective, after the past two Covid years, is to see some family including my dad, now 92 and doing really well. As we pulled into Calgary, the call comes, "I have Covid," he says between raspy coughs and I can't help but think, what are the chances? Oh well, perhaps an outdoor kind of visit will be in the works and hopefully he will be just fine!

Soon, lake time will end and our thoughts will turn to harvesting but not in early August like the last few years. Harvest is a ways off and while rain is better than no rain, so most say, I am hoping we won't have to deal with combines and semis getting stuck in the field.

I know we are a long way from the bin just yet, fellow farmers but here's hoping the rains and those nasty storms ease up and that the end result is a positive one!

Producers can adapt to the new economic reality in Canadian agriculture

Canada's agriculture industry is in a good position to weather inflationary pressures and higher interest rates, according to Farm Credit Canada's chief economist.

"We are in a unique position where record farm revenues are helping to offset the impact of a sharp increase in input costs and rising interest rates," J.P. Gervais said. "The key for producers is to pay close attention to projected income and expenses to avoid any cash flow challenges that could put pressure on operations."

"The ability to service debt is arguably the most critical financial risk indicator for a farm operation," he added.

FCC's most recent projections suggest farm cash receipts could climb 15.9 per cent to \$96 billion in 2022, driven by robust commod-

ity prices and prospects of much stronger crop yields than last year. This would surpass the 2021 record high, which was itself an increase of 14.9 per cent over 2020.

"Even if our projections were more modest, the Canadian agriculture industry certainly seems financially healthy and in a good position to weather inflationary pressure and higher interest rates," Gervais said.

Yet, operations will need to adjust to farming under higher interest rates - a situation unlike the one experienced for the last 15 years. The Bank of Canada increased its overnight rate by 2.25 per cent in the span of five months and further incremental increases are expected within the year.

Inflationary pressures on farm inputs are widespread. Fertilizer prices

saw a year-over-year increase of at least 50 per cent, and even more than doubled in some cases. Feed prices climbed more than 40 per cent year-over-

year and farm fuel has increased by more than 35 per cent. Inflationary pressures on farm inputs have dampened the outlook and contributed to an over-

all increase in farm debt, which rose by 7.1 per cent to \$129 billion at the end of 2021.

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Producers can adapt to the new economic reality in Canadian agriculture

Continued from Page 28

Gervais recommends producers test various scenarios regarding commodity and farm input prices, yields and interest rates to better understand their financial risk exposure. They can then identify different strategies to mitigate those risks if they find themselves in situations that exceed their risk tolerance.

"If a producer is already carrying significant financial risk, then reducing the risk of rising interest rates may be a prudent strategy," Gervais said. "I'm

not saying that everyone should lock in, but every producer needs to understand how different scenarios could play out and to do what's right for their business."

By sharing economic knowledge and forecasts, FCC provides solid insights and expertise to help those in the business of agriculture and food achieve their goals. For the most recent economic insights and analysis on farm cash receipts, interest rates and inflation, visit FCC Economics at fcc.ca/Economics.



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Wagantall questions the federal government's reducing emissions plan for Canada's agriculture sector

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
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Cathay Wagantall, MP for Yorkton-Melville, Saskatchewan shared her thoughts regarding the federal government's plan for reducing emissions arising from the application of fertilizer in Canada's agriculture sector.

Outlined in the Government of Canada 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) stated a national target to reduce levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, arising from fertilizer application by 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030.

"I'm hearing farmers in the southeast are facing so many challenges already and this is just another one," Wagantall said.

"With the increased tariffs on the fertilizer and now the government telling them they have to cut back an arbitrary number in regard to the amount of fertilizer they use when it's not connected to any other metrics, is concerning.

"Their ability to further cut back and still maintain the amount of food when the food security issue is huge now, more than it has ever been. This will impact farmers ability to create large crops, the costs of inputs are increasing and at the same time they will end up with less product.

"There is a great deal of concern of how it will go no question, and they're reducing it by 30 per cent by 2030, that's the target for now, but we have heard as high as 75 per cent by 2050.

"Of course you ask yourself what is motivating this decision and it's not just our prime minister, you're seeing this internationally with the Netherlands as well. It's destroying the ability of the major agriculture producers in the world to provide this need."

It is unclear why the government decided on the figure of 30 per cent as their national target for reducing fertilizer usage, Wagantall said.

"We've met with Fertilizer Canada, they've crunched all the numbers and have asked why this number, and there's no explanation of it, other than it will help the government get to lower emissions by 2030," she said.

"We have to do our part which is what we're hearing, I was at Ag in Motion last week, I understand the minister was there for a short time, but how they can't see the damage they're doing versus what incredible innovation is taking place. Farmers have enough to stress without adding this on top of other burdens."

