

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Prairie gospel music supports African orphans

Saskatchewan children's choir raises funds for clean well in Kenyan slum

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

Pastor Sebastian Obima, of Eldoret, Kenya, says in an e-mail to the Plain and Valley, "My few Canadian friends have made a great difference . . . HIV/AIDS, wars, and disease have contributed to the high number of orphans here. We need electricity, proper housing, and more land for agriculture, to help the orphanage with their food needs. Our objective is to give hope to the orphans by providing for their basic needs."

In June 2009 Dorothy and Jack Roach, of Cromer, Man. attended the Country Gospel Music Association's (CGMA) annual convention, which was held in Airdrie, Alberta. Obima was also at the convention, where he performed traditional African music and prayed with those in attendance daily. He also gave a presentation on Jireh Orphanage, which he founded in his own neighborhood in the slums outside the Kenyan city of Eldoret.

In addition to expressing a desire to learn and bring country music to Kenya, Obima appealed to the CGMA members for help with his cause. A collection was taken up, and Obima raised enough money to feed the 37 orphans in his care, aged 1 year to 17 years, for three months. He returned to Kenya as the head of the CGMA African Division, but not without making a few friends first.

"He's very young—he's only 37—and he's got such a lot on his shoulders," said Dorothy of the evangelical minister.

"At the convention I sat down and talked with him and asked about sponsoring children. He was so compassionate and so grateful for just the littlest things in life. He wanted us to know that he has no funds from any other source; if donations came through other sources like charities or the government he would receive a very little portion of what was given—that's something we've always questioned here in Canada."

Dorothy and Obima agreed that the Roaches would sponsor two of the over thirty orphans for twenty dollars each monthly. Since the convention, the Roaches have assumed a third orphan, while their son and his wife are sponsoring a baby. The Roaches' band members, Roy and Jean Walwyn, have also begun sponsoring a child. Dorothy processes the funds monthly, using Western Union to wire the money directly to Obima.

"What a wonderful system," she says happily, secure in the knowledge that the funds are reaching the Jireh—which means 'God the provider' in Hebrew—Orphanage directly.

The Roaches weren't the only ones moved by Obima's story at the 2009 CGMA convention.

Caronport resident and award-winning gospel musician Penny Buhr-Johnson was also in attendance.

"I didn't get a chance to talk to him personally," Buhr-Johnson remembers, "until I came in on the Friday morning, when the convention emphasizes praise and worship. I came in and—praise God!—the only seat available was right next to him. I had really enjoyed his music—it was so full of life and culture. He sent me home with a DVD about his orphanage, and my family and I really wanted to help. It was to the point that my daughter was crying and saying, 'Mom, can't we just put it on your VISA?' I just prayed about it because it was really on our hearts. . . . The very next day we came up with the idea for a children's choir."

Under the umbrella of the Caronport Community Church, the Jireh Kids Choir was formed. With fifteen "very dedicated" children and parents participating, the choir operates from January until May and raises funds for the Kenyan orphanage.

"I really wanted the kids to understand in their hearts for



Flo is one of three Kenyan orphans supported by Cromer musicians Dorothy and Jack Roach; here she proudly displays a new dress and toys.

whom and why we were doing this," explained Buhr-Johnson. So the gospel musician and teacher printed out pictures of the Eldoret orphans and asked each of the Caronport choir members to pick a child and put the picture on their fridge at home.

"That child became 'their' orphan," said Buhr-Johnson. "I asked them, 'Think about them when you eat and when you lie down; pray for them and sing for them. . . . It's made such a difference. The children here really seem to care about the orphans, and they ask so many intelligent questions about Africa and life over there. I've really seen them grow.'"

The Jireh Kids Choir hosted a dessert night in Caronport that raised \$800 for the orphanage, and held a spring concert at Calvary Baptist Church in Moose Jaw—which, thanks to a "miracle flight" Obima was able to attend—which raised another \$1,200. Obima used those funds to build a well at the orphanage. Before, water for the children was hauled from a near by river, which was contaminated and contributed to sickness amongst the orphans.

At the 2010 CGMA convention, held this past June, the Jireh Kids Choir won the award for Children's Ministry.

"I was so proud to bring that home to the kids," said Buhr-Johnson.

"Our mandate is to act as an ongoing fundraiser for the

orphanage. Sometimes care homes give us honorariums, and we plan to make a CD. We're available to perform, too, but we can't afford to rent an expensive venue. It's the cost of the venues, what people seem to want to charge to let us access their space, that can really hold us back from more fundraising."

While Obima was in Canada, Buhr-Johnson arranged for him to speak to the Caronport schools, church groups, and seniors.

"I'm hugely impressed with him," she said.

"He was very sensitive, he plugged right into people. He's very dynamic; I wasn't sure what the seniors were going to make of him, because his music and presentation is so lively, but they really seemed to love him. He was so good with them; before he sang he said, 'I don't want to be responsible for any more aching necks or backs, so please stay in your seats. If you must, raise your hands—just to your shoulders, please!—and I will know you are dancing with me!'"

"I saw one lady in a wheelchair, and she was just tapping the ends of her fingers together in time with the music, and I thought 'Wow. He's reached her.'"

Obima was cared for by the Roaches while on his second visit to Canada, and spent some time with them at their ranch in Cromer. Obima expressed the hope that he will be able to return to Canada annually to perform fundraising concerts for his private orphanage in Kenya.

The orphanage began in January 2002. Obima founded a Christian charity in 1997 called World Revival Evangelical Ministry (WOREM).

"We did many gospel crusades," explained Obima via e-mail. "We'd distribute food, educate villagers about HIV/AIDS, and occasionally have a medical doctor."

"As we visited and evangelized in the villages we spotted a need that touched my heart. We were finding many very old people caring for very young children—but no parents. The parents had died of HIV/AIDS. My own dad died when I was 15 and I knew how these kids felt."

One day, finding two very young children in deplorable conditions, under the care of an elderly widow struggling to care for them, Obima, who described himself as "disturbed mentally" at their plight, brought them home. The husband and father of two found himself with the beginnings of an orphanage.

Although, like much of Africa, Kenya has traditionally struggled economically and medically, recent years have been even more severe for the city of Eldoret. Described as one of Kenya's fastest growing agricultural towns, the population of over 200,000 suffers an HIV infection rate of 12.1 per cent. In 2008, the political, economic and humanitarian crises that plagued Kenya following the controversial election of President Mwai Kibaki reached the height of violence in Eldoret, where nearly 40 people were burned to death after seeking refuge in a church on New Year's Day.

Jireh Orphanage consists of mud-walled huts where the orphans sleep and supplies are stored. These huts do not withstand hard rains, and in the past have been washed away by flooding. The kids sleep on mats and are fed by donations and by what money Obima earns doing casual labor. Sometimes there is only enough food for one meal a day, but whenever there is a 'surplus' of food or clothing Obima shares out supplies to the five other private orphanages operating in the area. The youth, 19 boys and 17 girls, are taught by volunteers from the churches and local colleges daily.

Continued on page 2

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Left: Caronport musician Penny Buhr-Johnson has organized the Jireh's Kids Choir, which raises funds for the Kenyan private orphanage. Centre: Pastor Sebastian Obima with some of the Eldoret orphans as they pour their first jug of water from a well constructed with funds raised in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Right: 'Musical Expressions,' a gospel musical group which volunteers regularly at nursing homes in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, sponsor four orphans between them. From the left are members Roy and Jean Walwyn, and Dorothy and Jack Roach.

'It's my dream to see all the kids sponsored'

Continued from page 1
 "We have a problem with lack of classrooms, furniture, books, and other educational materials," explained Obima.

"We have a medical clinical officer who has volunteered to immunize and treat the kids; he has rented a premises nearby and put in a simple clinic to serve the orphans and poor community in this slum. We lack medical equipment and supplies. We need medical volunteers...our immediate concern is to ensure all the children have a sponsor. In the future we look to establish a micro-business, maybe a cyber-café in the city to support the orphanage, or poultry farming here."

"It's my dream for all of his children to be sponsored," said Dorothy Roach, who communicates with Obima almost daily via e-mail; Obima refers to Dorothy and Jack as his Canadian mom and dad, which brings tears to Dorothy's eyes.

"It's a commitment, a long-term commitment, to these children."

Readers interested in learning more about Jireh Orphanage and Obima's work in Kenya can contact him personally at rev_obima@yahoo.co.uk.

People interested in sponsoring a Jireh orphan or in booking the gospel group 'Musical Expressions' in support of the orphanage can contact Dorothy Roach at 204-556-2257.

Individuals interested in booking the Jireh Kids Choir, also in support of the orphanage, can contact Penny Buhr-Johnson at 306-756-2778.

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Kevin Weedmark photo



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Proud to be part of your community

Mayors weigh in on mine's impact

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Leaders of communities in the Rocanville, Sask. area say their towns would not be what they are today without PotashCorp Rocanville, and say they are planning to accommodate the growth expected to come with PotashCorp's \$2.8 billion expansion of the Rocanville mine.

The PotashCorp Rocanville mine is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

"The mine has been very important to the town," said Rocanville Mayor Daryl Fingas. "Rocanville was a small farming community before the mine came along. There was no industry here before."

He pointed out that businesses such as Goodman's Steel sprang up specifically to serve the mining industry.

In addition to providing jobs for many in Rocanville and providing a rock solid base for the local economy, Fingas said PotashCorp has been a great corporate citizen.

"PotashCorp has really supported our town, especially the recreational facilities," he said. "A lot of people work at the mine so they do strive to support the facilities. They spread their donations around year to year. It puts money into the community and really helps a lot. It helps us maintain the rink and the curling rink and the pool that might be more difficult to maintain otherwise."

Fingas said Rocanville town council meetings have taken on a different focus since the announcement of the \$2.8 billion expansion in 2008. "It has really changed our council meetings around," he said. "There's a lot more to deal with, all economic spinoff from the mine. We've seen a lot of ideas for development come to council."

He said the effect of the expansion is evident in the community.

"It's made a difference not just for the businesses, but also for people in general," he said. "Businesses are all seeing more business, I'm sure, and a lot of people rent out homes or rooms, which helps a lot of people make a little extra money."

"Right now we're seeing a lot of activity in town. We see these contractors in town all the time. They're in the stores, they're in the hotels. Some of the businesses are open more hours to serve them. I have not heard any negative words on the expansion. It has all been positive."

The town developed Maplewood Crescent to accommodate new housing development, and now plans to develop Cameron Crescent on the east end of town.

"We have 20-plus lots in Cameron Crescent, and that's what we're working on now," said Fingas. "We have got some services in. SaskPower has been working in there. Hopefully next year those lots will be ready to sell. We borrowed money from the government through the interest free program to develop the new lots. It's been a slow process but we're hoping to break some ground in there."

Fingas said the town is hoping to find a developer who can build some affordable housing on Cameron Crescent. "I can't see a lot of private people putting up their own homes, and I think it's important to keep the houses affordable," Fingas said. "In Maplewood, a lot of the houses weren't that affordable. The mine bought a few because they need them for their people, but most people need something more affordable. Somebody just starting at the mine couldn't afford those houses."

He said the town has been

talking with a developer who may be able to supply some affordable housing. There's one developer who's interested in bringing in some modular homes, which would be more affordable," he said.

Fingas said he's happy to see the town's business sector expanding along with the mine.

"We have our dentist who is here partly because of the mine," said Fingas. "The expansion does give some of our local businesses like Borderland Cop more initiative to expand their businesses. There's an impact there."

Fingas believes Rocanville and other communities in the area stand to grow along with PotashCorp Rocanville. "Rocanville wouldn't be the town it is without the mine, and I'm sure this expansion is only going to be good for Rocanville and the other towns around."

Moosomin mayor Don Bradley can remember the massive effect the construction of the Rocanville potash mine had on the entire region when it was first built in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"There was a lot of excitement in the area," he says. "There were new people moving in, new houses going up, new businesses coming in—just like what's going on now."

He recalls that as soon as the Esterhazy potash mine started development—which predated the Rocanville mine by a few years—local businesses started looking for expansion opportunities.

"Everyone saw that this could be a really big thing," he says. "When they were starting the Esterhazy mine, we (L.H. Bradley and Son GM dealership) rented some land next to the mine and sold a few cars."

Bradley says the potash industry has become part of the bedrock of the local economy, along with oil and agriculture.

"It's the lifeblood of the area," he said, "the potash, the oil and the agriculture. It's that potash mine that's always a steady source of income for a lot of people and for a lot of businesses. There are some towns that just have oil or just have agriculture and when it's a bad year you can see it. When you have oil, agriculture, and potash, it's a lot more steady."

He said he believes the expansion at PotashCorp is already having a major impact on local businesses.

"I think Moosomin is getting its share of the business," he said. "You see how busy the restaurants, the hotels and everything else is. It's a regional thing—no one town can handle it all."

He said both Rocanville and Moosomin grew significantly with the construction of the mine and he expects the same kind of growth with the mine expansion.

He said the town is working on making more building lots available.

"I think with the annexation there's some land available," he said. "Property is always going to be an issue. We may have to buy some land from farmers to develop, because we need more land for the long term."

"I don't know how much growth we're going to see. Our engineers tell us that in our lagoon expansion we have to start planning for a population of 5,000. I don't know if they're right or not."

"The good thing is our population is growing every year. Usually when there's a boom there's a bust, but we've had nice steady growth, not a sudden boom that's going to be followed by a bust. With our good facilities and our good services, I'm sure our natural growth will just continue."

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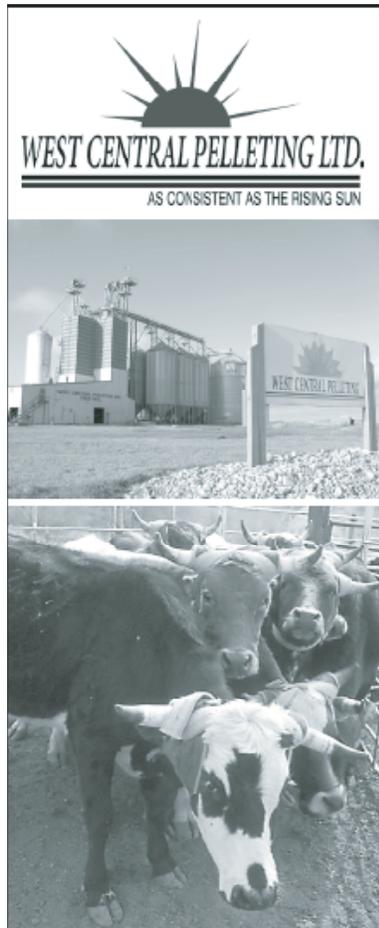
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With this particular grey haired darling having spent many weeks of her childhood in a busy barn surrounded by horses, cats and dogs, I was skeptical about how she'd react to our quiet, manureless house.

Day one was a dream. Our little Kit Kat curled up on the couch like she had lived here all her life. Our large Golden Retriever could only stare in envy as Kit Kat's eyes rolled to the back of her head in bliss and her purr filled the living room. That clever barn cat figured out pretty quickly that dogs have been known to eat whole Kit Kat's in one bite. And she also figured out where dogs were allowed, and where they weren't.

Day two started off pretty well. That is, until I began folding laundry. With a pile of warm clothes spread out on the kitchen table, Kit Kat just couldn't resist the temptation. She leaped up onto the table. "Fair enough," I thought. She doesn't know any better, so this will take



Christalee Froese

some time.

I gently put her on the floor and said, "no kitty." After the fourth repeat of this process, smart little Kit Kat got it. She jumped onto the kitchen chair, looked at me questioningly, and chose to stay put. What an exhilarating moment that was as it solidified my belief that Kit Kat could indeed make it as a house cat.

Then it was lunch time—Kit Kat's next test. She jumped on the counter, I put her down and said, "no kitty." After the fourth or fifth time, she no longer jumped on the counter. This cat was truly brilliant.

But as day two carried on, our sleepy little cat started to come to life. First she chased her tail in circles, then she attacked the foot stool, with her final assault being on the dog. That was expected, after all, she is a cat. But when she crawled the entire length of my back, shoulders and head as I sat working at the computer, I began to wonder

if this barn-cat thing wasn't about to backfire.

That evening as I prepared supper, a cat came flying across my cutting board. With her claws trying to grip the Arborite, dear Kit Kat slid the length of the counter, taking out a red pepper, an onion and an unsuspecting clove of garlic before flipping on her side and disappearing off the counter edge.

It was then that I realized that "no kitty" is only effective if you can get your wet little hands on the slippery little kitty.

The final straw came as I was cleaning up the kitchen and Kit Kat climbed me from top to bottom, as if I was fence post.

So it was that I found myself driving dear Kit Kat back home, which was a feat in itself. The towner test had clearly been failed, as was confirmed when the cat jumped on the headrest of the car and began attacking my ears.

I don't think a cat has ever been so happy to see her barn. She took off as if she had just spent two days in hell. And I suppose she had. After all, what cat would want to be forced to refrain from climbing its owner, flying across the counter and attacking the dog.

Farewell Kit Kat—it was fun while it lasted.

Christalee Froese welcomes comments at Lcfroese@sasktel.net or visit www.westwords.net.

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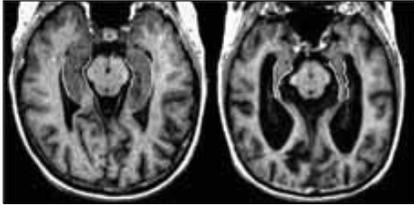
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The image above demonstrates that a person with Alzheimer's disease has less actual brain tissue (right) than a person who does not have the disease (left).

The tissue will continue to shrink over time, affecting how the brain functions.

MRI images courtesy of Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre

Signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease

A comprehensive assessment must be done by a trained physician for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease to be made. Other, treatable conditions—such as chronic depression—mirror the symptoms of dementia.

• Memory loss that affects day-to-day life

Everyone occasionally forgets appointments, a friend's phone number, or someone's name, and then remembers it later. Someone with Alzheimer's might forget such things with increasing frequency, and be unable to recall them again. Recent events are often 'lost' with greater frequency than things that have happened in the more distant past.

• Difficulty performing familiar tasks

Lots of people have become distracted in the middle of a task, and burned dinner because someone called long distance. However, people with Alzheimer's may begin to struggle with routine activities, like getting dressed, preparing a meal, or using their computer.

• Problems with language

We all struggle to find the right word sometimes, but people with Alzheimer's may forget simple words, or substitute words; this can make their sentences hard to understand.

• Poor or decreased judgement

Busy people might occasionally put off going to the doctor even when they know they have an infection, but eventually they seek medical attention. People with Alzheimer's may completely fail to recognize a serious medical problem, neglect bathing, or wear inappropriate clothing.

• Disorientation in time or with place

It's normal to forget the day of the week or to walk into a room and wonder what you were looking for—for a moment. A person with Alzheimer's can become lost on their own street, or even in their own home. They may also become confused about the stream of time, and react to events that happened years ago, like the death of a friend or a parent, as though it happened just yesterday.

• Difficulties with abstract thinking

If we're tired or stressed, we might have trouble with a chore like balancing our chequebook; a person with Alzheimer's might have significant trouble with similar tasks, for example not recognizing what the numbers in the chequebook mean.

• Misplacing things

Anyone can temporarily misplace their wallet or a set of keys. A person with Alzheimer's may suddenly misplace things that were always significant to them, like their wedding ring, or put things in inappropriate places—the phone in the microwave or their wristwatch in the sugar bowl.

• Mood swings and behavior changes

Everyone is moody from time to time. People with Alzheimer's can have sudden, erratic mood and behavior changes—like becoming very angry and then very calm—for no apparent reason.

• Personality changes

As people age, they change. However, people with Alzheimer's may become confused, suspicious, or withdrawn. Changes may include apathy, fearfulness, or acting out of character.

• Loss of initiative

People commonly tire of their everyday activities on occasion; social obligations, business pursuits, home maintenance. Most people regain their interest, but people with Alzheimer's disease may become incredibly passive.

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

The Alzheimer's Society of Canada (ASC) has recently released a report, titled *Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*, which predicts that by the year 2038 one Canadian will develop dementia every two minutes.

Today, half a million people are living with an Alzheimer's diagnosis or a related dementia. As health care workers and family members are well aware, the toll of Alzheimer's cannot be counted in mere dollars, although caring for someone with the disease is expensive.

The rise in Alzheimer's and dementia is due to two significant factors: the Canadian population is not only ageing, but living longer. As other chronic conditions, such as cancer and diabetes, are being successfully treated and managed, the incidence of atrophic neural disorders increases.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain where brain cells die over time. Thinking and memory become seriously impaired, and since there is no treatment to stop the progression of cell death, the body eventually shuts down. Men and women with Alzheimer's usually die of a secondary cause, such as pneumonia.

