

Plain & Valley

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Football building self-esteem of White Bear First Nation kids

BY JULIA DIMA

Coach Kris Stevenson remembers growing up in Selkirk, Manitoba, and having lots of opportunity and support to play football, a sport he loved. Stevenson played in the North Winnipeg Nomads football club, and the St. James Rods. After an injury, Stevenson started coaching, and became a school teacher in 2011. His second teaching job was at Sunchild School on Sunchild First Nation, and that is where Stevenson saw an opportunity to give disadvantaged kids on Sunchild First Nation the same chance he had to play.

"Often in Alberta, you go to a First Nations school and you see that a lot of the kids don't have a lot—they are out in the middle of nowhere, poverty is an issue, self-esteem is an issue, there's not really a lot of positive things going on, and when we were there, I saw the potential of the boys, they were phenomenal athletes, but there was just no direction, no sports, no opportunity to reach that potential. And myself playing football for many years, I realized it's a sport that would really do a lot for these boys." Stevenson says.

So he started a football team from scratch—from getting equipment, to organizing the team, to designing jerseys, holding camps, creating a safe football field, and getting players for the team—29 boys signed up to play football on the Sunchild Bison team.

"It was unbelievable—I can't describe it any other way. A lot of the boys had trouble with drugs, alcohol, skipping, just living a life with no discipline or responsibility. It's passed on in some generations, some families are like that, some are not and it's not just on reserves. But football met the needs of those boys. It was just saying that you're going to be there for them, you're going to provide opportunity for them, and you're going to stand behind them," Stevenson says.



Coach Kris Stevenson with two boys from White Bear First Nation, Tyrell Kequahtooway and Kota Kennedy.

In 2013, Stevenson moved to Wawota and was hired as schoolteacher on White Bear First Nation, just south of Kenosee Lake. At White Bear School, Stevenson saw the same potential in boys there, but the school did not have enough students to make a full team. Stevenson was introduced to Jason Schenn, the General Manager of the Moosomin Generals, and the opportunity to coach for the Generals' junior team opened up—and a chance to get the boys on White Bear First Nation involved in football.

"Over the winter, I saw the boys in my classroom and realized there was an opportunity to pursue this. You see these kids as their gym teacher as well, you talk to them, and let them know they've got this athleticism that is wasting away—we only have

so many sports we can provide on our reserve, there's only so many funding dollars, so I tried talking to them and saying, 'Hey, you know what, how would you guys like to try football, how would you like to try something outside the box?' And I knew I wasn't just pitching football, I knew I was pitching responsibility, and learning self-worth," he says. "A lot were hesitant, but they bit. I had six kids that came out and played in the spring season and did phenomenally. A lot of them are too old to play now, and they've moved on, but a few of the boys who were here encouraged the younger boys, the ones who are now playing, to get involved."

Now six boys from White Bear First Nation are playing on the junior Generals team, Tyrell Kequahtooway, Tyrrell Littlechief, Bradley Maxie, Matthew Fiddler, Kota Kennedy, and Brayden Pinacie. Stevenson feels that football and making the opportunity to play for these boys is a catalyst for building confidence and self-worth.

"Even in my own home community in Selkirk, I saw issues—kids can't afford sports. Either parents are working too many jobs, or there is no parents working, and you're financially unable to go into something. When I started at Sunchild School, I looked at the hockey players, and I mean, your typical hockey is \$700-1000 per kid. For football here, it's \$350 a year, and they have equal opportunity to play, and to be on this field doing what every other kid is doing," he says. "I have seen a lot of attitude changes with these boys, a lot more re-

sponsibility—and the big thing is self-worth. Before they played football, they had some self-esteem, but it's to increase that, it's to create more self-awareness, and promote a healthier wellness for these kids and in their community to show that they can be successful, in a place where very seldom do you hear positive things about these youth. Everything you hear is negative, it's stereotypes, it's racial—now, they're out here, they're making friends with kids from all these different communities. They've joined a brotherhood of different kids, and there are no barriers because they're Native or the others kids are white. It's a football team, and they're the Generals. That has a huge impact on their self-esteem."

Another major impact of being involved in foot-

ball is that the young boys are staying in school, and keeping up with their schoolwork so they can keep playing on the team.

"One of the biggest things with self-worth that I look at is retention—a lot of our youth on White Bear, after grade 9, we're not seeing them at school. So, if football helps them stay in school and it helps them feel more complete, then to me, that self-worth keeps them looking for an education and looking for something better in life," he says.

Tyrell Kequahtooway and Kota Kennedy are two boys who have felt encouraged to keep up their marks and keep up on their homework to play the sport they love.

"I have to keep up my homework and stuff like that to keep going to football," says Kequahtooway, who is 14. "I like school more. I try to keep up with my homework and stuff now—more responsibility."