The federal government's ERP also focuses on putting a cap-and-trade system (under the Cana-



YORKTON-MELVILLE MP
CATHAY WAGANTALL

dian Environmental Protection Act) that sets a regulated limit on emissions from the oil and gas sector. Although the oil and gas sector accounts for 27 per cent of Canada's 2020 GHG emissions, the agriculture sector accounts for 10 per cent.

Wagantall was asked why she thinks the federal government is targeting the agriculture sector to help reduce Canada's overall GHG emissions.

"A country can't really function without fuel and food, I have no explanation for that. Obviously they think it's crucial to their mandate, but it's contrary to how hard everyone has been working to do this pro-actively," she said.

"The whole issue is a huge environmental issue, everyday Canadians are at a place where they want to see and take good care of our environment, but it's not sustainable. It's a push with oil and gas, obviously a push to what they call green energy sources and some of them definitely are, small nuclear reactors stuff like that, but there's enough proof that they're willing to share that these new methods are more environmentally friendly. They're not presenting the actual environmental costs of moving into those other particular producing energy."

Wagantall stated how these national targets may impact Saskatchewan and Canada's overall economy.

"Currently the state we were in, as the lack of investment in our country prior to Covid, I thought was absolutely frightening. It just gets worse and worse because they're limiting our ability to be productive as a nation," Wagantall said.

"In Saskatchewan we're an exporting province, our population is small for what we produce. We have the capacity, with high quality products, to make a difference in the world. From a different route, we would deal with a lot of the issues around energy security, food security, and environment protection. This to me does not appear to be about those things."

Recently the federal government backed down on a

proposal to require warning labels on ground beef and poultry after receiving public outcry for an exemption.

Wagantall was asked if the government could change their approach on these emissions caps if the agriculture industry reacts in a similar manner.

"They're picking their winners and losers and creating crisis then appearing to listen, which they did in that circumstance and reasoned to reason there," she said.

"Obviously their ap-

proach on reducing fertilizer is going to impact our ability to produce food, and impact our livestock industry as well. We just look at it and there's so many things where there's not a solid rationale that focuses on improving the welfare of the citizens."

Wagantall said she is not sure if reducing emissions in Canada's agriculture sector will make a difference globally.

"That's an argument I bring to the classroom all the time to ask students. We have informed them that

it's good to care, and we do too, but we are such a small sliver of the overall picture. If Canada was to do this, what is that impact on the international need for control of greenhouse gasses?

"If we took away our entire economy, which it feels like is happening, would that end this climate change crisis? I tell them we need to continue what we're doing without tax measures, or regulations being forced on us by the government, to continue what we're doing, but let's sell to the world our capabilities, our

carbon capture, the way we apply our fertilizer.

"At AG in Motion, I was able to see the innovation from a drone from a Saskatchewan farmer who's developed the ability for the lightweight drones to carry a crop spray and apply it to particular weeds. The emissions from that are significantly less in that method, developed to where they can make it financially feasible. It just shows that we're motivated already without this draconian approach to somehow save the world."

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Pierre Poilievre visits Moosomin

Continued from Page 21

Recent polls are showing a shift of young voters to the Conservative Party, with a significant shift in the last few months. Why do you think that shift is happening?

I think young people want to take back control of their lives. Many 35-year-olds are stuck living in their parents' basements because housing has been too expensive. Youth feel like they can't afford food or fuel, and the opportunities that their parents took for granted are no longer available for them. What I am offering in my campaign is to put young people back in charge of their lives by removing the government gatekeepers that prevent us from building homes and producing energy and food here in Canada. That will give young people the chance to have an affordable life, with paycheques that can buy them the things they need. I am going to incentivise the cities to speed up their building permeates so we get more houses built. We have the fewest houses per capita of any G7 country even though we have the most land to build on. That's because of bureaucracy. I am going to incentivise the rule of that bureaucracy so young people can afford their own home. I am going to cut income taxes so young people keep more of their paycheques and I am going to stop all of this government money printing, which has caused the 40 year high of inflation. Young people suffer more from inflation than anyone as they don't yet have assets. If you have assets, those assets go up in value, and as the cost of living goes up you can at least hedge against it, but if you are just new out of your parents' home and you're 23 or 24 and you're renting a 400-square-foot apartment, you get higher rent payments, you get higher food and higher energy costs, but you don't have any corresponding stocks, land or other assets to hedge against that. Young people need an end to inflation, it is their only chance to climb the economic ladder. That is what I am fighting for, to tackle inflation by making the government affordable so life is affordable.

If you become Prime Minister, what would be your plan for tackling climate change?