In 2008, The ASC reported that unpaid family members spent 231 million hours caring for Alzheimer's victims; that number could increase to 756 million hours by 2038.

Dr. Rémi Quiron holds a chair at McGill University in Montréal, and is the executive director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

"I think it's critical for all of us in Canada to realize that Alzheimer's disease is not rare. More and more Canadians are suffering from Alzheimer's and related dementia. This is a slow evolving disorder. In terms of impact on society, families, and support services . . . the economic impact is very great. People live an average of ten years after diagnosis. The average age of Canadians is increasing. If nothing is done (to increase services or find a better treatment, or a cure) we will not be able to sustain the cost."

Currently, the average cost to the health care system of a Canadian with Alzheimer's is \$37,000, with an average lifetime cost of \$175,000.

The *Rising Tide* project

life not only helps stave off decline, but is an investment in your and your family's future support network.

... to support people with the disease now and their caregivers?

Realize that people with Alzheimer's have meaningful, active lives. They have a sense of purpose and activities, friends, and family they enjoy; their lives are not over. The disease affects an individual's ability to communicate and to make consistent, linear sense of the world around them, but it affects each person differently. It's important to approach friends and family with Alzheimer's without pre-

The 'rising tide' of Alzheimer's disease

500,000 cases could rise to 1.25 million in 30 years



An Alzheimer's diagnosis devastates not only the family of the victim, but also the Canadian health care system.

predicts that by 2038, or within one generation, the prevalence of dementia in Canada will double with a projected annual cost of \$153 billion.

"Hope lies in making changes today that will lessen dementia's crippling effect on Canadian families, the health care system, and the economy," Richard Nakoneczny, chair of the ASC, says in a Society press release.

"More than ever, research is a critical contributor to this change. With an increased investment in research, we will learn more about prevention, possibly even discover a treatment to delay the onset of the disease and reduce its impact substantially."

"I think as a society we'll have to reorganize some of the services we're offering," Dr. Quiron said when asked how he thought the medical system could possibly cope with the potential influx of new dementia cases.

"For example, we will have to keep them at home as long as possible.

"We have to offer support to the family; nursing staff, psychologists, and social workers, so we don't burn out the caregivers."

"More and more," continued Quiron, "it's women that are getting stuck in

the middle. They're caring for parents, caring for children, and working outside the home."

Dr. Quiron agreed that although prevention and early detection are important in managing dementia, the key factor in trying to stem the tide of age-related dementia is research.

"Alzheimer's disease research today is comparable to what cancer research was in the sixties," he said.

"Look at how far cancer treatment has come in the past fifty years."

Why has it proven harder to raise funds for dementia than it has for other chronic diseases, like diabetes or cancer?

"We are uncomfortable with mental illness," declared Dr. Quiron.

"Alzheimer's is perceived as an end-of-life disease, and it drags on for so long."

However, as the largest and wealthiest segment of Canada's population ages, Quiron believes fundraising may become easier.

"With baby boomers getting closer to retirement, the disease is really impacting their parents; soon it's going to affect their peers. I believe there will be a greater push for more research."

"In terms of dementia it has the highest incidence,

accounting for 40 to 60 per cent of all presentations," continued Quiron.

An Alzheimer's diagnosis is not only the most common, it is also the most dreaded.

"With vascular dementia (caused by insufficient blood flow to the brain) or stroke-induced dementia there is the ability for the brain to repair itself over time," explained Quiron.

"With Alzheimer's there seems to be no ability to repair."

Currently, research is focusing on how to prevent or slow disease progression.

"We're trying to find better ways to diagnose early," said Quiron.

"We're trying to find markers, but we usually don't yet until the midpoint of the disease; (we look for) protein in spinal fluid, (and at) brain imaging" to confirm an Alzheimer's diagnosis.

In the meantime, Quiron advised that "if there is evidence of incidence in your family, everybody should be careful and look for potential signs of the disease. It can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms

can be so similar to other things, like for example chronic depression. Early diagnosis is important, but unfortunately it's usually diagnosis by exclusion."

As is so often the case with chronic conditions, prevention is the best medicine.

"Like any muscle of your body, exercise your brain," said Quiron.

"Physical activity is also essential; the growth factor substance that activates your muscles also circulates in your brain. What's good for your heart is good for your brain. It stimulates blood circulation."

"Good nutrition, good, diversified nutrition is good for your body and also for your brain."

The *Rising Tide* study indicated that in order to support the projected increase of Canadians suffering from Alzheimer's in the next thirty years, more long-term care beds and qualified staff to care for their occupants are needed.

Canada is experiencing an ongoing crisis in long-term health care and staffing.

When asked what the future holds for Canada and the health system in the face of the changing needs of our population, Quiron was silent for a moment.

"We're facing a tsunami," he said quietly.

What can be done . . .

... to prevent the onset of dementia?

There is growing evidence that lifestyle choices that contribute to a fit mind and body can help delay the onset and slow the progress of Alzheimer's and related diseases. Physical activity is good for your body, and your brain. Eating healthy, diverse foods including fish, fresh fruits, and vegetables can contribute to brain health. Challenging your mind, reducing stress, avoiding a head injury, and monitoring your blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels are all keys to slowing dementia. A healthy, active social

conceptions, with dignity, and with respect.

It's important to help to provide appropriate surroundings, services, support, and activities to people with the disease to help enrich the quality of their lives throughout the progression of the disease.

Caregivers, especially family members at home with a victim of Alzheimer's, carry an incredible load. Understanding the disease will help understand the burden of care. Respite can be hard to come by for caregivers, and sometimes old friends made uncomfortable by the disease quit calling. Once again, the more one understands the disease, the easier it is to be around someone with the disease—and the person or people caring for them.

'There's a lot to be thankful for'

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

"We're lucky, lucky people."

I was sitting in the spotlessly clean kitchen of an elderly man we'll call Mike, along with his caregiver. Mike has Alzheimer's disease, and his caregiver—whom we'll call Darlene—has decades of experience as a nurse and a home care provider.

"We're lucky, lucky people."

That's what Mike had to say when I asked him how the progression of his disease, a degenerative condition of the brain that atrophies not only your living memory but slowly your ability to function and communicate, affects the way he feels about his life.

"Live your life; you better do that and do it today," Mike continued.

"Your general attitude makes a big difference. If you get out of bed cranky you might be that way all day. Right, Darlene?"

Mike grinned impishly across the table at Darlene, a woman who has been a long-time friend of Mike and his family. Mike obviously expected to get a rise out of her, and she retorted sharply. "You're damn right! I've got enough to do around here without putting up with any attitude from you!"

Mike chortled to himself in satisfaction, shaking his head in delight at the joke the two have shared many times, and then grew quiet. As Darlene and I spoke about Mike's condition and her position as his caregiver, he gazed out his kitchen window at the undeniably enviable view of the countryside near Moosomin spread before him. He seemed to have no trouble following the conversation, when he chose to. Sometimes his eyes went soft, and his expression reminded me very much of my young children, daydreaming. Every now and again he shook his head, and chuckled richly to himself; his eyes would meet mine, gleaming merrily, to see if I got the joke. I couldn't help but smile back at him.

Mike spoke very lucidly about how he feels, physically and emotionally. We also talked about some of the neighbors in town that we both know, and a few friends we have in common.

Alzheimer's disease can be difficult to diagnose in its early stages; the behavior of the disease can mirror other conditions, and it's easy for people to write off its symptoms, like disorientation, forgetfulness, and mood swings as something everyone—regardless of age—experiences sometimes. Therefore, it's almost impossible to determine how long a person has been cop-

ing with Alzheimer's once they've been diagnosed. It's safe to say that Mike has had Alzheimer's for several years, and is in the mid-stage of the disease.

"People think dementia goes along with old age and that's wrong," said Diana Lerner, the Resident Care Co-ordinator at the Whitewood nursing home, which boasts the only wing in the Regina Qu'Appelle health region specially designed to cope with the needs of people with advanced dementia, including Alzheimer's.

"Alzheimer's is not a part of normal ageing. It's a disease."

"It's not so long ago," Darlene tells me. "Maybe '82 or '85; there was only one person in Moosomin who had it."

(We refer to Alzheimer's as 'it' in Mike's presence; Darlene is not too sure Mike is aware of his diagnosis, although he was told in the past. I notice, however, that on the two or three occasions during our conversation that I slip and say the 'A' word, Mike's eyes dart around nervously and he starts tapping the ends of his fingers together.)

"Then there were two," Darlene continued. "People didn't know what it was. There was the one guy who would go downtown to get the mail and his hair cut every day. People just accepted him. There was another man who would leave his house to get the mail, and neighbors picked him up and gave him a ride home. He was lost—but no one told his wife that for quite a while. He was lost in his own town, but she just thought people were being nice, giving him a ride. No one really wanted to talk about it, no one knew what to say."

A recent study released by the Alzheimer's Society of Canada predicts a "rising tide" of the disease which says that up to 1.25 million people could be diagnosed with the disease by 2038, the space of merely one generation.

If even a small portion of that prediction proves true, Canadians had best learn to get comfortable talking about dementia, and soon.

"I really recommend people consider an Advanced Care Directive (which tells family members and health care providers what kind of medical care you want for yourself) before a family member is in crises," advised Lerner.

"It's good to discuss these things with your parents, with your grandparents."

Lerner also believes people don't generally understand how quickly Alzheimer's can attack, and change a person.

"It's an extreme example," she said, "but changes can be rapid. In a month a



Monique McKay photo

The paper flowers, above, were created by residents coping with dementia in Whitewood.

person can go from driving and managing a household to lying in a bed staring at the ceiling. Please phone your families; so often the older people are living in the smaller communities while their children have moved away to the city; just because Mom and Dad were fine when you saw them at Christmas or over Easter doesn't mean they're fine a couple of months later."

Lerner also spoke to community members, and concerned neighbors.

"If you think there's something going on, call their kids. Tell them. I think you need to come see your Mom. I think she needs you."

Since Alzheimer's can be such an insidious disease, the onus of vigilance is on anyone who cares about an ageing relative or friend.

Darlene and Mike both agree that support from the community, medical and at large, is key to coping with Mike's condition.

"Everybody has to work together to keep me ticking," said Mike.

"The doctors here are wonderful—just wonderful," said Darlene of Moosomin's medical team. "They're very good with older people."

"It's important to have people like that around," contributed Mike.

"A day at a time is good enough."

That statement seems to be one of Mike's mantras; he repeated it several times during our morning together.

Lerner, as a health profes-

sional, has been apprised of the looming crisis, and she's aware of the stresses more people suffering dementia will place on the system.

Whitewood has a five-bed wing designed for the care of people with advanced dementia; it is possible to keep advanced cases separate from the general population. At the moment, 15 of Whitewood's 30 residents are coping with dementia, but none of them are as yet advanced enough to justify seclusion, and all of the residents mingle freely. It can be hard on residents who are functioning very well mentally.

"It's like being in a room full of toddlers," one man grumbled recently.

"We have waiting lists as it is," Lerner said frankly when asked how she thought the system would deal with an influx of new dementia patients.

"There's no way they'll (the health region) be able to keep up."

"In the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region there have been no bed closures, but there's also been no talk of expansion."

"The only other option is home care, and so families have to be educated."

Darlene admitted there are challenges to caring for Mike, although she's quick to say, "I'm really lucky to have someone so mellow, so easygoing to care for. He's easy to handle and easily pleased; he's so easy and gentle."

Even so, "We've had our days," she said wryly, and would say no more.

Mike shrugged. "I get along with people and they have to get along with me," he said.

Darlene explained that just keeping Mike going can be quite a bit of work.

"The brain gets to the point where it doesn't know how much sleep you should have, how much food you need," she explained.

"Plaques and tangles in the brain mean the nerve endings no longer connect," elaborated Lerner. "Everything is controlled by the mind, so when the brain..." she trailed off with a shrug.

Mike put it in his own words.

"You've got to push yourself a bit. I used to get up and go early; it was just the thing to do. Now..." Mike shrugged, and then grinned slyly at Darlene. "Now it's my sleep and eat, sleep and eat, right Darlene? Not much work!"

"You got that right!" Darlene shot back.

Lerner says that what she sees the most when dementia patients enter the home is caregiver burn-out.

"People—the sandwich generation, between parents and kids—are strapped emotionally and financially. They just don't have the resources."

Often caring for an ailing spouse is extremely draining on the sounder partner, who usually still must contend with their own limitations due to advancing age and failing health.

I asked Lerner if people are ever hesitant to relinquish care of their family member.

"No," she said frankly. "By the time they come here, it's usually 'Thank God—a break. Some help: They're usually so drained that it's just a relief to bring them here.'"

"I can always get away a bit," said Darlene, who can often be seen out socializing with Mike at her side, or attending community events.

"I have my computer upstairs, and that's an escape for me too, if I need it. I have the grass, the garden," she gestures expansively at the immaculately landscaped yard, the beautiful flower garden, the full bird feeders. I don't leave without several squash from Mike's garden.

"But not everyone has that. Some people are much more difficult to care for."

"With Alzheimer's the real danger is that they wander," said Lerner.

"It's hard to keep them at home; they can open locks. There's winter to worry about. Here we have a WanderGuard system; a wristband that alerts us if any of our residents with dementia are even near an exit."

Changes in their family member can be hard for caregivers to accept.

"Alzheimer's changes

your life and may even change your personality," Lerner explained.

"In the early stages people can be very unhappy—confused, aggressive. During the intermediate stages it's almost like the ignorance is bliss; they love going out for coffee, you can take them to the lake."

"Families need to accept that they've become a different person—this is John now."

"We can only deal with people who are placed and assessed," admitted Lerner, saying the home and its staff are not a resource for people in the community coping with or trying to learn about Alzheimer's, although they do receive calls.

The Whitewood care home is a resource in another way, however.

"We would really like to see more people volunteering to spend their time with people with dementia," Lerner said.

"Read to them, take them out. A lot of these people's families live in Vancouver, or abroad; twenty minutes of your time is enough."

"It can really give young people an idea of what older people are like. Bring your young children."

Lerner said it's easy to be surprised by what people coping with dementia are capable of.

"My youngest daughter—a pre-med student—researched a craft for people with dementia. She came in and made paper flowers with the residents here; she was amazed by their creativity. They were so happy to have an opportunity to express themselves in a way other than verbally, which isn't always the easiest way for them."

In the meantime, Lerner says, "Don't forget about the caregivers in your community. If this study proves true, there are going to be more of them. Often you see a person with dementia and their caregiver less and less in the community; don't forget about them. We can't afford for them to burn out."

Back at Mike's I'm ready to leave. I bid Mike goodbye, and he smiles and invites me back. He remembers my children, and my eldest by name; we collect bottles from Mike as one of our annual fundraisers for 4-H. He tells me to bring all of the kids.

I ask him if there's anything else he'd like to say for the newspaper article before I go.

He looks out the window, at the chickadees eating tiny seeds and the sunflowers beginning to bow their blackened heads from the recent frosts.

"I think I'm a pretty lucky person," he said quietly.

"There's a lot to be thankful for."

As with anyone suffering with a chronic condition, and their families who are coping with it, pots of soup, a chance to run some errands, cards, and flowers are always welcome. Unlike other chronic diseases such as a fatal cancer, people diagnosed with Alzheimer's can live up to ten years or longer after diagnosis, so patients and their caregivers may need committed, long-term encouragement.

... to contribute to a brighter future for today's ageing population?

In the past few years, the Canadian federal govern-

ment has made significant investments into understanding other chronic conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. These investments are paying off with better prevention and more effective treatments; perhaps a similar investment in Alzheimer's disease and education would have a similar positive effect. Ironically, since Canadians with other chronic conditions are living longer, their likelihood of developing dementia increases, so awareness and activism around Alzheimer's should increase as well.

Caregiver training and support is another important factor. The provinces will need to take a careful evaluation of health-care delivery; as the incidence of demen-

tia rises in our society, so will the needs for long-term care beds, homes, and professionals.

Private and corporate donations supporting critical research, advocating for federal and provincial action, and increasing health, awareness, and prevention practices in the general population are all important ways to potentially brighten the rather dismal picture painted by the Alzheimer Society's recent study.

For more information on Alzheimer's disease and the ongoing research into the disease's prevention, treatment, and search for a cure, visit www.alzheimer.com.



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Stan Sjodin: 306.542.4393
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Jordan Clarke: 306.539.1882



1985 JOHN DEERE 8650 & 1978 JOHN DEERE 8430

The Estate of Doug Knoblauch
Griffin, SK • October 23, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Barry Knoblauch: 306.861.5698
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



SK/RM OF WAVERLEY #44

Dwayne & Debbie Ash
Glenworth, SK • October 25, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Dwayne Ash: 306.266.2187
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



SK/RM OF WILLOW BUNCH #42

Michel Cayer
Willow Bunch, SK • October 26, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Michel Cayer: 306.473.2777
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



1 OF 3 – JOHN DEERE 8850 & JOHN DEERE 1820 60 FT W/TANK

Davidson Land Co. Ltd.
Ponteix, SK • October 27, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Doug Davidson: 306.625.3771
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



MB/RM OF LANSDOWNE #142

Craig & Lore Frondall
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



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Saskatchewan has fastest growing population

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Saskatchewan's population grew at the fastest rate of any Canadian province over the past year according to the population figures released Thursday by Statistics Canada.

As of July 1 of this year, there were 1,045,622 people living in Saskatchewan—an increase of 4,887 people over the past quarter and 16,498 people over the past year—roughly equivalent to the population of the city of Yorkton moving into the province.

The most recent increase is the largest quarterly increase in Saskatchewan's population since 1982 and the largest year-over-year increase since 1953.

The year-over-year growth rate of 1.6 per cent is the highest of any province in Canada.

Moosomin MLA Don Toth believes the population growth is partly due to government policies, and partly due to a new attitude in the province.

"In the last couple of years we've seen constant growth," said Toth. "Part of it is because of a positive attitude that came about since the last election. The business community are indicating they see the province as much more of an exciting place to do business."

"And part of it is reducing the tax burden on businesses and on individuals. Not everyone realizes the basic personal exemption has been increased, so people can make more money before they start paying taxes. That has left more money in the pockets of lower income people."

Toth believes the population growth is reflected in the Moosomin area. "I would say in many ways we've been blessed in this corner of the province. In our area we see the growth in the oil and the potash that has created jobs that has given people reason to move to our towns."

Toth believes that stimulus funding has given com-

munities the boost they need to upgrade their infrastructure to accommodate growth.

"What I've seen in our communities in the Moosomin constituency is the infrastructure deficit has hindered community growth, but now some of the towns are able to expand sewer and water, to open up new residential development, to enable people to move to our communities."

Toth said the government feels the stimulus money should be enough

to kick start growth in communities, and taxation from new residents should be enough to meet future infrastructure needs.

"As communities begin to grow, there are more people moving in and paying taxes, and that will offset the need for the government to always be at the table," he said.

Toth said he heard complaints for years that there was no government support for local infrastructure projects, but "since the stimulus money has come into place I haven't heard

as much as we have in the past. For a lot of communities that was their biggest need."

Saskatchewan saw net interprovincial migration of 1,027 people in the most recent quarter. More than half of that gain—564 people—came from Ontario, with another 282 coming from Quebec and 150 from Manitoba.

Saskatchewan also saw net international migration of 2,437 people and a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 1,423 people from April 1 to July 1.



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Bridge Road happy with response from meetings

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
 Bridge Road Developments officials are happy with the turnout at two meetings in Moosomin recently to promote a housing development the company has planned for a block of land north of the Communiplex.

Bridge Road has completed several similar developments in Manitoba, and has one under construction in Redvers.

Bridge Road has an option to purchase the block of land for the Moosomin development from the town. The company is seeking local investors and tenants for the Moosomin project.

The company plans to initially build a 24-unit apartment, and later add a second and third building for a total of 72 units.

Ken Rempel of Bridge Road Developments said Thursday he was happy with the way the meetings went. There were more than 110 people at the two meetings, including 85 at the afternoon meeting—one of the biggest turnouts the Bridge Road executives have ever seen.

"We're very encouraged," Rempel said. "When you have that large a turnout it's a very good sign. We see it as an indication there is a very big need in the community."

He said the company wants people to take time and think about the project before signing up, but

he is encouraged that four people made initial deposits on units Wednesday.

"It's nice that people have that confidence in this project, but we don't push to get people signed up right away," he said. "We want to earn the respect of the local community."

In addition to the four who have already put deposits on units, another dozen or so prospective tenants have informed Bridge Road officials they will be making a decision very soon.

"Most people in this age bracket, when they give us a cheque they have made up their mind," Rempel said. "We want them to make sure they have given it consideration before they make their decision."

Rempel is confident that there is enough interest among investors and tenants to make the Moosomin project go.

"We don't have any doubts that the group is there to do it," he said.

He said the next step for Bridge Road is to finalize a local investor group, then start working with tenants.

"We will try to get a bus tour organized to Manitoba so people can see one of our developments, and we may have another meeting in the fall so tenants have a chance to pick their suites," he said.

The company wants to start on the Moosomin



Prospective tenants speak with Ken Rempel of Bridge Road Developments after a meeting in Moosomin Wednesday. Below, part of the crowd at the meeting.



project in March and hopes to have people moving in by Christmas next year.

Project facilitator Harry Funk told people at the

Wednesday afternoon meeting that Moosomin is exactly the type of community Bridge Road is used to working in.

"We have been building only in rural Manitoba and rural Saskatchewan," he said. "The most urban environment we are start-

ing in is Headingly, which is just outside of Winnipeg. We are in Redvers, with a population of 900, but that's smaller than usual for us. We usually try to be in towns of about 2,000."

He told potential tenants that they have the option of customizing their suites.

"If you decide you want to put in oak flooring and maple cabinets and granite countertops you can do that. If you do that upgrade it's yours for as long as you're in that suite."

He told the meeting that he is confident the project will go ahead. "We will need at least 14 deposits to start construction in March," he said.

"I've already told our crews that we would likely want to slot Moosomin into next March.

"We feel over the period of three years we may end up with 72 units." The lower floor of the development will have heated parking and a common room—complete with big-screen TV and Wii entertainment system. There will be three floors of apartments above.

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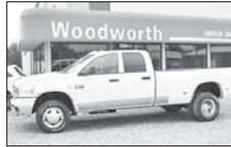
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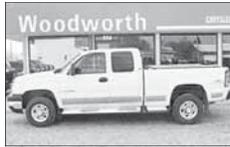
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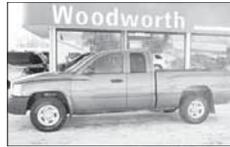
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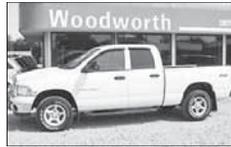
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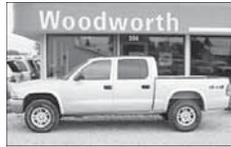
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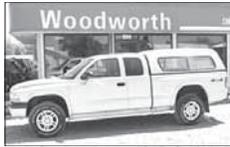
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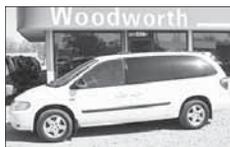
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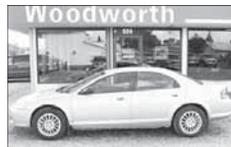
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Some of the pencil sketched scenes from Colombe Chartier's book. From left to right: Father DeCorby overlooking the Qu'Appelle Valley with a young Metis boy; The crucifix around Father DeCorby's neck; An old Cree woman revives a nearly frozen Father DeCorby with pieces of meat after he nearly freezes in a snowstorm; A sketch of Father DeCorby in middle age; Father DeCorby's thick fur mittens.

Book pays homage to Father DeCorby's life

BY KARA KINNA

Sitting in the modern day kitchen of Colombe (Fafard) Chartier in St. Lazare, it is hard to imagine the world that she has sketched and written about on page after page of her new book.

But as she turns the pages, and speaks of the different stories she has chosen to dialogue and draw, that world is slowly revealed.

She tells me about the time that Father DeCorby was trapped in a snowstorm for days on the barren prairie, and how he survived.

"He just flipped his wagon over, crawled underneath with his provisions, and let the snow blow over," she says. "And after three days, when it quit, he crawled out and whistled to his horse, and his horse came back."

Below her on the table, the page of her book is open to her pencil sketch illustration of Father DeCorby's wagon flipped over in the deep snow, his horse nearby.

Every anecdote in (Fafard) Chartier's new book, "Le Petit Pere des Prairies," is true. The entire book is dedicated to the life of Father Jules-Louis DeCorby, a Catholic priest who came over to Canada from France in 1867 and faithfully crisscrossed the Prairies as a missionary until his death in 1916.

During his ministry on the Prairies, DeCorby started a mission near Fort Ellice. The mission was started in the form of a little log church, which he named St. Lazare, after the cathedral he was ordained in back in France. And so he paved the way for the beginnings of the village of St. Lazare.

"He had to go back to St. Boniface once in a while to see his superiors, and every time he did, he went through Fort Ellice," says (Fafard) Chartier. "Every time he went through, they would ask him for a mission. So he had to keep pleading with his superiors and asking them, and they would say there were not enough people there. He kept pleading with them, and finally he got it."

The little log church was located about a mile northwest of the old St. Lazare cemetery. It was later burned down and replaced with a stone church, the remnants of which remain to this day.

Father DeCorby's story, from the day of his birth, to his death at St. Boniface, is captured in both word and picture in (Fafard) Chartier's book, which she painstakingly put together over five years.

The book is in the form of a script, and is accompanied by two pencil illustrations on each page. Every illustration—including the painting that became the cover of the book—was done by (Fafard) Chartier.

(Fafard) Chartier based the book on hundreds of letters—250 of them in total—written by Father DeCorby to his sister Joséphine back in France. After leaving France for Canada, most members of DeCorby's family never saw him again.

"His family was very surprised he was coming here," says (Fafard) Chartier. "They thought that after he became a priest, he would stay close by in a parish."

"Often in his letters he would ask his sister if his mother was still crying, and to tell her he was okay."

(Fafard) Chartier also based much of her book on stories told to her by her mother, who passed them down from her grandmother. Father DeCorby was (Fafard) Chartier's great-grandfather's brother, making him her great-great uncle.

In 1883, Father DeCorby's brother, Joseph Benjamin DeCorby, came to Canada to homestead. He was encouraged to make the move by Father DeCorby and eventually took him up on his offer due to problems with the vineyards in France at that time.

Joseph Benjamin, his wife Sylvie, and

"This is one way of paying homage to him (Father DeCorby) and his life. I think he deserves it."

—Colombe Chartier



Colombe Chartier holding her book "Petit Pere des Prairies" and standing in front of one of her paintings of Father Jules DeCorby. Copies of her book will be for sale, and her paintings will be on display at a book launch being held in St. Lazare on Oct. 2.

his son Jules Gabriel took the journey to Canada, eventually arriving in Fort Ellice where Father DeCorby was waiting for them. It was a joyful reunion.

At the time of the journey, Joseph Benjamin's wife Sylvie was pregnant, eventually giving birth to a baby girl, naming it Colombe. This baby was Colombe (Fafard) Chartier's great-grandmother.

(Fafard) Chartier's mother still remembered many of the stories told to her about Father DeCorby by (Fafard) Chartier's grandmother.

After another DeCorby relative—Joann DeCorby from Spy Hill area—wrote a book about the DeCorby family and Father DeCorby, (Fafard) Chartier thought the story of Father DeCorby would make a perfect play.

"I kind of always had a feeling I was going to do something like this," she says. "I remember my mother talking about her great uncle, but I never really paid attention until after she was gone, and then it came back to me."

According to (Fafard) Chartier, Father DeCorby was a remarkable man, which is why so many of his stories were passed down by her family.

"He was a real survivor," she says. "I found him so adventurous when he wrote about what he was doing and the things he went through, and not batting

an eye at it. He was a hero, and he didn't know it. He didn't think of himself as doing anything great."

After arriving in Canada, Father DeCorby started a mission in Lebrét, and spent the majority of his days travelling hundreds of miles across the Prairies to work with people of every culture—from immigrants to First Nations and Métis people.

"He knew about five different First Nations languages and four or five European languages," says (Fafard) Chartier.

"He slept in his wagon or his sleigh. He slept under the stars more than he slept inside."

In one of the stories (Fafard) Chartier relates in the book, Father DeCorby nearly freezes to death in a snowstorm. He is taken in by an old Cree couple, and the nearly toothless old Cree woman feeds him softly chewed meat in order to revive him from his nearly-frozen state. Father DeCorby is revived and stays a few days to recover with the Cree couple. (Fafard) Chartier uses the story as an example of how well known and received Father DeCorby was among the native people at that time.

(Fafard) Chartier says it is evident by Father DeCorby's letters that he not only possessed an adventurous spirit, but was passionate to those he met and minis-

tered to in his travels.

"He used to give out little papers that said 'bon pour' ('good for')," says Chartier, "and anyone who received them could go to Fort Ellice and they could get food. And when he came through, he paid off (the money owing for the food)."

"He said he died poorer than when he got here. He said that in his letters to Josephine. He said we can teach people about God, but we have to put something in their bellies too."

Chartier feels that the story of Father DeCorby is an important one to tell.

"I thought it would be very important to St. Lazare because he's the founder of the town, and I think the people here should know who did it and why, and what he was like. I figured the play was the best way to show people and make the younger kids understand."

Chartier—who has written a number of plays that have been performed in St. Lazare—says she hopes to put on this play as well, and include a number of school children in the production.

"The story will affect every age in this region, not just this town but the people around here," she says. "This is one way of paying homage to him (Father DeCorby) and his life. I think he deserves it."

"Another reason why I want to do it—I know my mother would want me to do it. I know she would be very proud of this project."

Chartier says she felt as if her mother—who loved to talk about Father DeCorby—was guiding her all along as she worked on the book.

"I always felt my mother inspired me from above," she says. "A lot of the time when I was working on this book, the writing was easy, but when it came to the drawing, it would take so long to do one (sketch), and I would say 'Why am I doing this? I can't do this!' But for some reason, something would push me to get going. And I always wondered how I knew what image to pick. But it just happened, and it kept happening. The more I wrote, the easier it got."

Chartier says she was surprised at how much of the dialogue for the book came to her as she wrote.

"What surprised me the most were the characters that came to me when I needed them," she says. "It just happened. My characters would answer each other. That's the way it went when I wrote my other plays once I got my characters down. They just kind of do the work for you because they've always got an answer and you just write it down."

Chartier says it is not uncommon for her to have problems getting to sleep at night while she's working on a play. She says it's tough to turn the voices of her characters off long enough to give her rest.

In the case of Father DeCorby, many of the dialogue was based on DeCorby's own words from his letters.

"It just fell into place," says Chartier. "I had no idea how I was going to end this thing."

Now that her book is complete, Chartier has printed nearly 200 copies to be signed and sold.

The Comité Culturel de St. Lazare held a book launch in St. Lazare on Oct. 22 to promote the new book. Chartier was on hand to sell and sign her books, and did to read portions of her book out loud.

Chartier has also created a number of paintings depicting moments from the book, and she displayed the paintings at the book launch.

Chartier says that, after piling through Father DeCorby's letters back to France, she realizes he never intended to be anything but a good priest.

"He was heroic, but he never thought of being a hero," she says. "He just did what he had to do."

Businesses feel impact of Rocanville mine expansion

BY KARA KINNA

PotashCorp announced a \$2.8 billion expansion to the Rocanville potash mine in 2008. That expansion is underway and on track to be finished by November 2013.

With the number of construction workers working on the expansion estimated to peak at 1,200 in the fall of 2011 and PotashCorp Rocanville set to hire 296 new permanent employees, businesses in the Rocanville area can not help but feel the effects of the PotashCorp Rocanville mine expansion.

GRAINGER'S AFFECTED BY HOUSING BOOM
"We've had to hire more men, and have expanded our equipment line," says Grainger's Danny Grainger, owner of Grainger's Excavating. "Housing has gone up dramatically. It's not all mine people—the whole area has boomed."

Grainger has been in the business of earth-work and digging basements for years, and says that business has skyrocketed around the area in the last few years.

"After the announcement (about the mine expansion) was made, within a few weeks we had several calls for housing for basements, for duplexes, stuff like that."

Grainger says he has dug a basement every year for 16 years. At most, he'd do about five a year. But things have changed.

"The following year after the announcement, we did 38 basements, last year we did 34, and this year we're on track, with the ones we have booked right now, we'll be at 26. We cover a fairly big territory, from Maryfield to Lake of the Prairies. It all adds up to being busy here."

"And I don't dig all the basements . . . So when you add up the other contractors around that do their portion, that's a lot of expansion in this area just in housing."

BUSINESS UP AT UNIVERSE SATELLITE SALES
Stan Langley, the owner of Universe Satellite Sales, which sells quads and snowmobiles in Rocanville, says business began to pick up right from the time the 3-D seismic crews came into the area to start preliminary work on the expansion.

"When they were doing seismic work, we were doing some service work on their quads," he says.

"When the guys started drilling their pilot holes out there, that's when we started to sell a few snowmobiles, and quads to the guys working on the rigs."

Langley says he now notices that more local people have extra cash to burn.

"It's definitely busy. There are a lot more people going through the showroom and picking stuff up now compared to before. The biggest thing is that there are more local people coming in. I think people are renting out their basements, or a second person in the family has started working, and that has given people extra cash flow."

Langley says his service department is also busier, and he has had to add part-time help, although, like most local business owners, he says staff are hard to find now.

Langley says he thinks the mine expansion will have a lasting effect on the area.

"It's definitely going to be a benefit to all of the communities here," he says. "I'm thinking if everything goes the way it is right now, once the mine gets completed, I think we're still going to maintain the same (level of economic activity). I think it will hold its own because we will have more people in the area working here full time."

KENTRAX HAULING WATER
Since the mine expansion started, Kentrax Transport in Rocanville has been contracted to do most of the water hauling for the project.

"There is a truck loading in my shop pretty much eight hours a day. One is dumping and one is filling," says Kentrax owner Ken Kingdon.

"We're here seven days a week, eight hours a day. On weekends it's maybe only five to six hour days, but that will change as volume goes up," he says.

"We haul all of the potable water to the contractors and to the camps. We haul for AMC, we do all the fresh water hauling, about 99 per cent of it. We haul to the two main camps, plus the mine shaft to the showers. Every day we go there with water to fill up the showers."

"We do all the contractors and the sub-contractors. Three times a week we fill up all their wash cars. We do haul some water for some cement guys too."

Kingdon says that he has added a few truck drivers since the expansion and modified his shop in Rocanville so that his trucks can fill up with water inside of his shop rather than tie up the town loading facility.

Each truck hauls between 5,000 and 6,000 gallons of water.

Kingdon says he expects to be busy for a few years yet. Before the expansion, Kentrax Transport hauled mostly liquid bulk fertilizer. Water hauling was added as a result of the expansion, and Kingdon says Kentrax will likely continue hauling water in the future.



Trucks line both sides of Rocanville's main street on a Wednesday evening. This scene has become typical in the town since the mine expansion began.

"I think I will keep a trailer on for potable water," he says.

BUSINESS BROUGHT TO A NEW LEVEL
Jonathan Robert, owner of Crushrite Concrete, says the mine expansion has pushed his business to a new level.

Crushrite Concrete provided the concrete for the early works expansion at the Rocanville site, concrete for a containment system at the Rocanville site, as well as concrete for the new headframe at scissors creek. As a result, the company has been forced to grow and change the way it does things.

"It has been fantastic for us," says Robert. "Finding good quality people was a challenge, but we were able to add more than 20 new employees—many of them permanent. We have hired a full-time safety officer and a few part-time safety officers, have written and implemented a formal safety program, and have become COR certified, something we are very proud of."

"Our commitment to quality has risen substantially. Basically I'd say the biggest change has been the amount of documentation and manpower required to supply industrial sites like PotashCorp."

"The days of just mixing water, cement and crushed gravel together are far gone. We have to maintain much tighter controls to ensure quality."

While Crushrite's work at the mine is finished, Robert doesn't anticipate a slowdown for his company for some time. He expects work on residential projects to pick up, and says he is noticing a ripple effect through the local economy.

"We normally shut down for the winter, and we haven't shut down in Moosomin for the winter for the last few years," he says. "This is what I'd consider spinoff. You're seeing new houses going up, new businesses coming to town. There will likely be a housing boom when the mine (expansion) is done. When that happens, then you're going to see a spike in business."

DEALERSHIPS DOING BRISK BUSINESS
Car dealerships in the area are feeling the impact of the crews and extra people in the area.

"It has had a pretty good impact, particularly on our service business," says Tyler Thorn, the owner of Celebration Ford in Moosomin. "We are seeing a lot of strangers at our service desk, and a lot of it's company trucks and guys that are contractors out there."

Thorn says the summer of 2009 was exceptionally busy on the service end, not only due to the mine expansion, but due to Washchuk pipeline crews in the area. He was shocked when the summer of 2010 turned out to be just as busy.

"Last summer was just crazy," he says. "I didn't expect this year to be the same. I said to my guys at the start of the year, if we can do the same service business as last year, I'd be pretty happy."

Thorn says the dealership has also experienced some sales due to the mine expansion.

"I think we've got a dozen vehicles on lease with AMEC right now," he says.

"I expect the next couple of years to be pretty steady. It has been good for our business. We own a couple of rental properties as well, and it has been good there. We've got four suites in two houses, and three of the four guys are working at the mine. The AMEC guys are good to rent to . . . They work all day, go home, have supper, go to bed, pay their rent, and are here until the project is done, so they're not out looking for tenants."

LOCAL BAR AND GRILL SEEING MORE PEOPLE
Todd Hagerman, the owner of Hag's Hideaway, a bar and grill in Rocanville, says his bar has been a lot busier since the expansion began.

"It has helped out quite a bit," he says. "We usually get a few of the guys in for about three hours every night. We get on average 20 crew guys coming in every night."

Hagerman estimates that his business has gone up by about a third since the mine expansion began. He has added staff to accommodate the extra business.

"I've got a couple more people working every night," he says. "I used to have one waitress on every night, and now I usually have two or sometimes three depending on what's going on."

A SHOT IN THE ARM FOR EASTONS, AFAB
"It has been a good shot in the arm," says Bill Easton, owner of Easton's Clear Water in Rocanville. Easton delivers bottles of purified water out to the work camps that have been set up for the mine expansion.

"It has become busier," he says. "It has been a good boost. I would say for other businesses too."

Coren Jack of AFAB and Metal Mart in Rocanville, says their business is doing some work at the mine site due to the expansion.

"We did a few buildings out there last year, and we are scheduled to do more," she says.

"It's going to be good all around. We will get a little bit of business out of it for sure. It's bringing in new people, which brings in the renovation part of things, which is what Metal Mart is doing well at right now—some building of homes and renovations."

HOME CENTRE BUSINESS UP

Jason Schenn, the general manager of Borderland Co-op, says there has been about a 10 per cent increase in business at the Rocanville home centre since work began on the mine expansion.

"Mostly, the impact is on the home centre because we've provided a bunch of lumber and materials out to the project from day one," he says. "And petroleum—a lot of the accounts out there are Federated Co-op accounts, so we service them."

"The big impact we're looking for is what comes once they are in operation."

NEW HOTEL ALWAYS FULL

Darrellynn Fair, the general manager of the new Canalta Hotel which opened its doors in July in Moosomin, says the PotashCorp Rocanville mine makes up a large portion of the hotel's business right now.

"We get about 50 per cent of our business from the mine," she says. "They are a huge corporate client. The rest is mostly pipeline and oilfield. We are full every night."

"We are a very high occupancy hotel. Most nights if we have two or three rooms to sell, we are lucky."

Fair says that crews staying in the area over the course of the week have rooms booked solid most weekdays. On weekends, some rooms are freed up, although that number is often limited as well.

Fair says that long-term bookings are common in the hotel right now.

"There are guys who have been here since the day we opened our doors and they are not leaving until some time between February and April of next year," she says.

She also says that companies booking blocks of rooms and conference and meeting rooms in the hotel is common.

"We've made some really good relationships through the mine expansion. Certain companies, like PotashCorp and NSC Minerals, they can do things they could never do before. The last four days, we've had our meeting room booked. Guys are working at the mine, then coming back here and socializing in our meeting room . . . We have a lot of good relationships with the mining companies and they are pretty impressed with what we have to offer."

Fair expects the next few years to be good for the new hotel.

"This mine here in Rocanville—it's looking like five years before it starts to slow down," she says. "In all honesty I could build 30 more rooms in this hotel and sell them every night right now."

"It's really hard to say what is going to happen in the coming years, but in the next five years I think we're going to see a lot of success in this area."

DAVIDSON EXCITED ABOUT LOCAL GROWTH

Dan Davidson, the owner of the Red Barn Restaurant in Moosomin, says he definitely feels the impact of having the Canalta Hotel next door. The hotel's guests walk through the doors of his restaurant on a daily basis. Davidson says the mine expansion has made a difference, although he is also seeing a lot of business due to other projects going on in the area, such as the Red Lily wind farm being built just west of Moosomin.

"It's hard to say just how much extra business we are seeing from that (the mine expansion). It's tough to read, but every day there is someone working at PotashCorp, or on the construction, or one of their engineers staying at the hotel," he says.

"It's just an ongoing thing. There are always people working on that project that are in the town of Moosomin somewhere, and whether they are in our business or someone else's business, the impact is huge."

Davidson points out that there is so much spinoff from the mine expansion, that businesses in the area are hiring new staff, and those people are in turn staying in the area, often bringing their families with them.

After building a brand new restaurant on the Trans-Canada Highway two years ago, Davidson says his business is still growing. Davidson has been steadily adding staff, and recently built a patio, adding 50 more seats to his lounge. Still, it's not uncommon to find most of the seats in his lounge filled on any given night of the week.

"It's exciting, all this growth around town, all this action at PotashCorp, and when they open the new shaft, it will be exciting to see what it does," he says.

"I believe the area can stay busy for the next few years. It's great for everybody—not just for Moosomin, but the whole area."

MORE LISTINGS, MORE SALES IN REAL ESTATE

Ron McKay, the owner of McKay Agencies in Moosomin, says the real estate business is also feeling the effects of having more people around.

"We've had more listings. Also we've had more sales," he says. "Because of it (the mine expansion), there are new people coming into town, and they are looking for new homes."

"And they (the mine) are hiring more people all the time. Some of these people are not genuine home buyers, but they are home renters, so it creates activity in the town."

"Some people are looking for acreages, so it has sparked some of that up. It's generally been really good for the realtors. There is just a general increase from other years . . . You're not going to sell every home you show, but certainly it has created more activity."

McKay expects activity to increase once the mine expansion is finished.

"The mine isn't going to be finished until 2013, so we are going to see some people retire who are at the mine, and they are going to hire new people to replace them. And obviously, when it gets on stream, there are going to be quite a few more workers there. So in the next few years, I would expect to see steady growth."

KENHOME HAS EXPANDED BUSINESS

Ken Nixon, who runs Kenhome Construction in Rocanville along with Glenda Brown, says the PotashCorp mine expansion has turned his septic service from a side business into a full-time business.

"It has affected our business well," he says. "We were able to increase our fleet of trucks, and have been doing septic service for the (mine) camps and miscellaneous other services for septic removal."

Kenhome Construction's list of services include construction, tree trimming and septic service. However, septic was a small part of the business until the expansion began.

"It went from a part-time job to a full-time job," says Nixon. "It was just a sideline, and now it's full time. I've actually had to cut back on construction due to the fact that I have been so busy with the septic."

Nixon says the increase in business has created two full-time jobs in his company, and he has gone from one septic truck to running two newer and larger units.

And he expects it to get busier.

"We are still expanding," he says. "The number in the camps is expected to go up, and our workload will increase accordingly." Nixon says the expansion has created "exciting challenges" for his business and for others in the area. "Business should create challenges," he says. "I'm extremely happy with it. It's good for the community. It's good for the area."

Tant fired, Sun Country hasn't released review

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Cal Tant has been fired as chief executive officer of the Sun Country Health Region, but the region has not yet released the incriminating report that led to his firing.

Tant was fired Thursday, Sept. 9 after the board received a third-party report into hiring practices in Sun Country.

The review was ordered based on information uncovered by the World-Spectator about former Sun Country vice-president of finance Hal Schmidt—specifically that he had been fired from a previous job for falsely claiming to be a chartered accountant. While the review was ongoing, the World-Spectator uncovered additional information about Schmidt—that he had borrowed \$75,000 in public funds from a hospital, failed to pay it back, was sued by a B.C. health authority, and had never paid the outstanding judgement—and Schmidt resigned.

Sun Country board chair Sharon Bauche told the World-Spectator that the board decided as soon as they saw the report into hiring in Sun Country that they had to terminate Tant.

"We looked at that report. It gave us a lot of

important information," she said. "When we looked through that, the report showed that the hiring practices were not consistently followed in the hiring of Mr. Schmidt."

She said the board no longer had faith in Tant as a CEO. "Unfortunately, the Board has lost trust and confidence in Mr. Tant," she said. "The board of SCHR feels that new leadership is required in order to move forward on a number of issues currently facing our region. In the last few months as all this information has come forward that raised some concerns with us. We wanted to find new leadership for the management team."

She said it was a difficult decision to make, and difficult news to deliver to Tant. "We didn't do this lightly," she said. "We had discussions about the leadership, and in our recent discussions the board has lost trust and confidence in the CEO. It wasn't an easy decision and it wasn't easy to give the news to Mr. Tant."

Bauche said the health region's lawyers were reviewing the report for any privacy concerns, and said it would be released. Three weeks later, the report has not yet been released.

Moosomin MLA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Don Toth said he is happy to see the board take action. "Given what we have heard in the past from some board members, that they were afraid to vote against management, I'm glad they did this," he said. "It's maybe showing the board is taking responsibility."

He said it shouldn't have taken a series of investigative reports by the World-Spectator before the board realized it had a problem.

"There's some concern if that's what it took for the board to realize they have some responsibilities," he said.

Now that the board has said it lost faith in its former CEO, Toth said the board should revisit recent decisions made with the input of the CEO.

"I would assume that the board will take another look at some of the decisions and see if they could have done things a little differently," he said. "I would hope they would look at all the decisions and ensure the proper decisions were made with the proper information, and that public health needs are being met. If it means revisiting Wawota's bed closures, well fine and dandy. I think the people

of Wawota would be happy to see that."

However Bauche said she believes the Wawota decision was thoroughly discussed and she sees no need to revisit it. "We're always willing to look at new information, but right now we're not looking at that again," she said.

Wawota Save Our Beds committee chair Dale Easton welcomed news of Tant's firing, and said his committee wants to meet directly with the board. "Our next step is meeting with the board. We met with the health minister and we requested some information on expenditures. The ministry got the answers for those. Now we're compiling that information and we want to take it to the board. I think we have some good arguments for why they should reverse this decision."

Bauche said she was happy with the investigative work done by the World-Spectator. "Your work has been very good, and we appreciate it," she said.

She believes the board now better understands its role in overseeing the administration. "Believe me, we have learned a lot over this whole exercise about being more diligent in our monitoring," she said.

Wawota group has to wait to be heard by board

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan Health Minister Don McMorris had time to meet with Wawota's Save Our Beds Committee but the Sun Country Health Region Board would not meet with the group at the September meeting, and won't meet with them until the end of October.

Dale Easton, chair of the Save Our Beds Committee, said the group had contacted the health board early in an attempt to be placed on the agenda for the Sept. 29 board meeting.

"We had sent them a letter 10 days ago and we hadn't heard anything from them," Easton said.

"We finally go ahead of (board chair) Sharon Bauche a couple of nights ago, and she told me we wouldn't be on their agenda for September. She said they don't want us there in September, but they will meet with us in October. She said they have too much on their plate with all the upheaval to discuss our beds."

Easton said the Save Our Beds Committee wants to meet with the board to ask them to reverse the bed closure. Five beds were closed at Wawota's Deer View Lodge earlier this year to save \$110,000, despite the fact there is a waiting list to get into the Wawota facility.

"We want to meet with the board. We want to meet sooner rather than later."

"The public out there are still in need whether Sun Country is in turmoil or not. There are still people on the waiting list and the transfer list to come to Wawota. Our elderly people are still in need. It could take months for this to move along and people are still waiting for beds."

Easton said he was surprised the board doesn't have room for the Wawota group on the agenda for their September meeting after the group met with the health minister, who directed them back to the board.

"They have to meet with us," he said. "They know they have to. This process has gone from May till now, and they don't want to hear from us until the end of October. That's a long time."

Easton says he has been frustrated by the board's handling of the closures.

"There's still frustration dealing with the board for sure," he said. "The one person we feel has really listened to us is (Health Minister) Don McMorris, but it's been a month since we got in his door and there's been no movement made by him in a

month, either," said Easton. "He seemed genuinely concerned, and he was probably the only person that we felt has really listened to us."

Bauche said she was surprised Easton is unhappy waiting until the end of October to meet with the board.

"The last time we talked to him we explained that we would meet with them in October," said Bauche. She said the board will need to see and review any material the Wawota group wants to present before meeting with the group.

"We understood they

wanted to present us with new information from the minister," Bauche said. "We need to see that. No one from the committee has seen the material."

"We're very happy to meet with them, but I had explained to him that with the change in management, and the fact that we have had three months of not meeting, we want to meet with them but we need an opportunity to see the material before they meet with us."

Despite the fact that one senior manager had resigned and a review had been or-

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OCTOBER		
9	SATURDAY	TOPLINE RED ANGUS DISPERSAL 1:00 PM
12	TUESDAY	SHEEP SALE AND HORSE SALE 12:00 PM
13	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
18	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
20	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE ANGUS INFLUENCE SALE 10:00 AM
22	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:00 AM
25	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
27	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE 10:00 AM
NOVEMBER		
1	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
3	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE CHAROLAIS INFLUENCE SALE 10:00 AM
5	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:00 AM
8	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
10	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE ANGUS INFLUENCE SALE 10:00 AM
15	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
17	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE 10:00 AM
19	FRIDAY	TREASURE CHEST LIMOUSIN SALE 1:00 PM
22	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
24	WEDNESDAY	FEEDER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
26	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:00 AM
29	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
30	TUESDAY	SHEEP SALE 12:00 PM
DECEMBER		
1	WEDNESDAY	FEEDER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
3	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:00 AM
6	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
6	MONDAY	BRED COW SALE 1:00 PM
8	WEDNESDAY	FEEDER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
10	FRIDAY	SPRINGCREEK SIMMENTALS & GUESTS FEMALE SALE 1:00 PM
13	MONDAY	BUTCHER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
15	MONDAY	BRED COW SALE 1:00 PM
15	WEDNESDAY	FEEDER CATTLE SALE 9:00 AM
17	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:00 AM
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Ireland sees bright future for VBine

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

If you told Barry Ireland 10 years ago that he would one day be a CEO meeting with a Canadian icon of the environmental movement, he might have raised his eyebrows and chuckled.

But Ireland, a one-time used agriculture parts dealer, has turned his idea for a vertical axis wind turbine into VBine Energy, and his company is taking off and propelling Ireland into the limelight.

Now CEO of VBine Energy, Ireland will be meeting environmentalist David Suzuki this week at the grand opening of the Dr. David Suzuki School in Windsor, Ontario—a brand new environmentally friendly school that sports a Moosomin-made VBine wind turbine on the roof.

VBine units have been installed across Canada, from B.C. to PEI to Iqaluit.

They are being shipped to sites around the world, from Columbia to Dubai, where one will be used to power a water pump in a remote desert location.

Welding and machining of VBine's components is done at the former Higgins Machine Shop in Moosomin. Parts machined in that shop and manufactured in different locations, mostly Canada, are assembled at VBine's plant on the edge of Moosomin. Most of the parts are made in Canada—the blades, for example, are fabricated in Regina—and a few parts come from overseas. The completed turbines contain one bearing manufactured in Japan and one bearing manufactured in Germany. The unit that connects the turbine to the electrical grid comes from Italy, and everything else is made in Canada.

After several years of development and raising capital, VBine started shipping production units this year.

All of the company's equity has been privately raised from investors. Moosomin's Lyn Abrahamson chairs the board of directors.

"Raising money was a big issue because it's a totally new concept," said Ireland. "Research and Development was a big job. There's a pile of testing that has been done. To get your CSA, your UL and other approvals you need to go through some pretty rigorous tests to prove you have a good product. But our people working in production and design have been good."

"Right now, the challenge is marketing. Now that we have the product, it's getting it out on the market—getting it built and shipped."

"We had some test units out earlier, but we sold our first units in the first part of May this year."

He said VBine is aiming for the world market.

"Right now we have got 58 sold, and we've got some good size contracts coming through," he said. "We've got about 20 per cent outside of the country. About 80 per cent have been in Canada, right from PEI to BC. We sent a couple up to Iqaluit. Ron Potter is up in Iqaluit right now working on getting those installed."

The main market for the small turbines is communication towers, but the wind turbines have been sold to farmers, small businesses, and for other applications.

Each VBine wind turbine can produce five kilowatts—enough to power two average houses, and more than enough to power a cell tower or other communications tower.

Most of the units are attached to the electrical grid, so when the turbine is producing more power than needed it flows onto the grid, and if it is not producing enough the power flows from the grid. In Saskatchewan, SaskPower has a net metering system in which people can hook a wind turbine to the grid, and only pay for the net amount of power that flows in from the grid.

Other units, in more remote areas, are attached to battery units that store the power.

While sales of production units began only a few months ago, VBine is already ahead of sales targets.

The company is already \$2 million above its sales projections for this year, and projects sales of \$10 million next year and \$35 million the following year.

"We're doing well," Ireland said in his Moosomin office last week. "We're up to 16 full-time employees, and four guys on contract. In an eight-hour shift we can build four or five units."

Ireland had been working on his idea for a while already before he applied for



Barry Ireland demonstrates how power is created at the base of a VBine vertical axis wind turbine. The turbines are assembled in this shop in Moosomin.

his first patent, then incorporated VBine Energy in December of 2005.

"We have four patents pending now, and we're just getting ready to apply for a fifth," Ireland explains.

"We're happy with the product and how it's progressed," said Ireland. "We can't ask for anything more. We lost some orders because we didn't have the units produced in time, R&D took longer than we thought, but now we're right into production."

The retail price of a VBine turbine is \$32,500 including the grid inverter to connect the unit to the power grid. "Communications towers in some areas are powered by these generators, and some of those companies are looking at how this would cut their fuel costs," said Ireland.

"Up north there are a lot of towns powered by generators, and diesel fuel is pretty expensive by the time you get it shipped up there. We've been dealing with some First Nations up north. They don't want

diesel generators any more."

The installation on Dr. David Suzuki School came at the suggestion of a company VBine is working with in Windsor. "They approached us and asked if we were interested in putting a turbine up, and we were happy to do that," says Ireland.

He will travel to Windsor for the grand opening of the new environmentally friendly school, where he will have a chance to meet David Suzuki. "That will be a big event for me," Ireland said.

The VBine wind turbine has already won a couple of awards and is up for an ABEX award from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce this fall.

VBine won the best new invention award at the 2008 Saskatchewan Farm Progress Show, and recently won an award for Most Promising New Venture at Rice University in Texas.

VBine Energy is one of five finalists for the New Saskatchewan Product Award at the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX awards. The winner will be announced at the ABEX award banquet in Regina Oct. 30.

Ireland has high hopes for his company. "It's going to grow," he said. "We've got really good, sound patents. I'm not sure we even know how much it's going to grow."

Ireland sees a bright future ahead for the entire wind industry.

"We have to get different sources of energy," he said. "It has to happen. Gas and oil is going to run out. There's going to be a lot of coal fired plants and diesel plants that will have to be buying carbon credits, so wind will only get more competitive over time."



Barry Ireland with one of his VBine vertical axis wind turbines at Moosomin.



Monique McKay photo

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Accomplished artist partners at Centre 48

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE
Centre 48 is starting its eighth fall session with a brand new partnership. Renowned Saskatchewan artist Marilyn Malo will be teaching classes for Centre 48, sharing her artistic talents with anyone interested in being creative.

"You don't have to be an artist to take these classes—they're for anyone who wants to develop their creative side and take time for themselves," said Malo. "I encourage people to bring a carload of friends and make it a fun-filled learning experience."

The first class Malo will be offering through Centre 48 is called, "So you think you're not creative." This class is designed for both the artistically inclined and those who just want to have a weekend of fun.

The class will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23 and Sunday, Oct. 24 at Marilyn Malo's brand new learning centre in Wolse-



Artist Marilyn Malo has partnered with Centre 48 in Montmartre to teach classes.

ley, Sask. It will feature two full days of art instruction and two gourmet lunches. Malo will be teaching a second class on Nov 21

and 22, which will feature experimental art, like painting with wax and creating collages from old photos and artifacts.

"The time in my life has come when my goal is to share all I've learned over the years and to inspire others to see that everyone has a creative side," she says.

Also new at Centre 48 is coordinator Pauline Long-Wright. She has lived in Montmartre for three years and is excited to become more involved in the community. Long-Wright brings many years of experience in organization management to the Centre 48 job. The Centre 48 board is thankful to former coordinator Judy Guthrie for her valuable contribution to the education centre.

Centre 48 is offering a full slate of music classes this fall—drum, guitar, piano and voice lessons

start on Sunday, Oct. 17. Playschool is also being offered this session, with

teacher Krista Brown welcoming her first students on Tuesday, Oct. 12.



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School-based daycare a groundbreaking project

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE
 Montmartre's new school-based daycare opened its doors this September, making it a unique initiative within the Prairie Valley School Division and one of only a handful of school-based daycares in the province.

The \$500,000 cost of creating the 25-space licensed daycare centre within the Montmartre School was funded by Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education, with assistance from the Prairie Valley School Division.

The local committee had been working feverishly at the start of the project to raise money to equip and furnish the daycare. However, funding for all of the daycare's appliances, furnishings and toys has been provided by the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) branch of the Ministry of Education.

"It was a huge relief to have all of our capital costs, including furnishings, covered," said daycare committee member Dale Brenner. "We didn't have to worry about fundraising, so we could put all of our energy into the policies and processes that the government requires to establish a top-quality operation."

The new daycare is located on the north side of the Montmartre school,



An employee cleans up the kitchen space at the new school-based daycare in Montmartre, Sask.

where a former classroom and the art room were transformed into a child-friendly space complete with its own washroom, kitchen and entrance.

The daycare has been a busy place, with 30 full-time, part-time and drop-in/casual children registered.

While parents are

charged a fee for bringing their children to the daycare, the Ministry of Education's ELCC is providing a monthly operating grant which will help offset the daycare's monthly expenses.

"The operating grant has allowed us to keep

our fees affordable, which we hope will make our daycare accessible to a greater number of parents," said Brenner, adding that child-care fees may be subsidized for low-income families.

Registrations are still being accepted for chil-

dren aged six weeks to 12 years old, with drop-in care being available as scheduling permits. The daycare hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., based on need.

A grand opening of the Montmartre Licensed Daycare will be held in the near future.

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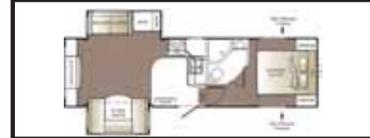
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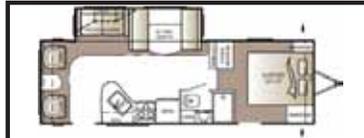
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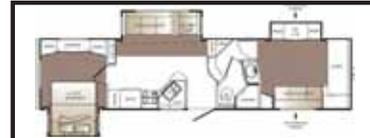
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LT, solid car,
Sask. tax paid
\$9,900

\$99
bi-weekly

2008 Ford Edge



SEL, AWD,
awesome CUV
\$24,900

\$218
bi-weekly

2003 Ford F-150



Lariat, 4x4,
supercab
\$14,900

\$146
bi-weekly

2003 Ford Taurus



SEL, one owner
\$8,900

\$89
bi-weekly

2007 Ford Five Hundred



AWD, limited,
local car
\$16,900

\$142
bi-weekly

2007 Ford F-150



XTR, 5.4L,
75,000 kms
\$25,900

\$227
bi-weekly

2008 Ford F-150



Lariat, white chocolate
\$29,900

\$261
bi-weekly

2008 Ford F-250



Ready for work,
46,000 kms
\$27,900

\$244
bi-weekly

2009 Ford Focus



SE, super good on gas
\$13,900

\$123
bi-weekly

Are you on a budget?

- '02 Ford Windstar Sport.....\$4,900
- '03 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4.....\$9,900
- '00 Ford Focus Sport ZTS.....\$4,900
- '03 Ford F-150 4x4 XLT.....\$8,900
- '02 Dodge Dakota 4x4.....\$8,900
- '03 Ford Crown Victoria.....\$4,900
- '97 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4.....\$6,900

2008 Ford F-150



XTR, supercrew,
Sask. tax paid
\$22,900

\$195
bi-weekly

2010 Ford Fusion



SEL, loaded,
28,000 kms
\$25,900

\$227
bi-weekly



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