Before joining the Generals, Kequahtooway used to play soccer, and had only played football in video games. He feels he's grown a lot as a player since he started with the Generals, half a season ago.

"I was a soft person at first when I got hit, but now I'm used to it... It's fun, it's awesome. I got better at tackling and running and my favorite thing is tackling," he says.

Kennedy, who is 12 years old, also had never played football before joining the Generals, but plays hockey. Like Kequahtooway, he's felt encouraged to keep up his schoolwork to play football, and he says it feels nice to make his family proud of him.

"My favorite part is getting touchdowns," Kennedy says. "It's fun to help out the team, and the new players, too."

Stevenson says that a benefit of being a teacher and coach to these boys is to be able to offer mentorship and support on and off the field.

Continued on page 3

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Football building self-worth of White Bear First Nation kids

Continued from front

"It's being genuine with them, being a guy that they know they can talk to. In the classroom and in their lives, I am also someone mentoring them outside of school. I spend time with them, talk to them. Just letting them know I will never stop helping, I will never not be there for them, I will guide them. The moment we leave school, I'm not their teacher, I'm their coach, the moment we go to school I'm their teacher not their coach. After school when we have neither, I am just a role model for them," he says.

Stevenson says that there has been a lot of support from Schenn for opening up the coaching position, the school on White Bear First Nation has provided a van for getting the boys to practices and games, and the First Nation band has offered support too.

"Our councillor Tanya Littlechief, the minute I approached the band in May, and said we need some funds to help the boys, she pushed for funding to help the boys play—even in this fall session, she is diligently working and trying to help in the ways she can, and it's affected her to the point that even her son is playing with the team," Stevenson says.

Schenn says that it feels good to see the junior team grow, and says Stevenson's coaching has made a positive impact for the team. For him, football breaks social barriers, and that is what Schenn says the Generals are about.

"I want to just have kids come out and play football—we've had a lot of First Nations kids come out to play right from day one, there was never a division on this team, that was never in anyone's mindset, we even had girls on the team in the first couple of seasons as well," he says. "It wasn't even a question, anyone who came out came out and they were just football players—it wasn't until you start thinking about it that you put together what this can do for some of these kids, and not

"They've joined a brotherhood of different kids, and there are no barriers because they're Native or the others kids are white. It's a football team, and they're the Generals. That has a huge impact on their self-esteem."

—Kris Stevenson

just children from White Bear, or first nations, even our kids here who don't have the same privileges, upbringing . . . There are people who start the game of life a little bit behind just because of the hand they are dealt. But it teaches each one of these kids that it doesn't matter where you come from, you can start from wherever you came from and build yourself up. That is what we hope to teach these kids through football."

Stevenson agrees, saying that's the message he wants every team member to take away from playing on the team.

"What is beautiful is these boys are working with everyone in every community, and we as role models are showing a positive image that everyone can work together—that it doesn't matter what skin color you are or where you're from. We pull together under the catalyst of football, and just show these boys that anything is possible," he says. "And to me, having these guys staying in school, interacting with each other, being positive in the community—that's a huge success."



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Foodgrains harvests help feed the hungry

Two prairie communities took off crops for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank this fall, with the aim of helping people in parts of the world where food is scarce.

Kola, Manitoba held its annual Crossborders Growing Project, taking off 10,500 bushels.

Moosomin, Sask. also held its Harvest of Hope, with eight combines on hand the day of harvest.

Donations to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are matched by the Canadian Government four to one and help feed people in places where food is scarce.

Both harvests went ahead with the help of volunteers and donations, with lunch being held in the field the day of harvest.

Top left: A chili lunch is served at the Moosomin harvest.

Top right: Four of the combines that came out to help take off the crop in Kola.

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Left: The Burke outfit harvesting in the 1950s.

Burke says harvest has changed over the years

BY ANDREA JAENEN

It was 1940—and a very different world—when 12-year-old Alec Burke got to help with his first harvest.

Before that, Burke would come home from school and change out a team of horses for the harvest crew, but 1940 was the year he actually got to be part of the crew. It was tough keeping up with the big guys. “I was 12 years old and had a hard time keeping up.”

That year, he stayed on the farm through the harvest. “You didn’t go to school, you stayed home and helped with harvest, then you went to school,” he says.

Harvest was a group effort. “Three or four farmers would go together and farm, for the thrashing. Each one of them brought a team and rack. You would have four teams going at all times. When one team pulled out, another would pull in.”

Burke says there were usually eight or nine people per field helping with the harvest.

“I always felt sorry for mother. She had to cook for that many if we thrashed or didn’t.”

He says sometimes at harvest his mother would hire another woman to give her a hand—usually a girl who was school aged, or just out of school.

