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Plain & Valley

September 2023 • Volume 16 Number 9

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



The Moosomin Shrine Club's support for Levi Jamieson, above, will be highlighted at a fundraiser November 10.

Saskatchewan roots country singer JJ Voss, left, will be headlining the event.

Rocanville singer-songwriter Lachlan Neville, above right, and the Kelly Brothers, right, will also perform at the event.



Moosomin Shriners plan concert for November Support for Levi Jamieson will be highlighted

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Moosomin Shrine Club will host a fundraiser in November featuring Saskatchewan roots country singer JJ Voss, Rocanville singer-songwriter Lachlan Neville, and well known country group the Kelly Brothers.

The fall fundraiser is an annual tradition for the Moosomin Shrine Club, and helps raise funds to support local people and projects.

One person the Shriners have been able to help is Moosomin's Levi Jamieson, and Levi and his family will be there for the fundraiser this year.

"Before the main act we've set aside some time for Levi or the family to say some words about their experience at the Shriners' Hospital in Montreal and how their experience was through the Shrine system because a lot of peo-

ple don't know about everything the Shriners do," said Leo Ilustrisimo of the Moosomin Shriners.

"We're hoping that it helps spread the word on what the Shriners are doing and what services are offered in Shrine hospitals."

Shriners happy to help

Ilustrisimo said the Shriners were happy to help Levi Jamieson and his family after Levi lost the use of his legs in an ATV accident.

"After his accident, when he got back home, we contacted the Jamiesons to see what the provincial hospital had planned for his therapy and whatnot," says Ilustrisimo.

"As far as seeing a specialist, there was a long waiting list for Levi to get access to a specialist. So when we got the application in, we were able to get him to Philadelphia to see a spinal injury specialist right away.

"I think he's done three trips to Montreal already where they're doing some therapy on his legs and fitting him with new wheelchairs that are properly molded to his body and just giving him the therapy that he needs."

Feels good to help

Ilustrisimo says it feels good to be able to help. "It's been wonderful for us, especially to be able to help our own local patients get the help they need and see them improve."

Continued on page 8

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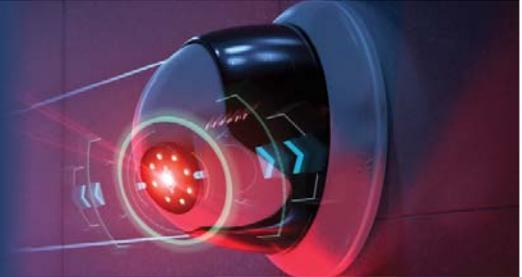
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Cobblestone House, a 42-unit long-term care and assisted living facility officially opened on Aug. 1, and will be having their grand opening to the public on Wednesday, Sept. 27.



Inside of one of the Independent Living rooms on the third floor.

Cobblestone House now open, grand opening planned for Sept. 27

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Cobblestone House in Moosomin officially opened its doors to residents on Aug. 1.

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

With six residents officially moved in, more are expected to come in the next few weeks, said Amber Hintz, Home Administrator of Cobblestone House.

"We can have people move in at any point. Hopefully we will fill up within the

first three months," said Hintz.

"We started moving people in the first of August. We had one person move in, then we had two more move in on Aug. 2.

"Then one here and there moved in throughout the rest of the month. There will be a couple more people in the next couple of weeks.

"There are still some people who have booked rooms, but haven't moved in yet. I think by the first week of September we should have a total of 14."

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

The first floor is structured for long-term care, the second floor is for assisted living, and the third floor is for independent living.

As of now, 15 staff members are working at the facility as relief nurses and multi-service workers.

"Right now we have 15 people, but once we are filled we're probably going to need another five," said Hintz.

"We have two dedicated cooks who do majority of the cooking in the main kitchen. Our multi-service workers cook breakfast and serve snacks as well."

Continued on page 20



One of the rooms on the Long-Term Care floor at Cobblestone House.

MOOSOMIN SHRINE CLUB IS PROUD TO PRESENT

JJ Voss with special guests Lachlan Neville and the Kelly Brothers!





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LACHLAN NEVILLE

JJ VOSS

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ABOUT THE COBBLESTONE HOUSE



The Cobblestone House is a three-story home in Moosomin, located in a residential area overlooking the baseball fields and beautiful prairie. Our peaceful prairie setting offers residents access to safe outdoor areas for fresh air, walking, gardening, and bird watching. The main floor provides 14 suites that are designed to offer any care the residents may require including memory care. The 2nd floor will provide assisted living (level 1 and level 2) and the 3rd floor will provide meals, housekeeping, and activities, plus the added options of a "Living Plan" for independent residents that prefer more services.



The primary focus of this traditional house is to provide a comfortable and happy home that supports the "Aging in Place" concept. This gives residents the comfort of knowing they never have to look at alternative living arrangements as care needs change. The Cobblestone House provides residents with a home that adapts to their needs, so residents never have to leave their community, their families or their friends. The goal is to keep community members part of their community at every stage of life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & PRICING PLEASE CONTACT

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On Aug. 22, Esterhazy town council got a tour of the town's \$30 million regional water treatment system from Jon Zapski of Allied Infrastructure. Construction for the project is expected to continue for a minimum of two years before it can provide treated water to residents in the region.

Construction on track for Esterhazy's regional water treatment plant

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Esterhazy is on the third contract of construction of its \$30 million regional Water Treatment Plant (WTP), which will provide potable water to residents in town, and will have the potential to provide water to surrounding communities.

The bio filtration system will supply treated water for people and businesses in Esterhazy, and has been built with the ability to provide treated water to other municipalities within the region, and even to the Mosaic potash mine if needed.

"We'll be able to go to Stockholm, Yarbo, lots of areas," said Jon Zapski, the project manager with Allied Infrastructure.

"That's the intent, with this being a regional water system, is to have that ability, and it is designed right now to meet at least Esterhazy's capacity and then the capacities of some of those other communities."

Through the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the Government of Canada has contributed up to \$11.9 million towards the

project.

In addition, the Government of Saskatchewan is contributing up to \$9.9 million. The Town of Esterhazy is responsible for funding the remainder of the project.

The first two contracts for the project have been completed, which involved building the superstructure and civil works phases of the project.

"They're working on contract three right now which is the flooring," said CAO Tammy MacDonald.

"Right now they're getting the pipe in and then they're going to be laying all of the rebar and the concrete. Three months from now when council comes back for another tour, the floor is going to be raised up with the cement inside of the building."

After the third contract for the facility is completed, the next phase will focus on the interior work of the water treatment plant.

"Contract 4 could be some interior building works, perhaps, or looking more into the mechanical process, into the big equipment, the pipes," said

Zapski.

"It's still to be determined, based on what's available out there and what the lead times are for some of those items.

"That's sort of the approach with the project, is to stick handle the contracts and try to make the most effective decisions to continue on with construction. If we had issues with a pipe supplier, well that slows down the whole project, as opposed to one small portion of it."

Water system can supply the whole region

Zapski spoke about the benefits Esterhazy's new water system will have with its ability to supply water for the entire region, compared to a system built solely for the municipality.

Continued on page 6

Rocanville Lucky Lottery Committee

LUCKY LOTTERY

GRAND PRIZE:
\$100,000

Early Bird prize of \$10,000

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Construction on track for Esterhazy's regional water treatment plant

Continued from page 5

"With a regional water system you have the ability to bring in income from other communities by providing a service," said Zapski.

"What we're noticing nowadays is all of these small communities have the same aging infrastructure, and a lot of it is starting to fail.

"For smaller community centres to purchase the equipment required to meet the requirements of the Water Security Agency (WSA) now is becoming less and less attainable because of the sheer cost.

"We're looking at a \$30 million facility here that could service multiple communities, and that's the idea, is to have some revenue, or something through that, to offset the costs of operations, but there's going to be full-time water treatment staff here as well.

"Where in some of the smaller communities, your water treatment plant coordinator is your town foreman, is also the guy who drives the grader, is also the guy who cleans out all of the culverts, it's one person.

"This will have the ability to provide water to them, as opposed to all of those communities and people having to haul their own water or have their own plant.

"The regional idea, I think, is going to start catching on more."

Once the facility is built and running, the town will have dedicated employees maintaining and supervising the system.

"We need to have three full-time staff," said MacDonald.

"Ron Hozjan, who has been here for 27 years, has his Level 2. He does water for the municipality.

"We have another guy who just passed



The first two phases for the Town of Esterhazy's \$30 million regional water system project have been completed, which involved the superstructure and the civil works.



Jon Zapski of Allied Infrastructure explaining the next phases of the regional water system project to Town of Esterhazy council members.

his Level 2 and we have another guy who just got his Level 1.

"We're in-house training and building them up as we go, to get them all ready by the deadline."

Estimated timeline for WTP

The planned date for the Water Treatment Plant to be fully operational was originally set for the spring of 2025, however due to supply chain issues post-pandemic, construction on the project is expected to continue for a minimum of two years.

"All of the designing and everything else we did was pre-Covid," said MacDonald.

"Then Covid hit and all of a sudden we see the supply and demand to get stuff, hearing the horror stories on how long it takes to get the electrical stuff and bigger items.

"That's when we realized we had to get onto it now and get it ordered, because if we can get the orders in, we can then do some of the other contracts while we're waiting for those to arrive.

"When we looked at the timeline it was set pre-Covid, but who was going to predict Covid and what that would look like?

"We're not panicking about timelines right now, because we have the structure up, we have the steel, cement is going in before winter.

"I feel like it's more back on schedule now."

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Last year for Jacey Lee memorial barrel racing event in 2024

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Next year will be the fourth and final year for the Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Race event, on Aug. 24, 2024.

"We decided to go with the four seasons as that is how our Indigenous friends honour their passed love ones," said Jacey Lee's mother, Michelle Fredbjornson.

This past weekend, Jacey Lee's family and friends organized the third memorial barrel racing event in Spy Hill, in honor of Jacey.

"This year went so great. Everyone that volunteers just got to work to help us host this incredible day of honouring our daughter," said Fredbjornson.

"The weather was perfect, not too hot, even at the end of the day when we were doing the saddles and buckles presentations, we had a beautiful rainbow appear.

"I would say when everyone comes for this event, they come with a bit of a different intention than most barrel races. Of course everyone wants to make their best run, win a buckle, hopefully make the short go, and take home a saddle.

"It is an emotional day for many, and for the barrel racers that may not have known Jacey, they get a chance to see some pictures, hear stories, feel the passion she had for life, barrel racing, and for friends and family."

After losing Jacey from a sudden and unexpected tragedy two years ago, her mother said the event is held every year to honor her daughter's spirit.

"Jacey was 25 years old when on March 4, 2021 she passed in her sleep from Sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS)," she said.

"It was, and will always be, so devastating to us.

"Jacey was a vibrant soul, she had a very strong personality that she could accomplish anything she decided to do. She didn't like to be wrong and wouldn't waste her time on things that didn't matter.

"Family and friends were very important to her. Her niece Leah was so special to her, they spent a lot of time together. Jacey was an avid hunter, loved checking cows in the pasture any chance she could go for a ride.

"She competed in the Manitoba High School Rodeo Association for many years, along with other rodeo associations. Jacey convinced me to start barrel racing about six years ago and for that, I am forever grateful for.

"Jacey lived her life to the fullest and in the short time of 25 years, I believe she did everything she was meant to."

Thankful for community's support

Five-hundred people came out on Aug. 26 for this year's Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Race event.

"We had 202 entries in the open, 48 youth, 39 pee-wees, which is a great attendance as there are always so many different events going on in summer," said Fredbjornson.

"We were very happy with the amount of entries we had. Our open division is a 5D, which means the fastest time of 16.883 set the pace for the day to win the 1D with 22 contestants falling into that division.

"The top five in each division got to come back and run in the short go, in order to win the saddle.

"Andi Chartier and Rascal won the consistency saddle with their open short go run being only .042 off their first run. Rascal was previously owned by one of Jacey's good friends Carla Fouillard. What was really cool is that Jacey had ridden Rascal many times. Andi Chartier is also a relative of Jacey."

Having hundreds of people come out to support and participate in the event meant a lot to Jacey's family, said Fredbjornson.

"For our family we put on this barrel race to honour Jacey and keep her memory alive," she said.

"As a parent, your worst nightmare is you are so scared that people will forget who she was. Jacey had a passion for horses and barrel racing so this was perfect.

"When we started planning I never dreamt it would give us as much purpose as it does. She always said there should be a 5D to give more barrel racers that are starting out a chance for prizes, so that was our intention, to give back as much as we could to the contestants.

"This year in the 5D we gave prizes to the 18th spot." Jacey's mother said every year the day of the barrel race event helps bring her closer to her daughter.

"There is something about this day that brings a sense of peace to many, you see smiles and you see tears, but what you see is many people come from all over to make this barrel race so special," she said.

"They honour Jacey with us, and that is an incredible feeling.

"What this event means to me is that for this day we can give her one more day of celebrating Jacey, doing what she loved to do, being with family and friends.

"The love and support we receive from everyone is so amazing and we are so grateful.



One of the kids participating in the 2023 Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Racing event holding a flag in memory of Jacey Lee. Photo by: Sunnette Kamffer.

"There is a bond in this amazing group of barrel racers, or rodeo family, that is so strong. We as a family are so blessed to be a part of it.

"The Sponsors that donate to make this event possible we can not thank enough."

With next year being the final year for the memorial event in honor of Jacey, Fredbjornson said it will be the biggest event yet.

"Next year, one of our major sponsors will be Oly's

Trading Post," she said.

"We will be racing for a one carat diamond ring to be awarded to the contestant with the closest time to their first run.

"We have some pretty cool ideas that we are working on to make this race the biggest race yet.

"Thank you to each and every one that has helped us in this journey, Zane, Michelle, Aaron, Sam and families."