I am going to incentivise carbon cap-

ture and storage, reward farmers for the carbon capture that they do on their properties with no-till farming and other advanced techniques that actually capture carbon from the atmosphere and sink it back into the Earth. I am going to encourage our nuclear sector to provide more of our electricity with zero-emitting nuclear power and I am going to incentivise large industrial corporations to reduce their emissions so we can reduce the greenhouse gases, but without a carbon tax. I also think we need to export more clean Canadian energy to the rest of the world and displace dirtier forms. For example, Saskatchewan has the world's biggest supply of uranium, we can export that uranium for nuclear facilities in Asia that would replace coal fired facilities there with emission-free nuclear power, which is the single most effective way to provide a zero emission base load electricity supply. I would encourage those exports as well.

What are the dynamics of the leadership race right now? You've sold a lot of memberships. What do you need to do from now to September 6 to seal the deal?

Get everyone to vote! It's that simple and that is what we are doing. We are having voting parties and every time we have a rally now we ask people to bring their ballots. They're allowed to drop them off and then we send them in to the party to count. So get out, vote! If you got your ballot, fill it out today and throw it in the mail.

You have been getting some pretty big crowds for your events. What is it about your message that you think is resonating with people?

I think people want to take back control of their lives. A big, bossy government has taken people's money and told them what to do and people feel powerless. They want to reclaim control of their lives. The ability to make their own medical decisions, to work hard and earn a great living, to buy a home, to start a career, to afford nutritious food, and that's what I am running on and people are responding to that.

If you win, how do you go about uniting the party after the race?

We have to be a big tent party where everybody is welcomed. We also have to unite around a principle, which for me is freedom. Fiscal conservatives want economic freedom. Freedom to control their money, start businesses without the government in their way. Social conservatives want the freedom to raise their kids with their own values. Libertarian conservatives want freedom of speech and other personal freedoms. Progressive conservatives want freedom for immigrants, women, Indigenous peoples, gays and lesbians to live their own lives without discrimination. Rural conservatives want the freedom to enjoy their land and responsibly use their firearms. All of these different parts of the Conservative Party have different views and disagreements naturally, but they're all united by that single principle of freedom and that is the principle that I will use to unify our movement as we take on the Liberals in the next election.

If you're elected leader, I am sure the other parties will be attacking you as an extremist. How will you defend yourself against those attacks?

I will just tell people what I actually plan to do, and the people will agree with my policies. My policies are very popular, that is why I have been able to win so many people over. That is why the polls are showing young people moving from the NDP to the Conservatives. I think most Canadians will find my platform very attractive. The opportunity to start a life here in Canada is the reason why we attract 300,000 plus immigrants every year. I am going to sign deals with the provinces to speed up recognition of foreign credentials so our foreign newcomers can actually work in the fields for which they were trained as doctors, engineers, electricians, rather than being shut out by gatekeepers. I am going to get the cities to approve more housing so our young people have a chance to have a home. I am going to lower the cost of energy, tackle inflation, I think these are all pretty common sense ideas that most Canadians can accept.

Why are you in politics? There's got to be easier ways to make a living.

There are easier ways I am sure! But I believe in what I am doing. I want to give people back control of their lives. I think small government makes for big citizens. I believe individuals and their families should have maximal freedom to decide for themselves, to spend their own money as they wish, and politicians and bureaucrats should get out of their way and let them do it.

What can you tell us about yourself as a person? From news reports and social media posts, the public doesn't get a clear idea of who a politician really is.

Although I have been elected seven times in Ontario, I am actually from Western Canada. My mother grew up in Saskatoon, my dad grew up in Leoville, Saskatchewan. They married in Saskatoon and moved to Calgary in '77 and they adopted me in '79. I was born of a 16-year-old unwed mother who lost her own mom, so she put me up for adoption. I was raised in Calgary and moved to Ottawa when I was 21 or 22 and I got elected to parliament in 2004. I have two little kids, the youngest is almost one and the other is almost four. My wife is Anaida and she is a refugee from Venezuela. She has been a political assistant for a senator and another member of parliament. We live just south of the Ottawa airport.

Despite all the hard work, you must enjoy politics. What do you like about it?

I do. Like Michelangelo had said when he was painting the Sistine Chapel, "It's agony and ecstasy." It's ups and downs, but I think that the way you get through hardship in life is doing something you believe in, because it gives you a sense of purpose. Life is more than just a pleasure factory, you have to make sacrifices to do things that are worthwhile that you are proud of when you look back on them. That's why I do it.

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Highway 9 North Carlyle, SK 306-453-6773 www.carlylerv.com

Our prices include freight, dealer PDI, battery, full propane, hoses, etc. PLUS A COMPLETE WALK-AROUND TO THE PURCHASER!!

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm