

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Eng pledges \$20,000 to Rocanville hall

Former Rocanville resident, James Eng, is now a successful accountant living in Toronto. He says Rocanville gave his family their start in a new country. Now he wants to give back.

BY KARA KINNA

A lot has changed for James Eng and his family.

Today, Eng is a successful accountant working in Toronto. But when he moved to Rocanville from Hong Kong with his family in 1969, at the age of nine, he could hardly speak any English and his family didn't have a lot of resources.

"At that time Hong Kong had four million people, and we moved to a town of 1,000, so it was quite a culture shock," says Eng.

"We had the typical immigrant story. We ran the local restaurant that was there. Everybody was just so good. From when I was nine years old until I finished high school, all my years I spent there, I have nothing but fond, fond memories of how the town treated us and just the time and experience I had there.

"I have always felt that both the town and people opened up to a new immigrant family."

It is for that reason that Eng has decided to pledge \$20,000 to the new Rocanville hall that is being built. Eng says that the town helped him and his family get started and established in a new and foreign country, and now he wants to give back to the community that gave his family that boost.

After coming to Rocanville at age nine, Eng stayed until he graduated high school there in 1977.

He still remembers the care and consideration that was given to him at school and by the community.

"Being an immigrant, things were a little bit different. In school when we came, my English was pretty well non-existent. But coming from Hong Kong my math was quite good. I still remember my Grade 4 teacher, Mrs. Arnold, she said to me 'there's no point in you taking math because you are way ahead of everybody else.' So she actually spent every single day preparing a private English lesson for me.

"I listened to a tape recorder to improve my English at the back of the class when we were doing regular math class.

"This is how much time and dedication the teachers put in all throughout high school—the warmth that we got."

Eng says it was easy for him to get involved in the community and in local sports.

"Being in a small town you don't really have to be that good to be on all the sports teams but you are always welcome. I played hockey, I curled, I was on the baseball team, volleyball, basketball—the all-inclusiveness of it just really impressed me."

He says the town also supported his family's business—the Apollo restaurant which still exists today.

"In '69 when we came that's when one of the Apollo missions went off, so we thought that would be a great name. It's great to hear it's still around.



A photo of James Eng in Toronto taken recently by one of his old friends from Rocanville while visiting Eng.

"In every turn the community has really supported us well. First of all they supported our restaurant all these years. We could not have thrived in Toronto without those initial years building up our financial resources in a small town.

"This is why we have to remember. You read a lot of stories about how Saskatchewan is losing population and a lot of communities are dying off. I thought this is a perfect opportunity to put something back into the community. With a facility like that it will help attract other surrounding areas' activities and hopefully the town will be around for a long, long time."

Eng says he remembers his high school

graduation being held in the old Legion Hall in Rocanville.

"Our high school graduation was in the Legion hall. When Herb (Park) told me about this opportunity to build a new hall, I thought there's no better reflection of my appreciation to say I think that is great for the community. It's something that is good for everybody and I was more than willing to help out in the cause."

Eng's family left Rocanville and moved to Toronto in 1976 with Eng staying behind to finish his Grade 12 year in Rocanville.

"I graduated in 1977 and then when I graduated I moved to Toronto. That's where my family was already settled.

Mom and Dad sold the restaurant one year before I left. I actually finished high school by myself in Rocanville. I rented the old Anderson house—\$120 a month back in those days," he says with a laugh.

Eng still maintains connections to Rocanville to this day, keeping in touch with a number of his old classmates.

"I had a unique situation. I had more classmates than the regular person," says Eng. "When I first came, because my English was not good, I was put behind two classes. And I worked hard, so literally I went from Grade 6 to Grade 8 to Grade 10.

"So I got to be friends with my three different groups of classmates. A lot of times you grow up with the same people from Grade 1 to Grade 12. I had this opportunity to be classmates with three different years.

What kind of connection does he still have to Rocanville?

"My connection is that I still keep in touch with a handful of friends there.

"What I found is that when you make friends when you are young—when everybody kind of doesn't have anything—that friendship is much more lasting. Being in Toronto, in a big city, being in business, you make friends now, but it's a different type of friendship—the type of friendship where you think 'does this guy want to get to know me because he wants to kind of know my connections to get this and that.' But back in those days it was just pure friendship. We did lots of crazy things together. And that kind of bond you create, that has lasted all these years."

Eng also came back for the town's centennial celebration and brought his son.

"I made sure I brought my son out to kind of let him know how it was back in my day, just to show him that you guys have things a little bit easier now. But it wasn't always like that. We used to have to work over our lunch break. From school we'd go to the restaurant (to work) and that's the busiest time.

"There was my brother and I. My brother worked in the kitchen and I worked out front. Most of the time we didn't even get lunch. We'd be busy, but that's just the way it is. You have a family business and we'd be grateful that people would come in and give us business.

"I just have a very overall fond, fond memory of the time I spent in Rocanville."

When Eng found out about the new hall that Rocanville plans to build, he knew he wanted to help.

"Four years ago I went back and I saw the school had some needs and I gave a small donation to the school. But I thought that is not quite reflective of my appreciation," he says.

"Herb explained the whole budget for the project, and in the overall scheme of things \$20,000 is still not a big amount compared to the overall cost.

Continued on page 8

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Easton starts season with Regina Thunder

BY JULIA DIMA

Jack Easton of Wawota began his football career not too long ago in his grade 10 year with the Moosomin Generals. Though he was always athletic, football was not a sport he played until a cousin encouraged him to join, and he fell in love with the game.

"I can't thank him enough for nagging me to get out there because I've loved it ever since," Easton says.

This spring, Easton decided to try out for the Regina Thunder, part of the Canadian Junior Football League. Easton is attending the University of Regina this fall, and knew that after his two years as a defensive lineman with the Generals, he didn't want to stop playing football. He was encouraged to try out for the Thunder, and attended both Thunder and Regina Rams training camps. At the first Thunder camp, over 200 players, veterans of the team re-trying, and rookies, came out, and about half of the prospects were eliminated. Easton made the cut, and attended the spring camp in May, where 125 players were again vying to make it to the next level.

"There were a lot of top notch football players, it was a week-long practice, it was tough and you have to grind through it, but it was an awesome experience, getting into the flow of how a semi-pro calibre team runs," Easton says. "I felt like I was in the hot seat—there were a lot of other rookies there keeping me accountable, so with every rep, I had to give 110 per cent, or I was risking getting cut."

Easton says he didn't feel confident after the spring camp, but one of his coaches at that camp called him, and encouraged him that he'd performed well, and broke the news that Easton was among the 90 players who were moving on.

The next camp, where the final roster was decided, took place between July 31 and August 8, but between May and August, Easton was not sitting idle—he joined Team South Sask for the Senior Bowl, where the south and north teams face off. After that match, the top players from both teams are selected to form a team to play in the Saskota Bowl, where



Photos courtesy of Regina Thunder Football Club

Above: Jack Easton in his Regina Thunder jersey after he made the team.

the Saskatchewan team played against Team North Dakota in Cando, North Dakota.

Easton says it was exciting to be considered good enough to play on the Saskota team, and though they did not win their match in North Dakota, the practices and games kept him sharp in the off-season.

"It was a really good calibre of football, and we adjusted to play US rules down in North Dakota, so it was a good way to get the feel for NFL rules," Easton says. "I was pretty excited to still be able to keep in the swing of things so I didn't lose my touch going into the fall camp for the Thunder."

Easton went into the fall camp feeling ready to give it his all, and do his best in the exhibition game played on August 8

that wrapped up the camp.

He says that his fellow rookie defensive lineman, Carson Bell, kept him motivated to prove himself at the camp.

"He's a really good defensive lineman, always keeping me accountable—we battled with each other to keep each other honest at that camp," Easton says.

The next day, participants in the camp had a nerve-wracking way of knowing if they'd made the team. People who did not make the cut were to receive a phone call. If that phone call never came through, they were expected to be at the first practice that afternoon.

"I was sitting at home waiting for that phone call all morning, just hoping that phone didn't ring," Easton recalls. "I was

just running through all the mistakes I made—thinking I did this or that wrong and it could have cost me. I wasn't able to remember the positives and the good things I did in the exhibition game."

Despite his nerves, Easton's phone never rang, and he, along with around 20 rookies, and the returning veterans, met for practice that afternoon.

"Coach (Scott) MacAulay took us out to the field and we gathered as a group, and he said, 'look amongst the people here—you guys are the 2015 Regina Thunder.' After he said that, it just kind of sunk in that I made the team, and that I am good enough to play at this level," Easton says. Since that day, it's been non-stop football.

Easton moved to the city for university just before the fall camp, and started the rigorous practice regimen—leading up to their first game, the Thunder were practising every day.

"It was definitely a change from the Generals for sure—going from two practices a week to training every day with the Thunder is a big change," Easton says. "I am really enjoying it so far. There's nothing more I can ask for. I am playing elite football with a bunch of good guys. They are really open and accepting and make it feel like a family—I feel like I fit right in."

The Thunder opened their season with an at-home victory at Mosaic Stadium over the Winnipeg Rifles, 49-32.

After a tough season last year, MacAulay played his best veterans to ensure the rest of the league knew the Thunder were there to win. Because of that, rookies like Easton got less field time. Still, Easton did have a chance to get in a few plays near the end of the game.

"In my first rep, I got a tackle, so I was pretty excited about that—we had some trouble in the first quarter, our starting quarterback was injured, so the rookie quarterback went in and played an amazing game," Easton says.

Another exciting moment for him was stepping onto the field as a Regina Thunder player for the first time.

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 5.7L, Leather, Loaded, Well Accessorized, 50,000 kms, Pearl
WAS: \$43,995 SALE: \$42,995

2013 Ram 1500 Laramie 1500 Quad 4x4
 STOCK# 15215A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, Loaded, 21,000 kms, White
WAS: \$35,995 SALE: \$34,995

2013 Ram Sport Quad 4x4
 STOCK# 15195A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, Remote Start, 95,000 kms, Blue
WAS: \$29,995 SALE: \$28,995

2012 Ram 1500 Reg Cab 4x4 SXT
 STOCK# 15197A
 4.7L, V8, A/C/T, Work Truck, Manual Windows, 63,000 kms, Blue
WAS: \$17,995 SALE: \$19,995

2012 Ram 1500 SLT Crew Cab 4x4
 STOCK# U576638A
 5.7L, Hemi, Cloth, Pwr Seat, Remote Start, 89,000 kms, Silver
WAS: \$24,995 SALE: \$23,995

2012 Ram 1500 SLT Plus Quad 4x4
 STOCK# 15177A
 5.7L, A/C/T, PDL, PW, Pwr Seat, 81,000 kms, Red
WAS: \$25,995 SALE: \$24,995

2012 Ram 1500 Reg Cab 4x4 SXT
 STOCK# 15199A
 5.7L, Auto, A/C/T, PDL, PW, Bench Seat, 95,000 kms, White
WAS: \$23,995 SALE: \$20,995

2012 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab 4x4
 STOCK# 15181A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, 105,000 kms, White
WAS: \$32,995 SALE: \$29,995

2011 Ram 1500 Sport Quad 4x4
 STOCK# 15148A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, 98,000 kms, Grey
WAS: \$25,995 SALE: \$24,995

2009 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab 4x4
 STOCK# 15217A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, Loaded, 168,000 kms, White
WAS: \$21,995 SALE: \$19,995

2009 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab 4x4
 STOCK# 15182A
 5.7L, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats, Loaded, 104,000 kms, White
WAS: \$22,995 SALE: \$21,995

2008 Ram 1500 SLT Quad 4x4
 STOCK# 15160B
 5.7L, Hemi, Leather, Sunroof, Loaded, 215,000 kms, Grey
WAS: \$10,995 SALE: \$9,995

2014 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ Crew 1500
 STOCK# 15176A
 5.3L, V8, Leather, Loaded, Remote Start, 70,000 kms, Black
WAS: \$42,995 SALE: \$41,995

2014 Ford F-150 Supercrew Lariat 4x4
 STOCK# 15239A
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2011 GMC Terrain SLT AWD
 STOCK# 15207A
 Leather, Loaded, Heated Seats, Remote Start, 81,000 kms, Sandstone
WAS: \$24,995 SALE: \$23,995

2011 Chevrolet Equinox FWD
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2010 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ
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 3.6L, Leather, Heated Seats, Remote Start, Sunroof, 109,000 kms, White
WAS: \$22,995 SALE: \$21,995

2009 Ford Edge Sport AWD
 STOCK# 15211A
 V6, Leather/Suede Seats, Loaded, 172,000 kms, Blue
WAS: \$14,995 SALE: \$13,995

2009 Jeep Compass 4x4 North
 STOCK# 1524A
 2.4L, 4 Cyl, Auto, A/C/T, Pwr Options, 185,000 kms, Sandstone
WAS: \$11,995 SALE: \$8,995

2008 Jeep Wrangler Sahara Unlimited
 STOCK# 15121B
 V6, Standard, A/C/T, Leather, Loaded, 4x4, 124,000 kms, Maroon
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2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo
 STOCK# 15118A
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WAS: \$9,995 SALE: \$8,995

2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT
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2014 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus
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WAS: \$24,995 SALE: \$23,995

2012 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT
 STOCK# 15203A
 3.6L, Auto, A/C/T, Rr Heat/air, Pwr Seat, 206,000 kms, Black
WAS: \$14,995 SALE: \$13,995

2012 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus
 STOCK# 14171A
 3.6L, All Power Options, Leather, Loaded, 94,000 kms, Silver
WAS: \$23,995 SALE: \$22,995

2007 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT
 STOCK# U519774A
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WAS: \$7,995 SALE: \$6,995

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Moosomin Amazing Race planned

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The organizers behind Moosomin's Doctor Davidson Park are planning a Moosomin Amazing Race as a fundraiser for the new park.

Doctor Davidson Park is being developed on a triangle of land at the intersection of Hussein Drive and Windover Avenue.

Hussein Drive is named in honor of Dr. Shaukat Hussein. Doctor Davidson Park is named in honor of Dr. Barrie Davidson. The two doctors provided medical services in Moosomin for years. The street and park have been developed on the site of the former Moosomin Union Hospital, which was replaced by the Southeast Integrated Care Centre.

Doctor Davidson Park will include park benches and a sign built of bricks salvaged from the former hospital, honoring the doctors and their contributions.

Moosomin's Amazing Race is slated for Saturday, October 3, with a 9 a.m. start. The event is expected to last five to six hours.

Up to 30 teams of four will compete at 15 different stations. There will be a \$200 entry fee for each team.

Pansy Taylor and Alice Abrahamson are planning the Amazing Race.

How did they come up with the idea for Moosomin's Amazing Race? "We needed an amazing fundraiser," says Taylor.

"It looks like such fun on TV we thought it would be fun to do," adds Abrahamson.

The pair have lots of ideas for what individual stations in Moosomin's Amazing Race might look like.

"If we had a station at the bowling alley, people may



have to get a strike while blindfolded, or may have to bowl through their legs or on their knees," Taylor explained, giving one example.

"The team would go station to station, and once they complete the challenge at one station, they move on to the next one."

Besides the 15 stations with individual challenges, there will be one ongoing challenge completed throughout the town.

"For some of the challenges, not every team member has to complete it. At some of the stations, each team member will have to do one of the four things at the station," Taylor explains.

The women are approaching businesses and community groups to host the individual stations.

At the end of the race, teams will end up at Doctor Davidson Park, and the winning team will be presented with a trophy.

There are no age restrictions on the make-up of each team of four.

The women say they have lots of ideas for individual stations of the Amazing Race, but don't want to give away the individual challenges.

"We've had fun just thinking of ideas of things to do," said Abrahamson. "The hardest thing will be to keep under wraps what we plan to do."

"We have some awesome ideas we would like to share with you but we can't," says Taylor.

Meanwhile, work continues on Doctor Davidson Park. The women have wrapped palettes of bricks that they salvaged from the demolition of Moosomin Union Hospital. They were to be taken to the park site last week, where concrete has already been poured for some of the park's features.

Funds from the Amazing Race will help buy trees and plants for the park.

The hope now is that the business community will get behind Moosomin's Amazing Race by volunteering to put together a team or host a station. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Pansy Taylor at 306-435-3170 or Alice Abrahamson at 306-435-2425.



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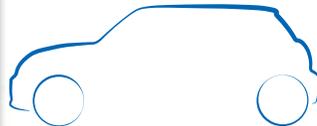
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Easton starts season with Regina Thunder



Continued from page 3

"Even lining up in the tunnel and hearing our entrance song, it just sunk in that I was there—the feeling of running out onto the field and having 800 fans cheering you on was an unreal feeling, I never experienced it before," he says.

After a successful first game, Easton is looking forward to many more with the Thunder this season. He is hoping to be-

gin a long football career with the team, and has aspirations to play professional football one day. For now, he says, it's one game at a time.

"I can't wait to see what the season brings—I am excited to compete and practice with all these guys," Easton says.

The Thunder play their next home game on September 12 against the Saskatoon Hilltops.

Left: Easton in action during the Regina Thunder spring camp.

Eng pledges \$20,000 to Rocanville hall

Continued from page 1

"I thought 'I'm doing fairly well.' There are lots of charities that knock on your door and ask you for this or that. But I know in this situation it goes right into bricks and mortar, something that I can look at in the future and say 'you know what, that is the community that I grew up with, how good they were to me and I'm just happy to be able to contribute something back.'

"It feels good because I have the ability to do it. Rocanville has given me the opportunity to get to where I am. I'm an accountant with a practice in Toronto. I've done fairly well over the years. You've got to remember your roots. You've got to remember where you came from."

Eng says he hopes that others who benefitted from living or working in the Rocanville area in the past will consider donating to the project as well.

"Rocanville has a mine with a lot of people who have come in and out. Some of these executives, some of these people that have done really well while they were here, we should tap into them and say 're-

member those days when you were here and how you got your start?' This is a time to really reflect on that, and there's no more worthy project than this community hall that's being built.

"I'm trying to encourage not just people from the town but other expats who have lived there and moved away, for them to feel that Rocanville has done something for you and this is an opportunity now for you to do something for Rocanville."

Eng says he was happy to hear that most people in town voted yes to the new hall in the referendum held on August 4.

"I'm so glad that that went through. Herb emailed me right away and said 'great news!' And that's when I made the pledge, as soon as I heard that went through."

Eng says he wants to come back to see the new hall once it's built.

"I told them I would love to have some kind of reunion for our high school—it's going to be coming up to 40 years. I thought with this community hall it might be a great opportunity to do this."



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Focus on Ag

Producers reminded to check stored grain for insects

As harvest has begun for Canadian grain producers, the Canadian Grain Commission reminds producers that insects could be present in any grain stored over the summer, or in areas around storage bins.

These insects could move easily between bins and infest your new harvest.

QUICK FACTS

To protect the quality of grain currently in storage, the Canadian Grain Commission recommends you:

Sample the grain from the core at a depth of 30 to 50 cm (12 to 18 inches) from the surface. Insects are likely to be found in pockets of warm or moist grain. Sieve the samples or examine small portions carefully.

Typically, stored product insects are very small beetles (less than 3 mm or 1/8 inch) that may not be moving. A magnifying glass can be helpful.

For best results, your grain's temperature should be less than 15°C. As well, you should keep your grain at the appropriate moisture content, depending on its type (for example, wheat should be at or lower than 14.5 per cent moisture content).

Summer surveys have shown that the lesser grain borer (*Rhyzopertha dominica*) has been found across Canada, particularly in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The lesser grain borer is one of Canada's most damaging pests found in stored grain.

The Canadian Grain Commission has insect identi-

fication keys on our website that can help you.

If you cannot identify an insect using these keys, call our Infestation Control and Sanitation Officer.

Insects in your grain could be grain feeders, fungal feeders, or predators of these insects.

By accurately identifying insects, you can determine the appropriate control method.

The Canadian Grain Commission's website has advice on controlling grain feeding insects.

You can also contact our Infestation Control and

Sanitation Officer for further assistance.

Make sure storage areas are clean and free from grain residues that can harbor or attract insects.

If required, treat your empty storage bins with a registered contact insecticide such as malathion, pyrethrin or a diatomaceous earth-based product.

Make sure you treat floor-wall joints, aeration plenums or floors and access points thoroughly.

Note: do not use malathion in bins intended for canola storage.

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Focus on Ag

Tight cattle supply impacts prices

Another year of tight Canadian cattle supplies will keep retail beef prices high, but potential growth in the American herd could limit gains, according to Canfax Research Services.

Extreme dryness in parts of western Canada will make sourcing available and affordable winter feed an issue for cattle producers and delay herd expansion for another year, says the division of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Pastures and later seeded cereals got some relief from recent widespread rain in western Canada, but it fell short of solving the industry's problems.

"There may be more second cut than what

[farmers] were anticipating, but we're seeing extremely high hay prices, and they seem to be staying quite elevated—over double last year in places," says Brian Perillat, Canfax manager and senior analyst. "That does take a bite out of cattle producers' bottom line."

Another consecutive year of tight cattle supply will keep retail beef prices high, Canfax says.

Statistics Canada's July 1 cattle inventories report states there were 3.8 million beef cows on farm, down 3.4 per cent from the previous year. Also, the Canadian cattle herd is down 2.1 per cent at 13.0 million head, the lowest since 1991, and down 23 per cent from the 2005 peak.



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Focus on Ag

Third annual Harvest for Hope held

BY JULIA DIMA

For the third year in a row, local farmers seeded, cared for, and harvested a crop six miles north of Moosomin to challenge worldwide hunger.

The Harvest for Hope was first organized in 2013 by a group of local farmers who learned about the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and wanted to get involved. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank works around the world to help end hunger for those in crisis and to help other farmers set up sustainable agricultural projects themselves. They raise funds throughout Canada in the form of growing projects—farmers across Canada grow a crop, and donate the money raised from the crop. For growing projects, the federal government matches every donation 4:1. Last year, the Moosomin growing project raised \$74,397, which was multiplied to around \$375,000 after the government match—this project alone fed 40,000 people for a month, according to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"Last year, we had more combines and more people—if we can keep getting more people contributing, really, it only takes a few hours to pull off this harvest, and a few donated inputs, a few hours out of your time to provide \$70,000 that is multiplied four times—that's a lot of return on not much work," says Derek Smart, one of the harvest organizers.

Smart says the support for the project grows each year, and has even spanned out of the Moosomin region, with support coming from as far as Alberta. When the first harvest took place, the organizers hoped it would continue to be an annual event, and the same group has come back each year to help.

"We saw that there are a lot of communities that have been doing this for years and I think it's something people can get behind. If you don't make it easy for people to contribute and to give, then people won't. So, we thought, we are able to find a way to do this, and make it a community event, and let everyone see the impact it can have," Smart says.

The toughest part of planning has always been picking a harvest day—the harvest has to be planned, since local businesses sponsor a lunch, farmers have to plan to take time off their farms to join the harvest, and local machinery dealers donate combines for the day. Sometimes, nature has its own plans. This year, rain postponed the harvest of the wheat, but the community came together in the field for a lunch regardless, which was sponsored by Conexus Credit Union.

"It's a good feeling to see people out here—we've sort of lost that from the old days where everyone gets together before starting harvest," Smart says. "It's nice to see that come back again and inspire more community."

Smart says an inspiring part of the harvest each year is seeing local farmers interrupt their own harvests to put the Harvest of Hope first.

"It shows that the people recognize that they are fortunate, and they are willing to give their time to help out—and of course, the more people you have, the less time each person is sacrificing because it doesn't take long to pull it off," he says. "We should be doing some of our own stuff, and yet, we know that this project has to take precedence—you tell yourself that, and reflect on the fact that we are all fortunate here."

The Harvest of Hope is only one of 30 growing projects across Saskatchewan, which amounts to around 4,000 acres of land that is farmed for the cause. Before the government matching last year, Saskatchewan people raised \$2.2 million between growing projects and other donations.

"This is growing a little bit each year. One community might do a project for a number of years, an they might lose their land, but other projects start up. It's been growing steady over the last number of years," says Dave Meier, Canadian Foodgrains Bank's Saskatchewan coordinator.

Meier spends harvest season visiting the various projects across the province and meeting the farmers who organize the growing projects.

"It's an exciting time of the year, probably the most exciting time to see communities come together for a common cause—a lot of people think that it's just farmers that

do this, but this project, for example, has many people involved—individuals that sponsor an acre, implement dealers that bring equipment, and so on, so it takes the whole community," Meier says. "That's the exciting thing, to see everybody form all different walks of life come and make a project like this happen."

Last year, the funds raised from Moosomin's growing project helped feed refugees fleeing Syria. This year, Foodgrains Bank is continuing to provide immediate aid to those refugees, as well as a growing number of refugees fleeing Sudan.

Along with providing food to those in immediate need, the Foodgrains Bank also helps with agricultural development. Most of those that are displaced or hungry are farmers, and have an agricultural background, but conflict and drought have destroyed their livelihoods. When people are safe and fed, Foodgrains Bank focuses on sustainable agriculture training, providing the education and resources to help farmers support themselves.

"The government puts \$25 million a year into our programming, and this year, they announced they will also fund some of our conservation agriculture on a 3:1 basis," Meier says. "Before, this project was not qualified to match. Now, there were will be an additional \$14 million over five years for that project."

Coming out to local growing projects and knowing the communities present will help make these projects possible, Meier says, is one of the most rewarding parts of his job.

"There are millions of refugees that fled Syria. In south Sudan, there's a million refugees that had to flee. We can't imagine what that is like. To think that communities will get behind something like this and do what they can to make a difference is pretty exciting," he says.

More photos on page 13

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Above: A young boy plays in the wheat stubble near one of the combines during the harvest lunch.

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Focus on Ag



Fir Mountain rancher Miles Anderson talks to the group during a tour on ranching and species risk conservation.

Tour highlights importance of ranching for conservation

Approximately 25 people including the provincial environment minister, Herb Cox and Executive Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Bob McLean from Ottawa, toured a number of ranching operations in the South of the Divide area of southwest Saskatchewan from August 25 to 27. The tour showcased operations that own and manage critical habitat for species at risk including the greater sage-grouse, Sprague's pipit and swift fox.

Miles Anderson, a rancher from Fir Mountain, explained how grazing strategies are benefiting greater sage-grouse habitat on both his land and land owned by the Grasslands National Park.

Anderson said, "If we can help a sage chicken raise two extra chicks every year—that can make a huge impact on the population."

Orin Balas from Ponteix, demonstrated habitat at-

tributes for Sprague's pipit and how he uses herding, water development and season of use to reach those habitat targets.

At the Lone Tree pasture, the group heard from Clint Christianson and Steven Grant, executive members of the Lone Tree Pasture Patrons.

The Lone Tree pasture is the first pasture in the South of the Divide to transition from federal management to private management.

The group heard first hand the process of forming a company to take over management of the pasture which includes critical habitat for Sprague's pipit and swift fox as well as a disproportionate amount of old crested wheatgrass stands.

The toured also stopped at the old Butala ranch, Old Man on His Back (OMB), which is now operated by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

While the focus of the ranch is for conserva-

tion purposes, OMB is managed as a working ranch for both cattle and bison.

Kelly Williamson, who organized the tour on behalf of the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc., said, "It is important to recognize the importance of ranching for conservation of critical habitat and native grasslands."

The rancher's decision making process involves much more than just cattle management."

That message was received by the group on the tour.

"I want to thank all the producers involved in the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program and those who organized the tour," said Environment Minister Herb Cox.

"Ranchers are excellent, dedicated stewards of the land and we thank them for their ongoing work protecting species at risk."



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Focus on Ag



Harvest of Hope crop taken off

The Harvest of Hope crop was taken off recently, with several combines coming out to help with the harvest. The crop, located between Moosomin and Rocanville, was planted and harvested by local volunteers, with the proceeds of the crop being donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The federal government matches donations to the Foodgrains Bank four to one, with food being distributed to some of the neediest areas in the world.

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Focus on Ag



Abdel el-Razek, his wife, and their youngest child outside their tent near Irbid, Jordan.

Foodgrains bank responds as Syrian conflict displaces millions

A photo of a dead child washed up on shore. Crowds of refugees walking towards safety in Europe. Overcrowded boats filled with frightened families.

These are some of the images that have filled our TV screens, newspapers and other media over the past few months.

Many of these refugees are from Syria. As that conflict continues into its fifth year, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, through its members, is continuing to respond to the suffering.

With support from the Canadian government, the Foodgrains Bank has programmed almost \$25 million in assistance since

2012 for Syrians living in Lebanon and Jordan, and in Syria itself.

Currently, the Foodgrains Bank is responding through eight projects.

In Lebanon, one project provides food vouchers for 5,800 refugees who have depleted most of their savings.

In Syria, another project provides 17,500 people with monthly food boxes, while a second helps 3,500 displaced families.

In Jordan, a project provides food for 500 families each month.

Altogether, over 375,000 people have been assisted since the beginning of the conflict.

"The images and the

numbers are so overwhelming," says John Longhurst, who directs Resources and Public Engagement for the Foodgrains Bank. "It's as if the whole population of western Canada was forced to leave their homes."

Faced with such huge needs, "it's hard to know what to do to make a difference," he adds, "One way is make a donation to help those who are struggling to survive because of the conflict. Another is to pray for peace in the region, so people no longer need to flee."

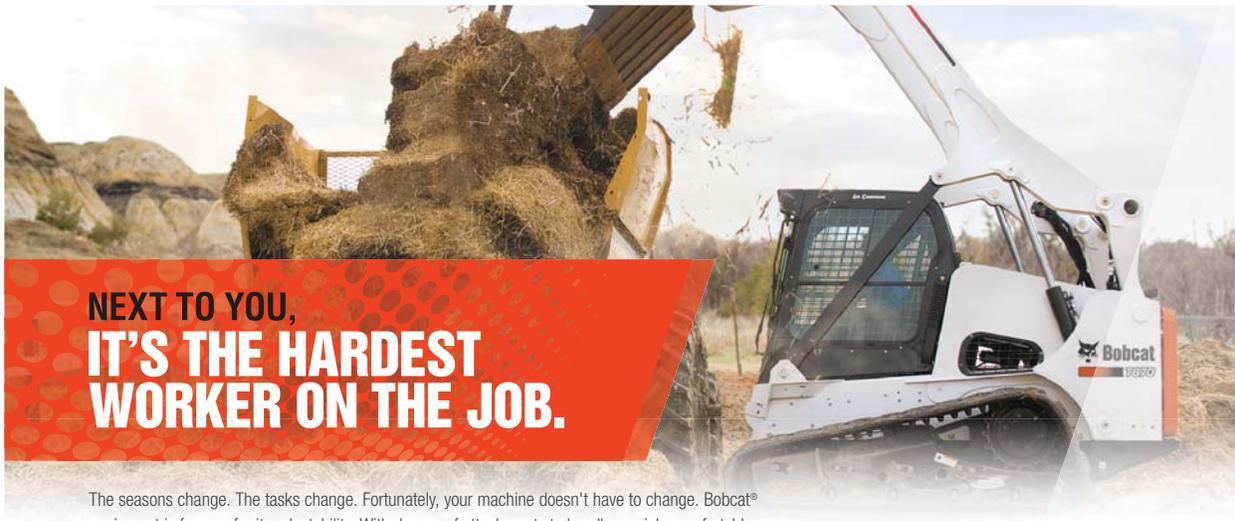
People who would like to make a donation to help those affected by the crisis in Syria can go to www.foodgrainsbank.ca



Syrian refugee children living in Lebanon playing in the streets of Beirut.



Syrian refugee Angeline el-Razek standing outside the tent her family calls home on the outskirts of Irbid, Jordan.



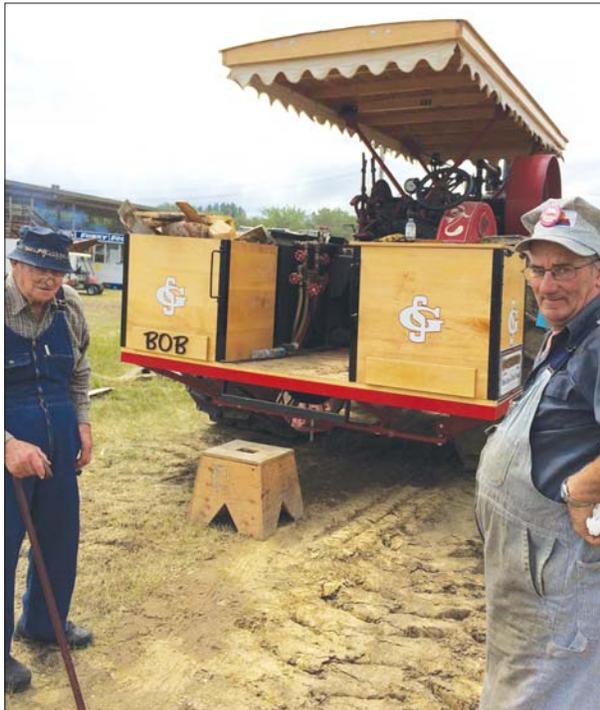
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Above: Lynn Tutthill (right) with Bob Anderson, who sold him the steam engine, together at the Threshermen's Reunion. Right: Tutthill stands next to his restored 1912 steam engine.



Lynn Tutthill restores 1912 steam engine

BY JULIA DIMA

Lynn Tutthill remembers getting a miniature steam engine as a young boy, the start of a lifelong hobby that he's taken from the miniature scale to the real deal—Tutthill has been interested in restoring steam engines since around 2000 when he began the hobby, and last year, he purchased a 1912 Gaar-Scott M. Rumley Co. steam engine.

He spent the year continuing on the restoration work of the previous owner, Bob Anderson of MacGregor, Manitoba, and this past July, he and his wife, Vicki, took it to the Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin, where antique farm equipment collectors bring their machines for the parade, and then set to work like the pioneers did, running saw mills, plowing fields, and threshing wheat while onlookers watch the machines at work.

This year, the steam engine won an award for 'Best Dressed Steam' of 2015, meaning it was the best restoration, paint job, and appearance. The engine has been a long project in the works.

Anderson built the current steam engine from bits and pieces of this 1912 model he found across Canada. The boiler was acquired in British Columbia, where it was used in a saw mill. The wheels came from Saskatchewan, and other pieces came from Alberta and Manitoba. Anderson pieced together the antique machine, and when he decided to sell the engine so the next generation of steam hobbyists could continue the restoration, he opted against a potential sale in the United States for Tutthill, who also

lives in Manitoba, so the heritage of the machine, and the work he had put in would not be forgotten by the next owner.

Tutthill has held true to that wish, restoring the engine, and affectionately naming it Bob after Anderson.

"Steam engines were his whole life. It was really good for me, a proud moment when he saw it all finished up," Tutthill says.

Tutthill purchased the steam engine in November, and he says since the snow started to melt in the spring, he spent every weekend working on the machine, installing new plumbing, a new front axle, replacing the back end of the machine—the canopy, the wood boxes, and water tank, and painting the engine. The water storage tanks, brightly emblazoned with the original Gaar-Scott and Co. logo were painted by a friend. Tutthill says that the number of people who helped him with the restoration are countless.

Tutthill says his goal when he was restoring the steam engine was to have it completed in time for the Elkhorn Canada Day parade and for the Threshermen's Reunion a few weeks later. However, the process is not as simple as having the machine restored. A government inspection is needed to ensure the steam engine is safe to operate in a public place like a parade or threshing display.

"Our July 1 was a Wednesday this year, and we got the go ahead to run it at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday," Tutthill says. The inspection looks at the plumbing, the pressure, ensures there are no leaks, a visual test is done as well as an

ultrasound of the boiler itself.

The safety concerns are well justified—In 2001, a steam engine that should not have been operated and was not properly filled with enough water exploded on its way to the Fairgrounds in Medina County, Ohio, killing five, and shooting hot water and shrapnel 100 feet, injuring dozens. The safety standards ensure that this cannot happen again, along with vigorous training.

In order to operate a steam engine, a written and driven test must be taken to gain the steam operating ticket, and aspiring steam operators have to complete a certain amount of hours as an apprentice—those requirements will only get someone their steam ticket.

Continued on page 29

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Annual Duck Derby held in Tantallon

The fourth annual duck derby took place in Tantallon on August 29, and the ducks were back on the water. Last year, high water levels in the Qu'Appelle meant the duck derby could not take place on the river. The community got creative, and had the large corporate ducks tossed with sling shots into pools instead. But this year, everyone's duck had a chance for victory on the Qu'Appelle.

Small ducks were purchased for \$5 and larger ducks that corporate groups could buy were purchased for \$100. In total, 1,800 small ducks were purchased, and 59 large ducks were purchased. The ducks were dumped into the river by a front end loader and started their race down

the river, which took just about 20 minutes. Spectators made their way from one bridge over the river to the other to watch the ducks reach their final destination at the finish line.

The first five of the small ducks to reach the finish line won a cash prize, and the first corporate duck won bragging rights.

This year, the corporate duck winner was Esterhazy Auto.

The first small duck to reach the finish line belonged to Morley Lowe of Rocanville, who won \$1,000. Stan Langley of Rocanville came in second place, winning \$700, followed by Ray Smith from Esterhazy, who won \$500.

Continued on page 30



Above: Two children play on the bounce tents during the duck derby. Emily Weedmark photos



The race is on

Above: The ducks start their race down the river to the finish line after being dumped into the water. Around 1,800 of the small ducks were purchased.

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Residents downstream worried about Kutawagan Lake diversion plan



BY JULIA DINA

Residents at Crooked and Round Lakes are concerned about a flood solution happening upstream on the Qu'Appelle River system. The Little and Big Quill Lakes north of Wynyard are currently higher than they have ever historically been. Water levels have been rising over a number of years, and the Water Security Agency (WSA) says the lakes are now in danger of naturally spilling over into Last Mountain Lake to the south.

"Levels have surpassed any previously recorded levels—the lakes are now joining, and have flooded agriculture land and infrastructure in the area," explains Patrick Boyle with the WSA. "There are three reasons this is a challenging situation—the Quill Lakes are terminal basins, they normally don't overflow and the basin does not drain anywhere naturally, typically there is more evaporation on the lakes than precipitation. Since 2011, essentially that has changed. The second issue is the water in the lakes is saline, and the final thing is there is a potential for the Quill Lakes to overflow naturally into Last Mountain Lake."

The biggest issue, Boyle says, is allowing the Quill Lakes to overflow naturally into Last Mountain Lake to the south is the salinity of the water. The Quill Lakes are salt water lakes, with a total dissolved solids (TDS)—in other words, salt—measurement of around 8,000 milligrams per litre. Last Mountain Lake is currently around 1,500 milligrams per litre. There is a concern that the high saline impact on the freshwater lake could harm the ecology.

Boyle says there is no guarantee that the Quill Lakes will overflow, as that depends mostly on precipitation levels. If Saskatchewan were to move into a period of drier years, the lake's natural evaporation could lower levels on its own. However, with unpredictable weather and high precipitation in recent years, the WSA wants to address this concern before an overflow that will dump saline into Last Mountain Lake and further flood infrastructure and farmland becomes a possibility.

The solution being proposed is to divert the flow from the Kutawagan Creek and Lake system south of the Quill Lakes into the Last Mountain Lake south of the Kutawagan system. Currently, water naturally flows from the Kutawagan system into the Quill Lakes, which are a basin. The plan being proposed would flip the natural flow process on its head, creating a berm to prevent the flow of water from the Kutawagan system into Big Quill Lake, and creating a new diversion to move the water south into the Last Mountain Lake.

Residents at Last Mountain Lake, and further along the Qu'Appelle River system, are opposing this proposal. They are concerned that the water being diverted will put too much pressure on their already high lake levels, and that even though the salinity of Kutawagan Lake is not as high as the Quill Lakes, that it is still too high and will harm the fish and aquatic ecology of the lakes along the Qu'Appelle River.

The Kutawagan Lake has a salinity level of 2,400 milligrams per litre compared to the lower level in Last Mountain Lake. According to the WSA, Last Mountain Lake has historically had saline levels as high as 2,500 milligrams per litre, so they do not believe that diversion of the Kutawagan Lake will have a large detrimental impact to the water.

Concerned residents, like Cherylyn Walters of the Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee, feel differently.

"If this goes through, it will raise the level to 2,400 milligrams per litre in the first year. WSA is saying that it's still okay, and if it's," she says. "But at 2,000 milligrams per litre, we start to see effects on our fish, and then of course, salt is cumulative, so as it continues to pour in here, lakes will continue to have higher levels of saline," she says.

The issue, Walters says, is that the actual impact of the saline on the ecology is not known—the WSA has not yet done an environmental impact study to understand how the addition of saline and the overall increase in water would impact the Qu'Appelle system.

Boyle says that dilution and lake mixing will likely ensure that the impact is minimal, but admits no studies have been done yet. That process comes later.

"If a project were to proceed, we would be looking at that and seeing the impact. Right now, it's important to keep in mind that technically there's no project—this is a proposed project to look at it, so this is the public consultation phase where we are selecting a project to try and address the problem and going out to the public right now and asking them what their opinion is on this," Boyle says.

However, there is an option for the WSA to proceed with an emergency flood project, and push the environmental impact assessment back. That option does not sit well with Walters.

"They can't answer the questions about the impact, and yet they are potentially seeking an exemption to an impact study," Walters says. "We felt they were going to sneak this plan through and call it an emergency because it's become a crisis situation now, and I don't think they had any intention of informing us."

Above: Residents at Crooked Lake, pictured above, are worried that the proposed Kutawagan diversion project would have a detrimental impact on water levels and ecology in their lake. People at Round Lake, which is east of Crooked Lake, are also concerned about the impacts of the diversion project as water moves down the Qu'Appelle River system. Below: A group of people do some fishing from the pier at Regina Beach, at the southern edge of Last Mountain Lake. The proposed Kutawagan Diversion would see a berm built to reverse the natural drainage of the Kutawagan system to the Quill Lakes, and have it drain south into Last Mountain Lake, and travel downstream through the Qu'Appelle System.

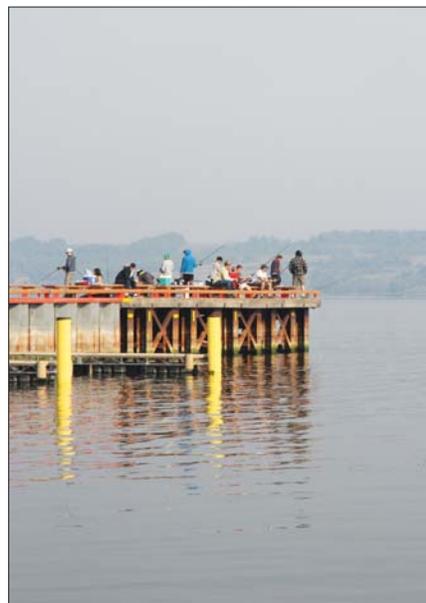
Boyle says it's a misconception that the WSA is seeking an environmental impact assessment exemption, though it is an option.

"If we were to look at doing some work this year, we would still need to obtain all the relevant approvals from the federal and provincial governments. If we wanted to do work this fall before the spring of 2016 to try to get ahead of the spring runoff, there's a provision in the environmental assessment process to get an emergency exemption—within that provision in the legislation, it allows for an emergency flood protection program one to proceed," he says. "Having said that, we still have to go through the same process, and there's still full assessment and mitigation of damages we would have to do, but we could proceed with construction first. The issue with that is if there are any adverse effects that happen during that time, the WSA is responsible for that—if something went wrong, we would be liable."

The Quill Lakes have just over a metre left to rise before an overflow is possible, so Boyle says the WSA is not in emergency mode just yet, but unpredictable weather and spring runoff can change that quickly. The priority for the WSA is to save the infrastructure, and prevent more flooding. They say that after studying a number of diversion-based options, the presented proposal worked best for all affected parties.

"This is the one we are looking at to try and satisfy as many needs as we can, upstream and down. It will afford us the ability to try and lower the Quill Lakes, as well as protecting the infrastructure, prevent more flooding of farmland, conservably, and limiting the impact to Last Mountain Lake," Boyle says. "But it's important to get the public opinion on this. There's no easy solution for this, it's an incredibly difficult problem, and we are working as hard as we can to try and solve it and have everyone's issues taken into account."

Walters feels that thus far, the public consultations have been little more than lip service—in the first meeting the Flood Committee she attended, which was by invitation only, she feels the plan was proposed as the only option, and discussion for alternatives was not fostered. The WSA is holding four public consultations over the course of the next few weeks now, with



the most recent one taking place last Tuesday at Regina Beach. Walters says that she



and other concerned stakeholders on the Qu'Appelle system feel that not enough has been done to consult with impacted parties.

She says that her group reached out to the Canadian Wildlife Federation—which manages the federally protected wildlife sanctuary on the north corner of Last Mountain Lake—and Nature Saskatchewan about the project, and was told that they had not been consulted.

Boyle says that the groups that have been consulted so far are those directly impacted by the plan—communities along the Qu'Appelle River system, local and municipal governments, and First Nations.

Walters says that in meetings with local First Nations, Sakinay First Nation, Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Cowessess First Nation, and Ochapowace Nation, the consultation letters and information packets sent in the mail. Before projects that will impact First Nations are allowed to continue, there is a fiduciary duty to consult with First Nations. Boyle says that at this point, that is further down on the horizon.

"There are parameters and steps to go through when the duty to consult is triggered. We have been in contact with First Nations, but we are still in the preliminary phases, so nothing has been triggered by that yet," he says.

Walters says she's not satisfied with the answers she is hearing from the WSA, and is determined to fight back—petitions have been circulated to prevent the diversion plan from going ahead.

"If I didn't need to fight this, I would probably just sit down and cry, because if this is allowed to happen, I think in two generations, we won't have people able to fish on these lakes, or come out and view wildlife because of the saline content," she says. "This is ridiculous what they are doing, it's absolutely careless. It makes me sick, because it's not just me, it's lots and lots of people that are going to be impacted down stream."

However, the community groups do not come to the table empty-handed either. They are presenting another option—using injection wells to pump the saline water from the Quill Lakes into the interlake and deadwood formations below the surface of the ground, which PotashCorp Lanigan and Mosaic K1 Potash Mine use to deposit high brine water from the potash mining process.

"We spoke with Mosaic and PotashCorp

and they agree that injection wells would work," says Walters. "At K1, pump 5,100 feet deep, and pump 1,000 gallons a minute. So, when you do all the math, it's 525 million gallons of water a year, that can be pumped out of the Quill Lakes. Each well could run for 10 to 15 years, and then you have decommission the well... The oil and mining industry have used the formations forever in this province, so there's not a concern of overfilling them yet. The Ministry of Economy has regulations and issues permits to drill injection wells, so we did ask the mines about overwhelming the formations with us drilling, and they said no, that wouldn't happen."

The potash mines currently utilize fresh water from Buffalo Pound for the mining process. Walters says this proposal has been sent to the Premier's office and legislative assembly, and was presented to the WSA last week. She hopes that by presenting an alternative solution, the WSA will reconsider the current proposal.

Boyle says that the WSA has no control over where the potash mines utilize water for their processes, so unless they are approached by the mining companies, the WSA cannot explore this plan.

"The potash mines and where they get their water source from is up to the mine and proponents themselves, so we can't force someone to use water from this source. We can't dictate to a private company that they have to use water from a regulatory source, so I can't speculate on anything like that at this point," Boyle says. "Certainly we would look at any sort of application for that sort of thing—if a potash company came forward to us with an application for that, we would review it. That is up to them—we would look at options, certainly."

Walters feels that the first step is for the WSA to step back and consider other proposals before presenting their current proposal as the best option. She would like to see an environmental impact assessment done before other actions are taken, since the saline water is the largest concern of the stakeholders at lakes along the Qu'Appelle system.

Bjoern Wissel is the association director of the Institute of Environmental Change and Society at the University of Regina, and specializes in aquatic ecology. He says that without an environmental impact study, it is difficult to determine based on the total dissolved solids rate, if the saline will have the ecological impacts that stakeholders are worried about.

"From what I know, the water that would be released is not dramatically higher in salinity than that of Last Mountain Lake,

so the immediate impact of salinity on the lake itself, I think won't be that dramatic... That does not mean there won't be a local impact—the idea is to divert the water into the north end of the lake, where there is a wildlife refuge—it's a federally protected area, and I have not heard anything from the organization responsible if they have any concerns that it would change hydrology in that local area," Wissel says. "It could also have local impacts on fish or other organisms—initially, high salinity concentrations will be coming into the system. Once it gets into the main lake, it will be diluted, but there is potential for regional impacts of high salinity. Also, wetlands have very sensitive hydrology, so if there's suddenly a whole river coming through, perhaps the wetland could be disturbed. I would be concerned about that and look into the impact on that particular area."

Wissel says that the salinity will likely be diluted in the Last Mountain Lake before it ever reaches the other lakes further down the river system.

"These lakes are pretty well mixed—generally, water coming from north end of Last Mountain Lake, before it gets to the south end, I would assume it would be mixed in. Once you get to the downstream lakes on the Qu'Appelle River, salinity would be a minor issue to my understanding," Wissel says. "More critical might be the water level. But information from WSA says the water levels will not be impacted while local groups say there will be a major impact. So there are clearly different numbers. Right now, people are not really talking to each other, and communication has to be improved to find a solution."

Wissel says that a number of uncertainties make him skeptical of the proposed plan.

"I think a more thorough evaluation of the potential impacts on the ecology is necessary," he says. "The way it is being presented is that the decision is made and the environmental assessment will be made later. So, I hope there is sober second thought from the government and that they maybe can stick it out for another year to look at other options. Maybe the impact will be absolutely minimal—The only area that will definitely be impacted is the Kutawagan lake area, of course. But people feel rushed, because they expected in these meetings to have an open discussion about different scenarios, rather than being told what is going to happen."

Boyle emphasizes that the plan is only a proposal now, and public consultations with First Nations, more studies, and government approval still need to happen before the plan goes ahead.



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Tires to be removed from Rocanville school playground

BY JULIA DIMA

A row of tires at the Rocanville playground that has been in place for over two decades, will be removed this year. The tires, some of which are old and worn, and painted by students over the years, are deemed unsafe. The Southeast Cornerstone School Division hired a group called Suncorp to do a safety audit in the school division. They identified playground equipment that is considered high risk to the children and general public in terms of liability.

"They did an evaluation of the equipment at the schools to figure out what did and did not meet standards, so we looked at that and said that we need to make sure the grounds are safe for students and the community. We have just begun that work, and that report hasn't been released yet to the schools and school community councils, that is the following step," explains division CEO and director of education, Lynn Little. "In Rocanville's situation, there's a playground committee and they started looking at some of this, and were aware that the tires did not meet safety codes, so as a committee, they started to do some of that work, which is work we are likely to move towards with the report from Suncorp."

Rocanville School Principal Todd Volk says he was aware that the tires were an issue since spring.

"Homemade equipment is not allowed, I believe. I honestly don't know what the problem is—it could be the inside pieces. I don't think the height is an issue, or we wouldn't have any playground equipment. We were told they have to go, and I asked if there was a way around this, and they said no," Volk explains. "In the day and age of suing and lawsuits, safety becomes the priority."

Little says over the years, many traditional pieces of playground equipment have been removed or are not up to code anymore as safety codes change, including the rubber tires, teeter totters, merry go rounds, and metal slides.

Some residents, like Bill Tremblay, are not happy the tires are being removed. Tremblay works for the town, and realized the tires his now-adult kids grew up playing on will be removed since public works was asked to remove them.

These tires will be removed from Rocanville School because they do not meet the school division's safety standards.



"Driving by there just the other day, all the kids were on the tires again playing. It just bugs me, it's such a waste," he says. "The sad part is the word isn't out there that this is going to happen, so all of a sudden, parents are going to say 'Hey where are those tires that my kids like to play on?'"

Tremblay says his kids do not remember anyone hurting themselves playing on the tires when they were young. If height is an issue, he says, sand can easily be filled in around the tires to make the area around them safer. He believes that the safety regulations are just bureaucracy, and do a disservice to kids.

"The thing is, people always say that all kids do now is look at their phones. Well, we're not letting them have fun, so of course they are," Tremblay says.

Little says that when addressing safety concerns, there

has to be a balance between safety and fun.

"We have a responsibility to ensure we are as risk-free as possible, but of course, we still need equipment for the children to play on that is safe, so it's working with the communities to identify the balance—children need to play, but we also have a responsibility on the risk management side," Little says.

Though the removal of unsafe equipment is mandatory, there is no funding through the school division for new equipment, which is a School Community Council responsibility.

Volk says the playground committee, which consists of community members and school staff, fundraises and saves funds to replace old equipment. He believes that they do have plans to look at new equipment to replace the tires once they are removed.

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Virден Oil Caps sign Leslie for three years

The Virден Oil Capitals have announced that General Manager and Head Coach Troy Leslie has signed a three year contract extension that will keep him in Oil Country thru the 2018/2019 season.

Leslie has been the man in charge of the Oil Capitals since the team was moved to Virден and in his three seasons behind the bench he has a record of 80-78-22.

"Troy is a professional individual and we feel he will continue to lead our organi-

zation in the right direction" said Club President Dale Lewis.

After winning just 18 games in the club's inaugural season, Leslie guided the Oil Caps to a franchise record 32 wins the following year.

The Oil Caps then won their first MJHL playoff series over Swan Valley, before bowing out to the Western Canada



Cup host Dauphin Kings.

It was more of the same in 14/15, as the Oil Caps posted another 30-plus win season. After a thrilling playoff series win over the Winkler Flyers, the Oil Capitals fell to the eventual RBC Cup Champion Portage Terriers in four games.

"We are very happy with the job Troy has done with our

club in the first three years and we want to continue that progression" added Lewis.

The Oil Capitals are now set to enter their fourth season in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, and with over a dozen returning players the future continues to look bright.

"Troy and his staff have earned this contract and we feel very comfortable having him with our program for the next three years" concluded Lewis.

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Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in tenth year

BY JULIA DIMA

At the far side of Kenosee Lake, at the Mother Theresa Centre, for two weeks of every summer, the chatter of birds and the sound of scurrying squirrels climbing the trees is replaced with the new melody of violins, acoustic guitars, and sing-alongs. The nook near the centre becomes a campground to hundreds of musicians, and begins to look like a small village. Around every corner, music is happening—on one bench overlooking the lake, a man is playing a fiddle tune. A short distance from him, in a small cabin, two young men who have never played together before are creating new music together on their fiddle and guitar. In doorways and on benches and picnic tables, music overflows, and a faint sound of banjo or fiddle can be heard anywhere within the camp.

This musical phenomenon is the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party, which took place from August 10 to 21. Now in its tenth year, the music camp brings together world-class musicians with eager learners from across Saskatchewan, Canada, and even the United States. Around 400 people each year come to the camp nestled on Christopher Bay.

The camp was started 10 years ago by Michele Amy, of Forget, who has played and taught fiddle in the music-centric community for years. She was inspired to create a music camp by the long-standing Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. Amy wanted something of the same calibre for her students and other local musicians who would never be able to make the long journey to Emma Lake.

"My goal the first year was three-fold. First, I wanted to enhance and enable local musicians to access world class instructors. Also, I wanted to build audi-



A trio performs during the camp open mic night on Thursday. Every night at the camp, there are live performances, and the weeks wrap up with student concerts.

ences, and create an audience for high quality traditional Canadian music, and I wanted to have a spot where families could go and connect," Amy says. "In a world of increasing cyber events—Facebook, Instagram, cell phones—people feel they are connected, but in fact, there is an increasing disconnect, within families and communities, and people are lonely. I used to walk down the streets when I lived in Carlyle, and I would walk by homes and know there's two or three people living in the house, and I

would see four or five televisions in the windows and everyone is watching something in a different room, and that's an incredible disconnect.

"When (my partner) and I were bringing up our children, they would come with us everywhere we went. They would come with us to parties and gatherings, and our children were integrated into a multigenerational kitchen party, where you combine that good company and good food, and beverages, and the music would come out, and there would be

singing and dancing, and the children are integrated directly into that," Amy adds. "I look at my own students, and I wanted them to have something like that."

The camp is designed to encourage families to come together, in what Amy calls a multigenerational social structure. At the camp, she says, people turn into a family, even though they may have never met their fellow family members before.

"Family happens really quickly here, we are a village when

everyone is here," Amy says. "Everyone watches each other's children, the teenagers watch out for the elderly, you see older kids helping younger kids out. We have such a great community that is built. People help in the dish pit every day, and young boys put all tables and chairs away after supper without asking."

The camp has grown from an idea of bringing community and music together in its first year to being one of the largest and most prestigious music camps in Canada. Students range in ages from as young as four to as old as 96, and are at all skill levels.

The instructors come from across the country to teach. Some, like Rocanville's Anthony Kelly, come from close to home to share skills. Others, like Karmnel Sawitsky, Eric Wright, Ivonne Hernandez, and Trent Freeman of Toronto-based folk ensemble, The Fretless, travel from farther away. Amy wanted to attract world-class musicians to teach at the camp, and each year, the lineup meets the goal, with groups like The Fretless, The Eastpointers, and Juno award winner Ken Hamm at this year's camp.

Amy says that for musicians in Canada, having a career in music is an increasing challenge, so part of her mandate is to ensure the instructors are treated well and paid well. That formula has worked, she says, and musicians return year after year for the two-week camp.

"I have instructors who cancel tours to come. Tim Chaisson, who is incredibly well known in Canada and very busy, puts things on the back burner to spend a week here—many instructors try to work around the camp," Amy says.

Continued on page 26

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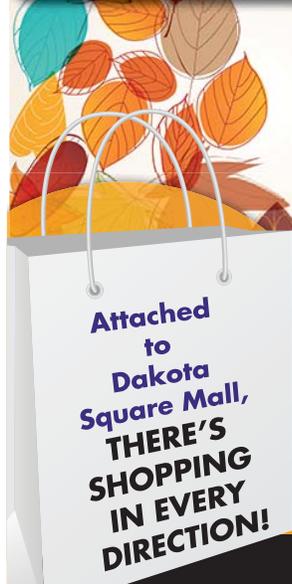
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Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in tenth year

Continued from page 24

Karrnel Sawitsky is one of those instructors. Though his band, The Fretless, spend all year touring, for two weeks in August, the tour schedule is blank. "This is always a highlight for summer, you are always thinking, 'When is Kenosee this year?' It's always an intense two weeks of music and getting to meet new people, that is always one of the most exciting parts of coming back," Sawitsky says.

Originally from Saskatoon, Sawitsky is one of Saskatchewan's best fiddlers, and he has been coming to the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party for around eight years, having been invited out by Amy to teach. A long-time attendant at Emma Lake Fiddle Camp, and later, a music instructor, Sawitsky was excited at the opportunity to teach at the camp, and has been for those eight years he's been coming.

"In my class, The youngest this year is 12, and the oldest is 70. One year, I had a six-year-old and 85-year-old," he says. "It boils down to people wanting to learn and people being here for the right reason. They are all people who come here because they want to learn."

The best part for him, aside from seeing his students grow throughout the two weeks, and put on concerts at the end of each week, is being with the people, making connections and friendships, and being part of the Kitchen Party family.

"It's like a quick birth on Monday, and then you have a good life, and then Friday is the end," he laughs. "It definitely feels like a family."

Ben Knorr taught guitar this year, a switch from his instrument of choice, the banjo, which he taught last year. Last year was his first year teaching, but he

remembers being at the camp when he was eight, learning banjo.

"It was interesting to teach—now, I am teaching in the exact same space I learned to play banjo in, so it's kind of like coming full circle," he says.

Originally from Regina and now attending Berklee College of Music in Boston, Knorr has always had a passion for playing and teaching music.

"I love pushing students, and seeing how they can get past their difficulties and do things they never thought they could," he says. "I like seeing the students perform, I feel happy that I helped them do something."

He says that his hope is all young musicians will take the opportunity to join the camp, and become part of the family.

"I think people should jump on opportunity. I wish there were more camps like this, but they do keep popping up, so I am glad the fiddle and music world is thriving," he says.

Amy says that a remarkable part of the camp is seeing musicians like Knorr and Sawitsky come together and create music that would never have happened if not for the camp. Over the years, artists who come to the camp and perform together have even produced albums and continued to collaborate.

"These are all working musicians—they often run into each other at festivals and performances, but in those venues, there is not really an opportunity to collaborate or jam and create music, so last night, for instance, after everything was shut down for the night, there were three different people from different areas of Canada who never get a chance to play together... and they were just jamming, and collaborating on creating music, so out of this camp and those

connections and opportunities, entirely new music is born," Amy says. "They have opportunities to take the time to be musicians and be together, so that creates interesting new forms of Canadian music."

For the students, the camp becomes infectious—even first timers know they will be back. One of those first-time participants is Brooke Petreny from Moosomin. Petreny has played piano for as long as she can remember, but she decided this year that she wants to learn guitar.

"I always wanted to learn to play the guitar, and they have a lot of great national and international instructors here, so it's a good place to start," she says. "They say piano is one of the hardest instruments to learn to play, and I wanted to learn how to play a guitar at home that I didn't know how to play at all, so I wanted to learn."

Petreny says that she is happy the Kitchen Party is so close to home, but was surprised that is existed.

"I don't know if a lot of people have heard about this before. This is the tenth year, and I hadn't heard about it until this year," she says.

Petreny says she already knows she will be back next year, and will be encouraging her musically inclined friends to join her.

"It's been really fun, I know I'll come back next year," she says. "The best part of camp is meeting people from all over, there's some people I have met from Calgary, and some from Montana, and it's just nice to meet all these people."

Last year was the year that Regina's Ken Tomlinson first caught the Kitchen Party fever. Tomlinson decided to pick up the mandolin in his old age just a few years ago. He says it was because he was re-

tired, and though he'd learned well how to play music by ear, he wanted to become better at reading music. Though he had never picked up a mandolin before, he knew it would help him read music. He started taking lessons with the Regina Mandolin Orchestra, where he first learned about the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party.

"I was surprised about the camp out here—I never dreamed that this would be world-class musicians at a place like this, and they enjoy coming back here, so there's something special about it," Tomlinson says.

He's enjoyed coming back too. Last year, after the first camp, Tomlinson says he enjoyed it so much that he immediately did two things—he made sure he was registered for this year's camp, and he made a donation to fund a bursary for young musicians to come to the camp.

"I received a very nice letter this year from a lady who has three children, and because of people like me giving donations, she was able to bring her three kids here. It made me feel pretty good to see that," he says.

"Music is an international language—it doesn't matter what color you are or what country you're from, or if you're young or old. I've met so many friends from last year, and made new friends this year. I will keep coming back every year, definitely," Tomlinson adds. "It's like a big

party—it reminded me of when I was younger, and we sat around the kitchen and played and enjoyed music—that's the atmosphere you have here."

Amy says that seeing people enjoy that atmosphere is proof that the goal she had 10 years ago is continuing year after year. She hopes that students like Tomlinson, Petreny, and everyone else go home and share that sense of family and community they've found at Kenosee.

"This is like going to the well, you get to fill up. For five days, you come to a place where the feeling of love and friendship and

collaboration is so deep and heavy, and everyone is accepted for exactly who they are, and motivated by amazing people they see around them—not even just the music, some people may be motivated by the young boy who is always jumping into the dish pit just to help out," Amy says. "And then you go back to real life, and you have a slice of what you maybe want to carry forward."

Every music class has a beginner category, and all levels and ages of musicians are welcome to register for the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party next year.



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Improvements and beautification, such as those shown above, at Carlton Trail park and golf course are made possible by the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers contribute to the success of Carlton Trail Regional Park

BY LAURA MARIE LOMENDA

We would like to give thanks to everyone who helped make Carlton Trail Regional Park such a great place to be this summer!

Our park would not be all that it is without the countless hours that volunteers have contributed over the years. We would especially like to thank at this time all those people who gave their talents and time in 2015. Sometimes the jobs that just get done do not get much recognition but they are noticed and appreciated!

A huge thank you to the Hruskas for their work on the dam on From Lake and for the incredible dredging of the swimming lake in midsummer. It was a truly amazing amount of work done in a short time. Thank you also to Bernie Micholas and Don Salkeld for the use of their equipment and the many, many hours of time they contributed to the lake too.

The board of Carlton Trail park puts in a fantastic effort and amount of time on the administration of the park. Led by the amazing Maureen Fletcher as chairperson, they always get the job done. With Maureen comes her partner, the indefatigable landscape artist Gil Grey, without

whose able work Carlton Trail would not look nearly as pretty.

We also have to thank the staff. This is a great group of people who are generous with their talents and time, cheerfully carrying on through variable shifts, odd schedules, and some truly challenging weather conditions to produce excellent results for Carlton Trail park.

We are grateful to everyone who has been part of the Carlton Trail community and who have contributed so much this year.

Tim Raine, who is our able park manager, supervises all the details of the work at Carlton Trail park. All the improvements to the park have improved the golf course also.

Last fall, Young's Plant World donated many trees to beautify the park. Thanks to all the volunteers who planted, watered, and cared for the trees this year, and who came into the club house for a lovely turkey supper donated by Diane Mitseke.

Christmas in July, Boo in the Park in August, and the flea markets in August and September were all organized by three young women employees. Thanks go to Carrie Nicholas, Susan Gawyluk, and Meagan Schreiner.

Thank you to all the people who donated pies, and helped with the pie auction, and to auctioneer Jason Buckberger, and to the men's golf club for raising funds for the splash park. Funds raised were \$1,930.

Thank you to Maureen Fletcher and Germaine Micholas for organizing the multicultural food fair, plus all the people who supplied the delicious food, plus Laura Marie Lomenda who supplied musical entertainment. Funds raised were \$1,085.55 for our splash park.

Still four major events will take place at Carlton Trail park: Mosaic underground golf tournament on Friday, September 11; ladies' open tournament two person scramble on Saturday, September 12; members' wind up tournament now on Sunday, September 13; and Driving the Ball for the St. Anthony's hospital building project, 15th annual Esterhazy and district charity golf classic on Monday, September 14. We hope for good weather and great turnouts for these four tournaments.

Thank you to all the good people who donated the flowers for the memorial barrels by the clubhouse to remember past people who have contributed to the park over the years.



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- 3A driver's license with air brake endorsement (or prepared to obtain the license and endorsement).
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- Experience managing staff.
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For more information or to submit applications contact:
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'Let It Go' quad ride held in memory of Darwin Minty

Money raised from ride donated to palliative care each year

Continued from page 22
 "We're all close, we're a close family."

Unfortunately, Minty's father has been diagnosed with cancer as well.

"Shortly after my uncle passed away my dad was diagnosed with the same cancer," says Minty. "He's made it through. He's had the surgery—he's had his esophagus removed and he's managing. It was a really hard time on all of our family and we just want to give back to palliative care because they've done so much for us, they've made everything so much easier for us."

"My dad's been doing good, he's managing. It's been a year since he's had his surgery. It's difficult, he has a different lifestyle than he had before. He was a bigger guy and now he's down to about 160 pounds, and he's been back and forth to the city a few times because his esophagus keeps closing shut so they have to keep going down and breaking open the scar tissue so he can eat. It's a difficult life for him, but we still have him, so we're thankful for that."

This is the third year the Let It Go quad ride fundraiser has been held. All the funds go toward palliative care in Moosomin.

"The first year we donated to a local woman, she was diagnosed with stage four cancer and we all knew she wasn't going to be around long and no one did a fundraiser or anything for her," says Minty. "So we just gave her the funds personally and it helped her out. To see how relieved she was for just a thousand dollars—it helped her go up to Regina a couple of times."

"It's amazing how much money you spend when you have a sick family member—a lot of it is the travelling back and forth because a lot of the services are in Regina or Saskatoon. It's nice because Moosomin is starting to do a certain kinds of chemo."

With palliative care offered in Moosomin, many families are able to visit ill relatives and friends much

more frequently, something which Minty was thankful for.

"Having palliative care here was awesome," she says. "We were all able to be with my uncle, because before he was at Regina. He was at the Allen-Blair centre so we wouldn't be able to get up there to see him very often. But with palliative care here, we could all go. We'd go there every night pretty much, it was just very accommodating—the nurses just made sure that we were able to be with him. They made him very comfortable."

"They kept him comfortable for his last days, and the nurses there were absolutely amazing. They made sure he had no pain and they made it very accommodating for the family. We were able to go in there and we'd bring

supper in there and we'd all stay in the room. He would mostly be unconscious near the end, but every once in a while he'd wake up and look around the room and he'd see us all being with him, and his family got to be with him when he passed away."

At the end of the Let It Go quad ride, the family hosts a big barbecue in Darwin Minty's name. Family, friends, co-workers and more attend.

"Last year on the ride alone there were about 78 riders. My grandma, she's 85 years old and she went on the quad ride last year," says Minty. "She was tickled pink, she thought it was the best thing in the world!"

"We go through the valley, through Scissors Creek and we usually end up going through Bear Creek—it's a long day. By the

end we're hardly able to move. And then we have a big barbecue at the end and everybody just reminisces and talks about him. Nowadays it seems everybody gets so caught up in life that they forget about things, and we just don't want him forgotten."

"It's just one time a year that we get together and make something positive over what happened."

"We made bunny-hugs this year that said 'Let it go' and then on the back it said 'You long-haired hippie.' That was another of

his sayings," Minty says a laugh.

Minty says there was a donation jar at the quad ride, and an account is set up at Conexus Credit Union called the 'Let It Go Quad Ride Fund' for those who would like to privately donate.

She says McPhail Travel in Moosomin helped them with the bunny-hugs this year, and Source for Sports in Brandon donated some of the embroidery on the bunny-hugs to show their support for the event. "That was really nice," she

says. "We just want to keep raising as much money as we can and help as many families as we can who have been dealing with the same thing we had to deal with," Minty says. "Because it was a rough time for us and I don't want to see anybody else go through that. It'd just be nice to make it easier for them. I know they can't take the pain away completely. 'My uncle was just a very generous and loving man, and I just want him to be remembered.'"

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Daryl is a husband and father of two children. Daryl loves a challenge and is constantly looking for the next great adventure. We believe that, with his enthusiasm and great people skills, he will be a great asset to an already great team at Birtle Mainline.





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ANNOUNCEMENT

The directors of Wolseley and Hometown Co-op announce plans to take amalgamation vote to membership

The Board of Directors of Wolseley Co-op and Hometown Co-op are recommending the joining of the two Co-ops. Both Boards believe this is a positive step for the two independent co-op retailers, which will create a new entity with annual sales in excess of 40 million dollars.

Discussions have take place over the past year involving an in-depth analysis of the financial implications, and the benefits that such an amalgamation would provide. The opportunity would assist both retailers to sustain viable operations, allow for improved buying power through volume rebates, improve efficiencies, and maintain present services for both Co-ops.

INFORMATION & VOTING MEETING

<p>Hometown Co-op Monday, September 21, 2015 Information presented at 6:30 p.m. Broadview Community Hall Vote to follow information Voting Poll closes at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Voting Poll on September 22 Broadview Service Centre: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Grenfell Food Store 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Kipling Food Store 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p>Sinaluta 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Wolseley Co-op Tuesday, September 22, 2015 Time: 6:30 p.m. Information presented at 6:30 p.m. Wolseley Town Hall Vote to follow information Voting Poll closes at 8:00 p.m.</p>
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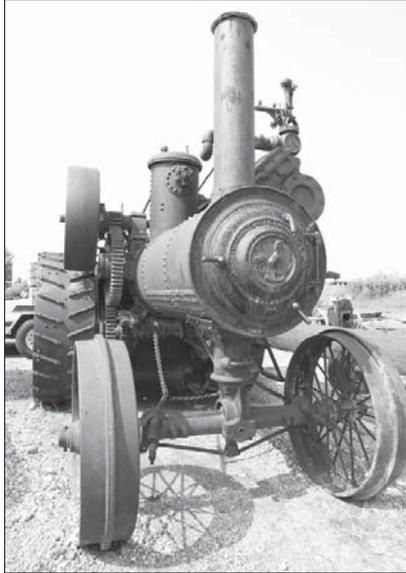
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Tutthill has a second steam engine that he is in the process of restoring.

Continued from page 15
More training and test writing is needed to obtain the boiler ticket, to operate and man the boiler on the steam engine.

In the steam engine's heyday of the early 1900s, steam engines were killing an average of two people a day in the United States.

"What was happening is you'd go to the hardware store and buy an engine, and they would tell you to fill it with water and wood and you're good to go, and people didn't know the dangers. As we got more educated, we became better at it," Tutthill says.

Tutthill says that he believes it's important to keep the history of the steam engine alive. There are very few left intact, and very few people who restore them and can operate them.

"The one I used to run before this one was at Tilston, Manitoba and the Jones family had it there. When the war effort came through (for scrap metal to create military equipment), they gave the thresher away, but they kept the steam engine—a lot were being hidden. And it's not that anyone was against the war effort, but they wanted to keep these machines alive," Tutthill explains. "When the oil field started booming, they needed boilers to run at the rigs. So, they would buy these old engines, cut the wheels off, and turn them into stationary boilers. So, that was another way they were lost in the history."

In addition to keeping the history of the old machines alive, they are also being used to do good—in Langenburg two years ago, an old tyme harvest was held to raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Forty-one antique threshing machines were going all at once. At the St. Albert Curd Festival in Ontario, they broke the world record for number of threshing machines operating at once with 111 machines, powered by steam engines like Tutthill's, which was part of

the Langenburg harvest. Next year, on July 31, 2016, the museum in Austin will be holding a "Harvesting Hope" event, to break the record set in Ontario, and harvest a crop with antique threshing machines for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Tutthill's newly restored steam engine will be part of that effort.

"I think it's a pretty good

deal for all—we were involved in the one in Langenburg, and it was really good, it was satisfying to be part of it," Tutthill says.

Another benefit, Tutthill says, is the tight-knit community that steam hobbyists have cultivated with their unique interest.

"We do plowing and threshing, and have a few beers afterwards, and it's really great . . . you meet other people doing the

same thing—I met Vicki at the Museum of Austin," Tutthill says. "So really good things come out of the steam engine community."

At the Threshermen's Reunion this year, Tutthill says it was important that Anderson joined them in the parade, to see his old machine running again—it was last operated six years ago.

"Everybody patted us on the back because they all saw this thing six years ago starting to get run down, because Bob couldn't do

it anymore, and everyone was happy we had it and were able to get it running . . . It was nice that day in Austin, because we had Bob on the engine with us when they presented the trophy, so he was teared up—it was special," Tutthill says.

"That was probably the most fulfilling moment for us, was to bring something back alive for him," adds Vicki Tutthill.

Now, Tutthill is in the process of restoring two more steam engines to bring them up to the same

condition as "Bob." Tutthill says that steam engine restoration will be part of his life until he is unable to do it anymore. When that day comes, he hopes to be able to hand down his steam engines to someone who will love the hobby as much as he did, just like Anderson did when he sold Tutthill the steam engine.

"I hope that my kids carry it on, or if they don't want to, I hope this is sold to someone who wants to keep it going," Tutthill says.

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TAILGATE PARTY



Borderland Co-op hosted its 5th Anniversary Tailgate Party on Sunday, August 23 at the Moosomin C-Store. The event included appearances and autograph signing by five Saskatchewan Roughriders, as well as Gainer the Gopher and two members of the Roughrider cheerleaders. The band Fire Water performed in the afternoon, followed by a performance by Grimstone on the roof of the C-Store. Right: Riders quarterbacks Brett Smith (left) and Kevin Glenn (right) sign fans' jerseys.

Andrea Jaenen photos




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Above Left: Two Riders cheerleaders pose for a photo. Right: Generals Alex Wolf, Roen Locke and Ian Wolf hanging out at the event.



Above: Junior Generals Alex Wolf, Roen Locke and Ian Wolf at the Tailgate party. Below: Two of the Saskatchewan Roughriders cheerleaders at the event.



Above: Riders Nic Demski, Jake Doughty and Jeff Knox Jr.



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Zombie Run coming in Redvers

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK
The Redvers Arts Centre Fundraising Board is holding a Zombie Run for the first time ever in Redvers on Saturday, September 19. This event is open to participants of all ages and includes a five kilometre run, a three kilometre run, and a costume contest. Participants can sign up for the run as a runner or as a zombie to take part in the run. This event is a fun run, meaning that it is not a timed race.

"We decided to do this as a fundraiser for the Redvers Arts Centre," said Amber Sylvestre, a member of the Redvers Arts Centre Fundraising Board.

"This event is a run and an obstacle course. People have the option to register as a runner in the five kilometre course or the three kilometre course as well as the option to register as a zombie. Basically, the runners have three life tags affixed to their waist with a belt, and the zombies try to take their life tags. So the goal is to cross the finish line with at least one life tag and then you get bragging rights as a survivor," explained Sylvestre.

Sylvestre says that the Fundraising Board is hoping to see about 200 partici-



A Zombie Run is planned for Redvers Sept. 19.

pants in the run. Participants can register for the run online, submit a registration form in person at Today's Electronics in

Redvers, or walk up the day of the run. Registration is available for individual participants or teams.

Registration and make-up for zombies will begin at 1:30 p.m. the day of the run, and the first wave of runners will be at 3:30 p.m.

Following the run there will be a costume contest with awards for best human costume, best zombie costume, and best group costume. There will be beer gardens and a canteen open at 4 p.m. There will also be other events held during the day including face painting, food, and music.

The course will be set up around the town of Redvers, through back alleys, the golf course, and other off-road locations.

This event is being held as a fundraiser for the Arts Centre in Redvers.

"We're fundraising for repairs to be made to the existing Arts Centre and for building a new building in the future," said Sylvestre. "We've never held an event like this before, so we're going in kind of blind, which is exciting and scary at the same time."

The Redvers Arts Centre Fundraising Board also held a fundraising golf tournament over the weekend, and will be holding a dinner theatre in November as well as a social event in January.

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Moosomin's Jacey Crossley making a name in rodeo

BY JULIA DIMA

Moosomin's Jacey Crossley is just at the beginning of her rodeo career, but from the times she's posting in barrel racing at Canada's rodeos, it would be easy to mistake her for a pro. Crossley has been going to CCA (Canadian Cowboys Association) rodeos for only three seasons, but in the past two years, she's competed at over 40 rodeos, and last year, qualified for the CCA finals at Agribition in Regina—this year, she's three spots away from making the finals again, and has four more rodeos on her schedule before the finals.

Though she only started to compete at the pro rodeos in her grade 12 year, Crossley has had a passion for barrel racing since she could first climb onto a horse. Her older sister, Chloe, started horse riding in the Western Pleasure and jumping categories, and then started barrel racing, and loved it from the first time she tried, according to Crossley. That encouraged her to follow suit. Crossley skipped the jumping categories, and went right into barrel racing. Like her sister, she fell in love.

"It was just the adrenaline of it. I always played volleyball and basketball and danced and skated, and nothing was comparable to it," she says.

She participated in the Manitoba Gymkhana Rodeo Association in her younger years, and did one year of high school rodeo as well. She started with a pony, then moved onto a small horse, and finally, started riding with her current horse and rodeo partner, String.

Looking back at her grade 12 year in rodeo, Crossley says she wishes she had skipped some other sports in high school and put her whole focus into rodeo.

"I had never had something that I loved so much until I started doing rodeo," she says.

At smaller barrel races, Crossley was doing very well in her grade 12 year, placing consistently, and taking home first and second place in races. Friends suggested that she take it to the next level and start competing in the rodeo circuit. Crossley says she never would have considered entering bigger CCA rodeos until she realized she and her horse made a powerful team, and were doing well consistently. That's when she became more competitive, and started to put her name in at the CCA sanctioned rodeos across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta. Her first rodeo was right at home in Moosomin.

Last summer, Crossley made the ambitious decision that she and String were going to attend every rodeo in the CCA circuit—in total, they raced in 25 rodeos over the season.

"The first one I went to that kept me going was in Mankota. There were some of the best girls there that you'd ever heard of, the best names. I ended up placing in the first round, and I almost won it on the final day," Crossley says.

It encouraged her to keep competing.

"Last year, I did really well right from the start of the year. There were three or four at the start where I placed really well, and it built my confidence, because I had gone into it at the beginning of the year really not having a clue if I had a chance at it or not. When I started placing right off the bat, it boosted my confidence a lot," she says.

She says the biggest aspect of her success is having a horse that she calls the perfect teammate.

"My horse is really special to me. I have had people ask me if I'd ever sell her, and I wouldn't,



Kim Poole photos
Top: Jacey Crossley competes at the Virden Indoor Rodeo in August, where she placed second in the first round. Bottom: Crossley finishing her run at the Moosomin Rodeo in July, where she placed second in Ladies Barrel Racing.

because she's got me so far," Crossley says. "I didn't start doing it seriously until I realized I had such a good horse. I don't think I'd be able to do this for a while if not for String—it takes so much time to train, and it's not easy to come by horses that are that good and reliable like her."

Along with String, Crossley has a few other horses, one rodeo-ready horse, and some younger horses that she is training to get to the point where

String is. Her horses, she says, are her babies. She exercises them three times a week, and ensures they don't have to run barrels until the weekend, so they are not overworked. She spends her time keeping them in shape and well-fed, and ensures they receive supplements for strong bones and muscles.

Crossley and String have had another successful rodeo season this year, so far. By the time the season is over, Crossley will have competed in over 20 rodeos.

She says that there have been a number of highlights this season, including placing second at her hometown rodeo in Moosomin in July, and placing second in the short round at the Virden Indoor Rodeo as well. She and a close friend and fellow barrel racer competed at the rodeo in Austin, Manitoba at the Thresherman's Reunion and Stampede. Crossley rode String, and her friend rode another one of Crossley's horses, and both women placed at that rodeo,

something Crossley says was another major highlight.

In Estevan, at the TTRT Barrel Extravaganza, where Crossley competed with around 140 cowgirls in barrel racing, she won a buckle for fastest time overall in her runs, and a saddle for highest overall points.

Right now, Crossley is sitting in third place in the MRCA standings, and is hoping to cinch her spot at the CCA finals at Agribition. She has four more rodeos, and has to earn \$1,300 more to make the top 10.

In addition to the rodeos to finish off the season, Crossley is continuing her rodeo career by attending Lakeland College in Vermillion, Alberta this fall to take her animal health course. The college has one of the most prestigious rodeo clubs in Canada.

"I am really excited about it. The rodeo coach that is out there is by far one of the best barrel racers in Canada. She is knowledgeable and someone to look up to," Crossley says. "I have gotten to know her because my horse came from her family, and she is still hauling to lots of rodeos and barrel races around Canada."

Crossley says that at this point in her life, she thinks she will be doing rodeo for her entire life. She hopes that in a few years when she is older, she can join the professional rodeo world, and travel around Canada and the United States for rodeos.

"It's hard to make a career out of it obviously, unless you are going pro and traveling all over Canada and the United States, but it's probably something I am going to do forever, and something I would want my kids to do," she says. "Rodeo is a huge family thing—everyone gets to be really close and really supportive, and it is something you see a wife and husband doing, and you see those kids in the junior events."

Despite her love for rodeo, Crossley says that it can have its tough days. Sometimes, the rodeos are far away—the farthest she's traveled with her horse is Onion Lake, about eight hours from Moosomin. Since her trailer doesn't have living quarters, Crossley sleeps on a mattress in the neck of the trailer. Rodeo weekends start on Friday with the long drive to the next rodeo, and it's three days on the road.

"As fun as it is to go to them, I don't know if people realize how much work is involved in it—vet appointments, and keeping the horses in shape, and hauling all over the world, sometimes it feels like," she says. "It can get discouraging when you travel eight hours to a rodeo and you have a crappy run, or you knock a barrel, and you have a weekend where you don't make any money. You definitely get discouraged, but you keep going on—you win some, you lose some."

The biggest encouragement for Crossley is knowing her horse is in the race as much as she is, and having audience support. The cheers, she says, really do make a difference for herself and her horse when they are in the arena.

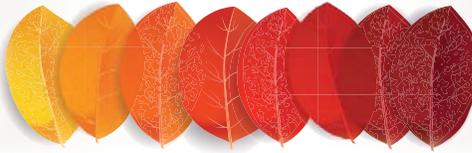
"Cheering makes a huge difference—the bigger the crowd, the more adrenaline and momentum you get," she says. "Everyone says Virden rodeo is their absolute favorite of the year, because it's a huge crowd jammed into that little arena, and you can really feel the energy from everybody."

And, Crossley says, the Moosomin rodeo is her highlight, when her friends and hometown audience are cheering her on.



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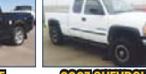
EMPLOYEE PRICING

 2014 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM STOCK # 5P131 Low kms, so many options!	 2012 DODGE RAM 3500 SLT 4X4 STOCK # 5T090B 6.7L, Local, One-owner, 104,000 kms, Crew Cab	 2012 FORD F-150 LARIAT 4X4 STOCK # 5T139A Local, 5.0L, 6.5 Ft. Box	 2014 FORD F-150 FX4 STOCK # 5T011A Moonroof, Leather, Nav, New Tires	 2013 FORD F-150 STX STOCK # 5T143B 68,000 kms, Spray-In, No Charge Winter Tires	 2013 FORD F-150 STOCK # 5T176A No Charge Warranty	 2009 FORD FOCUS STOCK # 5C173A Bought here new! 83,000 kms, Auto	 2010 FORD FOCUS SE SPORT SEDAN STOCK # 5T151B 91,000 kms, Auto
\$18,888 \$153 B/W	\$34,302 \$269 B/W	\$29,999 \$236 B/W	\$38,912 \$306 B/W	\$16,443 \$133 B/W	\$29,857 \$236 B/W	\$8,985 \$87 B/W	\$9,174 \$89 B/W

GREAT DEALS ON 2015s!

 2015 FORD MUSTANG GT STOCK # 5C100 LAST LEGEND LEFT! \$1000 COSTCO REBATE	 2015 FORD F-150 STOCK # 5T163 \$1000 COSTCO REBATE	 2015 FORD FIESTA STOCK # 5C181 3 IN-STOCK! \$500 COSTCO REBATE	 2015 FORD F-150 STOCK # 5T174 4 SUPER CABS IN-STOCK!	 2015 FORD FOCUS STOCK # 5C178 ONLY 1 LEFT! \$500 COSTCO REBATE	 2015 FORD F-150 STOCK # 5T163 \$1000 COSTCO REBATE
\$44,854 \$323 B/W	\$42,082 \$274 B/W	\$17,060 \$134 B/W	\$35,267 \$231 B/W	\$22,178 \$141 B/W	\$22,178 \$141 B/W

ARE YOU ON A BUDGET?

 2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA STOCK # 5T055A One Owner, 171,000 kms	 2006 FORD FOCUS ZX5 STOCK # 5T097C 127,000 kms, Auto	 2004 NISSAN ALTIMA STOCK # 5T043E 157,000 kms, Command Start	 2006 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XTR 4X4 STOCK # 5T052F 271,000 kms	 2004 DODGE RAM 4X4 STOCK # 5T049D Hemi, 204,000 kms	 2007 CHEVROLET K2500 STOCK # 5T195A 6.0L, 145,000 kms	 2005 GMC SIERRA 4X4 STOCK # 5T145B 178,000 kms	 2005 GMC DENALI STOCK # 5C209A 259,000 kms, 6.0L
\$5,555 AS TRADED	\$6,999 AS TRADED	\$6,275 AS TRADED	\$7,979 AS TRADED	\$5,001 AS TRADED	\$10,818 AS TRADED	\$8,856 AS TRADED	\$8,877 AS TRADED

MORE AWESOME INVENTORY

 2013 FORD F-150 STOCK # 5T158A 33,000 kms, Leather, Moonroof	 2013 FORD F-150 FX4 STOCK # 5T203A Leather, 5.0L	 2013 FORD EDGE LIMITED AWD STOCK # 5T128A 20's	 2013 FORD EDGE STOCK # 6T002A PST Paid, 39,000 kms	 2014 FORD F-150 XTR STOCK # 5T194A Max Trailer Tow	 2014 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 STOCK # 5T196A Hemi, Boxliner
\$39,999 \$13 B/W	\$36,995 \$290 B/W	\$29,999 \$236 B/W	\$32,997 \$259 B/W	\$35,501 \$278 B/W	\$24,999 \$197 B/W

 2014 FORD FUSION STOCK # 5P20B Only 12,000 kms, EcoBoost	 2009 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4 STOCK # 6T015A One Owner	 2009 FORD F-150 XTR 4X4 STOCK # 5T177B One Owner	 2013 FORD F-150 XTR STOCK # 5T198A Local, Spray In	 2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX AWD STOCK # 5T160A One Owner	 2009 FORD EDGE LIMITED STOCK # 5T097D DVD, 89,000 kms	 2012 DODGE RAM 1500 STOCK # 5T199A Local Longhorn, Hemi	 2011 DODGE JOURNEY SXT STOCK # 4T194B Only 42,000 kms
\$20,999 \$168 B/W	\$11,101 \$106 B/W	\$19,841 \$186 B/W	\$33,111 \$261 B/W	\$17,213 \$138 B/W	\$19,999 \$185 B/W	\$35,212 \$276 B/W	\$15,893 \$129 B/W

 2013 FORD F-150 FX4 STOCK # 5T179A Bought & Serviced Here	 2013 CHEVROLET K3500 STOCK # 5T014A Nav, Leather, New Tires	 2015 FORD F-350 STOCK # 5T184A Local, Platinum, 33,000 kms	 2010 FORD EDGE SEL AWD STOCK # 5T193A PST Paid	 2010 DODGE JOURNEY R/T AWD STOCK # 5T113B Fully Loaded	 2014 FORD EXPLORER STOCK # 5T189A 6-Passenger, 4WD, Leather	 2012 FORD FLEX STOCK # 5T099A 53,000 kms, New Tires, 7-Passenger, PST Paid
\$28,867 \$229 B/W	\$51,956 \$405 B/W	\$64,981 \$504 B/W	\$17,998 \$144 B/W	\$19,995 \$159 B/W	\$37,445 \$294 B/W	\$20,111 \$159 B/W



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