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Moosomin Shriners plan fundraiser for November

Support for Levi Jamieson will be highlighted

Continued from front

"How I always think about it is that if things are going okay there's no need for the Shrine hospital but if you really need it, it's because sometimes the province of Saskatchewan is not able to provide a certain service, or it's harder to get into that system to see a specialist and there's that service that's offered here by the Shriners."

Concert an annual tradition

Ilustrisimo says the Shrine concert has been going on for several years. "I think it's the seventh year that we've been doing it. We had Jess Moskaluke last year, we had the Derrina Harvey Band a couple of times, we had Eli Barsi two times, we had Ray St. Germain and we had the Bromantics."

"Half of our funds stay in Moosomin to help local people and 50 per cent go the Wa Wa Shrine, our provincial organization, and it goes to the Patient Transfer Fund which helps Shrine patients in Saskatchewan get access to the hospitals in Montreal and the United States."

"Whenever a Shrine patient goes in for an appointment, all of the travel expenses are paid for by the provincial organization and all of the medical treatment that they get is taken care of by the Shrine hospitals which the provincial clubs donate to as well."

"The 50 per cent that we keep and that stays in the community, we get to spend towards local initiatives that we think are important and a priority for kids in the community. So even though the patients already get the free treatment and travel expenses, we can still do a top up of that and it's donated locally by the Shrine Club. It's not only for Shrine patients, we're also donating to projects that we think need some support and we've given towards projects like the Terry Lynd Basketball Court and we donated a bench for the Age Friendly group. This year we also donated a wagon to the school to help them with access for kids with mobility issues and certain projects like that in town."

He said the fundraiser is one of the main sources of funds for the local Shrine club.

"We have three fundraisers that we do," he said. "The first is the Rose Day in the spring/summer, then we have the concert later in the year and then we also have calendars."

"Our biggest event that has been growing over the years is the concert. We've been doing better every year. We started with fewer tables—we started smaller and now it's kind of growing to be a big fundraiser for us."

Full evening of entertainment

This year the Shriners have a full evening of entertainment planned.

"We have JJ Voss as our main act, Lachlan Neville as the opening and The Kelly Brothers will be the closing band," says Ilustrisimo.

"It's going to be a good evening. Lachlan is a very talented, young musician from Rocanville and JJ Voss is also a talented Saskatchewan artist. He was named best new Saskatchewan Artist in 2022 I believe and then of course The Kelly Brothers are very well-known in the Rocanville and Moosomin areas and are really good entertainers. It's going to be a good night of music for a good cause."

"This year we're also having a silent auction for some gift cards from town and some prizes. It's going to a good cause and hopefully people will support our event again. We've always had great support locally and we always sell out our concerts so hopefully that will be the same case this year." There will also be an auction for two tickets anywhere Westjet flies.

Event takes lots of work

Ilustrisimo says a lot of work goes into the fundraiser.

"It's a lot of work and a lot of preparation. We started the preparations in early spring. There are five of us on the committee and there will be a few more groups helping us like the Filipino Community and there might be some other local clubs to help us as well. So it's basically like a big community project and of course we couldn't do it without all of the local sponsors helping us with the prizes and the hotels."

"It's a big project but since we've been doing it every year and have had consistent support from the community, that's what makes our event successful—the support of the community."



JJ Voss, left, and Lachlan Neville, right, singing together at a concert held in Moosomin in the spring.

Both artists, along with the Kelly Brothers, will be featured at the Shrine fundraiser in November.



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Organizers expecting to sell-out on tickets this year:

Rocanville Lucky Lottery sales going well

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Tickets for Rocanville's Lucky Lottery are selling quickly. There is an early bird draw of \$10,000, a grand prize of \$100,000, as well as a 50/50 draw.

The early bird draw will be on Sept. 15, at the Nutrien Rocanville Community Hall, in collaboration with Rocanville Minor Hockey's Steak Night and NHL Hat Auction fundraiser.

The grand prize of \$100,000, and the 50/50 draw will be drawn on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the hall.

Organized by Rocanville Minor Ball, the big event will include a cabaret and live entertainment by Lachlan Neville and Tyler Lewis.

Kirby Fowler, Chair of the Lucky Lottery Board, said lots of people have been buying Lucky Lottery tickets.

"Ticket sales are going very well right now. We're ahead of where we were at this point last year," said Fowler. "We're going to be getting close to that 20 per cent mark."

"This past week the Lucky Lottery Board all got together at Nutrien Hall in Rocanville and we did a call out to all the purchasers from last year, just to remind them. We generated a whole pile of sales that way, for repeat sales."

"As well as our community groups, like minor hockey, minor ball, dance, swimming—all of the groups in the long term who benefit from the lottery—were out canvassing the town. We've seen a great amount of support that way as well."

All proceeds from the Lucky Lottery fundraiser will go towards supporting recreation groups and activities in town, including upgrades of Rocanville Aquatic Centre.

Early bird draw on Sept. 15

Rocanville Minor Hockey will be hosting a steak night fundraiser and NHL hat auction on Sept. 15, in support of raising money for their local group.

At the night of the event, the early bird winner of the Lucky Lottery will be announced.

The event will consist of auctioning off 32 NHL hats, with 40 per cent of the funds going towards Rocanville Minor Hockey.

Tickets to attend the event cost \$25, and can be purchased from parents of Rocanville minor hockey players, or from a Minor Hockey Board member.

Cabaret and live music event on Oct. 14

The grand prize winner of \$100,000 from Rocanville's Lucky Lottery will be announced at the big cabaret event in town.

Rocanville Minor Ball will be organizing the event, with live entertainment from Lachlan Neville and Tyler Lewis, on Oct. 14 at the Nutrien Rocanville Community Hall.

"Traditionally, years before when they originally did the Lucky Lottery the draw was always done at a cabaret," said Fowler.

"We thought it would be a great opportunity for some



Volunteers from the Lucky Lottery Board were making calls last week to encourage people on buying tickets for Rocanville's biggest fundraiser.

of the community groups to organize it.

"We're not taking any of the profits from the cabaret or the other events, the community groups are doing that, but they're allowing us to draw at it. It works out for everyone."

Advance tickets for the event are \$25 each, and can be purchased by contacting Jess Cuthill at (306) 745-0169, Martin Bell at (306) 434-7616, or any Minor Ball Board member.

Lucky Lottery radio blitz

To encourage selling all available tickets, the Lucky Lottery Board plans on doing a radio blitz a few days before Sept. 15.

"We are having a radio blitz on Sept. 13, 14, 15 to take us right up to the drawing of the early bird prize," Fowler said.

"If we do not sell out by the 15th, with the sales the way they are right now we're really thinking we might sell out by the early bird draw, but if we don't, we might have another radio blitz a couple days in October before the grand prize draw."

Continued on page 15

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Daniel Hitchens competes in Saddle Bronc at the Twin Valley Rodeo

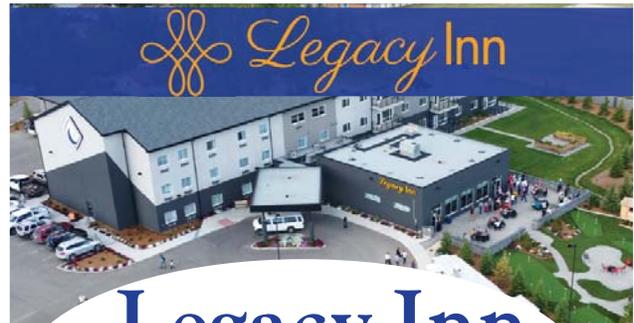


Ruby Oxtoby competes in Junior Barrels.

Twin Valley Rodeo & Bullarama

The Twin Valley Riding Club Rodeo & Bullarama took place on September 2-3 at Lee's Rodeo Grounds near Esterhazy. The huge annual event consists of bull riding and junior steer riding, a kids rodeo, bareback, saddlebronc, tie down roping, team roping, barrel racing, ladies goat tying, steer wrestling, wild cow milking, wild cow riding, ladies and junior breakaway roping, wild horse races, mutton bustin', goat tipping and a calf scramble.

Sunnette Kamffer photos



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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Monument created to remember the children of residential schools

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK
An 18-foot, 7,000-pound monument to children who suffered at Residential Schools is in Saskatchewan until October 2,

as it makes its way from Vancouver Island to the Canadian Museum of History in the National Capital Region. The monument is in front of the RCMP

headquarters on Dewdney Avenue in Regina until October 2. There was a ceremony held there September 9.

"We represent the children. I want to give those children—our children—a voice," said Kwakiutl carver Stan Hunt at the ceremony.

"The monument tells the truth of Canada in a time that was very dark for us."

Hunt is a master carver who uses only traditional tools and methods to create his works of art.

The monument shows the faces of children, and is topped by a raven holding the "seed of life" in its beak.

The monument is black and orange—"the black for the dark time of history, and the orange for Every Child Matters," Hunt said.

The faces of the children that cover most of the monument have anguished expressions.

Hunt said he wanted people across Canada to see those expressions, and to react to those faces.

"If you look closely at all the faces that are on that monument, no faces are smiling. They're all in different degrees of grief," he said.

It took four months to conceptualize and plan the monument before he could start to work on the months-long carving process, he said.

Federal RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme was at the ceremony in Regina.

He said as the police service looks back on its 150-year history, those dark chapters are important to reflect on.

"We are committed to reconciliation," he said.

The monument will be on display until Oct. 2 outside the RCMP headquarters on Dewdney Avenue in Regina before it continues on to the Canadian History Museum.



Ashley Bochek photo

Artist Stan Hunt, at right, at a ceremony for the Residential School Memorial Monument September 9.



Walking together on the road to reconciliation

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION
Saturday, September 30

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NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is not only about the past, it's about the future.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time for all of us to reflect as we move forward together.

Steven Bonk, MLA

for Moosomin Constituency

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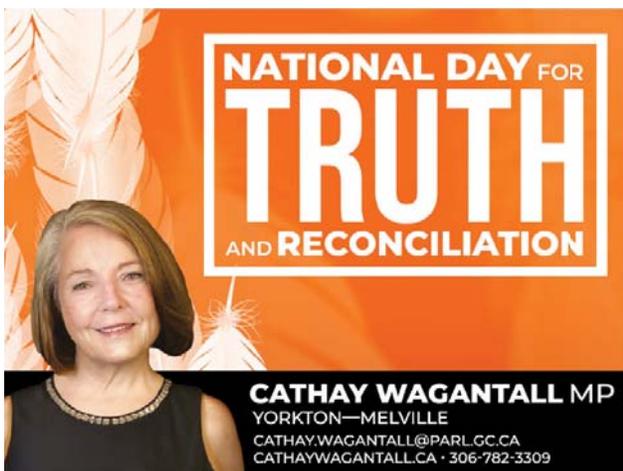
Thank you to all who organize and participate in events honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th



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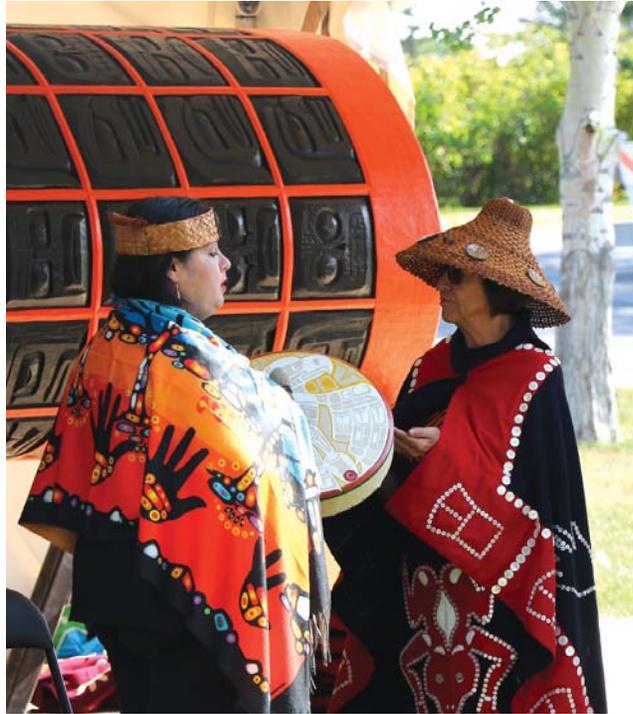
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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



Ashley Bocek photos
Scenes from a ceremony for the Residential School Memorial Monument in Regina September 9.



Remembering the past and looking toward the future on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On September 30, let us take a moment to reflect our path together towards truth and reconciliation.

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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



Scenes from a ceremony for the Residential School Memorial Monument in Regina September 9.

At left, Kwakiutl master carver Stan Hunt is gifted a star blanket at the ceremony.

Below left, the monument features faces representing the children of residential schools, topped by a raven holding the Seed of Life in its beak.

Ashley Bocek photos

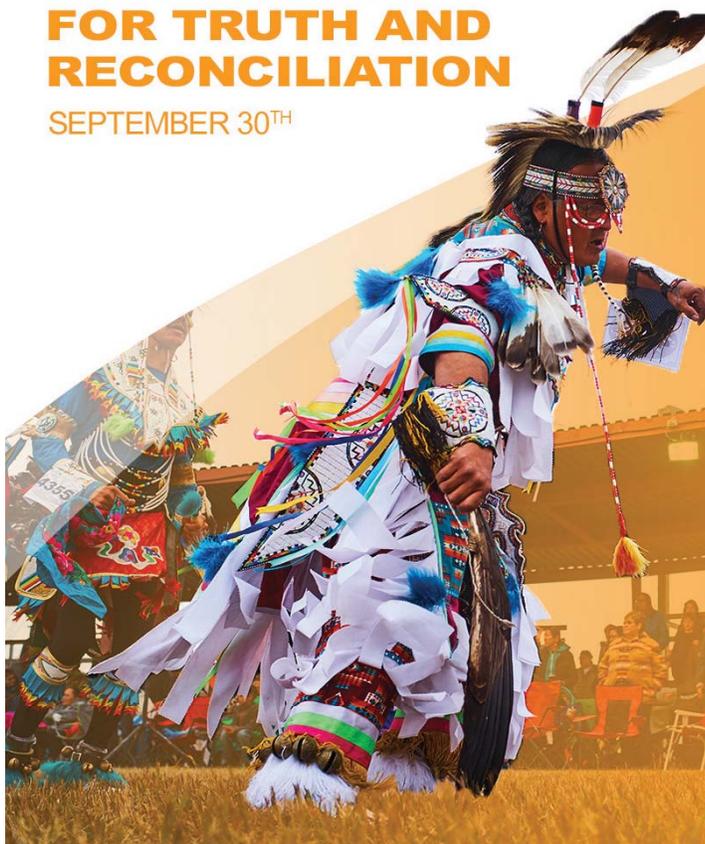


OUR FUTURE IS TOGETHER

At Southeast College we encourage our students, staff and the communities that we serve to take time on September 30 to reflect on our shared path on the road toward truth and reconciliation.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 30TH



On September 30th, all Canadians are encouraged to wear orange to remember the legacy of residential schools.