“Usually around the table at the end of the day there

would be 10 people. My Uncle was quite a jokester and he would keep everybody laughing. We always had something to tell him.”

Farmers would also bring in extra help for the harvest. In the 1940s the federal government would pay for the transportation of men from Ontario to help with the harvest on the Prairies.

“We hired men from Ontario, we only paid them \$5 a day. They would turn 130 acres of oats. That was a heavy job—it would take them a week to stook it,” says Burke.

“They would stay at the hotel at Fairlight, and there would be a man there who would disperse them to different farms. Sometimes they were good, sometimes they were not worth a damn,” he said with a laugh.

Burke says time was always a factor when thrashing. “In them days we cut everything a little on the green side. We usually would start about the 11th of August. We would start cutting with the binder. If we had a real ripe field we hoped we could get it thrashed before we had to stook it, but that usually didn’t happen.

“Sometimes we would stook it in the morning and cut with a binder in the afternoon.”

Continued on page 21

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Tantallon residents want better cell service

BY JULIA DIMA

For residents in the Village of Tantallon and the RM of Spy Hill, cell phone service has always been an issue.

In the Qu'Appelle Valley where Tantallon is located off Highway 8, there is no SaskTel cell phone service. Though there are towers located in Esterhazy, Spy Hill, and the K2 Potash Mine, but they do not provide service into the valley, where people in the village of 100 have learned to live with the challenges, using landlines, two-way radios in farm equipment, and giving friends and family estimates arrival times when traveling, in case of a break-down or accident in an area with no cell phone service.

"Traveling from work in Tantallon back home to Spy Hill, I basically call when I

leave and phone when I'm home, and they have a time for how long it should take me, in case something happens," says Wendy Brule who works at Valley View Hotel in Tantallon.

Overall, she says, people who come to Valley View don't take much issue with the lack of cell service, using the hotel's landline to call for rides.

"For the few seconds they are on the phone, it's not a huge impact to our phone bill," she adds. "I guess if we wanted to hire any more people, they might not want to come here because there is no service."

Donnette Howie lives in Tantallon, and she is certain the lack of cell phone service is stifling growth opportunities for Tantallon.

"Everyone has cell phones, everyone relies on

them—it's a necessity. If you're trying to draw people to town, nobody will want to move here if they learn there's no service. I've heard people comment, 'if you had cell service, it would draw people to move in.'" Howie says. She says the problem was really highlighted during the flooding at the end of June, where communication was vital—and impossible.

"Nobody had a cell phone, and everyone had to keep running home to see if anyone's called, and the mayor and the councillors spent countless hours running around—they had to have people stay in the house just to man the phones, so it caused a lot of disruption in the process. The flooding made it clear that this is a serious issue," she says.

Howie used to work in



Residents of Tantallon are lucky if they can get a bar of service on their cell phones in the valley. Pat McCutcheon tries to get a signal on her phone in the town, but the best chance is to drive to the top of the valley. The SaskTel towers located around Tantallon at the potash mines do not work in the valley.

Rocanville, and like Brule, if she was traveling in the valley, she would have to call to let her family know when she was supposed to be home to avoid getting stranded.

The Village has tried to get the situation changed.

"We've sent letters to SaskTel, to our MLA, everywhere, and we keep getting rejections. I think cost is the biggest factor there—they won't recover their costs of placing a tower here with less than 100 people," says administrator Susan Gawryluk.

Many people are used to the issue and working around it themselves, but Gawryluk says the village still tries to get SaskTel's attention on the issue each year, to no avail.

"I feel like SaskTel for-

gets about the little people, the small towns," she says.

RM of Spy Hill Reeve Robert Bruce says it's an issue in communication with RM staff and contractors doing work, if it happens to be in the valley.

"We've worked out a system . . . we have our guys give estimates of how long they will be in the valley and inform everyone when they are going into the valley. So if they are not contacting us after that time estimate, we go check on them," he says. "I find that very frustrating."

SaskTel says they have no plans for upgrades in the Tantallon region.

"There are approximately 100 people in the town and it is located in a valley which would require us to construct a new tower,

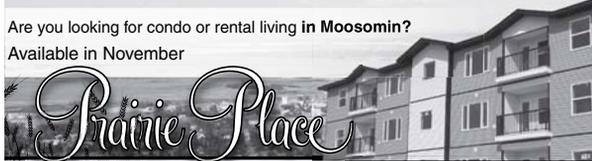
which costs upwards of \$500,000," says Michelle Englot with SaskTel. As with other communities, SaskTel needs a positive business case before spending the money to construct a tower, and there is not one in Tantallon.

"In terms of it not being a business case model, we're not the only 100 using it," says Howie. "People come down for wings at Valley View, for holidays, or traveling. A lot of people would benefit."

SaskTel does have a community participation model that would shift the costs of building a tower mostly onto the community, but few feel it is a good option since the community of taxpayers is so small.

"It feels like we have no options," adds Gawryluk.

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Canadiens alumni coming to Moosomin

BY JULIA DIMA
 Minor hockey season kicked off in October, and this year's season opener in Moosomin, Sask. has minor hockey organizers excited. The Montreal Canadiens Alumni team will be coming to Moosomin on October 24 to play a game of hockey with anyone who wants to take on the players—many of them, Habs legends.

In the past, the alumni would play games in communities across Quebec, and this year, they are expanding to play games and host meet and greets in 50 communities across Canada. Moosomin is the only Saskatchewan stop for the team.

"I was surprised that they'd come to Moosomin—seems to be some pretty big names coming to small town, so it's great. It puts us on the map for the hockey world. There has been a lot done for our arena, and the addition to the Communiplex, so it's a great facility to hold something like this—we can have the pre-game supper, and the game, and the lounge too all in one place," says Greg Sweet, with the minor hockey board.

Jason Wiens, director of Moosomin minor hockey, says it's a great chance to showcase the quality of rink.

"Overall, we think it's a benefit to minor hockey and as well, we've got a great facility in the rink and the new hall—to have ex-NHLers in our rink is a pretty neat thing to have happen," he says.

There are many ways the public can get involved—tickets to watch the game are \$20. \$75 will pay for the VIP experience, which includes supper and drinks, a chance to meet the players, get photographs and autographs, and to watch the game. Tickets for a table of five in the lounge are \$500. Or for those who want to strap on their skates and get on the ice, registering as a player is \$100. Currently, there are eight players signed up, and registration is open to anyone in the Southeast Saskatchewan and Western Manitoba region that wants to play.

The Canadiens alumni that will be in Moosomin are Richard Sevigny, Gilbert Delorme, Karl Dykhuis, Mathieu Dandenault, Rick Green, Normand Dupont, Sergio Mossesso, Stéphane Richer, Guy Carbonneau, and Hockey Hall of Famer Steve Shutt. The team will be coached by Yvon Lam-

bert, famous for winning four consecutive Stanley Cups with the Habs from 1976 to 1979, and scoring the overtime game winning goal in game seven against the Boston Bruins in 1979.

Lambert, along with Guy Lafleur, has been coaching the alumni team for three years. He says it's exciting to make the road trip out to Saskatchewan, and it will be his first time visiting Moosomin.

"We play once or twice a year in little communities, and it's lots of fun. It's all about meeting as many people as we can, and making them happy," he says. "For us, it's nice. The Canadiens are really popular especially right now with the year they had. So, for us ex-Canadiens, it's always a pleasure to talk about hockey, to meet people, and to see that people are pleased to meet us. It's our job, and that's why we go all over the place—meet people, sign autographs, and talk about hockey with the local hockey organization."

Lambert says it's also a chance for the alumni to come together, and talk to their old teammates.

"The guys do like to go out because it's often the only chance to see the boys, to see ex-hockey

players. Rick Green for example, is coming on this trip—I don't see him too often, I don't see Steve too often, who played with me. It gives us the occasion to have fun all together, to bring up some really good memories, and also to have fun."

Lambert says the games are very casual and friendly, but jokes that some of the retired players still have that winning spirit.

"It's a friendly game, a good show for the community—but there is always still competition, these Canadiens old-timers want to win," he laughs.

There are many younger retirees like Guy Carbonneau, and Lambert says the older retired players are still impressive on the ice.

"The oldest player is Steve Shutt, he's a Hall of Famer, and he's still really good—we don't skate as fast as we used to, but the puck still moves, and the boys give a good show out there."

The highlight of the visits, Lambert says, is to get to meet fans in the community.

"It's still early, but everyone we've talked to is very excited about it," Wiens said, "I know a community like St. Lazare is absolutely pumped because

the timing was perfect. They're starting the power skating camp on Friday, then there's that Habs game, and then the power skating throughout the weekend... Junior Hock-

Sweet adds that because it is the only Saskatchewan stop on the tour, that they will be able to attract people from all over the region. There are about 200 VIP tickets available, which have to be bought in advance, but the tickets to the game can be bought at the door as well.

"We think this will be a good chance to draw from a large crowd of people," Sweet says.

The game falls on a good chance to draw from the Minor Hockey power skating camp for kids in minor hockey, which takes place Friday to Sunday.

"It seemed to us that

ey weekend is the weekend after, so it's a really great way for us to kick off our season too. It all just worked out, timing-wise," Wiens says.

Continued on page 13



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Photos courtesy of Bell Centre

Left: Hockey Hall of Fame member Steve Shutt will be one of the Canadiens alumni in Moosomin. Right: Stéphane Richer and Mathieu Dandaneault, who will also be coming to Moosomin, playing with a minor hockey team in Baie St. Paul, Quebec.

Canadiens alumni coming to Moosomin

Continued from page 9

The game has benefits for minor hockey as well. Wiens says the board is hoping to use the money made through ticket sales to start a university scholarship fund for kids in minor hockey.

"We're setting up a scholarship fund, so what we're going to do is if you've played your minor hockey, right through midget with Moosomin minor hockey, you'll be able to apply for this scholarship that we're going to set up. The scholarship will be set up from this and other events going forward, but this will be the start of that scholarship fund," Wiens says. "I like the idea of tying this event to something that is long-term in the development of our scholarship fund, so that we can say, you know, this is what kickstarted it, and moving forward, that will be a cool thing to have kids apply for yearly, and have it as an encouragement for kids to stay in minor hockey, and also get some funding for their post-secondary education."

Wiens says minor hockey has grown in Moosomin significantly over the last few years, with over 100 kids involved, and over 50 coaches, board members, and volun-

teers. Sweet says last year was the first year there were kids in every level of minor hockey.

"This year, there are teams in all levels. In the past, we haven't had that. In older groups, you'd have to join up with surrounding communities, but now, we're able to have all levels for the kids. The numbers are up. In the younger age groups, there are two teams in every age group up to Atom," he says.

The area that's seen a lot of recent growth is the girls team.

"Our girls program is growing exponentially—that's very successful for us. There's no league for them, but we have upwards of 18 girls registered. This has been happening in the last two or three years," says Wiens. "It has grown right across the province too, SHA's (Saskatchewan Hockey Association) biggest growth is in female hockey—I think the Olympics is a huge part of that, having Colleen Sostorics from Kennedy. There are people from our area playing at the Olympic level, and I think it's inspiring our girls to play."

The hockey family is common in rural Saskatchewan, and many kids are wearing skates as soon as they can stand. But Sweet says a lot of the girls in minor hockey often join with no hockey experience at all.

"Lots of the girls were figure skaters, or didn't play skate at all before. But this is their own thing," Sweet says. "For me, the biggest thing was to watch them improve from the start of the season. It was good to see some girls who could hardly stand up on skates at first skating laps at the end."

Wiens says that even though some of the young kids in minor hockey might not know the Canadiens alumni, he hopes that all kids feel inspired to stay involved in hockey.

"I hope that the Habs coming out shows the kids that you can keep on playing hockey, and if you put the hard work in, you can play hockey professionally, but you've got to put that work in and drive that discipline."

Tickets for the alumni tour can be purchased from any minor hockey board member, at the Moosomin town office, Bradley's Automotive, Maple Farm Equipment, and Decorby's in St. Lazare. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone.

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The future faces of farming

BY JULIA DIMA
After a farming season like 2014, with spring rains, flooding, and low crop prices, many veteran farmers are feeling the downside of what it means to be a career farmer. But optimism is what keeps farmers afloat in the precarious world of agriculture. It is passed down generation to generation along with farm. In Southwest Saskatchewan and Southwestern Manitoba, many young people are choosing to continue farming with their families, and planning to take over the farm. Why stay when the industry can be so precarious?

"It's a love of the industry, a love of the community," says Benjamin Dietrich. Benjamin is in his third year of Animal Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He grew up farming southwest of Moosomin with his father, Ken, and little brother, Owen. Benjamin, who was always academically throughout school had originally wanted to pursue engineering. By 10th grade, he knew he wanted the farm life more than the engineer life.

"I came to an appreciation for the diversity of work, and I just developed a love for the farm work. I decided at that age that I was not going to be appeased by just having a desk job. I liked the idea of being my own boss, and all the things you can do, you're never wearing the same hat for more than a few weeks at a time," he says.

The Dietrich farm is primarily a cattle operation, and until recently, prices for cattle were low and the industry was suffering. Benjamin knows the risks and challenges of cattle farming his father has faced in past years, but says it doesn't faze him. "You have to learn to adjust and see the blows in the industry coming before they hit you. You have to be your own best guard. It's like anything else, it's intimidating, but if you go at it with a positive attitude, it is something you can overcome. It's certainly not impossible," he says. One of his big motivations for going to university was to supplement his farm knowledge with an understanding of farming as a business, and expand his understanding beyond the family farm.

"I figured university could teach me things you just can't learn on the farm, and vice versa. I felt that university would be an excellent cross between the skills I have from growing up on the farm," he says. "You learn a lot from the expertise of other people, and it really gives you an idea about what others in the industry are doing, and you can apply that to your own experience of what we've seen slowly."

He also believes his agriculture education gives him other options if the farm is not viable as an income, since the skills are not tied to farming alone. The risk and precariousness in farming is often a discussion for young people to farm, but Benjamin says he would not want a career with no risk-taking.

"I like the challenge of it—all a lot of people nowadays like the security of a typical day job, and they don't want to challenge themselves in anything. Kind of have an appreciation for the complexity and challenge of everything in farming."

Owen Dietrich, Benjamin's younger



brother, is in grade 12 at McNaughton High School, and he is planning to begin farming full time after school, while pursuing a trade as well. Owen was not always convinced he wanted to spend his life farming. "I felt I wanted to farm a lot growing up, because the farm was the only thing I knew. Then I went a year or two where I decided I didn't want to be on the farm, and then I got very busy with school and extra-curricular activities, and I was away from the farm life for a long time—that's when I decided it was something I couldn't really live without," he says. "I realized, when I went for a while without it, how much I actually wanted it. I realized it was something that is part of me."

Like his brother, Owen is attracted to the uncertainty and the constant changes in the farming world. "There's so much to do and you are always learning something else because there is such variety in work. I like learning stuff and getting my hands dirty." Owen says he is intimidated by the business aspect of the farm, and hopes that having his brother beside him when they inherit the farm will make that challenge easier.

"I have learned a bit about business but I think it's something you slowly learn as you go into it... Ben and I are planning on working together, so he is learning that side of it too in University."

Owen says what he is most excited about is making the decisions on the farm, and being his own boss. The risk and precariousness in farming is often a discussion for young people to farm, but Benjamin says he would not want a career with no risk-taking.

"I look forward to being able to step back more and manage. Right now, I am being told what I need to do and that is my focus. I am interested in being on the management end of that—to have a say about crops, harvest, cattle shipping. I feel like it will be exciting, but interesting."

Both young men say they would never farm it if it was not what they loved to do. But

the history of the family farm gives them pride in continuing the next generation of farming.

"I do have a sense of pride in having the family farm for so long," Benjamin says.

Owen agrees, and says the farm has a long history that he thinks is important to keep going. John Wilson, who just graduated from McNaughton High School says he feels a lot of responsibility to the farm, since he is the only person in his family who wants to keep farming.

"I think it's important to keep the family farm going—it's the right thing to do. I think I know dad would not want me doing this if I didn't want to but still, I feel responsible to the farm. Of all my other dad's siblings, none of their kids are farming. I am the only one, so I feel like it is quite a big responsibility, and it's a lot of pressure. Everyone in Scotland talks about it and what I've been doing. My grandpa is a farmer, and he was farming all his life, so all he wants to know now in his old age is about the farm here in Canada," Wilson says.

Wilson immigrated to Moosomin six years ago with his parents, and it was not until he was in Moosomin did he realize farming was what he was passionate about. "In Scotland, I did a lot of soccer, and did only a little bit on the farm. I didn't quite know what I wanted to do until we came over here, and I started learning more, and that's when I decided I wanted to farm. It was just that everything is so different—you are always doing something different. I guess also, to see it all growing, and thinking that you did that yourself," he says.

Now finished high school, Wilson spends the days farming alongside his father, and works evenings at Prairie Livestock. He says he took on the Prairie Livestock job as his work experience project in school, because he missed cattle farming, since his family had a dairy farm in Scotland. Now the job has become a source of supplemental income. Still, Wilson wants to be on the farm with his family all the time. As he gets older, Wilson says he is becoming aware of how much he needs to learn about farm management. "Because I am getting older, dad is explaining more things, and why he does stuff the way he does—how everything works when you're the main farmer. It's a lot of stuff to take in, so many things to know and remember, and that is a challenge. Remembering everything is the challenge, for all the GPS stuff and technology. I don't really like computers, I tend to just hit buttons until it works, and then dad asks me how I did it, and I don't know—so that is going to be a challenge... It's scary because I still have so much to learn—dad keeps going on about it, telling me, one



From Left: John Wilson just graduated high school, and is now farming with his parents south of Moosomin, and working at Prairie Livestock. Wilson wants to take over the family farm. Benjamin Dietrich is in his third year of Animal Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He was raised on a cattle farm and is using his education to go back to the farm and run it with his brother Owen. Owen Dietrich is in his last year of high school in Moosomin, and his helping his father farm. With his brother, Owen plans on working on the farm full time, and learning a trade to supplement farming.

Julia Dima photos. Middle photo courtesy of Benjamin Dietrich.

day this is all mine," Wilson says. "Dad and I never used to see eye-to-eye, because I was always doing my own thing, and he wouldn't pressure me into farming, he'd just give me the option if I wanted it. But, the last couple years, our relationship has gotten good, and I think it will get better, because he sort of knows that I really want to do this now."

