

# Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

## Plewes looking forward to Iron Man world championships

BY KARA KINNA

Former Moosomin resident Jameson Plewes is getting ready to compete in two big Iron Man races this year—the 70.3 (half Iron Man) world championships in St. George, Utah and the full Iron Man World Championships in Hawaii.

The 21-year-old University of British Columbia student grew up in Moosomin and started to take an interest in triathlon when he was a Grade 11 high school student in Brandon, Manitoba in 2016.

"I started in 2016 but I didn't do anything of this distance until around 2018," he says.

"Some of my friends on my swim team were doing them and I just wasn't doing as well in my other sports. I wasn't doing as well as I wanted to do so I figured maybe if I do triathlons I could get to the level that I wanted to be at because I wanted to actually do a sport seriously but I wasn't good enough at swimming or running alone to do that.

"I felt like if I put all three of them together—swimming, cycling and running—because I liked all those sports, maybe I could become good enough to do that at an elite level—which I am at now, so I guess it worked out."

Plewes says it took a few years for him to realize that he could have some success at triathlon.

"It took around two years to get a little glimpse of how good I could be because I had one good junior elite race in 2017 where I was racing actual pros and did well, but then after that it took until 2019 really before I started getting actually good at the sport," he says.

"I always trained hard, but with an endurance sport it depends purely on the time that you can spend training. That's why you see a lot in these sports, no matter what sport, like running, cycling, just endurance sports in general—typically the best athletes are in their late 20s or even early 30s. That's because it takes a lot of time to develop. So finally by 2019 I had a good three years of training, and now in 2021 I'm five years in and it's a continuous gradual improvement every single year.

"Now I race what's called 70.3 Iron Man, which is a 1.9 km swim, a 90 km bike and 20 km run. I also race full Iron Man which is a 3,800 meter swim, 180 km bike and 42 km run."

Plewes has been racing in the 18 to 24-year-old age group for



Plewes in training running.

the past few years. He says his first big breakthrough in the sport came in 2019.

"My first big accomplishment was in qualifying for and competing in the 2019 Iron Man 70.3 world championships," he says. "Obviously since then, because of Covid, there was no racing that I could get to in 2020, but this year I won my age group at Iron Man Coeur d'Alene in Idaho. So far this year I've ran the second fastest marathon time in my age

group overall."

The race in Coeur d'Alene was a full Iron Man and Plewes says this season has allowed him to qualify for the half Iron Man worlds in Utah on September 18, and for the full Iron Man worlds in Hawaii on October 9.

He says he's hoping to do particularly well at the worlds in Hawaii.

"For the Iron Man world championships (in Hawaii) I'd like to win my age group overall and

place high up overall in the race," he says. "For the race in Utah I'm looking just to race well because it isn't my A race. It's one I'm going to take seriously, but my primary goal is to race well in Hawaii. So I'll still race as hard as I can and hopefully get a podium there, but my main goal is the Iron Man world championships in Hawaii."

While the sheer distances in Iron Man races may look grueling or daunting for many peo-

ple, Plewes says one of the things he enjoys most about his sport is that the work you put in determines how well you do.

"You only get out what you put into it to get to that top level," he says. "No one at the top level got there by chance, or by talent because they were lucky. They got there because they dedicated their lives to it and put everything into it. It's not like a lot of other sports where some people are naturally born with the skill. In Iron Man it's something that you have to work so hard for and I like that part about it. What you achieve, it's all based on the work you've done, and not because you were born with the ability to do it. Everything you achieve, it's because you earned it. It's not because it was given to you."

Plewes says he trains for 20 to 30 hours a week on any given week, and is coached by an ex-Iron Man pro.

"A harder week with a lot more intense sessions would be more on the 20-hour end whereas a basic week, building endurance, would be more on the 30-hour end. That's running pretty much every single day. Some weeks I take one day off from running. Cycling is consistently five to six bikes per week, and swimming, historically it's been four, five, six times a week, but because of Covid and pool closures we're having a much harder time now getting lanes. We only swim maybe three to four times a week now on average. And that's moving time. It's not including everything else that goes into it. Overall it's a full-time job."

Along with his constant training, Plewes also works at the Running Room and is studying bio chem in university in Kelowna, B.C.

How far does he want to take his sport?

"My goal was always to reach the professional level in this sport and hopefully do it before I'm finished my schooling," he says. "If I go and do something beyond university, like if I apply to a medical college or pharmacy, I'd like to get to the professional level in this sport so I could do that for a couple years before committing to something in my life. I'd like to just do professional triathlon for a couple years before committing to a career."

Plewes says world championships like the one coming up in Hawaii are the biggest highlight for racers like himself.

Continued on page 6

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# Work ramping up at Nutrien Rocanville

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Work is ramping up at Nutrien Rocanville on three major projects, and work will hit its peak this year between mid-September and the end of October, with 900-1,000 contractors on site when the mine is shut down for six weeks for its maintenance shutdown.

The three major projects are the Self Generation Project, in which Nutrien is creating its own natural gas powered generating plant, mill refurbishment in Mill One, and underground bin replacement, replacing some of the original bins that have been in place since the mine opened.

"We had the first couple of generators come in for the Self-Generation project (in which Nutrien Rocanville will generate its own power)," said Larry Long, senior vice-president of potash operations with Nutrien. Long is a former general manager at the Rocanville mine.

"What's going on right now is we're installing these generators as they're coming on site. The first two high efficiency natural gas type generators have come in, so we're installing them. The pad for the building are poured and now they're dropping the genset generators in there. They're starting to do the hookups to the natural gas and they're going to be doing all the wiring up and all the instrumentation over the next few weeks and months.

"The generators are coming from overseas and when they are shipped here they have to be put on



Work is ramping up at Nutrien Rocanville, with contractors on site working on major refurbishing projects and a new self-generation project set to peak for this year at 900-1,000 from September 19 to October 31.

a special rail car because they're very heavy. They don't have a lot of cars that can take that weight and so part of the shipping issue is making sure those cars are available. There's a little bit of sequencing when these generators come in.

We have to have special cranes for lifting them in and installing them, so the logistics of getting them overseas to here is probably the biggest part of the job.

Probably in the end it will be quicker to install them than it was to get it shipped here. There are not many companies in

the world that make these types of generators, they're pretty big generators and they're very specific types of high efficiency natural gas generators."

The work for Maintenance Shutdown both in the mills and underground starts September 19 and will be completed October 30. The planning and preparation work has already started.

"We're working on Mill One, the original mill," says Long. "There are two circuits within Mill One. The new mill, Mill Two, also has two circuits. We're doing work on Mill One,

installing the new electrostatic precipitator, it kind of helps capture the particulate so it's not released into the atmosphere. We're upgrading the storage bins on the surface where the raw ore coming up from underground is dumped from the hoisting system, and we're doing work on the mill galleries, and the belt lines.

"The ongoing electrical upgrades that we've been doing, we started the electrical upgrades when I was actually general manager

there in 2017 and they're just wrapping up now. We use a lot of copper wires.

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We've got a lot of electrical distribution systems and everything runs off electrical power so we've been upgrading that now for about five years. That's going to be largely completed finally this year for Mill One.

"There are three new east storage bins because obviously they're on the eastern end of the property at the original Rocanville site. The bins being replaced are original, they have been there since the mine was commissioned in 1969.

"We're replacing them with four new bins and there's all the work associated there. There are four new bins, 13 new conveyors associated with those bins and the distribution equipment that is associated with that bin system. The work on that project will be wrapping up for this year during shutdown and there will be more work done next year, in 2022."

Major work at Nutrien Rocanville will continue for the next two years, with the number of contractors peaking at 500-1,000 each year.




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# Bridges and Company opens Moosomin office

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
An Estevan law firm has opened an office in Moosomin this month.

"Bridges and Company is a firm based out of Estevan founded by Barry Bridges, who has been practicing since the early '70s and sold his practice to Rob Nicolay and myself," says Chad Jesse, one of the partners in the firm.

"He's still around in a counsel capacity, but it's mostly Rob and me. He's a Carlyle guy originally, and I'm from Estevan, so we have connections to the area. Rob has an acreage in the Pipestone Valley by Whitewood.

"We really wanted to see if we could broaden our practice a bit. We have 12 full-time employees, about half of our office has been with us for more than 25 years. We aren't the normal small town law firm, we have lots of capacity and capability. We do everything from corporate law, corporate reorganizations, all kinds of commercial agreements and transactions, bank financing, real estate work, wills and estates, lots of oil and gas and mineral type work. We have a broad based solicitor's type practice."

This will be the firm's third location. "We have one satellite office in Carlyle," says Jesse. "Moosomin and Carlyle are different commu-



Chad Jesse



Rob Nicolay

nities but they're similar in some respects. They're both regional centres, they both have a good business community, a good sense of community, we can tell that there is some real civic pride. Those are the kind of places where typically you find thriving businesses and good people to deal with. That's part of the reason we're attracted to coming out there and giving it a go. We just see Moosomin as a really positive place to do business."

Jesse says the firm's business base in the area has grown organically in recent years.

"We got to know some good clients in the area and that sort of relationship often grows over time and the next thing you know you're doing stuff for other people in the area. We started think-

ing with a Moosomin lo-

cality we could service existing people and grow our practice a bit, and the economic development folks were keen to have a broader offering of services in the area as well. For us we didn't need to be convinced to come there, it was just to make sure that logistically we can do it and it's sustainable. We are planning to come out there twice a month, the first and third Tuesday of every month, and we're going to start September 7. We're going to basically run it through appointments at our Estevan office."

Jesse believes there is potential to expand the practice in Moosomin.

"Covid has taught us that we do have to be there, you have to meet people, you have to trust people. Once you've established some of those relationships, where you do

the work and how you do it is less important. People are pretty accepting of talking over the phone or Zoom or sending stuff by email. So being there more would help, but it has to be sustainable for us and meaningful for people."

Does Jesse see Bridges and Company as a typical small town law firm?

"I think we are somewhat typical in that we're friendly, we're approachable, we're reasonable—all of the small town attributes that most of us enjoy about small town living, I

think we embody those. Rob and I have both come from bigger firms and had good training along the way and we continue to do work that probably isn't typical of small towns. We do a lot of transactional work—things that are quite important to people as they build their business or exit from it. I think we're pretty lucky to be able to meet with great people all the time and do valuable work for people too, so it's a really good combination."

Jesse says he is looking

forward to doing business in Moosomin.

"It's something we talked about for quite awhile, two or three years, and when the Broadway Commons folks decided to turn that area into brand new, first class office space, it became a lot easier to envision and to make happen."

"We are looking forward to it. We may have to be patient, it probably takes awhile before it gets some traction, but we're committed to being there and seeing how it goes."

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# Local municipalities taking issue over gaps in rural ambulance service

## SHA says recruitment remains a problem in the rural areas

BY KARA KINNA

A number of local municipalities are starting to take issue with rural ambulance service issues that are leading to lengthy delays on some calls, and local ambulance providers covering wider and wider areas due to staffing shortages in the rural areas.

One of those communities is Esterhazy, where the mayor, Grant Forster, penned a letter to the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and the Minister of Health on July 7 to complain about ER closures at St. Anthony's Hospital in Esterhazy. In his letter, Mayor Forster mentioned the issue with rural ambulance services.

"Our paramedics are now servicing a larger area due to reductions in the Whitewood ambulance service, potentially causing further delays in getting Esterhazy patients to other facilities when St. Anthony's is not available," he said in his letter.

Esterhazy's ambulance service is operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Eight other municipalities in the province are also demanding answers on the issue and a meeting with the minister of rural and remote health over the issue. Those municipalities are served by the ambulance in Kipling—also an SHA-run ambulance service—and they sat down on August 5 together to discuss the issue and how it can be addressed.

The municipalities at the meeting included the towns of Kipling, Kennedy, Windthorst and Glenavon, along with the RMs of Kigsley, Hazelwood, Chester and Silverwood.

"We have eight mayors and Reeves from surrounding communities. We pushed to build the hospital in Kipling and in the intervening years we've had various mayors and Reeves keep in touch with one another about issues," says Mayor Patricia Jackson.



Communities are starting to get frustrated with gaps in rural ambulance service and are demanding meetings with the ministers of health and rural and remote health. SHA says the problem is entirely due to recruitment issues.

"It sounds like across the province there are about 19 communities that have ambulance services who are experiencing difficulties with adequate staffing. Many of them are in what used to be Sun Country Health Region. That's what is setting off some alarm bells. This is a historic issue and anecdotally I know that a number of people have not been able to get ambulance services in their home communities for a lot of years. It really is coming to a head.

"All we did was meet to just plan where we're going from here and try to raise some points to the minister of rural and remote health with regards to ambulances and what we require out here.

"I know of one example, a man in Kipling had a heart attack and had to wait an hour and 45 minutes for an ambulance to get there from Carlyle. He is alive and doing well, but it could have gone very badly.

"What we're trying to do is let the

minister know that it's not Kipling that's complaining or any specific community, it's a collective. We are as a group saying that this has to change. We've got to have EMTs sufficiently well paid to make it a living wage. People can't live on \$5 for standby. If they don't get called out, all they make is \$5 an hour. I believe that may have increased a bit in the past week or so, but SHA has been advertising for ambulance people for the Kipling area for quite some time and they're not getting responses because it's just insufficient. People who are trained and looking for work are not going to come out for \$5 or \$6 an hour, and they won't come out if it's posted as temporary.

"We're trying to be on the same page so that if anyone is approached by the provincial government, we can be saying that this is what we want, and it is to have permanent positions that can be filled as permanent positions. It's the same as any other job, you can't make a living on a temporary position.

"What we have already done is we have contacted our MLA to request that he facilitate a meeting with the minister. We have one mayor who has put a tremendous amount of time into trying to contact people from SHA and the provincial government. We're going to the person who is sure to have the authority to effect some changes. And not just changes for Kipling, but all of our eight municipalities."

Jackson says a lack of ambulance staff in rural areas has been an issue for a long time.

"It's been an issue forever," she says. "Now and again it will get a little bit better and people relax a bit, and then something will happen, and we're off and running again."

She says the eight municipalities raising concerns are hoping to be able to meet with the minister soon.

*Continued on Page 10*

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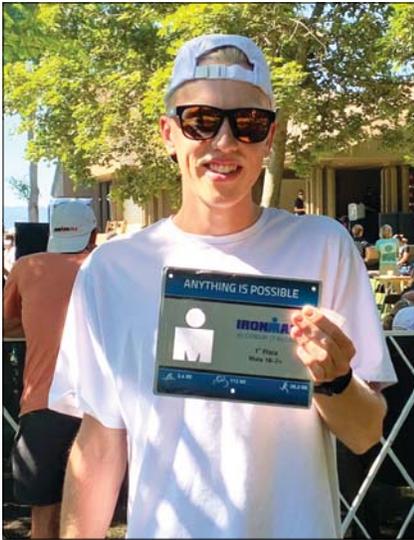
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# Plewes looking forward to Iron Man world championships



**Above:** Jameson Plewes with a plaque for his first place finish at a half Iron Man race in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho this year.

**Below:** Plewes in training biking.



Continued from front

"Doing these world championships, it's like the pinnacle of Iron Man racing," he says. "It's always such a great opportunity to have and I'm thankful to have it. The people, especially my parents, are supportive and allow me to go to these races. It's the thing I look forward to the most in the year, going to these races."

"These are kind of the end point races. These are the ones you work hard at to do well at other races so you can qualify for these ones, but if you do well in these races, especially if you win, that means you were the best in the world on that day. If you win your age group in Hawaii or in the 70.3 in Utah, that means you were the best that day in your age group or even overall."

Plewes says he wants people to know that anyone who is interested in endurance sports can do it by simply starting

small like he did.

"If people are interested in it, all it takes to start is just do one thing every day," he says. "Just for endurance sport in general, you can start anywhere and just go out for a 10 minute jog or a 15 minute bike ride or something every day. You can eventually achieve at that level. You have to start. You just have to start somewhere."

"When I was 15 I never thought I would be able to do an Iron Man. That was totally insane (to me), but I just worked my way up over the last five years and now I'm doing Iron Mans and I'm doing them well."

Plewes says anyone interested in following his race progress in Utah or Hawaii can download an app called Iron Man Live Tracker and put his name into it during the race. He says the app will show his live results as well as his finishing results.

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# Redvers Union Estates celebrating 10 years Building was first Bridge Road project in Saskatchewan

BY KARA KINNA

Redvers Union Estates, a 55-plus, 35-unit building in Redvers, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this October, and those who got the ball rolling on the project 10 years ago say it was the very first project built by Bridge Road Developments in Saskatchewan. The second project was Pipestone Villas in Moosomin.

Today Bridge Road is in 16 communities in Saskatchewan with their independent living apartments.

Laut Lauritsen sits on the Redvers Union Estates board, and is the past chair of the board. He was one of the people who initiated the project in Redvers 10 years ago.

"I was visiting my daughter down in Killarney, Manitoba and she had a newspaper from Boissevain, Manitoba there and they had the picture and the write up about condos they were building in Boissevain," he says. "We were talking about getting something started in Redvers and I brought this back to a meeting and that's how we got involved with Bridge Road."

A group of people in Redvers were interested in bringing a similar development to Redvers.

"We had a couple of meetings with Bridge Road and we went out into the community and we had talked about it to people who would be interested in investing a little money into this and there seemed to be good interest," he says. "Then we contacted Bridge Road again and we got started."

Lauritsen says the project moved quickly, with investments firming up in about six months, the sod turning in June of 2011, and the building opening in September of 2011.

He says there was a need for housing in Redvers and the project filled some of that need.

"At that time there was a shortage of housing in Redvers and the oil was booming. We thought there was a need and we had prospective tenants signed up so that



Redvers Union Estates is a 55-plus, 35-unit building. Its 10th anniversary open house is set for Saturday, October 2.

we were almost full when we started," he says. "You have a \$50,000 deposit (when you move in), and then you have your monthly rent and we give your \$50,000 deposit back within 90 days after you move out."

Lauritsen says looking back on the project 10 years later, the majority of residents are happy with Redvers Union Estates. He says it allowed lots of people to age in place in their home town and has also attracted people from surrounding communities.

"I have never talked to anybody who was unhappy," he says. "And it has also attracted people from other centres. Like you take Alida, we have quite a few people from Alida. We have some from Maryfield and actually we had one person move back from Calgary."

Colette Branigan, the property manager

for Redvers Union Estates, says she has seen first-hand how the building has filled a need in Redvers.

"When we opened the building, people were coming to me saying 'this is something we're interested in, we want to get off the farm or move out of a house.' There really wasn't this option even in the surrounding area. So it was a need at that time and it's still the same need," she says.

"We've actually seen some individuals that had moved to larger centres like Regina move back to the area. We draw in people from all around, from all the small communities."

Branigan says people love living there.

"They love it—the socializing when they want to socialize, they do pizza parties and meals together, puzzles, coffee time every day, barbecues outside. So they're a fairly tight-knit group. If they

want to stay in their suites, they've got all the amenities they need there, but they've got that opportunity to visit. They'll do a lot of carpooling and do things like go to the tea house in Fairlight and stuff like that in groups."

A 10-year anniversary open house event for the building will be held on Saturday, October 2 with private tours from noon to 2 pm that day and the rest of the afternoon open to the public from 2-5 pm.

"We're going to do the open house and we'll have coffee and a door prize. We are also going to have the shareholders and tenants get together for a meal," says Branigan.

Of the 35 suites available in Redvers Union Estates, 30 are currently occupied, and the board is pushing to fill the remaining five suites.

"It's maintenance free, they move in, they don't even have to switch their name for utilities, all the utilities are covered, and we're directly across from the hospital," says Branigan. "So if an emergency arises they can just go right across. We've had people that have had to move into long-term care, so they live there and then the other partner lives at Redvers Union Estates right across the street. So they can visit them on a daily basis. It's easy to move in and easy to move out when they give their notice to move out, they don't have to sell it or anything like that."

Branigan has been involved with Redvers Union Estates since the property opened in 2011. She was the economic development officer in Redvers at that time. She is also the property manager for Crossroad Villas in Whitewood. She says it feels good to see the Redvers property hit its 10-year anniversary mark.

"I've always said this is one of my babies. When individuals started coming to me as the economic development officer at the time saying this was needed in town, we searched different avenues and that's where we came across Bridge Road. It has always held a soft spot for me."

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The front of the Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living, with the banquet room, deck, putting greens and park area.



The putting greens and play area.

# Grand opening held for Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living in Grenfell

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The grand opening of the Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living in Grenfell was held on August 11. The day consisted of speeches, tours of the facility, and a barbecue prime rib dinner.

The Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living is a combined hotel and seniors residence just off the Trans-Canada Highway at Grenfell.

Richard and Marcia Dimler of Grenfell had the vision for the facility, and Steel Creek Developers brought their expertise to help turn that vision into reality.

The hotel has 31 guest rooms on three floors and a 150 seat

banquet hall. The Heritage Community Living portion of the building consists of 18 suites approximately 1,200 square feet in size.

The grounds around the building are extensively landscaped and include a park, walking paths, a courtyard with a picnic and barbecue area, several putting greens, a fish pond, a water feature, and a children's play area.

About half of the seniors suites are full, with 10 more left to rent.

"Congratulations to the Dimler family and Steel Creek Developers on this five star facility," said Grenfell mayor Rod Wolfe in his speech at the grand opening. "The town of Grenfell is both honoured and excited to have the Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living call Grenfell home. This venture not only brings a much needed service to Grenfell and area, but also contributes to our local economy every year. We are very excited to work with everyone on this project, and can't wait to work with the Dimlers on their next adventure in town. Congratulations again to the Dimlers and Steel

Creek. We are proud to have you as part of our community."

Richard and Marcia Dimler's daughter Pam Davis-Wilcox spoke on behalf of the Dimler family.

"Well, it's been a very interesting year to open a brand new business. But we are so thankful for the support we've received," she said. "This past year has exceeded our family's expectations in every way. When hotels in urban centres were suffering through Covid, the Legacy Inn here in Grenfell operated at near full capacity since last August. That just goes to show that there are progressive things happening in and surrounding your small community."

"The Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living has been a dream and vision of dad and mom for several years now. It's been in the making for a long time. When they first started talking about it, never was it said that they were doing this for themselves. It was always first and foremost on their minds to build this for their family and their community."

*Continued on page 12* <sup>SP</sup>



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# Hindley responds to MDHCF request

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

After writing to Saskatchewan Health Minister Paul Merriman about the need for a CT Scanner in Moosomin, and pointing out that Moosomin has a larger population within a 100 km radius than two communities that have CT Scanners, the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation received a response from Minister of Rural and Remote Health Everett Hindley that doesn't indicate that the province is moving Moosomin's request for a CT scanner to the top of the priority list.

"Thank you for your letter on behalf of 14 communities in support of having a Computed Tomography (CT) scanner for the South East Integrated Care Centre. I appreciate being informed of the views of the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation about this matter," Hindley wrote.

"Our government is committed to providing the best possible medical imaging services as close to home as feasible. As you have stated in your letter, there are many benefits to having access to diagnostics at various smaller health facilities thereby reducing the amount of travel for patients from rural communities.

"I am sure you will understand that there are many competing priorities across the health sector including, but not limited to, medical imaging services. Some of these priorities include limiting service interruption due to aging equipment and prioritizing equipment to address pressing wait time or service needs.

"Bringing your comments to our attention is helpful and much appreciated. I am confident that Ministry of Health and Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) officials will continue their efforts to en-

sure residents receive the best possible diagnostic services.

"The Ministry and the SHA continuously assess the need for additional capacity for health services and the best possible location for such needed capacity with due consideration for service delivery closer to home.

"I commend the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation for its great work in enriching community health services.

"Sincerely, Everett Hindley, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health.

At a meeting in June where the letter to Merriman was approved, MDHCF chair Bill MacPherson said that the foundation board has also been trying to get a CT scanner for the last several years and has not been successful.

"A frustrating part for the foundation is that if we were told we could buy it we'd have it here tomorrow," said MacPherson. "We could get the money if we need the money because everyone here knows we need it. But nobody seems to be listening to us."

Dr. Erica Roets said at the same meeting that a portable X-Ray machine purchased for SEICC has saved lives and she has no doubt a CT scanner would as well.

"I can't tell you how valuable that piece of machinery is. I cannot emphasize it enough," Roets told the foundation board members. "It has truly saved lives. I'm not a dramatic person, but it has saved lives."

She said a CT scanner would be even more useful and she has absolutely no doubt that it would save lives. "There is no doubt in my mind," she said. "I know it will save lives."



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# Local municipalities taking issue over gaps in rural ambulance service

Continued from page 5

"I hope that it will be in the next few weeks. We all contacted our MLA and a couple of the people have received indications that we would be hearing something. I'm not sure what we will hear," she says.

"We are also working in conjunction with the Kipling District Health Foundation because it is their mandate to support health services in our region."

Jackson says that when the Kipling ambulance service can't respond to calls due to a lack of staffing, it means ambulances have to come from other communities.

"So if Kipling doesn't have service, the ambulance will come from Carlyle or Moosomin, and even from Fillmore. Fillmore itself is having issues because their ambulance service is entirely voluntary. They're going to run into issues as their volunteers get more elderly or busier with their own personal lives.

"I get the feeling that ambulance services have kind of fallen through the cracks. Of course right now with the pandemic, it sometimes makes it easy to say that we're too busy focusing on other things. But if we can't get people to our bigger centres when they need it, we're going to have a lot of subsidiary issues that the smaller hospitals, as wonderful as they are, will have difficulty handling. We don't do surgeries that we once did in smaller hospitals. It's part of a whole package that needs to be improved."

## SHA responds, says recruitment is the issue

Krista Remeshylo, the Director of EMS for central Saskatchewan with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, says lack of service stems from a lack of staff.

"Recruitment and retention of healthcare providers to rural and remote communities is challenging," she says. "It doesn't matter if you're a private service or a public service, it is challenging. And we are finding with EMS providers it's no different. Whether you're looking for a nurse or an EMS provider, it is difficult to accomplish."

"We still do our recruitment efforts. We are advertising vacant EMS positions. One of the challenges specific to rural EMS is that some communities just don't have sufficient call volumes. So it's really, really hard to staff full-time positions because we don't have full-time positions there. It can be really difficult to attract EMS workers into these positions because we are offering less than full-time hours in a lot of cases. That creates some issues for us."

Remeshylo says when there are vacancies, shifts are of-

"Recruitment and retention of health-care providers to rural and remote communities is challenging. It doesn't matter if you're a private service or a public service, it is challenging. And we are finding with EMS providers it's no different."

—Krista Remeshylo  
Director of EMS for Central Saskatchewan

ferred to part-time and casual staff until the position can be permanently filled. "But there have been some shifts where we haven't been able to find a staff member to work the shift. When that happens, neighbouring ambulance services will provide coverage," she says.

"So if we're not able to provide an ambulance that day in Langenburg, then the next closest available ambulance will be dispatched to that emergency call. So for example if that call comes in from Langenburg, the dispatch might be from Kamsack, Yorkton, Esterhazy, it might even be Melville or Moosomin that responds to that call, it's whoever is the closest available ambulance to be the first one to respond. That is all done through our medical communications and co-ordination centre. They see what resources are available and would deploy the next available ambulance."

What does Remeshylo think the solution is to the recruitment issue?

"One of the things that we've worked really hard on is developing a rural and remote EMS stabilization plan," she says. "So we're still working on that as a province. But certainly that does address things like some of the challenges that we have with the hours of work, being able to provide more full-time positions or positions that attract people into those communities. We have to look at things like housing options and working with communities to try to break down some of those challenges that we have. There are so many different things that impact recruitment and retention—training programs and accessibility, and things like that, so we have to work with our other partners."

"It's not just the SHA that has these challenges. We need to work with the education and training institutions and

things like that to try to get through some of those barriers. There isn't one solution to it, it's definitely a multi pronged problem. It's not just EMS, it's all healthcare providers. It's difficult to recruit all healthcare providers."

Remeshylo says recruitment has been an ongoing issue for some time now.

It's been an issue for several years. I've been in EMS for 26 years and I've always worked rural EMS, this has always been an ongoing challenge. In some areas it ebbs and flows, so it will come and go, you might recruit a few folks into the area and that can stabilize it for awhile. But then if one or two people leave or somebody gets pregnant and goes on maternity leave, we get back into a difficult situation. It kind of flows along and there are times where it is more difficult and times when our staffing is more than adequate and we have staff begging for more shifts.

"With Covid and the demand on all of our healthcare services, it's been rocky and staff are quite tired right now and really needing some time to take a break and just be able to relax a little bit, but they aren't getting that chance yet for the most part."

Remeshylo says it's not an issue of needing more positions for the rural communities, but simply filling the positions that exist.

"The positions that we have provide coverage for an ambulance," she says. "So if we can fill the positions that we have, certainly that would cover the ambulance. The challenge comes in if people take holidays, or they get injured at work, or they're off for sick leave, any kind of a surgery. The question becomes whether we have enough casuals and relief to backfill them. So that is also a problem that we have."

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# Kihew Fabco a step on the road to economic independence

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Kahkewistahaw First Nation has taken another step to economic independence with the opening of Kihew Fabco, a metal fabrication company that specializes in welding, engineering and design and 3-D modelling services.

Kihew Fabco is operating out of the 55,000 square foot former Babcock-Wilcox fabrication building along Highway 10 in Melville. Kihew Fabco is a fabrication company that specializes in welding, engineering and design and 3-D modelling services.

In 2019, the Kahkewistahaw First Nation, which owns half of Kihew Fabco, purchased the building.

Kihew Fabco is a new fully indigenous-owned and operated steel fabrication enterprise. It is owned 50 per cent by Kahkewistahaw First Nation and 50 per cent by Kahkewistahaw band member Des Dumais.

Kihew Fabco uses an integrated fully automated fabrication process complemented by a digital data-management infrastructure including 3D laser scanning of project locations to aid with project conception and development, along with CAD design and drafting of concept models, capable of working closely with industry engineering and converting a 3D scan model to a fully workable fabrication model to be implemented into an automated welding workflow.

## "A big day for us"

"It's a big day for us," said Des Dumais, President and CEO of Kihew Fabco at the grand opening on August 25.

"I started out in the trades, working the operations, I was a pipefitter. The trades helped me. I'm really excited to share that with my community and build a legacy for anyone young who wants to get into a trade and build a career.

"This has been a really good journey for us and I'm really excited. I want to thank everyone with our team at Kihew.

"This is a historic moment for Kahkewistahaw First Nation, to become a part of the economic activity in Saskatchewan. We work with a lot of the local industries. We have the potash mines, there's oil and gas in the south, agriculture, and when First Nations business becomes part of that supply chain, it's a very important time and we're very excited about that.

"Kihew means eagle, and we chose that as our logo. The eagle represents strong, vibrant First Nations communities. It represents achieving our highest dreams. This represents a great big step in the right direction for young people, for indigenous workers, for non-indigenous workers. We want to give our young people a place to move into the future. Our goal here is to be an industry leader. We offer high quality services, piping and structural steel fabrication, 3D modelling. We want to work with local industry, and industry across Saskatchewan and Western Canada."

## A step on the road

Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat said the metal fabricating plant is a step on the road to economic self-sufficiency.

"Kahkewistahaw right now is looking for sovereignty," he said. "We want to be sovereign, we want to be independent and we don't want to depend on anybody.

"We're going to do that through economic development. If we can make money to look after ourselves, Kahkewistahaw will prosper for years and generations to come. This is one of the smaller steps of about 10 steps we have planned and certainly a step in the right direction for us.

"We have a five year plan, we have a 10 year plan. Right now it's all driven by elections and it's driven by people staying in these seats that have the same vision, but for us right now the land in Saskatoon that we're developing and the land at Bird's Point we're going to develop in conjunction with this land are part of the bigger solution to all the underfunding.

"We all know about housing shortages and housing crisis and lack of education funding, but like I said we can either wait for the government to change their colors, which they're not, or we can do something about it and Kahkewistahaw is doing something about it through economic development."

So how did this project come together?



From left Kahkewistahaw Councillors Michael Bob and Iris Taypotat-Scribe, Melville Mayor Walter Streeclatsky, Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat, and Kihew Fabco President and CEO Des Dumais.

"Three years ago Des Dumais was driving by on a really cold day and he saw this place and he came in here and he said 'Hey they made steel here before. That's what I do.'

"Des Dumais is a band member and he said 'Let's buy the building and let's make our own custom steel fabrication plant.' He said 'We don't want to be partners with anyone. We want to be 100 per cent indigenous owned.' And he said 'owning it, we're in charge of our own destiny, our own fate' and that is where we wanted to get. So it was three years of a lot of meetings, a lot of airplanes, planes, trains, beating on doors.

"And with the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) coming out with recommendation Number 92 saying that non-indigenous have to include indigenous business, that's what is helping us get our foot in the door, but the next side to it is we have to do the job and you have to do it just as well as anybody else. It doesn't matter what skin color you are or what race or ethnicity, you have to be able to do your job and you have to be able to do it well."

Chief Taypotat said Covid-10 has slightly slowed Kahkewistahaw's drive toward economic independence.

"Covid-19 has basically stalled a lot of the industry but now as we're coming out of Covid-19, industry's opening up again, people are building more things and there are more contracts, and so and so forth. So basically we just have to make sure we clear Covid out. I don't think we'll ever be rid of it but in some aspects right now we're moving beyond it as best we can and with that comes more business."

Chief Taypotat said Kihew Fabco will help his First Nation on its drive toward economic independence.

"Kahkewistahaw will be sovereign one day because of economic development," he said.

"Kihew Fabco will help achieve that status and achieve that goal for us, as well other businesses that we have in Saskatoon, Yorkton and other cities that we're looking at right now."

## Mayor welcomes new business

Melville mayor Walter Streeclatsky said he welcomes Kahkewistahaw and Kihew Fabco to the community.

"We're very excited about Kihew Fabco coming here," he said.

"Kahkewistahaw purchasing the building and setting up a steel fabrication plant. This is very good news for Melville. We had a good run with Babcock-Wilcox but now Kihew is taking over.

"They're a very progressive group of businesses. Their equipment is just unbe-



People touring the Kihew Fabco building at the grand opening on August 25.

lievable, robotic machines and such—this is so new to Melville.

"They're certainly gearing up for future production and allowing Saskatchewan to benefit, allowing our country to benefit by the things they are doing.

"They have very strong initiative and their equipment and technology is right up with the times. When we talk about robotics and technology, it's all here. So we're looking for some very good things, to happen in terms of employment, and

good things to happen for Kihew Fabco and for the city of Melville. This is good news and we welcome them to our community."

He said Babcock-Wilcox was an important part of the community when it ran the plant before closing it several years ago.

"That was a very, very big part of our economy," he said. "They provided a lot of the equipment for the potash industry. So we are very pleased to have the plant back and wish the new owners all the best."

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# Grand opening for Legacy Inn

*Continued from page 8*

"In light of the heritage that both my parents have, dating back to their great-grandparents, they have always admired and been grateful for the hard work and diligence both of their families demonstrated in homesteading in the Grenfell area. So while they look back with admiration and fondness of their heritage and their past they also saw a promising future for Grenfell and wanted to give back to their community in a small way.

"They were thinking ahead, in the hope of bringing more business to Grenfell through sporting events now having accommodations for weekend tournaments, a venue where you can have a wedding, a reunion, business meeting, or a weekend retreat in a beautiful facility and grounds and even have a bed for the night if you need.

"It was also their desire to have a place where aging town residents had a place to call home, with beautiful surroundings to enjoy, a place people could build their own sense of community. So when you look around the grounds, just know that my dad and mom take pride in their community and had Grenfell in mind when they brought their dreams to fruition by building the Legacy Inn and Heritage Community Living. You can see their creativity and planning come to life in the beautiful grounds that surround it."

Trevor Rempel with Steel Creek Developers said he hopes the new facility has a posi-

itive and lasting impact on Grenfell.

"One thing that's been a really consistent thought through the whole process is the impact that a development like this could have on the community and in the surrounding area," he said.

"One of the things we always talk about when we come into communities like this is the ripple effect and the impact that these projects can have on surrounding businesses as well as the community as a whole, the organization, minor sports, and other activities in that community and how this rubs off. When a vehicle drives out of town after a hockey tournament and goes to stay in Regina or Moosomin, that's a tank of gas, that's shopping out of town, and that's spending money elsewhere.

"That's why we see a lot of confidence in these communities and a development such as this that helps lift everybody. It shows growth, and the confidence that the community has in itself. When people from outside the community are driving by, maybe they've always been driving by Grenfell, and all of a sudden this comes up, it's a signpost that stands in front of them and says there's growth confidence that the community has and that it's going places.

"We've done a number of projects and this is definitely one of our best looking projects in our portfolio, so we're really happy that it came out the way it did. It really is a great facility and a great gem that will help everybody."



**Above:** A park area out front with courtyard area. **Right:** Andrew Rempel with Steel Creek Developers doing a tour of one of the seniors suites in the community living area.



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Tow truck and emergency vehicles lined up along Lake Avenue with their lights flashing on Wednesday for the blue lights and burgers event.



A child checking out one of the fire trucks.

# Blue lights and burgers event raises awareness of roadside hazards faced by responders

Trucks from Davidson Truck and Tractor, the Moosomin Fire Department, Hutch's Ambulance, local tire shops, Elkhorn and Wapella Fire Departments lined up along Lake Avenue in Moosomin on the evening of September 1 for the Blue Lights and Burgers event. The event was held to raise awareness of the slow down and move over law while roadside responders are working on the side of the highway.

Todd Davidson with Davidson Truck and Tractor hosted the event on Wednesday.

"We want to create an awareness program because some people just don't realize what happens out there on the highway," he said. "And everybody at some point in time is

likely going to need some assistance on the highway. Whether it's the police, ambulance, tow trucks, when we're out there trying to do our job, trying to keep the motoring public going, there are lots of hazards out there.

"I've had so many people that I've helped along the side of the road and they say I don't realize how dangerous it is out there until they're stopped. We just had a couple of motorcycles the other day and their motorcycle had a flat tire and they couldn't go anywhere. Until we got there, the people were just screaming by and even once we got there, even with the blue lights on, they were still screaming by there.

*Continued on page 32*

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# Optimizing and sharing digitally derived solutions

## Financial data

Farmers are arguably my busiest customers. They're occupied quite literally around the clock managing their operations and finding time to provide the data needed for comprehensive financial planning has about as much allure as an appendectomy. I get it. The adage "short-term pain for long-term gain" could not be more apt than in farm finance.

When deciding who to let into their data circle, farm owners must consider who will take over the business. Gone are the days when it would automatically pass to the oldest son. Instead, many find their children have other aspirations, and they may need to look outside the family to find potential successors and integrate them as early as possible.

Succession planning tends to be quite complex, involving such factors as multifaceted estate issues, tax considerations, risk management and overall farm business transition. Determining a strategy means understanding the farm business as it is currently and as it is forecast to be at retirement.

A substantial amount of detail must be shared to set up current and future generations for success, often with the help of an advisor to liaise with the farm's team of professionals. The more details that can be shared, the more in-depth and customized the resulting plans will be.

## Human performance data

One critical piece of data that is late to the farm party is that of human performance, or HR. What this information may tell is often the difference between a healthy, thriving operation and a negative, unmotivated workplace.

When farm operators recruit, they often do so with a brief social media post. Worse yet, they may find themselves in a pinch and their only criteria becomes two feet and a heartbeat. The cost of a bad hire is more than just lost money, though. Morale quickly deteriorates if issues are not dealt with and other employees may become disengaged. With a few proactive steps, managers can build a team of high-performing, engaged employees that positively impacts the bottom line.

Psychometric testing is crucial for hiring managers as it helps you better understand a candidate's potential strengths, understand how they thrive and know what they need to succeed. It's one way to avoid hiring a likeable person while passing up more qualified applicants who may better fit into your operation's culture. As farms increase annual audits of workplace culture and employee engagement, the resulting data is a key driver to improving the overall business.

Understanding the environment an applicant will flourish in can make a world of difference. A grab-the-bull-by-the-horns employee, for example, will always need a bull to grab. Similarly, a worker-bee needs a to-do list with no end in sight.

Remember, feedback is equally vital for managers and employees. Performance reviews are data, and critically important to growing and keeping high-calibre employees.

## Agronomic data

Farming is high stakes – you get one chance to grow your crop. The model in Canada for more than 100 years has largely been to rely on intuition with some fine-tuning based on last year's results.

Now, with agronomic data collection and aggregation, an area farmer could share information through a third party, along with 100 nearby producers, and get access to 100 years' worth of relevant benchmark data. If everyone shares for 10 years, there is suddenly 1,000 years of learning to draw on.

Producers may view digital data as insecure or believe it may be used against them. It's a legitimate concern. It's much more likely, though, that the end result will be industry using your data in aggregate to generate new ideas and products based on your soil zone, geography, climate, macro- and micro-nutrient needs, and more. If agriculture is going to progress, data sharing will be required. There's no way around it. Whether it's finance, insurance, agronomy or carbon credits, sharing some amount of data is nearing the non-negotiable stage. The payback is that once shared, the farm gets access to a new opportunity or areas to improve.

Having a coffee with a neighbour and telling them what you did this year is essentially a slower version of uploading your data to the cloud. You've been sharing data your whole life; technologies of today can help interpret data to potentially give you a greater payback at the farm gate. Farmers who embrace the digitality of agriculture can already attest to its many benefits.



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Figure 1: Cattle slaughter in the West is following recent trends but may increase with early marketing.

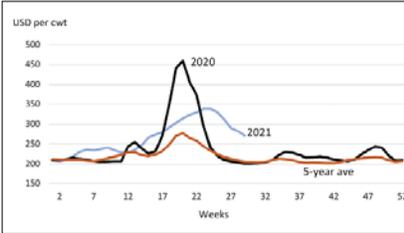


Figure 2: U.S. beef cutout values fall from 2020 high, but continue to outperform 5-year average.

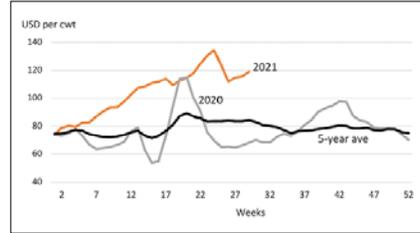


Figure 3: U.S. pork cutout values in 2021 easily exceed high values of 2020.

## 2021 Cattle and hog sectors outlook update:

# Lack of moisture and excessive heat pressure the West

BY MARTHA ROBERTS WITH FCC  
 Canada's red meat sectors will see a third quarter of mixed profitability in 2021. Periods of extreme heat and severe declines in normal moisture levels have hit western cattle producers hard, with possible strong ripple effects for individual operations throughout the remainder of the year. Feed costs remain elevated in both the east and the west, but conditions may prompt lower prices as more cattle are marketed earlier. Hog sector margins will vary over the next quarter, with forecasted improvements for the end of the quarter.  
 We expect all livestock prices to climb higher throughout 2021 than we had forecasted in May. Year-to-date prices have been boosted by lower cattle slaughter than anticipated in both Canada and the U.S. Nonetheless, prices for western cattle remain below their five-year average. The wild card will be basis levels, which have been trending downward. If liquidation intensifies, prices could drop sharply.

It's a different story in eastern Canada. Prices for hogs in both Manitoba and Ontario should continue to exceed their five-year averages on the strength of global and domestic demand. Chinese pork imports have largely driven strong global demand and continued strength in North American hog prices.  
 In February, we identified African Swine Fever, feed costs and growing global demand for red meats as the three dominant forces impacting profitability of the Canadian red meat sectors. However, weather-related impacts on feed crops in 2021 may prove to have the most significant influence on margins.  
 Cow-calf margins in Western Canada remain pressured due to high feed costs, low moisture levels and high temperatures. That has prompted increased marketings. Federally inspected slaughters show that slaughters in the first half of 2021 are 13.5 per cent higher year-over-year (YoY) and 6.5 per cent higher than 2019 (Figure 1). Losses are more likely as

feed costs increase with diminishing feed supplies while cattle prices weaken as more cattle are slaughtered. Basis levels are expected to decline given increased culling and early marketing of yearlings.  
 The feedlot sector also faces significant hurdles given high feed costs and ample supplies of cattle coming to market. Alberta hay prices rose 25 per cent between May and June 2021 and average Montana hay prices increased 50 per cent between May and August 2021. Lethbridge feed barley prices hit a record \$415 per tonne or \$9.00 per bushel for the week ending July 30. Profitability for the feedlot sector is projected to remain below break-even.  
 The one bright spot is the stable strength of demand for red meat. The U.S. choice beef and pork cutout values show North American values have exceeded their respective five-year averages so far in 2021 (Figures 2 and 3), in no small part due to households' greater savings and reduced spending on other consumption trends. Globally, beef and veal consumption are

expected to rise by 1 per cent YoY while pork consumption is expected to rise by 2.3 per cent YoY, according to the OECD.  
**Bottom line**  
 Operations culling older cattle now will have a younger herd when moisture levels and temperatures improve, better positioning themselves to rebuild their herd. Assuming normal crop growing conditions, current profit projections indicate a return to profitability for the cow-calf sector in 2022.  
 Regardless of weather impacts in 2021, the red meat sectors may soon see diminished overall markets as China slows its purchases of red meat. Consumption of animal proteins has fallen with declining incomes throughout the rest of the world. In North America, that trend has not been seen, as households show continued pent-up demand for red meats in barbecue season and as the food service sector continues to improve. It will help in a year that has been anything but easy.

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# Recent government commitments to agriculture reflected in first quarter update

Saskatchewan's deficit is up \$126.5 million due to significant agricultural support of over \$700 million to address wide-spread drought conditions.

Higher expenses are offset somewhat by increased revenue from higher than expected oil and potash prices and from higher federal transfers.

The result is a forecast 2021-22 deficit of \$2.74 billion at first quarter.

"Recent commitments to help our farmers through the emerging drought, has affected the province's fiscal situation," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "However, higher oil and potash prices and increased federal transfers have helped to combat the increase in the projected deficit."

Revenue is forecast to increase from budget by about \$757 million (5.2 per cent). About \$360 million of this revenue increase is from non-renewable resources- primarily due to higher oil and potash prices.

Federal transfers are also up by about \$401 million from budget, including almost \$132 million for early learning and child care, about \$124 million for Saskatchewan's share of the Helping Our Health Systems Recover program and about \$63 million in one-time top-up funding for the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Total expense is up about \$884 million (5.2 per cent) from budget. Nearly \$707 million of that forecast increase is due to pressures in the agriculture sector and includes higher crop insurance expense of about \$588 million (bringing the total crop insurance indemnity forecast to \$1.1 billion this year), as well as \$119 million to help producers maintain breeding stock and address the high costs they face due to drought conditions.

According to private-sector forecasters, Saskatchewan's real GDP is now expected to grow by 5.6 per cent in 2021 and by 3.8 per cent in 2022.

"A number of our other key economic indicators have also shown improvement since budget, and Saskatchewan continues to have the second-highest overall credit rating among Canadian provinces," Harpauer said. "We are pleased that the major rating agencies continue to have confidence in our government's fiscal and budgetary approach as we respond to the significant challenges posed by drought and by the global Covid-19 pandemic."

Saskatchewan also has the lowest net debt to GDP among the provinces, at March 31, 2021.

**Projected Net Debt as a % of GDP**  
(as at March 31, 2021)



Source: Jurisdictions most recent data as of March 25, 2021  
GDP: Conference Board of Canada

**Left:** Employment in the first seven months of 2021 increased by 15,029 or 2.8 per cent compared to the first seven months of 2020, and Saskatchewan's unemployment rate dropped from an average of 9.4 per cent to 7.3 per cent, fourth lowest among the provinces.



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# USask PhD student seeks to better design agricultural drainage projects as farmers face more extreme precipitation

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

As the world continues to grapple with extreme weather events linked to climate change, an award-winning University of Saskatchewan (USask) graduate student is focused on improving human understanding of agricultural drainage and climate change on streamflow in the Canadian Prairies.

"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

"We've also seen a great deal of wetland loss in the Prairies, often due to agricultural expansion or intensification, which is concerning because wetlands offer important ecosystem services like wildlife habitat, flood retention and improved downstream water quality."

"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

Annand is conducting her doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. John Pomeroy (PhD), a faculty member in the department and the director of the Centre for Hydrology. Annand's dissertation is titled "The Influence of Climate Change and Wetland Management on Prairie Hydrology."

"This study is important because it seeks to find a balance between wetland retention and agricultural productivity," she said.

As a professional engineer and a longtime Saskatchewan resident, Annand has a deep interest in water issues on the Prairies, particularly as they relate to the agricultural sector. She is originally from Melfort, Sask., a small city in the province's northeast area known for its soil-rich farmland and nearby forests and lakes.

"Prior to starting my PhD program, I was working with farmers in Saskatchewan on agricultural drainage projects. I saw firsthand the impact of both extreme precipitation and agriculture drainage on localized flooding and infrastructure damage," said Annand. "I wanted to gain the necessary skills to better design agriculture drainage projects in the face of more extreme precipitation events."

Now, as she works on her PhD dissertation, Annand is particularly interested in the Aspen Parkland ecoregion, where she said farmers face wet conditions more often. The ecoregion covers parts of the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, and is known as a transi-



Holly Annand is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.

tional zone between the boreal forest of the north and the southern grasslands. Through her doctoral work, she hopes to refine some of the hydrological modelling tools used on the Prairies to better understand agricultural drainage and climate change on streamflow.

"But, more importantly, I'm hoping to uncover some new information for wetland policy development in Saskatchewan," she said. "I want to come up with some wetland mitigation policy options that balance the needs of agriculture production with wetland management and conservation."

A high-achieving student, Annand was recently honoured with the \$2,500 Dr. Jean Murray Memorial Scholarship from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Saskatoon Inc. and will be celebrated during an awards ceremony this fall.

She has also received a number of other awards and honours during her PhD studies, including: a scholarship from the federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), valued at \$21,000 per year for two years; the Engineers Canada - TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Scholarship (\$7,500); an Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS) member education grant (\$7,500); a Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500); and an NSERC CREATE for Water Security Scholarship (\$2,000). The NSERC CREATE for Water Security is a USask-led initiative funded through the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program of NSERC. Launched in 2015 with a \$1.65-million NSERC grant, the program provides career-focused skills training to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows studying water security.

"I find it fascinating that scientists have developed the tools to predict possible future weather scenarios for the Prairies over the next century," said Annand. "I used that type of information in my hydrological model to examine how farmers or watershed management groups can best prepare for future extreme events."

Continued on Page 25

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**Left:** Antique tractors on display at the Wilson old-time harvest south of Wawota.



**Right:** People threshing the grain using a historic threshing machine.

# Wilson old-time harvest brings the past to life

BY ED JAMES

For several years the Wilson Family Farm south of Wawota has been holding a very popular old time harvest using a variety of farm equipment from years gone by.

Last year because of Covid-19, it was put on hold, but this year it was back as big as ever with a few new/old items.

The event is held on the Labour Day weekend every year. There was a good crowd on hand with many being an older generation who remember the old farming and harvesting ways, with a good mix of younger people who wanted to see and learn about the old ways as well.

The weather was perfect for the event with the bright sun showing off two great collections of antique/classic farm tractors. The one collection of restored Massey Harris tractors is owned and restored by Don Lees of Arcola. It also included some miniature toy pedal tractors. The other great display of field tractors was owned

by Ken Wilson and his son. The two long display lines got lots of attention from the public.

As usual the crew from RTR church group we on hand offering refreshments and lunch all through the event.

In one of the nearby fields, a grain crop was being harvest with a variety of vintage machines, with many of them taking along a passenger for a ride to experience the work. There was the odd breakdown in the field, but it seemed that a big hammer, screwdriver and pry bar would put most things right! Remember, we are talking about farm machinery that was used before the days of computer chips and a company rep coming out to your farm with a small computer to find out what your problem is!

The crop that was being taken off was similar to most of the fields this year—short with small heads, but the old machines took it off with ease! As the various machines moved around the fields, a herd

of nearby cows looked over the fence with some interest in what was going on.

All during the various events, you could almost see, among many of the older spectators, dreams and memories of the farm work of their youth with similar equipment many years ago.

Something new this year was a very busy young man with a drone working the events much to the amazement of the older crowd.

As in past years, whenever a piece of the vintage equipment was fired up, it would draw an immediate crowd and if any help or advice was needed, there were lots of willing people with most having white hair like me!

If there is a highlight of this annual event, it's the firing up of the old threshing machines. Once the pulley belts are adjusted to the right angle and tension and hooked on the threshing machine, the old rigs begin to hum and rattle as the chopper hammers wait for the first sheaves of grain to be pitch forked in by many willing volunteers who enjoy the experience! As one of the many volunteers for the event keeps moving around the machine pour-

ing squirts of oil on many of the moving parts, from a pipe out the back, a pile of golden straw flies out building a growing pile, just waiting for some of the several children present to jump in. From another pipe the heads of grain come pouring out into a vintage grain wagon, with both young and old climbing up the side to see the wagon fill up.

There were other displays at the event but for most of the crowd it was a chance to go back in time and remember simpler days!

"We really enjoyed hosting this event and we are happy to share the old ways with the community," say Ken Wilson. "All of the machinery is between 50 and 100 years old. We only hope it all continues to be used and enjoyed for many generations to come."

"It was an awesome day, with great weather and a great crowd," says Ken's son Kevin. "We would like to thank all the friends who came out to help us as this event would not be possible without them. The event has grown every year and we hope to continue with it for many years."

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**Above:** Vicky Tutthill of Elkhorn driving an antique tractor.  
**Below:** Wheat being harvested the old fashioned way.



**Above:** Wheat being combined with a historic Massey Harris combine during the Wilson old-time harvest south of Wawota.  
**Below:** A cultivating demonstration at the Wilson old-time harvest.

Ed James photos



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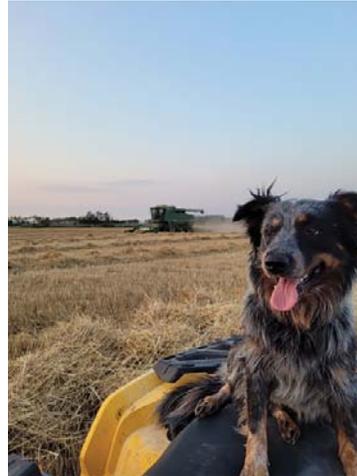
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The World-Spectator and Plain & Valley are asking readers to submit their harvest photos as part of its annual Harvest Photo Contest. Shown here are some of the submissions so far. Readers have a chance to win \$100 and have their photos published in the paper. Photos can be sent to [photos@world-spectator.com](mailto:photos@world-spectator.com)

**Above:**  
Harvest Help  
Betty Reid photo

**Left:** Charles Apland and Owen Moore checking out the barley they were helping uncle/dad (Travis Moore) combine at Papa Garth Moore's near Spy Hill.  
Crystal Apland photo



**Right:** Lunch while spraying . . . another fun day on the farm!  
Meaghan Maga photo

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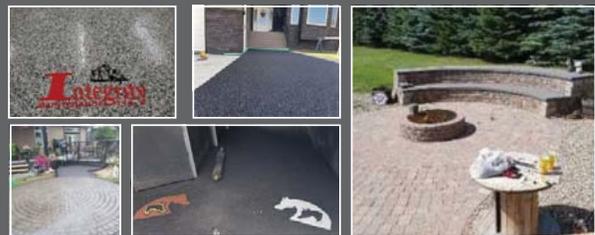
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# First-of-its-kind project imaging live plants for more nutrient-efficient crop breeding

A first-of-its-kind project at the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) is using cutting-edge laser synchrotron technology to image live plants and allow for more efficient crop breeding.

The project, co-led by Dr. Brian Ham (PhD) of GIFS and Dr. Jean Claude Kieffer (PhD) at the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS) in Quebec, has been awarded \$250,000 and lab time by the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) along with \$20,000—the equivalent of two weeks of lab time—from LaserNetUS, an entity that coordinates laser access in North America.

The resources will help the team—for the first time—use real-time imaging with a specially designed semi-portable source of synchrotron radiation, which provides a brilliant light source that can show materials at the molecular level, to analyze how a plant mobilizes and redistributes key minerals at the whole-plant level to survive under nutrient-limiting stress conditions. The goal of the project is to develop more efficient plants with better nutrient uptake and distribution.

Ham, Research Chair in Plant Molecular Signaling and Root-Soil-Microbial Interactions at GIFS and assistant professor in the USask College of Arts and Science, is joined on the team by GIFS Senior Research Fellow Dr. Emil Hallin (PhD), as well as GIFS researchers Dr. Jieyu Chen (PhD) and Dr. Wendy Lyzenga (PhD).

“At GIFS, we’re always looking for new ways to improve plants and that requires innovative ways to examine them,”



Olufunke Okochi photo

Dr. Brian Ham (PhD) of GIFS.

said GIFS CEO Dr. Steven Webb (PhD). “It’s a testament to the resources, platforms and technical expertise that we have here and in Saskatchewan’s agtech ecosystem that we’re able to help lead an innovative project like this.”

Currently, there is no method to quickly map and image nutri-

ent elements in an intact living agricultural plant in situ. Ham’s project seeks to change that.

“Examining samples of plants can show us moments in time, but examining live plants shows us the full picture of how plants use, move and store nutrients when facing external challenges,” said Ham. “If we can make

connections between physical activities and corresponding genetic traits, we can help develop more sustainable plants.”

While other imaging methods require plants to be deconstructed, the portable synchrotron removes that requirement, allowing researchers to examine

live plants to see how nutrients move when these plants face challenges. By determining how fast these nutrients move under stress and which elements travel to which areas, the project can help plant breeders design plants that distribute and store nutrients more efficiently.

The next-generation platform used in this project, known as the betatron beamline at the laser-wakefield accelerator facility in Varennes, Quebec, is based on plasma physics and an integrated ultrafast laser that produces synchrotron light in a compact package. It was developed within the Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC) at USask, a digital agricultural research centre funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) and managed by GIFS on behalf of the university. Developed by Kieffer in partnership with Hallin, it can be used inside a lab or greenhouse, and provides high magnification and high-contrast real-time imaging of intact live plants.

“The information will help breeding programs to develop varieties with more efficient nutrient acquisition and utilization that will reduce fertilizer input costs for farmers and increase environmental sustainability of agriculture,” said Hallin. “Our hope is to extend the research into other important crops such as wheat, sorghum and soybeans.”

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## Transferring farm machinery and equipment during transition? Here are two options to consider

Often when families discuss assets in farm transition, farmland and livestock are front and center in their discussions. For some farms, planning for equipment transfer can be a very important item to consider. Every farm family has different goals, ideas, business structures and plans for how the business should move forward or wind down.

It's important to clarify and discuss these ideas before reaching the actual asset transfer stage. Transferring equipment between generations should take future business plans along with financial and tax consequences into perspective.

### Transferring equipment

Farm equipment can be transferred by a sale from the senior to the junior generation: The buyer purchases equipment, and ownership transfers immediately. The junior generation has immediate access to use, sell, trade or use the machinery as collateral for securing a loan. The seller may

incur recaptured depreciation, especially if some assets have been fully depreciated. Reporting all the income and gain in one tax year can cause some of it to be taxed at a higher marginal rate than the seller usually pays. Although this occurs in limited situations if a capital gain is realized on depreciable property sold between non-arm's length parties, there are restrictions on how much the purchaser (the junior generation) can claim as a deduction through future capital cost allowance claims.

Farms can also make a gradual sale where specific pieces of equipment are transferred over a longer timeline. This can spread out potential recaptured depreciation, income and cash flow requirements for the purchase. With this method, assets would be specified and reported in the year of sale. Families should discuss equipment depreciation, new or upcoming purchases, and income allocation from the business. Occasionally families coin-

cide a sale of equipment with an allocation of business income. As the junior generation increases their share of equipment, they also increase their share of income from the family farm.

### Gifting equipment

Depending on their ability, some farms choose to gift equipment from the senior generation to junior generation. Qualified farmland and prescribed classes of depreciable property are eligible to be gifted. However, if an item has been previously expensed, it should be reported as a disposition at fair market value, including items such as tools. Before gifting, families should discuss fair market value, sources of income for the senior generation and expectations of the gift with both their family and professional advisors. Families should also consider documenting their intentions of the gift so it can be referenced in future estate discussions.

Equipment gifts can also be combined with a sale. The difference between the machinery's fair market value and the amount paid for is considered a gift. In

some instances, family farm members make agreements to trade labour for equipment use or future consideration of a farm gift. Families should consider regularly tracking and discussing these costs to ensure the expectations of both generations are met when it comes time to physically transfer the farm assets or allocate farm income.

### Build equipment transfer into your transition plan

If values of equipment to be transferred are large, farms can consider incorporating and utilizing the strategy mentioned in Farm Tax Planning Basics. Developing a formal transition plan as a family can help determine the goals, needs and options for both generations when transitioning the farm. As part of this plan, it is important to review the business, financial and tax implications of these transfers with a qualified professional advisor to guide you through the best methods for asset transfer.

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# USask PhD student seeks to better design agricultural drainage projects

Continued from page 17

In addition to being a graduate student, Annand is also a two-time USask alumna, previously earning a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree in 2009 and a Master of Science degree in 2012. Both degrees were focused on agriculture and bioresources engineering.

For Annand, one of the best parts of studying at USask has been her involvement in the Global Water Futures (GWF) program. The pan-Canadian research program aims to deliver risk management solutions—informed by leading-edge water science and supported by innovative decision-making tools—to manage water futures in Canada and other cold regions where global warming is changing landscapes, ecosystems and the water environment.

"I was fortunate to lead the inaugural GWF Young Professionals group and also help launch the Women and Water Lecture Series with Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace,"

*"Future climate projections suggest that we're in for more extreme weather in the Prairies. That could mean more droughts and flooding in the future," said Holly Annand, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Planning in USask's College of Arts and Science.*

she said. "I developed some great friendships and met hundreds of outstanding people through both of those experiences, and I'm thrilled to see both initiatives continue to succeed."

Annand also values working with her supervisor, Dr.

John Pomeroy, a world-recognized scholar who serves as the GWF director and is the Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change.

"John brings a unique perspective to this work because he's been at the forefront of climate change and hydrology research in cold regions for many years. We work well together because he pushes me to be creative, but he's also invested in the scientific accuracy of the work we do at the Centre for Hydrology," she said.

As Annand works toward the end of her PhD, she is weighing her options for the future. She may return to engineering consulting work, or she may continue her research journey. No matter what she chooses, one thing is clear: she will be working with water and the agricultural sector.

"I really enjoy working at the intersection of agriculture and hydrology and I'm confident there will be more opportunities to do so in the future," she said.

## AgriRecovery program funding details announced For Sask

On August 30, Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the AgriRecovery program, now referred to as the 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative. Producers can submit applications toward the Initiative on September 1, 2021.

The Initiative will consist of two payments totaling up to \$200/head for cattle, with adjustments based on animal unit equivalents for other livestock. The initial payment will provide producers with \$100 per breeding female equivalent in inventory as of August 1, 2021. Secondary payments will be up to \$100 per breeding female equivalent in inventory as of December 31, 2021.

"We are here to support livestock producers during this difficult time," Marit said. "We have worked efficiently to solidify initiative details and understand producers need financial assistance to help offset costs associated with herd management decisions. We are eager to begin accepting applications for the Initiative on September 1."

Eligible livestock for the Initiative include Canadian-owned female beef and dairy cattle, bison, elk, sheep or goats that are bred or intended to be bred. The number of open replacement females that can be considered eligible livestock is 15 per cent of the total number of bred females.

Earlier in August, Agriculture Minister David Marit announced \$119 million in direct support for drought-affected livestock producers under the AgriRecovery program. AgriRecovery is part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement, with funding shared on a 60-40 federal-provincial basis.

The 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative will provide financial relief to help offset the extraordinary costs livestock producers face related to the current drought, with a per head payment on female breeding livestock.

Further details on the Initiative and applications will be available on the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation's website, [www.scic.ca](http://www.scic.ca).



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# Manitoba supporting producers affected by drought with \$62 million investment in agrirecovery

The Manitoba government will invest \$62 million in programs under the AgriRecovery framework that will be designed to support livestock producers affected by this year's drought conditions, to ensure producers have options to retain and care for their animals while also supporting the longer-term sustainability of the livestock sector, Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Ralph Eichler announced in August.

"This extremely dry weather has affected producers' ability to find suitable pastures and feed for their animals which means that, without additional investment, producers are in the very difficult position of having to consider reducing their herds or leaving the industry altogether," said Eichler. "There is no harder decision for a livestock producer. Our government is making this significant investment to ensure there are other options available, when they're needed most. This builds on our existing programs and will help maintain livestock herds, ensure good animal care, and support Manitoba livestock producers to stay in their industry over the longer term."

The minister noted programs are currently being developed and will include funding for feed assistance, feed transportation, cattle transportation and a herd rebuilding program.

"The drought conditions have been extremely stressful and challenging for Manitoba's cattle producers, forcing them to make difficult short and long-term decisions about the future of their operations. This has not been easy for them or their families," said Tyler Fulton, president, Manitoba Beef Producers. "Today's announcement is very important as it recognizes both the immediate needs related to the feed situation, as well as looks ahead to a time when producers will consider rebuilding their herds. We appreciate the government's commitment to the future of our sector and look forward to seeing more program details."

Producers are struggling to maximize use of existing pasture and produce winter feed for their animals. Since dry conditions are affecting much of the Prairies, there are

limited options to source feed. This is also resulting in very high feed prices. Manitoba is already seeing the effects of these factors, with Manitoba auction markets reporting large volume sales of all classes of cattle. Last week, total sales through auction markets were up 17 per cent as compared to last year. This is driving cattle prices downwards and the value of breeding cows has dropped by more than 50 per cent.

"Keystone Agricultural Producers welcomes this announcement and will continue to work with the provincial government, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and Manitoba's farm organizations to ensure that programs address the challenges facing producers across our province," said Bill Campbell, president, Keystone Agricultural Producers.

Last month, the Manitoba government asked the federal government to conduct an AgriRecovery assessment to determine if drought-related expenses would be covered under the program. Earlier this month, the Government of Canada announced it is ready to invest \$100 million in

its share of AgriRecovery programs due to drought and wildfires in Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and is ready to seek further funding as needed. Programs will be developed to meet the specific needs of each jurisdiction.

The minister noted the livestock industry is important to Manitoba's agriculture sector and the provincial economy. Livestock receipts in 2020 totalled \$2.36 billion, representing about one-third of the province's \$7.02 billion in total farm cash receipts.

This funding provided through AgriRecovery will help to sustain the beef herd in the province and ensure it can continue to be a significant component of the Livestock Growth Strategy and Manitoba's Protein Advantage Strategy in the years ahead.

Additional details will be shared with Manitoba producers as programs are developed and become available. For more information about managing dry conditions and other resources for producers, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/dry.html>.

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27	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
29	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	11 a.m.

**- OCTOBER 2021 -**

4	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
6	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	11 a.m.
11	Monday	No Butcher Sale Receive Feeders	10 a.m - 5 p.m.
13	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	11 a.m.
15	Friday	Presort Feeder Sale	11 a.m.
18	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
20	Wednesday	Presort Charolais Feeder Sale	11 a.m.
21	Thursday	Sheep & Goat Sale	12 Noon
22	Friday	Bred Cow Sale	11:30 a.m.
25	Monday	Butcher Sale	9 a.m.
27	Wednesday	Presort Angus Feeder Sale	11 a.m.
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# Getting back into farm life after a camping trip

No, no, no, things were not going according to plan! As if anything on the farm ever goes according to plan, right? We had just pulled our RV home from the lake, parked it in its little spot next to the farm shop with its view of the dog house (freshly painted thanks to the twins' help), stripped the beds and piled it all into the truck ready to wash and return home (in town) to re-group, the view no longer of the beach and the boat nestled up on shore. As hubby unhitched, I did not say a thing about the fact that he had not parked the camper completely straight alongside the shop. As a preventative measure to him noticing, I even parked the ATV up between the camper and the shop sort of as a diversion from the overall look. Whew! It was much too hot to hook up and start over. He hasn't said a thing but I guarantee some cold winter day, he will say, "Why didn't you tell me I wasn't perfectly parallel to the shop when I unhooked?"

I arrived at home, washed the camper bedding, cleaned the fridge, watered flowers, picked tomatoes and did not for one second think about anything farm-related. After all, it was only the third of August and harvest was the last thing from my mind—until the 'call' came. "Yeah, do you want to bring supper out to the north field—we're combining peas." Combining?! I was not remotely ready. I hadn't even been to the grocery store to re-stock, let alone plan supper. Our first harvest supper in the field was less than stellar, I assure you.

I arrived in the field with my four little ham and cheese buns and two bottles of water, rather rapidly thrown together I might add, only to get another call as I approached the combines. "Do you have enough for two more men and two little boys?" hubby asked. And so began harvest 2021 for me. Fortunately, everyone else was taken care of as far as food goes and I made sure I was at the grocery store bright and early the next morning.

On my next meal-run to the field, after some 45 years of farming, I heard the words I have never heard before straight from hubby's mouth. I had just travelled down a trail and across a quarter section to the very furthest point on the field to feed him. As I drove between the swaths, I said to myself, 'backing around between these swaths is gonna be tight.' Then hubby hops in and says (you are not going to believe this), "When you leave, just drive over the swath to get turned around." Say what?! I have to tell you, he has NEVER said that before. In fact, in our entire married life, the most important farm rule has always been, "Don't drive over the swaths!" And I didn't, I might add!

There is a bit of an adjustment getting back into farm life after being at the lake for two or three weeks in July. Between family and grandchildren who spent some time with us, our little camper was pretty versatile though not necessarily very roomy. But the best was being able to walk 50' across the beach from our camper and hop into the boat. Morning after morning, the lake was like glass and hubby and I, grands or not, were out fishing every chance we had. That beach umbrella might look pretty hillbilly-ish tied to the windshield but on those hot days (which happened to be every day), we appreciated the shade.

At one point in time



in July, we took all eight grands with us for a couple of days. It did not start off well. The threat of a severe storm was upon us on day one and we had to separate into two campers to accommodate us all. It was a 30-degree day without a breeze. Fortunately the A/C's were working fine. That is until they weren't. The storm that bypassed the lake that day and left a trail of destruction (wind and hail) did cause us to lose power—for 12 straight hours. Did I mention no breeze and eight children? There was not a thing we could do but sweat it out—all night long. It's all about the memory-making moments though, and I am pretty sure that that will be one of them. Of course, the fish we caught won't soon be forgotten either. Nor some fun times at the beach.

In the midst of all the busy-ness of the farm, not to mention the distressed crops that we were harvesting, I happened to read something about the plague of trucks by some journalist who feels that those of us who hit the highways in our half-tons are showing off our trucks and our wealth. Well that really ruined my day as I succumbed to sharing with him (via e-mail) that my truck does double and triple duty whether striking out across that less than smooth field to reach a combine with parts that I have just picked up in town or out of town as the case may be, with three grandchildren in car seats safely in the back. I welcomed him to fly out west for a visit to our farm, the caveat being of course that I would be picking him up

in my half-ton and grabbing ag supplies before we headed out of the city.

Our community installed some new three- and four-way stop signs and the twins happened to be with their dad one day driving up to a new three-way stop where some cementing of a driveway was being done. The next day, they said to me, "Our dad doesn't even know the people who live at that house getting the new driveway, but he stopped to look anyhow. How weird." I of course imagined my son getting out at this house to inspect the new cement, talk to the owner (who he doesn't know) and perhaps check on the thickness of the cement. Okay, that's weird, I thought. And then the light bulb went on. "Are you sure he wasn't just stopping at the new three-way stop sign?" I asked. And those two sets of eyes and those near identical facial expressions assured me that I hit the nail on the head. "Never thought of that," one said. "Me, either," said the other.

As we are now into the start of our third week of harvest and knowing we have a ways to go yet, I am not sure whether to be happy we have gotten more done than usual by this time of year, or stressed about all the meals that need to get to the field yet. Nevertheless, we just keep on doing what we do—no thanks really to me. My guys just keep those combines rolling (well, when they aren't fighting repairs and flats and you know the drill) and I give them all due credit because it's hard work and long hours. And so to all our farmer readers and friends in the fields, kuddos to you all. Let's git'er done!

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# SARM lays out priorities for federal election

Broadband, the carbon tax, infrastructure, and agriculture identified as main issues by SARM

With the federal election in less than a week, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) would like to highlight key priorities for rural Saskatchewan and remind rural ratepayers to ask questions of party candidates.

"We champion the value of rural Saskatchewan," says SARM President Ray Orb.

"The 2021 federal election is an opportunity to ask important questions on rural broadband infrastructure, carbon tax and offsets, infrastructure funding for rural municipalities, and better ag safety nets.

"Broadband is an essential service, not unlike electricity and water, and is fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of our rural municipalities. It has proven critical in the delivery of healthcare, education, and other key supports during Covid-19.

"The introduction of carbon pricing in Saskatchewan has increased costs for agriculture and is threatening the competitiveness of Saskatchewan producers in their ability to provide a reliable source of high-quality food. It is key that the federal carbon offset system that is being developed recognizes the past and ongoing



SARM PRESIDENT RAY ORB

efforts of the technologies that agriculture producers already use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "Rural roads and bridges are vital for the sustainability of rural communities and municipal governments do not have the resources to fund essential infrastructure projects on their own. RMs need access to funding that is truly dedicated to rural and small communities. "Agriculture continues to be a major contributor to the provincial economy. With risk management programs being funded significantly less than they were a decade ago, despite unprecedented risks from

trade barriers and drought, it is imperative that farmers be included in developing the next Agricultural Policy Framework due in 2023."

## Amid drought conditions GGC asks for compassion— not further hardship—from industry partners

Amid historic drought conditions, Canada's grain growers are calling on grain companies to consider the impact that farmers face and work collaboratively on solutions to mitigate further harm.

"As farmers, we recognize the importance of upholding our commitments and honouring our contracts," explained Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) chair Andre Harpe from his farm in Alberta's Peace Country. "However, this year will be harder than most. We are hoping that our industry partners can commit to working with us on solutions to problems that are beyond our control."

As part of GGC's advocacy efforts, the organization has met with the major grain companies to discuss the drought and ways in which the companies can

support their customers through these trying times. Our proposals included immediate relief from administration fees and penalties on grain contracts.

"We are staring at historically low projections for yields across a lot of the prairies," said Harpe. "To be frank, this may not allow for a full delivery on committed contracts. Any additional fees or penalties on top of that would make a down year even more punishing—for all of us."

GGC also reminds farmers to consider their own contractual rights with grain handling companies and to request transparency about the cost of grain replacement under their contracts—which can be higher than local bid prices.

"Grain companies should be transparent

about how those costs were measured and ensure that farmers are not forced to pay more than is actually required to acquire the grain that could not be delivered under contract,"

Harpe added. GGC has been involved in ongoing discussions with legislators, industry partners, and member organizations to ensure a profitable and sustainable

future for the industry as a whole. The recognition that Canadian agriculture succeeds or fails as one entity will be a core theme of advocacy efforts going forward.

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# Taking on too much? How prioritizing your time helps ease the burden

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN

Prioritizing what you have time for and letting somebody else do the rest can go a long way to improving your business and personal life.

"You don't need to be everything, and you don't need to do everything," Aimée Ferré Stang says in a recent FCC podcast. "There are only 24 hours in a day. What can you do in that 24 hours that's going to be enough and that's going to have a contribution to the farm?"

Living on a Saskatchewan farm near the Alberta border with her husband and kids, Ferré Stang also works at FCC as a social media consultant. She learned to find the right mix of what makes sense for not only her family, but also her personal growth and objectives as well.

For example, while women often make meals for crews during busy times on the farm, Ferré Stang points out there's nothing wrong with hiring someone to help ease the workload. Just as an accountant may be brought in to advise on farm finances, someone to help with food preparation and nutrition is just as important.

Ferré Stang says young farm families like hers typically continue to take on too much, as is the nature of many entrepreneurs. But learning to delegate to experts is an important skill, to help ease stress at home and with the farm operation. That's especially true when a partner chooses to work off the farm, not for the income, but for the outlet it provides.

Ferré Stang believes conversations about priorities are becoming more common among farmers.

"I think that's a positive thing because the more we can focus on our strengths, the stronger we're going to be in our business and as an industry."

While she doesn't know how to drive a tractor, Ferré Stang is instead focused on the human resources side of the farm operation. Yet, she acknowledges she still

finds herself trying to take on too much and continues to learn she can't be everything to everyone.

"It doesn't matter what kind of industry you're in, I think letting go is probably the hardest thing," she says.

Nevertheless, she believes the trend among farm families is changing.

"I feel like we're shifting towards, 'OK, let's specialize in what we are good at and what we're interested in, and we're going to be more efficient that way.'"

Ferré Stang offers several ideas for thriving as a farm family.

### Have a support network

Gather with peers—other women involved in agriculture—to create an outlet. Conversations don't always have to be about agriculture but might be closely related, such as the challenges of healthy meals or seasonal solo parenting.

### Banish the guilt-trips

Stop listening to self-doubt. If the kids have later bedtimes or aren't eating as well as they perhaps should at busy times like seeding or harvest, it's OK as long as preferred routines and meals fall back into place after the busy times have passed.

### You can't do it all

You don't need to be everything and you don't need to do everything. Focus and specialize on what you're good at and what you're interested in. Consider outsourcing the rest.

### You can still reach your dreams from the farm

There's nothing wrong with following your spouse to their career goals back on the farm. You can still live your dreams and find your higher purpose from the farm.

### You are important

If you catch yourself doubting the importance of folding laundry, changing diapers and running meals to the field, ignore it. The work you're doing is an important contribution to society.

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Above and right, recent bear photos taken by Alvin Nixon in the Wapella-Rocanville area and in the Qu'Appelle Valley. At far right, a photo of a bear at Moosomin Regional Park in 2020.

## High number of black bear incidents being reported

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development is recording a higher than usual number of black bear interaction calls in a number of areas around the province and Manitobans are reminded they need to be 'Wildlife Smart' in bear country.

Black bears are now very focused on finding food and will explore anything that smells like food to prepare for the winter. With natural food shortages in some areas, bears may be more likely to enter communities in search of food.

Bears are intelligent animals and once a bear associates an area with food, it may return multiple times. This can be dangerous for people, but also for the bear. When a bear is identified as a problem animal, steps have to be taken to trap and relocate it, and in some cases it can require the use of lethal force.

The best way to help black bears, and reduce risks to both people and bears, is by securing attractants. This includes securing garbage, compost, human food and pet food so it cannot be accessed by bears. Additional 'Wildlife Smart' tips to re-

duce the risk of conflicts with black bears and other wildlife include:

- never approach or feed a bear or any other wild animal;
- leash dogs when walking outside to reduce the risk of it harassing a bear, being attacked by one or leading a bear back to the dog's owner;
- remove ripened or fallen fruit daily and do not allow it to rot on the ground; and
- remove bird feeders from April to November.

These measures also apply to other wildlife species that can be a problem, such as coyotes, foxes, raccoons and skunks.

Bears are wild animals and must be respected. When in bear country, it's best to assume bears are in the vicinity even if no recent conflict or encounters have been reported. Carry bear deterrent spray and know how to use it. Be aware of your surroundings, walk in groups, and make noise.

More information on how to be 'Wildlife Smart' is available at [www.manitoba.ca/human-wildlife](http://www.manitoba.ca/human-wildlife).



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# People can support project by purchasing a \$750 Class B share Scammell says Cobblestone House moving forward

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

After visiting Moosomin recently to meet with investors in Cobblestone House, Larry Scammell with Kohr Capital says he is confident the 42-unit long term care/assisted living facility can move forward.

The group will be back in Moosomin September 13-15. Following is an interview with Larry on the progress of the project:

### How did it go talking to local investors and where are you at now with this project?

The first thing that I'd like to say is the project is moving forward, it is proceeding. There's no question to that. At this point if I put the pressure on myself, really it's a matter of when, not if, and the when is determined when we get all the equity/investors assembled in order to get a shovel in the ground.

That will happen as early as October, providing Kohr Capital can round up all the investors required. In the case it takes an extra month, it takes an extra month, but at the end of the day the project is going.

### Where would you say you are? Are you 40, 50, 60 per cent to where you need to be?

In terms of commitments, we have a substantial commitment, the reality is we're looking for two things. We're looking for people from the community that want to participate but we're also looking for some larger commitments from a handful of people in the community. Those naturally just take time. On your question about how this recent visit was, we were quite pleased with the amount of both new people that came to the table and also the progress we made with existing conversations that have been ongoing for quite some time.

### What are the options for people to invest?

We have created two structures. One is the limited partnership for those who want just to invest in the Moosomin project only and then the mutual fund trust which investors can both invest and support Moosomin but also invest and support other communities such as Warman and Melfort which are the next two communities that we have lined up. They can also use RSPs if they have them, tax free savings account if they have one—most people do—or cash if they prefer.

### Is it fair to say you can accept smaller investments in this than people might realize?

Absolutely, categorically, yes, but no investments would be accepted until we go through a Know Your Client process and people are investing an amount they are comfortable with.

You can invest as little as \$10,000 into the mutual fund trust. The minimum investment to support the project is actually \$750 for a class B share in the mutual fund trust.

People can invest \$10,000 or more into class A shares which has a six per cent preferred return plus profit participation on all the assets that are in that mutual fund trust. Class B shares for the mutual fund trust don't participate in the investment like that, it has a different characteristic for investment but it's a CRA requirement that we, in order to be RSP eligible, the mutual fund trust has to have a minimum of 150 shareholders in one class of share. In this case, that's a class B. We often refer to it as the founder shares.