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invested since 2020 in Indigenous-owned business and suppliers in Canada.



Development permit approved for UFA site

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A development permit has been approved for a United Farmers of Alberta cardlock, bulk fuel and warehouse site north of Highway 1 across from Celebration Ford in Moosomin.

Moosomin town council approved the development permit in August.

The town had earlier rezoned the property to industrial to allow the development.

During the call for public input before the rezoning was approved, there were no negative comments and one positive comment from a nearby landowner who said he welcomed the development.

The next step is a traffic impact assessment and Saskatchewan Highways approval.

UFA has a long history as a fuel supplier in Western Canada. The co-operative entered into a partnership with

Maple Leaf Fuels, a subsidiary of Imperial Oil in 1935 to distribute fuel to its members. The next year it began to open retail stations under the Maple Leaf brand across the province.

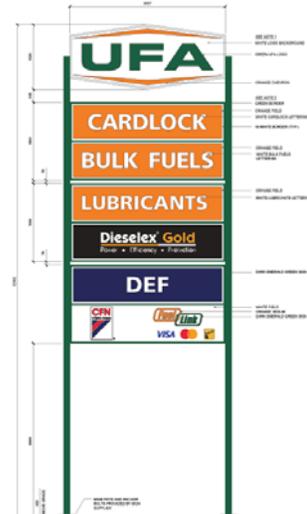
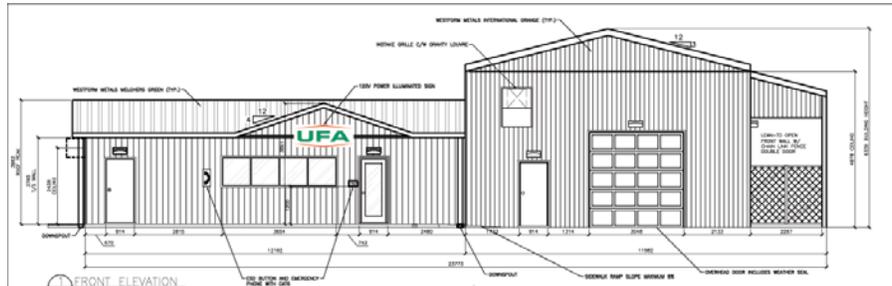
The first farm supply store opened in Calgary in 1954, and a second in Edmonton in 1957. That same year, UFA bought the assets of Maple Leaf Fuels, giving the co-op greater control over the business.

In 1984, UFA opened its first cardlock fuel agency in Calgary. Today, UFA has over 110 cardlock facilities across Western Canada and is the largest cardlock network in Alberta.

In 2009, UFA purchased Wholesale Sports in western Canada, and 15 Sportsman's Warehouse locations throughout the Northwest United States, which it then rebranded as Wholesale Sports.

UFA has over 110,000 members and is growing. UFA had a very strong fiscal year in 2022. It was able to

pay \$28 million in patronage dividends to its members, it reported \$2.4 billion in total revenues and \$157 million in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization.



SE College announces new Entrepreneurship for Trades Program

Southeast College is pleased to announce a new Entrepreneurship for Trades program starting this fall. This new and innovative program is the first of its kind and only available for registration through Southeast College.

Through the Entrepreneurship for Trades program, new entrepreneurs will develop the skills they need to turn their ideas, products, and services into tomorrow's success stories with comprehensive just-in-time business education. Entrepreneurship for Trades is comprised of four 20-hour courses delivered online with 3 live sessions per course. The full program can be completed in only two semesters and students who complete the

full program will receive a professional Microcredential crest that can be used on LinkedIn pages, professional portfolios, and resumes.

"The work of today's trade entrepreneurs goes beyond starting a business," emphasized Dr. Vicky Roy, Southeast College President and CEO. "To advance in the trades career, it is essential to learn how to think and act like an entrepreneur. Developing entrepreneurial thinking, behaviours and sustainable innovation business practices are the key to future career success."

Prospective students are invited to find out more and register for this amazing program on our website homepage at www.southeastcollege.org

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for Moosomin Constituency

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Tuition: \$280/course

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- Marketing Skills for Trades (September 25 to October 27, 2023)
 - Understand the Basics of Marketing for small business and startups.
- Operations & Management Skills for Trades (November 6 to December 8, 2023)
 - Understand the basics of Operations and Management for small businesses and startups.
- Finance Skills for Trades (January 22 to February 23, 2024)
 - Understand the basics of Finance for small businesses and startups.
- Capstone: Business Plan for Trades (March 11 to April 12, 2024)
 - Develop a business plan for establishing or growing a small business.

| 1-866-999-7372 | www.southeastcollege.org |



Volunteers were busy at the phones during the last week of Lucky Lottery in 2022.

Rocanville Lucky Lottery sales going well

Continued from page 9

People can listen to the group's promotion on stations: GX94 and CJWW 600.

With last year being the board's first time organizing Lucky Lottery, Fowler said they expect to sell out on tickets this year, based on how well sales have been going.

"For the early bird draw, it's coming along pretty good. If you broke it down we're probably about 20 per cent on the lottery tickets," he said.

"We're probably closer to the 10 to 15 per cent on the 50/50 draw. We're doing pretty good on the 50/50 as well.

"If we sell out on the 50/50, I believe it's a \$48,500 payout. Last year, we were at \$44,600 payout. We were very close last year to selling out. For the grand prize, I think we were 241 tickets shy from selling out."

Fowler said the fundraiser is very important to the community, and helps support many different groups in Rocanville.

"I know the skating rink needs some work done to its roof, the pool would still be supported, and minor ball is looking to do a bit of work to their ball diamonds," he said.

"Because this isn't for a single thing and it is helping out the community in general, I think the fundraiser is very important.

"With the support we're seeing from the community groups, minor ball, minor hockey, pool board, everyone, it's not a hard decision when it comes to how we have to split this money up.

"We're getting great support, people are volunteering, they're giving up their time, they're bringing in a lot of money for us, it allows us to pay them back."



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A groundbreaking was held August 28 for the Anytime Fitness location in Moosomin. From left are, Carmen and Jay Hamilton of South Prairie Design, Anytime Fitness Owner Jolene de Vries, Mayor Larry Tomlinson, along with Senior Project Manager Doug Morrow and General Manager Scott Bromley of Keller Developments.

Anytime Fitness in Moosomin: Construction under way on new gym

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Owners of Anytime Fitness, South Prairie Design and Keller Developments celebrated the sod-turning of the new Anytime Fitness gym being built in Moosomin, on Aug. 28.

Construction is underway for the new building at 414 Main Street, between Park Avenue and Lake Avenue.

"This has been years in the making, it's nice to finally see it come to fruition," said Jolene de Vries, owner of Anytime Fitness in Yorkton, Esterhazy, and the soon to be built location in Moosomin.

"Hopefully the beginning of January is when we expect

to open, if all goes well."

The 6,120 square foot facility was designed by South Prairie Design of Moosomin, and will have Keller Developments of Brandon be the contractor for the building.

de Vries said they have been anxious to start construction since the planning stages of the project.

"Just two weeks ago when I was in Toronto for an award, we went with one of the equipment suppliers and got to see some new equipment that we have never seen before," she said.

"They're a different supplier than we've used in the past, but they're really stepping up their game in Canada."

What sparked de Vries and her husband's interest for opening an Anytime Fitness in Moosomin was the gap in the community, she said.

"We heard you guys had that survey, and a fitness facility was up there as one of the needs," said de Vries.

"It seems like Moosomin is super progressive and wanted us here, so we picked up and moved it here.

"Covid slowed us down a bit, but we'll get it done."

Since the announcement, de Vries said people have been contacting her about when the building will be open to the public.

Continued on page 18

Globe Theatre Presents: BLIND DATE



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Construction under way on gym
Construction started last week on the new Anytime Fitness gym on Main Street in Moosomin, between Park Avenue and Lake Avenue. The gym will open early in 2024.

Anytime Fitness in Moosomin: Construction under way on new gym

Continued from page 17

"Lots of people are anxious, we're getting tons of messages and phone calls from people," she said.

"Lots of transients too who I think travel through here for work. Literally we receive over a dozen calls a week from people who are here.

"We're working with the football team here too, and a lot of the kids are pumped to get into the gym. My daughter plays for the Moosomin Generals, so we're here for football."

de Vries said the most challenging part for developing the new gym facility was the financial aspects.

"In the last little bit, it was definitely the financing because gyms are considered a high-risk industry now, to some of the banks," said de Vries.

"That has been the most challenging for sure, but we'll get it going here.

"We're excited to bring it, and to finally make it real. It's been too long. We had the Facebook page up, we said it was coming and then the last couple of years weren't easy."

Over the last few years, de Vries has been working with

the Town of Moosomin and local developers, such as South Prairie Design, on the new gym facility.

"We've mostly been working through Jay, and he's been fantastic," she said.

"He's very cost conscious, has our best interests at heart. He's been doing what he can to make this work."

Moosomin happy to be working with owners of Anytime Fitness

On the official sod-turning day, Jay Hamilton of South Prairie Design said he was happy to start construction for the project.

"This has been a long time in the making, we're excited to finally get something going, especially before the weather turns," said Hamilton.

"We're going to start construction later this week, and hopefully we'll be closing the shell in by Christmas.

"Then they (Anytime Fitness owners) will have a little work to do with the interior part."

Mayor Larry Tomlinson said the new facility will be well-received by the community.

"I think it's really important, I think it's nice they are

attracted to Moosomin. The new gym is really important, and we appreciate them for it," said Tomlinson.

"Just talking to Jolene this morning, I think this is going to be very well received because there's already people reaching out."

Scott Bromley, General Manager of Keller Developments, said they will be using local subcontractors for the new Anytime Fitness in Moosomin.

"Work was scheduled to start last week, Thursday. We're hoping to have the exterior shell completed in December," said Bromley.

"We do have our own crews to take on this type of project, but we also use subcontractors. We are using local subcontractors and they will be making up about 80 per cent of the work force."

Keller Construction stated they are still in the planning stages for the two new apartment buildings, which will include 24 rental units, mostly three-bedroom apartments.

"Currently the apartment buildings are still in the planning and structural design phases. More details to come as plans are finalized."



Next issue: October 13 • Deadline: October 4

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Sask RCMP plans for unmanned aircraft in every detachment

The Saskatchewan RCMP polices 99 per cent of the 651,900 square kilometres that make up the province. In order to provide efficient and effective policing services, it is important to modernize and keep up with advancements in technologies to help ensure public safety. That's why the Saskatchewan RCMP has been employing Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly referred to as drones or unmanned aircraft, to capture aerial images and videos in support of RCMP policing operations since 2010.

In January 2023, the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) 'Expansion Project' began with the objective of having at least one RPAS pilot and one unmanned aircraft in every detachment across Saskatchewan by April 2024. The objective of this Expansion Project is to ensure members have the necessary tools available to them, allowing them to respond to calls quicker and more efficiently when warranted.

To date, 29 front-line detachment officers have been trained as RPAS pilots and 33 per cent of Saskatchewan RCMP detachments have an unmanned aircraft available to them.

Why utilize air support for police operations?

Unmanned aircraft allow RCMP officers to approach investigations, unfolding critical incidents, and public safety concerns in a more modern, innovative, and efficient way. Calls for services can be responded to quicker, crime scenes can be seen from a bird's eye view, and suspects can be located with lower risk to them, the public and our officers.

Effective and efficient: Unmanned aircraft can cover a large area in a short amount of time when conducting a search and rescue mission for a missing person. For example, Meadow Lake RCMP recently deployed an unmanned aircraft after receiving a report of a missing hiker. The hiker, who ended up being approximately 500 metres off the marked trail, was spotted by the RPAS pilot who identified the hiker's GPS coordinates. This allowed officers on ATVs to easily locate the individual and bring them to safety. Time is of the essence when dealing with harsh weather conditions and/or vulnerable missing people.

Lower risk of danger for both officers responding to a call and nearby community members: Unmanned aircraft can increase accuracy when locating and monitoring a suspects' location and determining if they are armed. This allows for the Saskatchewan RCMP to respond to unfolding incidents with an appropriate number of officers and specialized tools if necessary. By gathering timely and accurate information, officers can also clear areas of a community if there is a safety risk.

Aids investigations for vehicle collisions and major crime scenes: At a crime scene, evidence can easily be spotted from the aerial view which may not be as easily spotted from ground level. For example, the Saskatchewan RCMP's Collision Reconstruction Analysts are able to use an unmanned aircraft to gather evidence after motor vehicle collisions (eg. tire marks, pieces of a vehicle, etc.). It also allows for evidence to be presented in court from an aerial vantage point, encompassing the whole scene.

What types of unmanned aircrafts are used by Saskatchewan RCMP?