Wilson says the risks and difficulties in farming, are daunting but not discouraging, even after a harvest year like this one. "The hardest thing this year was seeing everything ready, but not being able to get out there on the field, and watching everything get spoiled," Wilson says. "But, you make due. I just keep doing what I'm doing, and every year I am getting better at it."

John Van Eaton says the tough years are as valuable as the good years for young farmers. His son, Tyler Van Eaton is 27 and farming full time with his father. "It's not good for the younger guys to know not every year is going to be record yields—it's a reality check, and they have to make that decision on their own, whether they are prepared to commit to this business long-term, because not every year will be stellar, but not every year will be horrible either. You need to know what is beyond your control, no matter how hard you work," John says.

His son's reasons for staying on the farm is his love of the farm life. "It's not an easy life, but it depends how you look at it—you have to look at it as a lifestyle. There are lots of variables that are uncontrollable, but there's also lots that are. You have to have a love for it, and enjoy doing it and I think you have to have the type of personality to take bigger risks too. I changed tires and oils while I was in university, and there was no risk in that. You showed up, and got a paycheck whether

there's people come in the door or not," he says. "You have to be positive to farm, you can't be negative, it's easy to get yourself down, especially with the last couple years, and the weather."

Tyler worked a number of jobs, and also studied Agribusiness at the University of Saskatchewan. He believes working off the farm is what reinforced his passion to come back to the farm.

"One of the biggest things was knowing what else was out there... I feel for myself that I would doubt if this was the right thing for me to do if I did not go out and try something else before. I've had a lot of off-farm jobs, but this is the one that makes me happiest, and I'm satisfied in saying that now," he says.

Kristian Hebert, 32, left his job as a certified accountant to farm with his parents and wife. He worked in corporate financial accounting, and decided taking farm management and innovation into his own hands was what he wanted.

"I saw a lot of opportunity in agriculture—I saw it when I quit, and I still do, and it's how I wanted to raise my family. What makes farming exciting is the handling of the uncertainties. Farm management is what I find most exciting," Hebert says. "I would highly recommend to any younger people who are thinking about working on the farm to leave and work for a couple years to see other people. The stuff you see and bring back to the farm is invaluable. You can get stuck in the same ruts if you never leave, because you think the same way is the right way all the time. But thinking, 'this is how we've always done it' is one of the most dangerous things in agriculture today." Despite the difficult years, Hebert says his love of the farming life is keeping him on the heels.

"I have a lot of people who work for me, so watching my employees learn new

things, and take on new challenges is motivating. Even just watching my kid ride with me in the combine—there is lots of good things still. It's been a tough year, but there are always ways to manage risk within farming," he says.

Gabriel Hubeerdeau is 26 and farms east of St. Lazare with his uncle, and it is keeping his family farm alive that is motivating him.

"In 2010, my dad passed away, so I stepped in and filled his role and I haven't looked back yet. I just want to keep the family farm in the family if I can, that's pretty important to me," Hubeerdeau says. "And in tough years, like this one, you plan for the worst and hope for the best. You never know what the next year will bring."

Ryan Fouillard also farms near St. Lazare with his father, Angelo. At 25, he now owns 600 acres in his own name, and wants to inherit his dad's farm.

"Dad is there for guidance and support, but it's definitely tough—it's an eye-opener when you see how much you have to put into it, and it is a risk, but toward the end of the year, it seems to pay off, and that encourages me to keep growing," Fouillard says. "This year was hard, but you have to just keep looking forward to next year, we're already planning for next year."

Sawyer Hruska is 23, and he is the only one of Kevin Hruska's three sons who wants to farm full time. Sawyer will be inheriting a large farming operation near Gerald, about 40,000 acres. He says that aspect is intimidating, but with a business certificate and his dad's guidance, he is learning the mechanics of operating the farm, including farming his own land.

"I knew I wanted to farm for a while. When you're young, you love the tractor, and the outdoors and all that, but I think more when I was a teenager, I became more knowledgeable of what happened on the farm and being part of it was more exciting then," he says. "I have experience running equipment but experience with the marketing of farming is limited—there are certain things I'm still learning about in terms of agronomy and prices, and quality."

But Sawyer says he is not intimidated by the challenges ahead. "One thing my dad taught me was that you have to look at the bright side—weather is a big factor, and there is nothing you can do about that. It's looking forward to the next year, that helps. You keep looking forward to a better year."

Kevin Hruska says that positivity in the face of negativity around the future of farming is what his business has grown, and why he is keeping it going.

"I always thought there was a future in farming, and that is what kept me going. In the eighties, nobody wanted to farm, so



did. I didn't care about all the gloom and doom of how bad farm life was, and how you were better off going to the city and working '9 to 5," he says. "You just never say die. I guess if you love what you're doing, you've got the system beat already."