There is an investment component to that \$750 investment and once the mutual fund trust is sold or wound up, you'll receive your \$750 back plus an additional \$750. That's double your money in 10 years plus you get a six per cent return along the way but you can only invest \$750 and only one share per person—but those shares are needed to set up the mutual fund trust, so it only costs \$750 for anybody to participate and support the project.

"The ship has sailed. It's moving, it's leaving the harbour and it's not coming back."

—Larry Scammell, Kohr Capital



A rendering of the front of Cobblestone House which will be built on Wright Road next to Pipestone Villas.

### What are the most common questions you're getting? What do people want to find out about this project?

Buy and large where I think we spend most of our time is just walking people through the structure and how it works.

Everybody that we've spoken to is absolutely a champion for the project. I can't count how many times I've been told "This is so good for the community," "The community needs this."

Questions really comes down to the mechanics of the RSP and how does that work because a lot of people, most people don't know or realize that they can transfer existing RSPs, so they don't have to make a new contribution. They can transfer those existing RSPs, so no tax consequence is triggered. If somebody has \$200,000 in RSP sitting with RBC they can transfer if they want to invest 20, 30, 50 thousand. Whatever their number is. If they wanted to invest \$20,000 of that, they would transfer it over into an account with Olympia Trust whose our transfer agent and registered plan holder. That's where a lot of the question of the conversation happens, is how does that work and is there any tax consequences? The answer's no, it stays within the RSP umbrella and you can transfer those from, in this case RBC over to Olympia trust and invest it into the projects in Moosomin. That's a bit of a surprise for people because most people don't realize they can do that.

In your opinion, most of the people who are investing, are they people who are saying "I've got lots saved up for retirement. I'm happy to put a little bit of that into this because I want to see this project go ahead for my community." Or are they looking more just straight

from the investment side and saying "I think this is a better investment than what I can do on my iTrade account."

Both, but the former is almost standard. Almost everybody says "I like this, I want to support the community. I get it, I may or may not have a need for this myself but that doesn't matter, it's secondary to the fact that the community needs this and I want to help." The other side of this is there is a healthy return on investment component to it. If over an eight year period if we hit the occupancy numbers that we anticipate, there will be a ten and a half per cent per year return to the investors.

### Since that first closing was completed, is work being done on the construction drawings at this point?

It's anticipated the drawings will be complete soon at which point Travis and Bridge Road would set out for tendering in September with a view to getting that shovel into the ground as early as October.

### So in your mind, there is absolutely no scenario that this isn't going to go? You're sure you're on the road and this is going to happen?

The ball is in play, the ship has sailed. It's moving, it's leaving the harbour and it's not coming back.

We're happy with the support that we've had already, we've had some significant investments, we've had some interest in the Class B shares, and for some people that's a way of showing their support without making a big investment.

Regardless of whether it's \$750 or \$750,000, we treat everybody the same. We're thankful for their involvement. They're showing their support in whatever their comfortable and able.



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People checking out the trucks at the Blue Lights and Burgers event.

## Blue lights and burgers event raises awareness of roadside hazards faced by responders

Continued from Page 13

"You have to take drastic measures to get them to slow down. You almost have to block off part of the highway to make them aware that you're there. Then they'll try to slow down."

Davidson says not a lot of people seem to realize that the speed needs to be reduced to 60 km/hr in Saskatchewan when passing roadside responders.

"There definitely are a lot of people who are not aware of it and some of the provinces don't recognize it. Some of the motoring public with different types of license plates on don't slow down. It's pretty sad sometimes. We're out there working and doing our job and we get occupied on what we're doing and sometimes we get a little too comfortable with our environment and that's when you let your guard down and something like that can happen. Somebody sneaks up behind you and that's not what we want."

The Spirit Ride coffin was also on display at the event

on Wednesday. The coffin represents fallen responders and is passed from place to place around the province each year.

"We belong to a roadside responders organization. It's a group of fellow towers in Saskatchewan and we all bonded together to be a stronger voice to be heard for various different reasons," says Davidson. "The Spirit Ride is one of the things we came up with. It was a pretty big thing in the United States. They would go from coast to coast every year. We did kind of steal that idea from them and one of the towers actually made the Spirit Ride in his garage. He started the journey with it and we're just trying to create awareness across Saskatchewan and make it so everybody is safe out there."

"Because we all want to go home at the end of the day and we all love what we do, but if it comes to where you can't do it because it's going to threaten your life, that's not what we want. We want to carry on doing it, but we want to do it safely."

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# Human rights commission says Covid restrictions pose unique challenges

Manitoba Human Rights Commission Executive Director Karen Sharma says Covid-19 restrictions pose unique legal issues. Following is a Q and A with Sharma:

**Q: We have had some questions from Manitoba business owners wondering if the Human Rights Code trumps the health orders or the other way around, as some anticipate they will see some objections to the orders based on religious or other grounds.**

**A:** Well, I would say the relationship between the Human Rights Code which is obviously a law in Manitoba, and public health orders is a bit of a complicated one.

Employers are absolutely—when it comes to how they deal with their employees, how they deal with their clients or the public that they serve—obligated to respect human rights.

So that means they can't engage in any unreasonable discriminatory conduct on the basis of things that go to the core of a person's identity, and those we call in the Human Rights Code protected characteristics—things like your ability or disability, your age, could be religious beliefs, political beliefs.

The Human Rights Code protects against unreasonable discrimination which means there may be circumstances—usually for reasons related to public safety or excessive cost—where it may be required that a business or a service provider treat members of the public differently in ways that may be discriminatory.

**Q: What would be an example of that?**

**A:** Truthfully Covid-19 is one of those examples. We've recognized that for reasons of public safety given the risks inherent in Covid-19 that there may be circumstances where we might have to treat people differently or restrict some of the freedoms and liberties that we once had.

It might be necessary to, for example, have people work from home. It might be necessary to do all kinds of things in the context of Covid-19 but in more routine day-to-day circumstances, one example might be if a job had certain physical requirements it might not be possible to hire somebody that relies on certain kinds of assistive devices. You'd have to really go through a process to determine that to be sure but that might be sort of one off the cuff example.

So the code recognizes that there can be reasonable and legitimate limitations on a person's rights to not experience discrimination.

When it comes to the public health orders, those are laws as well. So you're talking about your obligations under one law and your obligations under another law, and absolutely employers have to respect human rights but the fact that these mandates are prescribed by law and that they relate to this over-arching public safety, public health basis mean that abiding by something like the mask mandate or vaccination requirements might be a legitimate basis for treating people differently. But what we advise is for employers, service providers proceed cautiously. Make sure that you truly understand the risks and the context, that you really understand the public health orders, that they do in fact apply to you.

The most recent public health orders do set out a process for medical exemption to vaccination requirements, for example for restaurants, gyms, etc. So employers, service providers should be paying attention to that and whatever process the government announces around that medical exemption process.

**Q: Is there any accepted religious grounds for an exemption?**

**A:** There have been a few decisions in the past if we think about cases for example that have dealt with certain medical treatments and religious beliefs that are being ordered for children for example, etc., or intervention and palliative care.

There have been a few high profile cases in the past that have dealt with issues like this. The idea of a conflict between a person's religious beliefs and a requirement for

a certain kind of medical intervention or treatment and the guidance that we get from the court as freely and sincerely held that if they go to a core of a person then you should take them at sort of face value as long as they relate to the practice of their faith and that if there is some conflict between a person's religious beliefs and a practice that you have in your workplace or a practice you have in your restaurant or other kind of service provider, the conflict has to be more than trivial or insubstantial. It really has to kind of place a burden or imposition on a person.

When it comes to vaccination requirements, mask mandates, again a person would have to show that they have a sincerely held, freely held belief that it's integral to their faith system and linked to their faith system and that the requirement to wear imposes more than a trivial, insubstantial burden upon them.

There are going to be circumstances likely over the coming weeks where employers, service providers have to navigate these kinds or requests and they should all take them on a one-on-one basis and really work with employees, in the case you're providing services, finding different ways of providing services to people that sort

of ensures they're not exposed to great risks around Covid-19 or that your workplace isn't exposed to risks and that they still get their needs met.

**Q: What sort of issues have come up to the Human Rights Commission with Covid-19 so far?**

**A:** There have been lots of concerns about policies in workplaces or amongst service providers with mandatory vaccinations.

There have been lots of concerns about the mask mandates and how that affects people who might have certain disabilities or other kinds of needs.

We have had an unprecedented level of number of calls and I think it just reflects the fact that we are truly in an unprecedented time and that in our recent history at least we haven't seen these kinds of measures or sort of approaches in place to manage this sort of level of risk before where we've collectively had to make some decisions around how we're going to work together to keep our community safe.

I think it's just reflective of how challenging and how unique this time is.

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Jacey's mom, Michelle Fredbjornson, addressing the pee wee and youth riders.



**Above left:** Michelle Fredbjornson, Jacey's mother, competing in the event. Fredbjornson said she would be thinking of her daughter as she rode.

**Above right:** One of Jacey's best friends, Kylie Gompf, riding in the event. Gompf was the winner of the 1D buckle and was a part of the opening ceremonies. "This buckle will forever mean more to me than any 1D buckle I have ever won. Words can't even describe the feeling of winning this Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Race buckle on my old faithful. Someone upstairs was definitely rooting for me," she said. "Jacey, you have brought together so many great people. Everything about this weekend was for you girl. From the paralyzers, the fast runs, the laughs, the tears, the many hugs and even Dad's eggs sandwich he made this morning for everyone—it was all for you."



**Above:** A flag with Jacey's name is flown during the opening ceremonies. **Below:** Two of the youngest riders at the event.



# Jacey Lee

## MEMORIAL RACE

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 28



**Above:** All of the barrel racers were asked to put their signatures down on pieces of paper at the event. **Below:** Buckles and prizes to give away to the riders.

The Jacey Lees Memorial Race was held on Saturday, August 28 in Spy Hill in honor of Jacey Lees, a well-known barrel racer and community member who passed away suddenly in her sleep at the age of 25 in March of this year due to a form of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome. Organized by her mother, Michelle Fredbjornson, and other family members and friends as a way to keep Jacey's memory alive, 366 barrel racers signed up to take part in the event. There were 48 pee wee riders, 67 youths and 251 open riders, as well as a short go of 25 runs. There was \$21,000 in cash and \$22,000 in prizes given out that day.

The day also included tributes to Jacey as well as an area where some of her memorabilia was set up.

"It was absolutely incredible," said Fredbjornson after the event. "It exceeded my expectations in so many ways. Our hearts are full of gratitude for the support we received."

**Above:** Fredbjornson hanging up a poster for the event.

Kim Poole photos



**Above:** Michelle Fredbjornson and Zane Fredbjornson presenting the youth buckle to Reese Denbow.

**Left:** Moosomin's Lexi Hollingshead being presented with the open 4D buckle.

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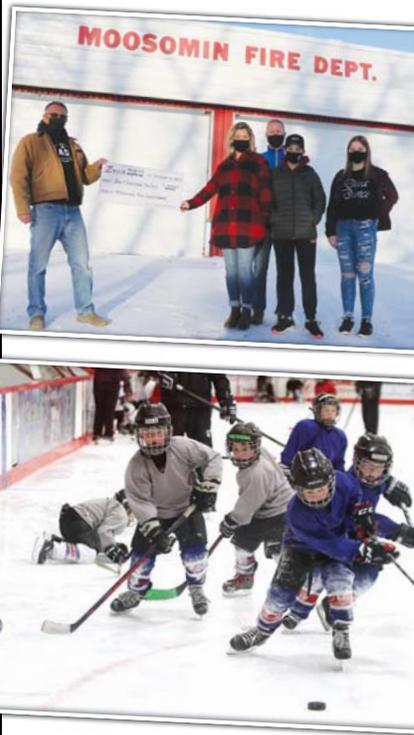
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