Mavic (Multi-rotor)

- Employs a multi-rotor vertical takeoff-landing method
- Can operate up to 1 hour
- Flies up to 65 km/h
- Used for:
 - Crime scene photography
 - Motor vehicle accident reconstruction
 - Rapid reconnaissance of hazardous environments
 - Short-term critical incident monitoring

Mavic (Multi-rotor)



Sky Fury (Fixed-wing)



A multi-rotor Mavic and fixed-wing Sky Fury

Sky Fury (Fixed-wing)

- Employs a multi-rotor vertical takeoff-landing method, once airborne transitions to fixed-wing "cruise" flight
- Can operate up to 7 hours
- Flies at 90 km/h while in "cruise" flight
- Used for:
 - Search and rescue of missing persons
 - Responding and monitoring critical incidents (eg. armed and barricaded individual in a house)
 - Disaster response (eg. monitoring a forest fire approaching a community)

The public's privacy matters!

The safety and privacy of the public is of the utmost importance to the Saskatchewan RCMP. These unmanned aircraft are only used to assist investigations and calls for service when warranted.

If there is an expectation of the public's privacy, officers must obtain a judicial authorization or consent from the property owner to employ an unmanned aircraft. Consent and judicial authorization are not required when operating within public property such as streets, roads, parks, Crown land, etc.

The RCMP does not use unmanned aircraft to perform widespread surveillance under normal circumstances. Unmanned aircraft can be used for surveillance purposes only with prior judicial authorization, or where urgent/serious incidents impacting public safety make it impractical to first obtain a search warrant.

RPAS pilots are required to document every unmanned aircraft flight—where the flight took place, why it took place, and for what purpose. This ensures the technology is being used properly and following Federal laws and regulations.

The video/images captured by the unmanned aircraft is not equipped with facial recognition technologies nor does it have the ability to analyze footage or still images for the purpose of facial recognition.

In the event that images must be retained for investigative purposes, the digital files must be stored as an exhibit on the operational file (e.g. crime scene footage to present to the Court) in a secure RCMP building.

Battlefords RCMP launches Air Support Pilot Project

The Saskatchewan RCMP has seen proven success using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) throughout the province, which is why the Battlefords RCMP is enhancing their air support capabilities by using an RPAS during active calls for service.

From August 25 to August 26, the two-day pilot project consisted of employing the Sky Fury, a fixed-wing aircraft, to support officers actively responding to calls in the community of North Battleford. All flights that took place were limited to active calls for police presence, focusing on unfolding events only. A trained and certified RPAS pilot employed an unmanned aircraft to assist front-line

police officers during calls for service, where a secondary employee relayed information seen on the video feed to officers responding to the call.

The objective of this project is to provide situational awareness for on-the-ground officers responding to a call for service in a small-urban environment, such as but not limited to:

- Proactively describing an active crime scene to officers who are driving to the call
- Quickly locating suspects fleeing from a crime scene (eg. Break and enters, shootings, etc.)
- Quickly locating suspects who failed to comply with police (eg. Impaired drivers fleeing from police in a vehicle)

All levels of support have the goal to improve efficiency and effectiveness when responding to calls—as well as ensuring the safety of the public and officers responding. The Battlefords RCMP will be generating statistics and reports regarding the effectiveness of the two-day trial period—which could pave the way, if proven successful, for other detachment areas requiring the same level of air support.

North Battlefords city council and local leaders were invited to a live demonstration of the RPAS prior to the two-day pilot project taking place.

Saskatchewan RCMP – Improving and Enhancing Policing Services

The Saskatchewan RCMP continues to research and explore effective strategies and technology to support and enhance front-line policing. Utilizing this type of air support strengthens the mandate of preventing and investigating crime, as well as ensuring the public's safety.

"We're really excited to see this project take flight. By utilizing this innovative technology, we are able to provide crucial air support for our officers on the ground in real time. Expanding this to all of our detachments across Saskatchewan, will most certainly increase our ability to effectively respond to crimes in progress and support search and rescue operations much more efficiently," says Inspector Devin Pugh, Officer in Charge of Saskatchewan RCMP's Support Services Section.

NOW HIRING

Relief Water Treatment and Distribution Operator / Labourer

The Municipality of Russell Binscarth invites applications for the position of Relief Water Treatment Plant Operator / Labourer. The Relief Operator is responsible for the Regional Water Treatment plant operations and associated Distribution System, Municipal Sewage Collection and Treatment systems. The individual will also be required to perform a variety of other duties as assigned within the Public Works department.

Preference will be given to individuals who have achieved Certification for Level II Water Treatment Plant Operation and Level I Sewage Collection and Treatment. The Municipality will provide training for those who are not certified. Candidates are required to have successfully completed Grade 12 and possess a valid Class 5 Manitoba Drivers Licence or equivalent and have access to a vehicle.

Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. A generous benefits package will be included.

Interested individuals should submit a cover letter and resume in person or by mail / email to:

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Further details and job description can be obtained on the Municipal website www.russellbinscarth.com

We thank all who apply but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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THE WORLD-
Spectator

Cobblestone House now open, grand opening planned for Sept. 27

Continued from page 3

Grand opening on Sept. 27

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, people from the community are invited to attend the grand opening for the Cobblestone House.

"The grand opening is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We'll be having some speeches and the opening ceremony starting at 11

a.m.," said Hintz.

"The mayor will be coming. We'll be doing tours and have a barbecue lunch out in the parking lot.

"We have live music from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

"We just want to open the doors and let the public come in.

"That's why we thought we would do a barbecue on a Wednesday, that way people can come for lunch and check the place out."



The common area on the third floor, which is dedicated to the independent living.



Above, is the living room on the Assisted Living floor.



The main kitchen inside the new assisted living and long term care home Cobblestone House, in Moosomin.

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly
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Sandra Poole directing elementary students at the Conexus Centre.

Sandra Poole enjoyed sharing her love of music with students

Mrs. Poole reflects on her career and the legacy she leaves behind at MacLeod Elementary School

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

This fall when students and teachers are back at MacLeod School in Moosomin, for the first time in more than two decades, Sandra Poole won't be among them.

Mrs. Poole, the music teacher at MacLeod Elementary School for 22 years, has decided to retire after the past few years brought fewer hours with kids in the music classroom.

Interest in music began early

Growing up, Mrs. Poole knew she was always going to become a teacher, and found her calling was music after briefly being part of a choir in grade four.

"I always knew I was going to be a teacher. I have three little sisters and I always bossed them around to do school-work. We moved around a lot because my dad was a banker, and in grade four I joined a choir. It was only for a month but I thought 'Wow, this is awesome!' Then we moved again and I didn't find another music program until high school.

"I was in an amazing choir and knew I wanted to be a choir director, an English teacher and do drama. I always knew I wanted to teach. I just didn't know what I wanted to teach until my high school choir director really inspired me. At university, I did my first elementary music course and thought 'this is where I belong with the xylophones, recorders and drumming.'

She began her career in Virden.

"My first job was in Virden. I was a music teacher for three schools in Virden and Oak Lake. I started the choral program in Virden and offered it as a credit because I knew that would be a drawing card for students. I did that for eight years then moved to Moosomin. I walked into the superintendent's office at the time at the Moosomin School Division and said, 'I am a music teacher for Elementary School. Can you use me?' He said they would call me.

"There was nothing at the time, no music program. When my son, Trevor, was in grade one in 2000, I volunteered as an elementary school music teacher for grade one. I volunteered my time for the whole year. The principal at the time, Mrs. Nelson, told me that somebody was retiring and they had a half time position open and that I should apply and do music.

"Now, it has been 22 years I've been doing that."

Sharing the joy of music

Mrs. Poole recalls many wonderful moments teaching and enjoyed sharing music with all of her students.

"It started off as me wanting my children to have a music education and everybody in their classes as well, and it has worked even better than that, with many

"Music should be a right, not a privilege, for every child."

— Sandra Poole

more students learning music. It worked out well. It has been wonderful. I have had so many wonderful moments with all my students.

"Music just makes me so happy and joyous and I want to share that with kids. The first day in Trevor's class they didn't sing they just clapped after I sang because they thought it was a concert. They didn't think they needed to take part. Now, 22 years later I am leaving the school and all the kids sing."

Mrs. Poole said she believes music can spark an interest in anyone.

"Music is so healthy, and it's good for students to learn different things. Math and English classes may not be everybody's cup of tea, but usually you can find something you like in music."

Music program cut back

Mrs. Poole says last year was the first year she noticed that music was being cut back so much.

"I taught only music in Moosomin until 2006 when we amalgamated into Southeast Cornerstone. After that I had to teach social studies, arts, drama, visual arts, and science. This last year was the first year that music was being cut back so much and I was only seeing kids once a week for music. I know we had some teacher cutbacks this last year and we don't have as many music educators in our school division. When we amalgamated in 2006 I thought that would be good where everyone across the board would have the same opportunities, but it isn't really like that. Weyburn has a really strong music program and music in Moosomin isn't happening anymore.

"I am happy to be retiring, but if someone was to come in and teach the music program I would be really happy to see it continue."

Music helps with learning

Mrs. Poole believes learning to play musical instruments helps kids feel better and helps their brains develop in different ways.

"I have seen kids come into the classroom who might be having a bad day and all of sudden you start singing and all of a sudden things are better, or you give them a xylophone and things are better. It is good for your brain. There are lots of people, the people who study music, who say it is the left brain-right brain that

combine together. It helps with your studies. My eldest went through to be a doctor and in his class of 110 kids, most of them had music training. At school we are always doing clapping patterns crossing the middle line and kids who have not had music find that really difficult. Clapping patterns help wire your brain, to help you read and gain a better perspective to help with when studying. We do lots of clapping patterns in elementary and they are really good for kids' development."

Mrs. Poole is retiring after 30 years of teaching with music education being by far her favourite.

"I have taught in Moosomin for 22 years

and in Virden for 8, in total I have taught for 30 years. It goes by so fast when you love what you do. I was thinking of teaching one more year if I could have kept teaching music, but it was my time now to retire. I was just really hoping somebody would come up and teach the music program in Moosomin after me. Olivia Kelly of Rocanville just graduated from Brandon University with a music education degree and she is going to be employed as an Elementary music educator in Winnipeg this year. I thought maybe one day she would come here. She was a singing student of mine for 18 years."

Continued on page 22



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Oct. 4, 12 - 1 PM: Connecting Power Grids: Imports, Exports and Interties

Oct. 12, 12 - 1 PM: Customer Renewable Programs: Alternatives to Self Generation

*All times are in CST

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Mrs. Poole's students over the years prepping for Christmas concerts, singing and dancing with scarves.

Sandra Poole enjoyed sharing her love of music with students

Continued from page 21

A memory that stands out to Mrs. Poole is performing at a teacher conference in Regina with her elementary students in 2006. "When my kids were both in elementary school in 2006, I took 59 kids from grades 3 to 6 to Regina and taught them a stick dance, a cool xylophone piece, and singing to perform at a teacher conference of 500 teachers at the Conexus Centre. David Bouchard is an author from Regina who wrote a book called "If You're Not from the Prairie" and we showcased the book through song and it was really cool."

Proud moments

Achievements she is proud of are concerts held at the school, little performances, and having both girls and boys sing.

"My proudest achievements are the little shows we put on at school. The little shows like Joust we put on in 2022 with the grade fours and fives and my proudest achievements are having both the girls and the guys there singing. I have put on a lot of shows and some of the boys that were in my first shows are now teaching in schools themselves. I am also proud of my recorder program, Recorder Karate. I am proud of the many Christmas concerts I have put on at the school for the kids. My biggest joy was Intery-Mintery (Halloween performance) and the Remembrance Day program. I am proud of how all the kids have grown from the beginning and what they can achieve."

Mrs. Poole is a member of the Manitoba Orff Chapter and two of her students participated in the Cross-Canada Virtual Orff Ensemble in 2022.

"I am a member of the Manitoba Orff Chapter, which is an approach to teaching children, and it is like dance, recorder, singing, xylophones, and speech. Almost every year I have taken some grade fives to Brandon to a children's conference where it is a whole day of dance, drumming and singing. Then, when we come back we teach them what we have learned. I have taken some groups to Winnipeg and Brandon wondering if our program would be strong and it is, all of my students felt more than comfortable performing in either place."

"Last year, all throughout Canada they had a wonder-

ful lady, Sherryl Sewepagaham, an Orff instructor (music teacher) in Edmonton and she is Cree. She wrote a song called Kahkiyaw Oskayak—in English, All the Young People. It was a cross-Canada virtual Orff Ensemble where every school was allowed two students to perform and they put it all together. It was amazing. Two of my students, Reise Wushke and Olivia Brooks, performed on behalf of our school. We got to play the alto recorders. We practiced then recorded the girls playing their part and then uploaded it to Winnipeg where they put it all together for an Orff music conference. The video harmonized kids across Canada singing together and our kids played the recorder, but at the end they had to learn the Cree song to learn how to sing it and it was so cool.

"Then, Mrs. Cole played the performance at the end of the year for the whole school and at the end of the production all of the schools and towns are listed. Moosomin was the only Saskatchewan town in all of the production. It was a lot of work, but so fun and the kids were so proud of themselves watching it."

Will miss her students

Mrs. Poole says she will miss the kids.

"I will miss the kids the most. I will miss their happy faces, I will miss them coming through the door singing to me. I had some little grade ones every day last year come in and say hi to me. I love working with groups of kids and creating music with them and seeing where they go. Just seeing the kids playing patterns, playing recorder and learning musical instruments. During Covid we used a

green screen as a backdrop and put together a show for our Christmas concert by videoing, and I edited it on Adobe. It was wonderfully fun, but a lot of work, but the kids got to see themselves perform. It was great fun."

Staying involved in music

Poole would like to continue providing musical education to kids who are interested and love it as much as she does.

"I have lots of dreams. I would like to do a little group of kids to get together and do a musical together. I will continue doing the Creative Vision productions with Mrs. Meredith with all ages ranging from seven to 90 because 90-year-olds can sing, too. If you do sports there will be a time that you will have to stop, but you don't have to for music or singing. We have a choir of about 30 adults and I will continue to keep singing. I thought I could offer recorders to kids still because the grade threes going into grade four this fall are not happy they won't have Recorder Karate, but maybe I can offer a program after school where I can offer that for a little bit. I will keep busy."

Music education needed

"I am very thankful that I got to teach at least one class of music every day throughout my career," says Mrs. Poole. "That is a blessing. I really hope that our government sees a need for music education in our school system again because it is still thriving in Manitoba. Music should be a right, not a privilege, for every child."



Above: A Grade 3 music class in 2023.

Below: Grades 3 to 6 performance at a teacher convention in 2006.





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Just the beginning

University welcomes students and encourages growth

Graduating high school in the spring was the close of one chapter of my life, and now I am beginning the next chapter.

Tuesday, August 29, I attended orientation at the University of Regina. I participated in the pep rally and was introduced to the university's chancellor, international students, and programs offered at the University of Regina.

After the pep rally, students were separated into their faculties and sent off to auditoriums to listen to faculty leaders.

I enjoyed the speeches of encouragement, and the stories shared by faculty officials of the educational journey they experienced, starting by sitting in the exact same auditorium years before me.

The University of Regina welcomed students from all over the world with Welcome Week 2023 Activities. There were chess games, movie nights, escape rooms, and many more activities for students to participate in and meet new people. Personally, I enjoyed a Zumba class and cheered for the Rams football team Friday night.

It has only been a week at school and already I feel overjoyed with the choice I have made to attend post-secondary school.

The University of Regina has already shown me what the next five years will look like for me in the past week— which is busy and fun, with a sense of belonging.

It is hard to put into words how excited and grateful I am to experience this opportunity to advance my education and life skills, but also to meet new peers and educators.

I have met many new students and now some new



Ashley Bocek

friends who I get to experience the first year and many more exciting times with.

I have always been good at making friends but at university it is pretty easy—especially with other first year students, because everyone is so nervous and awkwardly waiting outside the classroom doors 30 minutes before it even begins.

I am in the faculty of Education, but still unsure of what I really want to do and who I want to become. My first-year classes are mostly introductions to a variety of different areas such as psychology and kinesiology.

To seniors in high school starting their last first day of school this fall, it is okay to not know yet what you want to do for the rest of your career after high school—I was the exact same way at your age, and I still am!

At university they know as first years you are unsure and testing the waters, and that is perfectly okay because you will eventually adapt to your strengths and find out what you are most excited about and most interested in for yourself to grow professionally.

The world offers many academic programs for all sorts of interests.

This first year, I want to find myself and see what my own interests and qualities gravitate most towards. It is

just so hard when I can see myself working and excelling in so many different occupations.

Change is so unknown, but I already feel as if I have made the best decision of my life attending university and entering a new world that will improve my education and build my self-confidence.

I cannot wait to thrive off lectures and work hard on essays to prove that I have skills and hard work to show for myself.

Classes have been starting off slow with syllabus reviews and chatting on what to expect in certain courses with different professors, but once the hard work begins, I know I will be organized, determined, and have help from friends if I need it.

The feeling of entering a new classroom with new students and different educators is unlike any other feeling, but it only makes you nervous for the few minutes before sitting down by another student just as nervous as you are, when you can bond and connect over the first-year nerves everyone is feeling, not just you.

Eventually the nerves subside and the anticipation to learn starts, and you see university as full of opportunities for all students.

I was nervous leaving high school, but this last week attending university I have proven to myself the growth I am capable of and the exciting journey my whole adult life will be, as I await and crave new experiences.

I am grateful I can share my university milestone experiences with the Spectator readers as I hope some of my firsts spark memories in those who once attended university themselves.

Ashley Bocek grew up in Moosomin and is a student at the University of Regina.

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September 2023 • Page 25

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Farmers harvesting in their combines near Rocanville. Mark McCorrison has been farming for over 10 years, and currently has about 7,500 acres of farmland.



Mark McCorrison and his father, Lorne, washing one their combines after harvest back in 2010.

Heart of harvesting on the Prairies

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Since he was six years old, Mark McCorrison would drive the grain truck on his family's farm.

As soon as he was old enough to work, McCorrison would help his parents load the truck with grain, drive it back to the yard, unload the truck, and do it all over again during harvest.

Thirty years later, McCorrison finds himself farming 7,500 acres in southeast Saskatchewan, more than double of what he used to help his father with, during his time living on his family farm.

"My dad really wanted someone to farm. I started out farming, then I was a long-haul truck driver, then after that I worked on the oil rigs," said McCorrison. "I would help my dad on the farm, it's just something I felt like I had to do. A lot of it is family obligation because we grew up farming."

Over the past decade, McCorrison has expanded his farm to fields between Moosomin and Rocanville, as far as the potash mine and south to Moosomin Lake.

"I started farming in 2013, this is my 10th year on my own. I would help my dad before that, he started here in 1976," said McCorrison.

"I guess that's part of the reason why I have to do it too is because my dad created this opportunity for me, and it was his goal to have someone in the family that did it. He gave me the opportunity and I feel I have to do it."

"Don't get me wrong, I love it. If someone is lucky enough to have a family farm and their family is trying to help them enough to do it, then that's why they do it because it's an opportunity for one in a thousand."

"My goal is to have one of the kids take over. If they don't end up being farmers then hopefully one of my nephews. I want the next generation of our family to carry it on too."



Mark McCorrison, who farms in the Moosomin and Rocanville area, said his love of farming started when he was younger and helped his father on the family farm.

Sense of community behind farming

Growing up on a farm his entire life, working alongside his parents and siblings, farming is second nature for McCorrison.

"I always run this combine, it is its 32nd harvest and its 30th year on our farm," he said. "I remember the day it got delivered on the farm, I was 13 years old."

"I remember riding with my dad for the very first time in it. It seems weird, but to me it's part of the family."

"My dad, it was his goal that one of his boys farmed, and my brother helped, but he works in the city for SaskPower now," he said.

"I rent my brother's portion of the land from him and my sister and her husband, they farm too, towards Kipling. They farm her portion of land."

"Farming, it's an addictive occupation. I've done it for as long as I remember. I find it very rewarding. When I walk out of the house, it's the same path I've taken basically my whole life, and I find that very rewarding."

McCorrison grew up watching his mother play a vital role in helping his father, and sees it now with how active and helpful his wife is with helping him on their farm.

"I would say some of the ladies that support the farmers are probably some of the hardest working people," he said.

"When I was a kid all of those farming wives, they stayed home. Well there's not enough money in farming anymore, they all have full-time jobs and still have to cook the meals, help with the cattle, run the combines. If we're short on operators, my wife will come out and run a combine."

Farming industry has evolved over the years

Throughout his years from living on the farm, helping his family, and now owning a farm of his own, McCorrison said the industry has changed considerably.

"When I was a kid we had about 900 acres, and my dad, at the end of his career he was up to about 3,200 acres. Now I farm 7,500 acres," he said.

With farmers operating larger farms than before and dealing with higher prices for equipment, McCorrison said it has been challenging for families to continue in the industry.

Continued on page 27

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Heart of harvesting on the Prairies

Continued from page 25

"Everything is so expensive now, you go to buy parts and it's hundreds of dollars for something so simple," he said.

"I had no idea when I was a kid how much our political structure would affect me as an adult.

"The farmer doesn't make as much money because everything is costing him more, but the price of grain hasn't gone up. It's not different than how our economy is going because the price of grain isn't changing as fast as everything else is getting expensive."

Being able to start a farm from scratch is almost impossible given the expenses, said McCorriston.

"I don't think there's money in it like it once was, so you have to have more acres to make the same amount of money," he said.

"I've had some excellent farming years and then in 2019 I lost a couple hundred thousand dollars, and I was devastated. I said if I had one more year like that I would have to quit. Then in 2020 I had the best farming year of my life. It teaches you how to be humble.

"This year I hope I break even or make a few dollars, but in the life time of a farmer it's quite something. You just hope next year's better and when you do have a good year, leave some money in the bank."



Trucks were being loaded with grain from farmers on Aug. 29.

Challenges that come with farming

One of the many challenges of running a farm is finding full-time workers, said McCorriston. "Finding good full-time reliable staff has probably been one of the bigger struggles," he said.

"We have a really good thriving economy, I always say I have lots of good guys who help me out, but because they're good guys they already have a full time job. They already work in the mine or they work in the oil industry, I have lots of part-time guys, but to find good full-time guys it's tough."

McCorriston shared a few tips he would give to farmers based on his experience over the years.

"You definitely don't want to skip any steps. You want to use a good amount of fertilizer, that's one cost you don't cut on," he said.

"The other thing is to not get in a panic if it's a wet spring, my dad called it 'mucking it in.' In the spring time everyone gets anxious and I've seen it too.

"Not panicking would be one tip, but it's so tough because if you don't put in a crop you're not making any money, so you

feel an obligation to go out early, but sometimes it's not the best choice either.

"Another thing I've learned is no matter what happens you can't control the weather and you just can't let it ruin your life or summer because I definitely know people who pout and whine about it, but you can't change the weather. You just have to deal with what Mother Nature gives you.

"One of the other things, which my dad told me, is if your grain isn't storing properly, it happens on the top.

"If you're going to check your

grain, you need to look at the top of the bin. Grab the ladder and look in the hatch because that's where it will start to spoil."

Joys of farming

One of McCorriston's favourite parts about farming is working with local farmers and being involved with the community.

"I really love the friendships I've made. I've got three landlords up here in Rocanville, I've been up here for six years and I consider them some of my closest friends," he said.

"Being a farmer is also really good for the local economy because I've got all of these people employed, they're making money. Not to say I'm rich, but I'm turning money which is helping people out too. You support a lot of people."

McCorriston said he has picked up different tactics from other local farmers over the years.

"I would say my dad taught me a pile of stuff, then I worked for a few farmers like Heides, I've worked for Craig Roy, and learned stuff from them later on," he said.

"They do stuff differently and know how to address the situation from a different angle.

"Ultimately, there's no two farms that are identical. They all accomplish the same goal, but no one has the same line of equipment, and nobody does it exactly the same.



Grain being harvested from a combine on Mark McCorriston's farms.

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– SEPTEMBER 2023 –

15	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
25	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8:00 a.m.
29	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.

– OCTOBER 2023 –

6	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
6	Friday	Sheep/Goat/Horse/Tack	5 p.m.
9	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
13	Friday	Presort Sale - Simmental	9:30 a.m.
20	Friday	Presort Sale - Charolais	9:30 a.m.
23	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
27	Friday	Presort Sale - Angus	9:30 a.m.

– NOVEMBER 2023 –

3	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
6	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
10	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
17	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
20	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
24	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.

– DECEMBER 2023 –

1	Friday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
4	Monday	Bred Cow/HFR Sale	12 p.m.
5	Tuesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
15	Friday	Last Chance Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
18	Monday	Bred Cow/HFR Sale	12 p.m.
18	Monday	Butcher Cows & Bulls	to follow

VIRDEN

– SEPTEMBER 2023 –

18	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
20	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
21	Thursday	Sheep, Horse & Tack	5 p.m.
27	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.

– OCTOBER 2023 –

2	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
4	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
11	Wednesday	Presort Sale - Simmental	9:30 a.m.
16	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
18	Wednesday	Presort Sale - Charolais	9:30 a.m.
25	Wednesday	Presort Sale - Angus	9:30 a.m.
30	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.

– NOVEMBER 2023 –

1	Wednesday	Presort Sale - Speckle Park, Shorthorn	9:30 a.m.
8	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
13	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
15	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
22	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
25	Saturday	Season Opener Bred Cow Sale	12 p.m.
27	Monday	Cow & Bull Sale	8 a.m.
29	Wednesday	Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.

– DECEMBER 2023 –

2	Saturday	Bred Cow Extravaganza Sale	12 p.m.
6	Wednesday	Regular Sale	9 a.m.
9	Saturday	Bred Cow Classic	12 p.m.
13	Wednesday	Last Chance Presort Sale	9:30 a.m.
19	Tuesday	Bred Cow/HFR Sale	12 p.m.
20	Wednesday	Butcher Cows & Bulls	9 a.m.



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Canola being swathed north of Moosomin.
Kevin Weedmark photo

Farmers in southeast say crops looking better than expected

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Farmers in southeast Saskatchewan have started harvesting and say this year's crops are coming in better than anticipated.

Murray Bruce, who farms near Moosomin, said he started harvesting on Aug. 21.

"We've gotten 1,200 acres done. So far the yield is looking quite encouraging," said Bruce.

"It kind of makes you wonder where it came from considering how dry this year's summer was, because we didn't get any rain this summer.

"There must have been lots of reserve moisture in the ground to get the bushels that we're getting. It's quite encouraging what the yields are looking like."

Bruce said the biggest challenge he faced during this year's season was lack of moisture.

"We're expecting the crops to be on average, like a good average crop," he said.

"It will depend on mother nature when we finish harvest, on how long this kind of weather lasts. It would be nice to be done by the middle of September."

Farmers in the Moosomin area say yield looks encouraging

Wendy Schatz Leeds, Agronomy Lead of Sharpe's Crop Services in Moosomin, said farmers in the Moosomin area have begun harvest.

"We're just starting harvest. There isn't a ton of crop off yet, they're not quite dried down yet," said Schatz Leeds.

"We're getting to the point where we're reaching physiological maturity and some producers have created a phase for dry down. We're now just getting to that point where they would be ready to harvest.

"Some of the malt barley has come off, I think producers are happy so far with the malt barley yields. Peas also yielded okay, considering the year. We're just getting into wheat, and it will be a few weeks before canola is ready."

Due to communities in the southeast area of the province receiving no rainfall throughout the month of July, Schatz Leeds said the final outcome for all crops will depend on the weather conditions in the next few weeks.

"It will be a wait and see to see how things look. The plants developed really well considering we had minimal rainfall," said Schatz Leeds.

"We had really healthy plants for the most part. We'll just have to see how everything sets seed.

"There was a point when they were setting seed for both canola and wheat, when it was warm out and they don't like that, but I think there was also cool periods. We cooled off at night.

"I think for the most part we should be okay with our development."

Continued on page 30



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Online-timed Antique, Collectible & Household for Steve & Laurie Kovach
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Online-timed Inventory Dispersal Auction for Cypress River Electric - Gordon & Rita Hyrich Retirement Sale
Bidding starts: Thursday Sept. 14 @ 9am
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FEATURING: new wire; electrical boxes; outlets & covers; conduit; breaker box items; hand tools; ladders; new appliances; office supplies & much more

Online-timed Antique/Collectible Collection Reduction for Est. of Murray Kruszelnicki - Dunrea, MB
Bidding starts: Mon. Sept. 18 @ 9am
Bidding ends: Sun. Sept. 24 @ 6pm - soft close

FEATURING: Lg. selection of advertising tins incl. Fort Garry, Hudson Bay, Buffalo, White Rose; Western 1 dealer sign; a variety of oil & gas lighters & matchbooks; Medalta pcs. Incl. pitchers, jugs, etc.; crockery; a variety of glassware & China; primitives; furniture for restoration; toys; literature incl. Municipal books; farm related antiques & more

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Farmers in the southeast say crops are looking better than expected

Continued from page 29

She spoke about the different challenges she thinks farmers faced during this season.

"I don't know if there was a big challenge, I think we had a fairly nice year, aside from the fact that we could've used maybe one rainfall at the end of June and beginning of July," Schatz Leeds said.

"But again, you have to be careful what you wish for because sometimes we get these big dumps during that time of the year, and you end up drowning acres and it's not to our benefit.

"I think that would've been the only thing, if we had just maybe a nice little shower at the end of June and beginning of July, more widespread. There was some showers going through, but not widespread. Certain areas got a little more than others in rainfall, but we're still way below average.

"To me, I believe we're seeing some weed resistance show up. As an agronomist, like myself, we'll have to work with producers to learn how to control specifically kochia.

"I believe I saw quite a bit resistance in kochia this spring, we're going to have to work as a group, the agronomist and the farmer, to figure out a solution on how we're going to deal with that."

Although the Moosomin area faced below average rain during July and August, Schatz Leeds said the spring weather gave farmers a good start to the season.

"We were well below normal, we were 20 per cent of normal rainfall. We were definitely below normal in moisture coming from the sky, but we did have really good soil moisture going into the spring so that helped us."

The majority of farmers should be finished harvesting by the end of September, said Schatz Leeds.

"I would think we should be wrapped up easily by mid-to-end of September, end of September for sure because we probably have about three weeks of harvest left," she said.

"Also, if we can all hope for fall moisture to help with spring, and thinking about fall applications for chemicals, to think about weed resistance and talk to an agronomist, like myself, to figure out the best solution for it."

Tim McCarthy, a farmer north of Fleming, started harvesting last week after the few days of rain passed through.

Based on this year's weather conditions, McCarthy was asked what he thinks the outcome will be for this year's crops.

"I think they're going to be better than we think. We had some good soil moisture here and the crops did pretty good, I think there's possibly some better yield than we think, but time will tell," said McCarthy.

The biggest challenge McCarthy faced this year was the weather conditions.

"The weather being dry was a challenge, as far as getting the work done, things went pretty smooth. We're just one or two rains short of it being a perfect year I think,"



Elize Steyn submitted this photo of harvest started on August 16 at Eastview Farms in the RM of Silverwood.

he said.

"The moisture conditions were pretty good up until the hot spell in July, but essentially I think we're going to be pleasantly surprised. I'll know more in a couple of weeks."

Crop conditions looking average, says Esterhazy farmer

Kevin Hruska, who farms in the Esterhazy, Gerald, Lagenburg, and Breckenbury areas, said he started harvesting on Aug. 20.

"We went out and did a sample, we're just sort of assembling the crew and we'll be starting after this rain event is going on," said Hruska.

"We have a good-poor crop. The way the year was we're not going to complain. All of our friends out west are in worse shape."

Hruska said he noticed more areas across the farm were drier than others, due to a lack of rainfall.

"We had a really dry long spot without rain. We could have sure used one good rain in the middle of a six-week drought," he said.

"We had a few good rains off the start, we have one area that the clouds parted and missed us the whole year. It was variable to some extent, there was never a general rain, we relied on showers and the showers were sporadic so they zig-zagged all over the place."

"Typically showers cover

the land like a screen saver does on your computer, where it runs around until it finally covers the whole screen, but unfortunately the one spot didn't have enough time to get there."

Like most farmers, Hruska said the biggest challenge for this year's season was the dry weather conditions.

"The seeding went well, the summer wasn't too hot, really the biggest challenge was praying for rain," Hruska said.

"In all honesty that was the thing that concerned us all year. We kept saying, could we get a rain, could we get rain, gosh if we could only get a rain. It would predict a 60 to 70 per cent chance of rain, and we would get just five drops.

"That would've been the biggest challenge. Prices are reasonable, holding costs was a challenge.

"Machinery costs have just gone berserk, just crazy. When Covid caught us machinery never became available and when we came out from the other end of Covid, now it's double in price."

Hruska said he expects to finish harvest by the beginning of October.

"I would think we'll go okay until the first week of October by the time we get done, but if I can speak for other farmers, a lot of other people will be done by September this year," said Hruska.

"There's going to be a handful of small farmers who are going to be done in August.

"We're going until October because we had later crops. Some that had later rain on it, we straight cut canola, it had to be sprayed off it was nowhere near ready, we had some damaged and delayed stuff, and it's going to drag us out.

"I think them later crops would've caught these last two rains which is actually going to be better. Also, we're large farmers, we do put a lot of acres onto one combine."

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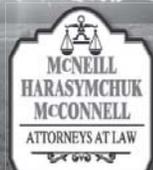
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Outlook for livestock feed input suppliers mixed

BY LEIGH ANDERSON
FCC SENIOR ECONOMIST

The Canadian commercial feed market (for example, pelleted rations for cattle, dairy, hog and poultry) grew over 20% in 2022, reaching a record \$11.5 billion in sales. Most of this growth was driven by increases in feed grain prices stemming from Russia's war against Ukraine. The livestock sector has faced numerous years of tight feed supplies and expensive feed grains. High feed costs have pressured profitability throughout the Canadian livestock industry, including feed mill operators, as volatile commodity prices negatively impacted their margins.

We are projecting the Canadian commercial feed market to grow 6.6% in 2023 to \$12.3 billion, driven by strong livestock receipts and feed grain prices that remain historically high. The Eastern Canadian commercial feed market is expected to have the largest growth at over 9% in 2023 to \$6.1 billion. Eastern Canadian growth is driven by its large dairy sector and an expanding poultry sector. In Western Canada, we are projecting a 4.0% increase in feed sales to \$5.7 billion, largely due to drought conditions and the need to purchase feed. In Atlantic Canada, we are projecting a 7.6% increase in feed sales but recent flooding in Nova Scotia could change that projection.

Drought conditions have once again led to rising feed costs

Feed grain prices did trend down through the first half of 2023. However, drought conditions in North America have once again led to rising feed costs. Drought conditions have resulted in stressed pastures and reduced hay crops. Provincial crop insurance agencies in Western Canada have moved quickly to allow producers to move poor crops into alternative uses (for example, grazing or baling), which provides some relief to the drought-stricken livestock sector. Corn imports have also risen as the feedlot sector braces for tighter feed supplies as we head into the fall calf-run

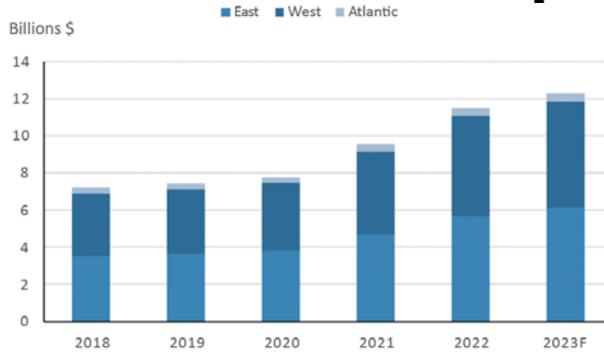


Figure 1. Canadian commercial feed market sales

and winter 2024 feeding. Some cow-calf and feedlot operations have worked with their local feed mills to utilize screening rations with supplements to maintain herds and make up for poor pasture conditions.

The fall calf run has already begun in regions facing extreme drought conditions that are forcing either an earlier weaning of calves or culling of cattle. Increased numbers of cows and heifers are heading to slaughter. A continued contraction of the North American cattle herd was expected as indicated in our top charts to monitor in 2023, but we now expect further contraction. Getting through the drought conditions will be key for these operations. The good news, if any during a drought, is sales are occurring at strong prices, providing cashflow for operations to re-build their herds once pasture conditions improve. However, rebuilding cattle herds following drought and cull-

ing is a multi-year initiative. The drought's impact on herd size will ultimately impact feed mill sales into 2024 and beyond. We are currently in a weather market, with volatile feed prices and a market that could now go in either direction depending on weather and its final impact on overall North American production.

North American hog sector expected to contract

In addition to high feed costs, profitability challenges in the pork/hog sector are having impacts throughout the supply chain. The North American hog sector is going through an economic down cycle. Hog herd size is expected to decline as the number of sows bred and farrowings decline across North America. A decline in the hog herd means reduced feed demand in the short run and will weigh on the commercial feed market as farrowings are reduced

and fewer hogs are finished in Canada. Hog production declines are expected to occur as the North American sector adapts to reduced pork demand.

The current contraction in the hog sector is likely temporary as the hog sector expansion phase will once again return. The hog production contraction and expansion cycle is much shorter than beef at approximately four years.

Challenges in both the cattle and hog sectors will have far-reaching consequences for red meat production in North America and agribusiness input suppliers.

Expanding poultry sector an area of growing opportunity

Canadians love chicken and eggs. Per capita chicken meat consumption is up 16% since 2010 and eggs are up 32% (Figure 2). Canada's population recently hit 40 million people and is growing at a record pace. Canada's population has a



direct impact on the feed supply business, particularly in Eastern Canada with its larger presence of supply managed sectors (for example, poultry and dairy). Along with having nearly half of the Canadian population, Eastern Canada's immigration levels are rising, which is good news for the Canadian poultry industry (and to a lesser extent the entire livestock industry) and, subsequently, the commercial feed industry.

will either be exported or used domestically. The most likely scenario is increased use in feed formulations and feed ingredient additives. In the longer term, how livestock is fed in North America will continue to evolve as the expanded soybean and canola crush sector disrupts the industry. It will structurally change what we feed livestock, especially if a surplus of meals become available and cheaper for the livestock sector.

Growth of oilseed crush disruptor to feed rations

The Canadian canola crush sector is currently undergoing expansion driven by increased emission reduction mandates (for example, clean fuel regulations) that are increasing biofuel demand. The crush sector is expected to add approximately 4.5 million tonnes of additional crush capacity by the end of 2024, and 2-plus million additional tonnes in the years following. The additional capacity represents over 3.5 million tonnes of additional canola meal produced. The increased meal

Bottom line

Challenges in both the cattle and hog sectors will have far-reaching consequences for red meat production in North America and agribusinesses input suppliers. Feed mill profitability is expected to be volatile in the short term, but the future looks bright in the long term with additional supplies of feed options, including canola meal and canola screenings, and opportunities to integrate soy meal into feed rations. A growing Canadian population will continue to demand domestically produced meat.

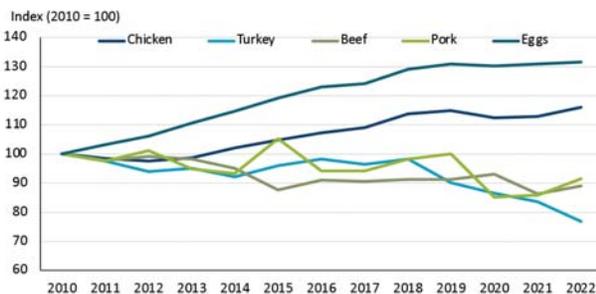
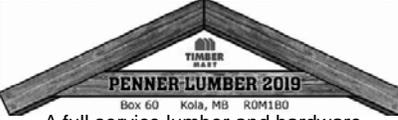


Figure 2. Canadian per capita consumption of selected meat proteins



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Advancing beef cattle fertility

Lloydminster-based multi-partner project spans Western Canada



The Canadian Agri-Food Automation and Intelligence Network (CAAIN) has unveiled the third of seven stories showcasing the agtech research and innovation being developed by the recipients of funding made available through its 2021 Open Competition.

CAAIN's mandate from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada is to fund technological responses to the most significant opportunities and challenges facing the nation's agri-food producers and processors. That means supporting promising efforts with the potential to provide economic or environmental value. The featured stories demonstrate that CAAIN is doing just that, as do the 129 collaborations the organization has nurtured and the \$31M it is investing in 24 projects with a combined total value exceeding \$100M.

"A lot of research has focused on evaluating and improving the fertility of bulls," explained Darrell Petras, CAAIN's CEO. "That's understandable given the potential value a single male can provide to a ranch. Less effort has been devoted to developing predictive analytics for use with heifers, leaving a significant gap this project seeks to close. A partnership such as this one, which includes three post-secondary institutions, two technology companies, farmers from across Western Canada, and a research

organization, facilitates exactly the kind of collaboration our agri-food sector needs to advance innovation."

Based out of Lakeland College's Lloydminster, Alberta, campus, Precision Ranching for Improved Reproductive and Grazing Efficiencies carries a total price tag of \$1,295,508. CAAIN has committed \$143,237 to the project, which focuses on evaluating existing technologies to identify ways to assess a range of factors that indicate a heifer's fertility and track bovine grazing patterns in real time. The goal is to predict the heifer's ability to produce quality offspring, allowing farmers to avoid investing in animals unlikely to provide a return on investment. Once a cost-effective suite of effective tools has been selected, an application will be developed to integrate all the relevant data, allowing ranchers to access information about every member of their herd on a mobile device, saving them time and greatly increasing profitability.

Project Story:
Precision ranching for improved reproductive and grazing efficiencies

A childhood spent on a Manitoba farm and in 4H, a bachelor's degree in Agricul-

ture and Extension, a master's in Ruminant Nutrition, and a PhD from the University of Alberta? Susan Markus seemed destined for her current role as a Lakeland College livestock research scientist. "It's not just the ag stuff," she points out. "The extension studies are almost as important. At the time I didn't know what that meant, but they effectively provided me with knowledge transfer tools that have been invaluable throughout my career. And never more than now when I regularly communicate with, and provide guidance to, farmers and students." Add the importance of knowledge transfer skills to her leadership of the CAAIN-supported project, Precision Ranching for Improved Reproductive and Grazing

Efficiencies, and one can appreciate how perfect Dr. Markus' background is for the work she so enjoys.

Her blend of private-, public-, and academic-sector experience provides a perspective that serves her well as she manages the Precision Ranching work. "I know what I know, and I know what I don't know. That's allowed me to put together a strong team, which matters when you're conducting this kind of research. The results we're seeking cannot be generated in a vacuum. There are too many moving parts, and success depends on coordinating the activities of a group of highly competent professionals."

Continued on Page 43

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Governments of Canada and Manitoba investing up to \$2.85 million for Manitoba beef and forage initiatives

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are investing up to \$2.85 million over the next five years for Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives (MBFI) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) in southwestern Manitoba, federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Manitoba Agriculture Minister Derek Johnson announced today.

"The Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives play an important role in peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and accelerating the adoption of best practices in the cattle sector," said MacAulay. "Support for the organization will ensure they're able to continue conducting innovative research that helps increase productivity while minimizing the sector's carbon footprint."

MBFI is a collaboration between Manitoba Beef Producers, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Manitoba Agriculture to undertake beef and forage research and demonstration trials with extension programming to support increased profitability and environmental sustainability in the beef industry.

"These funds will expand operational capacity for the MBFI program and will play a major role in continuing to create a successful and sustainable environment for beef producers," said Johnson. "The more Manitoba farmers can adopt practices and technologies to increase productivity, mitigate risk and minimize carbon footprints, it will only increase the overall sustainability on our landscape."

The funds will expand MBFI's operational capacity by creating additional positions to focus on technology and field operations, as well as supports for outreach to producers. Funds will also expand the Manitoba Advanced Grazing Systems Mentor Program, connecting producers to peers with

real-world experience in diverse grazing management systems.

"Through ongoing engagement with our beef and forage communities, MBFI outcomes will lower risks for producers by scientifically evaluating existing practices or creating new practices to promote excellence, efficiency and sustainability of practice on farms," said Tracy Gilson, board chair, MBFI. "The commitment from our collaborators and the provincial and federal governments is critical to accelerating the beef and forage industries."

Developed in 2014, MBFI operates two research and demonstration farms in western Manitoba where farm practices are evaluated at a field scale, including a research herd of more than 130 cow-calf pairs. The Brookdale farm provides the ideal landscape to study the interface between cattle and wetlands, and the Johnson farm provides replicated pastures ideal for research.

Since 2018, MBFI has worked with 28 collaborators to deliver more than 40 innovative studies to improve economic and environmental impacts of beef production. Research and demonstration projects include precision ranching, rangeland drought response, soil health assessment, pasture rejuvenation, habitat assessment, herd health and forage variety testing along with others, noted Johnson.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.



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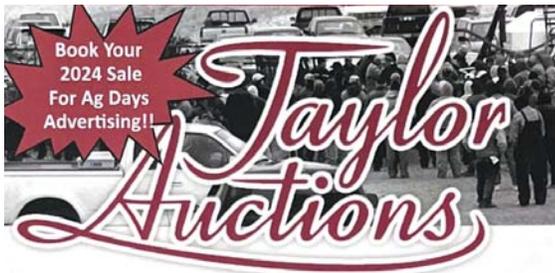


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Drought support for Saskatchewan livestock producers on the way

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Aug. 21, the Government of Saskatchewan announced the province's support in providing up to \$70 million available to livestock producers to help support the costs of feeding livestock, to maintain the breeding herd in Saskatchewan.

With producers being impacted by the drought this summer, Ray Orb, president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), said financial support from the provincial government will help farmers substantially.

"The money is being directed at the producers that need the most help," said Orb.

"I think it's going to be adequate help. We're kind of looking for the federal government's reaction, we haven't seen anything yet."

The Government of Saskatchewan's funding will provide eligible producers with up to \$80 per head to maintain breeding stock for beef cattle, bison, horse, elk, deer, sheep and goats.

The program will be administered by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

With the provincial government responding to livestock producer's needs in an urgent matter, Orb said SARM is hoping the federal government will provide financial assistance as well.



"Livestock producers are wondering if they're going to get some help from the federal government on top of what the province is doing," said Orb.

"I think it's good what the province is doing and I think it's because they realize it's really important, that something needs to be done now."

"If you look at the \$80 the province is putting up, that's very similar to what they would've had to put up

in 2021. So 40 per cent of their \$200 per head that was given to livestock producers in that year, that comes to \$80 from the 40 per cent, and the 60 per cent would be the \$120 from the federal government. That's where they got their \$200 in 2021.

"I think that's why the province is doing this, they're leading by example and putting that out there, hoping to convince the feds to throw in their share."

Orb explained how the drought across Saskatchewan has impacted livestock producers.

"There have been some producers that have sold some of their breeding herd already," Orb said.

"I've talked to some producers in the Caron area when I was down there for a meeting, one farmer told me he sold half of his cattle herd already. He said if he didn't get any rain this fall he would be looking at selling the rest, and he may not get back into cattle."

"It also goes to other people who have goats, sheep and things like that, if they're getting to the age where if they're getting out of something they're probably not going to get back into it."

"I think that's something the province is concerned about, is too many producers selling their breeding herds and getting out of the business because that's a big part of Saskatchewan agriculture."

"We want to promote this, especially to young people, but if you see too many of the more experienced people getting out I think it's going to deter younger people from getting in, and that's not a good signal for the industry."

Other supports by the provincial government have been implemented to help mitigate the situation, including the Government of Saskatchewan and Canada's agreement to increase the 2023 AgriStability interim benefit payment percentage from 50 per cent to 75 per cent, so producers can access a larger portion of their final AgriStability benefit early.

SARM plans visit to Ottawa in Oct.

In October, representatives from SARM will be going to Ottawa to meet Canada's Agriculture Minister, Lawrence MacAulay, to discuss the association's priorities.

"We usually go to Ottawa in October, it's sort of our lobby the hill days," said Orb.

"We'll hopefully be getting a meeting with Minister MacAulay. We sent invitations to his office to see if we can get a meeting with him. If we haven't heard anything about help in Saskatchewan by then, I guess we're going to reformatify what the province has been asking for when we get there, but we certainly hope that's not the case and that we can thank the minister of agriculture for their contributions to Saskatchewan agriculture."

"We'll also be talking to Minister MacAulay about, there seems to be fairly constant strikes at the Port of Vancouver. We've asked the transport minister before if the federal government would consider making grain transportation an essential service so that workers would not be able to go on strike, or at least they would have to have someone working there, to keep that port open because Saskatchewan producers lose a lot of money every day when the ships aren't coming in."

"Generally, I think it will be a discussion we have to have with the minister as well about some of the programs that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has, with the laws of strychnine. With SARM's registration to control Richardson's ground squirrel, we lost that and so we'll be talking to the minister about that again."

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Kevin Weedmark photo

Harvest 2023

A farmer south of Fairlight cuts through a field as Harvest 2023 continues. Many farmers say the crop is coming in better than expected after a challenging year.



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Top 4 Canadian agri-food exports to watch for the rest of 2023

BY MARTHA ROBERTS
FCC ECONOMICS EDITOR

Overall global trade is expected to flounder throughout 2023 amidst weaker global economic growth, troublesome inflation and geopolitical turmoil, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It's also changing shape, the UN's latest report notes, with "friend-shoring" (the prioritization of trade partners with similar political values) and less diversity of trade partners characterizing trade patterns since late 2022.

Production of many agri-food products is expected to increase in 2023 year-over-year (YoY), but some of the same forces could constrain their global trade.

Pork exports

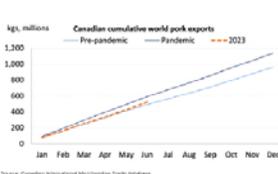
For Canada, export volumes of four of our largest-value agrifood products show uniquely distinct patterns relative to levels achieved during the first three years of the pandemic (2020 – 2022). Pork volumes had fallen from their pandemic highs through the first four months of 2023 when they were more in line with volumes exported pre-pandemic in 2018 and 2019 (Figure 1). Similarly, export dollar values have declined. That was almost all due to a drop-off in our exports to China since 2020, when it was our largest market and our exports peaked.

In May and June 2023, exports picked up to levels that had stabilized YoY. While exports to China were still down, and export volumes to Japan, our third-largest market, had also fallen since 2020 by 21.5%, there was some good news.

Canada's pork exports to the U.S. thus far in 2023 are 33.6% higher than 2020 volumes. They've fallen YoY, but our 2022 volumes were the highest of the last five years by a considerable margin. The pandemic did not boost our pork sales there, and they've been growing strongly since.

China, Japan and the U.S. comprised 63% of Canada's total pork export volumes in 2022.

Figure 1: The pandemic boosted overall Canadian pork exports



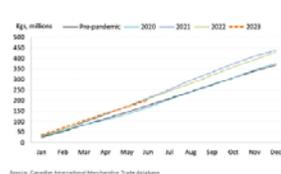
Beef exports

Canadian total beef export volumes since 2018 show an overall slowdown in 2020 and a steady climb through 2021 and 2022. In 2023, export volumes are 7% higher than the five-year average (2018 – 2022) for the first six months of each year (Figure 2) and are on pace to beat the 2020 and pre-pandemic volumes. They have fallen off the pace set in 2021 and 2022. However, while export volumes are below 2021 and 2022, the value of beef exports continues to exceed 2022 record levels.

Exports to the U.S. have driven growth, where three-quarters of Canadian beef exports go yearly.

It's hard to overstate the importance of

Figure 2: Beef export volumes rebound after pandemic decline



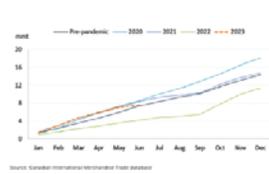
the U.S. to Canada's cattle and beef sectors. As the world's largest consumer of beef, they take a healthy chunk — nearly half — of our domestically produced cattle and beef, leaving Canadian producers in a precarious position should, as in 2020, exports to the U.S. start to fall off. But growth to other markets has been challenging.

China has used a single instance of BSE found on a Canadian operation in 2021 to justify halting all beef imports from Canada, a ban still active in 2023. Japan, the second-largest market for Canadian beef, while important is low volume but a focus on high-end cuts. Although our exports to Japan have grown between 2018 and 2022, they've remained low volume, with 13.5 million kilograms shipped there this year. This compares to the 160 million kilograms sent to the U.S. in the first six months of 2023. The situation is another reminder of the urgency to get more Canadian red meat exports over European borders.

Canola exports

Canadian canola export volumes are seeing some much-needed growth in 2023 after a steep decline in 2022 when supplies from the drought-ravaged 2021 crop weren't available. And the re-opening of China's border to Canada's canola in 2022, after three long years of Canadian producers needing to find alternate markets, is also helping (Figure 3).

Figure 3: The year of the pandemic's start and the 2021 drought's impact on canola exports



The impact of the 2021 drought on canola exports was felt in a 29% YoY decline in that year's export volumes, followed by a further 32% YoY fall in 2022. Droughts elsewhere in key regions growing oilseeds used in vegetable oils, along with the growth of oilseed use in the rapidly expanding biofuels market, have produced a global shortage. In Canada, the extent of the damage wiped out the gains made in 2020, when exports climbed 42.8% YoY. Exports to Japan, our second-largest market, drove most of those gains, while growth in our exports to China is driving this year's growth. In fact, China was the top destination for Canadian canola each year except in 2020, between 2018 and 2022.

Wheat exports

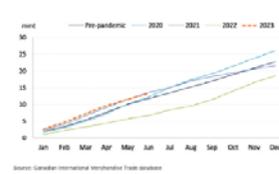
Overall, wheat exports climbed 14.6%

YoY in 2020. The pandemic has boosted Canada's wheat exports from the second quarter of 2020 until August 2021 (Figure 4). This coincided with a period during which concerns about food sovereignty and security were heightened by concerns of supply chain chaos, and the boosted volumes would have likely continued had the 2021 drought not also hit Canadian wheat hard. Post-harvest exports in 2021 dropped off a cliff, and 2022 export volumes were lowered by 50% for the year, despite the 2021 production

ports to date are on pace to equal the volumes exported in the first six months of 2021 before the impacts of the drought were felt. While China, our largest export market for wheat, led the gain in 2020, it was also a leader in 2021 and 2022. But this year, growth in our wheat exports is also driven by increases in other key markets, Japan, the U.S. and Indonesia have either boosted or stabilized their import volumes of Canadian wheat over the last four years. Despite reduced export volumes for both wheat and canola, strong global grain and oilseed prices following Russia's war against Ukraine meant the value of Canadian exports rose sharply as production recovered in the fall of 2022.

Given the severity of the current drought impacts on Canadian crops and livestock, export volumes will likely be impacted for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024. However, exports remain equally important to Canadian agriculture and may offset the impact of reduced volumes. The value of exports will largely depend on global supply and demand fundamentals and prices of both crops and livestock.

Figure 4: 2023 wheat exports pick up where 2022's growth led



growth in the 2022 crop.

In 2023, the evident growth in 2022 picked up even more momentum. Ex-

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Advancing beef cattle fertility

Lloydminster-based multi-partner project spans Western Canada

Continued from Page 33

The team must be excellent to deal with such a demanding topic. The project came to be in part because Lakeland College recently introduced a degree in Agricultural Technology. The emphasis on AgTech made Susan wonder if there weren't ways to assess bovine fertility using existing automation, thereby reducing the manual labour requirements of operating a commercial ranch. A cow's ability to produce viable offspring may not seem important to the layperson, but it's a critical component of livestock operations. Without fertile cows, there is no source of revenue.

"We need to find a way to determine early on which heifers must be removed from the herd because they are unlikely to conceive. That way the rancher is not needlessly investing in an unproductive animal," she explains. "One avenue we're exploring is to insert a rumen bolus into the heifer to measure changes in temperature and movement, both of which can be indicators of a female's estrus. The technology we're using was developed for the dairy industry, and we're hopeful we can create an algorithm that will make it applicable to beef cattle as well. A number of relevant factors can be assessed simply by examining the heifer visually. We're trying to look 'under the hide,' so to speak, using verifiable, quantifiable, and reliable data sent directly to the rancher's computer or mobile device. We think that in addition to the heifer's fertility potential, the bolus' readings should also be able to give the farmer 24 to 48 hours' advance notice of a calf's birth—information that helps with resource allocation. This project is about



increasing the efficiency and profitability of livestock operations, so the more data we can generate, the greater the value the associated technology will provide."

Additionally, the team is evaluating the effectiveness of solar battery-powered GPS tags attached to the ears of cattle in British Columbia. This is specific to that province, because of a common practice that has animals grazing freely in forests, making it difficult for ranchers to know exactly where their animals are at any given time. This component of the research includes the use of drones to track the cows in harsher terrain. While this may seem unconnected to fertility, it's about

overall herd management and sustainability, which makes it directly relevant to Susan's project.

"We are also experimenting with the value of using ultrasound to assess the maturity of a heifer's reproductive tract. This technology has existed for a while, but we wanted to dig a little deeper. In our first year of research, we noticed a correlation between a more mature reproductive system and earlier conception. That's useful. If a cow calves earlier in the season, her offspring will be bigger sooner, which is an advantage when the rancher goes to market. What's more, that use of ultrasound is inexpensive making it potentially

even more valuable." She pauses. "Really, we're testing existing technologies to see which are effective and which provide the biggest bang for their buck. As we're only a year in, it's too early to draw conclusions. But I can say that so far, the techs tend to be validating each other's results. So, it may come down to price points. If we can identify cost-effective tools capable of predicting a cow's fertility, and then communicate that to farmers, we will be helping to make Canada's beef industry more viable."

The final piece of the puzzle has Susan working with a BC-based software company called LlamaZOO to develop a platform to compile the different data points into one mobile solution that makes it relatively easy for a user to access all the available information. A recent demo of their progress showed impressive visualizations (i.e., digital twinning) of the ranch layout and cattle data points.

CAAIN's support has made the project affordable for the various industry partners, which include ranches in Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. They pay for the technology being tested on their animals, but the funding allows them to recover 40% of their costs. The same applies to LlamaZOO, who need to pay for only 60% of their developers' time, an investment they're willing to make because they want to enter the AgTech sector. Exactly the kind of win-win scenario CAAIN was created to facilitate.

CAAIN Contribution \$143,237

Total Project Value \$1,295,508

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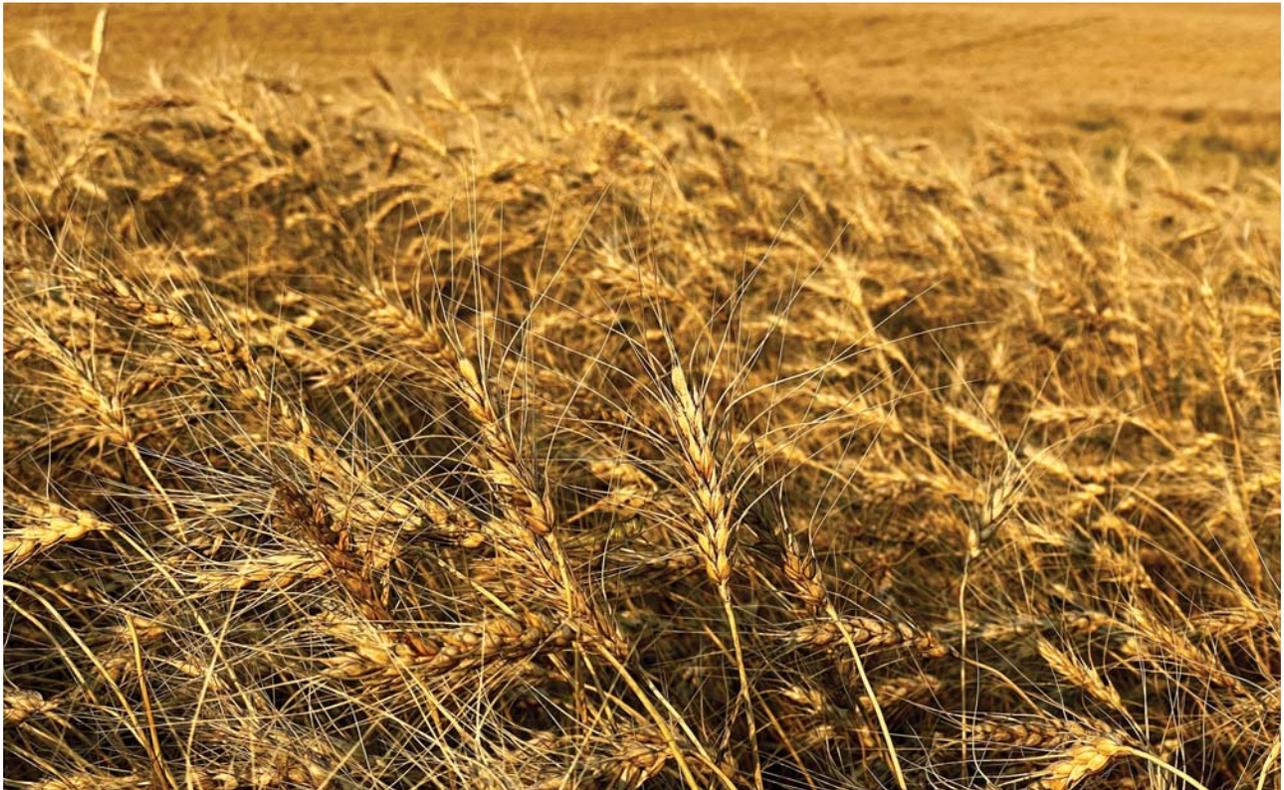
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Kevin Weedmark captured this photo of ripe wheat in a field north of Moosomin at the end of August.

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Les Jack is inducted into National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame

BY KARA KINNA

Rocanville's Les Jack was inducted into the National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Las Vegas on June 24, making him only the fifth Canadian to receive the honor since the association was started in the late 1940s.

Jack has been working with and showing cutting horses since the mid-1990s, a passion he has taken so seriously that he has earned multiple Canadian championships over the years, and an induction into the Canadian Hall of Fame two years ago.

Jack says being inducted into the national hall of fame in the U.S. is a huge honor.

"It comes down to your earnings," says Jack. "Every time we show a horse there are earnings that we get. I had to surpass the half million dollars worth of lifetime earnings."

"It's a pretty humbling deal. It's not a large group of people that get inducted into the hall of fame, as our cutting industry in Canada isn't as large as it is in say Texas and places like that. There haven't been a lot of Canadians inducted into the NCHA Hall of Fame."

"It's huge. I've been showing horses and have been involved in cutting horses since the mid-nineties. I started with no knowledge. I had lots of horse experience that I've had my whole life, but I got connected to some people and got involved in the sport."

"I was a pretty young guy at the time. I'm 56 and was born in '67, so when I started I was younger and I was fortunate to have some horse skills, just



Les Jack with his family in Las Vegas at the induction ceremony into the National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame on June 24. From left are his son-in-law Kody Beckett, daughter Monica Beckett, mother-in-law Marilyn Hickie, wife Coreen Jack, Les Jack, and his parents Donna and Herb Jack.

not enough skills to be successful with the cutting horses. But I've always been the person that when I decide I want to do something, I want to do it right and I give my full attention to it, and to be able to do that, I've also been very fortunate that I've had great family and we've had a successful business, so financially I could afford to do it later

on. "When we started our business I had to step aside, I couldn't show cutting horses because we had neither the time nor the finances. It's been around the last 20 years that I've been able to take time to train my horses and to develop and build my skill set so that I am able to go and be competitive at a world level."

"I'm pretty sure that I've won the Canadian title more times than anyone ever has in the history of the sport. We've put a lot of effort into it and I have a lot of people to thank for it."

Jack credits his family for supporting him, helping to run the family's business in Rocanville, and allowing him to show cutting horses over the last two de-

cad. e.

He says he never wants to stop learning about the sport and the horses who lead to his success.

"I love the horses. I've got some natural talents and I know that I have a really good skill set at understanding a horse and understanding the quality of a horse that I need to be competitive. But in the same breath I also understand that it's the horses that have allowed me to get to the level that I am able to be at—and to stay at that level because I'm not done yet. Every day I'm working with horses. I'm here at the Canadian High School Finals for the rodeo right now, and I'm helping every kid that's in the cutting pen trying to get through some runs. So every day I'm trying to just be better at what I do because I'm not done. I'm learning every day and I'm here at a high school cutting championship and I'm settling the cattle—I'm involved in settling every herd and helping every kid and I'm the guy that learns from everything I'm going through."

"I read something one day that a friend of mine sent to me and it said, 'The people that think they're successful and aren't worried aren't nearly as successful as the people who think they're not working hard enough.' I worry that I'm not working hard enough to be successful. I don't sit back and say, 'Geez, I'm successful and I can't be beat.' I worry every day that I'm not putting in enough effort, either physically working my horses enough or mentally to get my game in plan."

Continued on page 45



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Les Jack is inducted into National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame

Continued from page 45

"I'm the guy that's always trying to either outwork somebody or just to stay competitive. It's a competitive industry, it's a competitive sport and I can't stand losing, but in the same breath I can't stand not putting enough effort in."

What does Jack love so much about the sport of cutting horses in particular?

"When I was a kid we grew up with 4-H, we showed quarter horses, I roped and we were part of a rodeo club," he says. "I did all that and I would never, ever stop a young person from delving into everything they could possibly do, because you meet so many good people and every opportunity is kind of like a branch on a tree and you just keep growing with it."

To answer the question, really what drives me to cutting horses is the horse. These horses have to want to do their job because somewhere in the run, we could be as good of an equestrian rider as we can be and we can ride as good as anybody, but that horse has to take over. There will be some time, or several times, in that run where that horse has to be better than you. So you develop a relationship when you're training them because you can't take that want out of that horse. Those horses elevate you to a level because you need to get to their level.

"If you're going to be successful in this sport, in my opinion, you have to understand how to have a relationship with that horse so that it wants to do good for you and they want to take over in the right spots, but at the same time they need to be able to listen to you. It's hard to really understand, and for me to explain, because there's times when I'll put two feet into



Les Jack and one of his horses in action during a cutting horse competition.

a horse and say, 'You've gotta go over here,' and then that horse goes, 'Nope, I'm reading this cow differently.' That tells you the high level of that horse when he takes over, buries his tail in the ground and gets in time with the cow and you're left there going 'Thank-you, you just saved me.'"

With multiple championships under his belt, and inductions into the Canadian and National Halls of Fame, what's next for Jack?

"You know I always say, and I say it fairly seriously—I will do this until I can't be competitive," he says. "That's what I always say. When I show up and I don't think that I can be competitive because of my physical weaknesses, my mental weakness, or maybe I'll lose the itch and I just don't want to be that competitive because it takes a lot of effort, I probably won't show anymore."

"But I expect it to be until I'm a fairly old fella. I love it, but in the same breath, at this point, I'm kind of getting to the stage where I really enjoy coaching young people and helping young people. I think that might be something that's in the works maybe for later where I help kids. I enjoy that, but in the same breath I have no intentions of not being competitive—I have no intentions of not seeking out or raising my next great horse."

"We breed our own mares and I've got a two-year-old that we've raised that I think is very good and I love that. He's a little over a year away, from being able to show for the first time, and I'm excited. I think he's another special horse."

"So that keeps driving you. It's kind of like the bait that just doesn't end and gives you hope. You have a great horse and you enjoy it and you appreciate it, but you're always looking for the next one coming."



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- NO GST! 2014 Columbus by Palomino 3 Slides, Free Standing Dinette...\$45,900
- NO GST! 2013 Greystone 340B 6 Slides, bunk room...\$33,000
- NO GST! 2008 Sunny Brook 33CKTS Ltd. 3 Slides, New awning & flooring, One owner...\$22,900
- NO GST! 2008 Excelsior by KZ 36KSB 3 Slides, 5th wheel hitch (no rails)...\$35,900
- 2006 Cougar 281EFS 1 Slide...\$15,500
- NO GST! 2015 Coachman Concord 300DS Only 25,600 KMS, genset generator, New Batteries...\$94,500

RICK SCHRIENER 306-577-8623

RON MACK 306-577-1548

JOAN SEIBEL 306-453-6773

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COMPARE OUR PRICES!

*ALL BI-WEEKLY PAYMENTS ARE TAXES INCLUDED

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

BUSINESS HOURS:

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Saturday:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Sunday