Kevin says at 50, he was thinking about selling the farm when he retired, but his son keeps him going now.

"If I didn't have another generation on my farm, I might quit. I'm working now for Sawyer, I'm not going to sell it, I am going to fizzle out and let him take over. He is what's driving me along now. My goal is to pass the sword successfully to him."

The young farmers feel motivated because they have the family support. "I don't think I'd be able to do this if not for my dad, it's pretty near impossible if some young guy just wants to farm but has no support, it can be a tough go," says Fouillard.

Van Eaton and Hruska say they would still try farm, even if their fathers did not. With the current price of land and equipment, starting from scratch is nearly impossible. But not entirely so, and there are many farmers under 40 who are trying. Adrian Swarbrick with Saskatchewan

Young Agriculture says the biggest challenge for young farmers is the cost of farm land.

"It's a big challenge for young guys to farm, because we are fighting against large investor companies to buy enough farm land here in Saskatchewan to be viable. There are a lot of young farmers frustrated with investment companies. For the last 80 years, we've been mostly owning the farm land, and now it is getting to be a lot of lease land, and investment owned land. You want enough land that you can just farm, and not have to have an off-farm job to supplement yourself," he says. "And sometimes the older farmers are not pursuing younger generations to come and take it over, they are putting it up for the highest bidder. There are thousands of young people who want to farm if they could just get a chance."

Professor William Brown, head of the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan says starting a farm from scratch is close to impossible.

"You would have to be very knowledgeable on agronomy, machinery repair, and you'd need at least a million dollars to get into the situation. Everyone I know in my experience in agriculture has inherited something from someone to help them out. But it's never say never. No, you can't go out and start a 3,000 acre grain farm and just expect to make money. It's about starting slow, renting land, doing a labour agreement, sharing agreement, things like this."

This year, 999 students were enrolled in agronomy, an all-time high for the college, according to Brown. He says most of his students in his farm management class want to stay involved in the family farm part-time, with a few wanting to farm full-time.

"I try to talk to my students about the risk of agriculture—costing out machinery and understanding financial statements, talking about what makes money on the farm. We look at land values, and how they fluctuate, to give them a better understanding of all the factors," Brown says. "Anybody familiar with the farming industry knows it is risky. It's precarious and worrisome to have your entire income sitting out on a field getting rained on... but it's the independence, like any other small business that attracts young people. People want to make their own money, and that is what makes it so appealing. There are those benefits—agriculture is a great life."

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"I feel for myself that I would doubt if this was the right thing for me to do if I did not go out and try something else before. I've had a lot of off-farm jobs, but this is the one that makes me happiest, and I'm satisfied in saying that now."

—Tyler Van Eaton

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Carbon capture project garners world attention

Saskatchewan's power utility is heralding its carbon capture and storage project, touted as the world's first commercial-scale operation of its kind.

SaskPower says more than 250 people from at least 20 countries attended the opening of the \$1.4-billion project Thursday.

It will take carbon-capture emissions released by the Boundary Dam power plant near Estevan and release the gas deep underground using a steel pipeline for storage.

Premier Brad Wall said the project helps curb greenhouse gas emissions while creating affordable energy.

Critics of the technology argue that it doesn't effectively address environmental concerns because it justifies the burning of fossil fuels.

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Manitoba farmers still without 2011 compensation

BY JULIA DIMA

Three years after the flooding in the Assiniboine Valley flooded his family farm and drove his parents out of their home, Kelly Belhumeur is still fighting to receive help in getting his life and farm back together. Walking around his farm, where debris is still scattered in the saturated mud surrounding his house, and a garden of bullrushes is growing on pastureland, Belhumeur is feeling exhausted from trying to get back to normal. When the valley flooded again after heavy rains in late June this year, the farmstead, just outside of St. Lazare, filled with water again. It happened so quickly that Belhumeur had no time to get his vehicles, equipment, or cattle to a safe distance. The cattle made their way up to higher ground, but just as in 2011, Belhumeur lost farm equipment, belongings, and his field, though he has been unable to seed a crop since 2011. In 2011, Belhumeur's family applied for disaster financial assistance (DFA), and never received any money, aside from an offer of \$10,000, which Belhumeur understood was all the family was being offered for compensation. After three years of trying to understand why they were not receiving compensation, and trying to navigate the confusing paperwork and regulations of the DFA program, the Belhumeurs were able to take their case to appeal in late August.

"We gave our side of the story, EMO gave their side of the story, and it's just in the hands of the appeal board now," he says. When the farm flooded in 2011, the only access road flooded as well. It was months before the Belhumeurs could get to their farm and deal with the damage. "EMO said that we had taken too much time to get back here to repair the damage, which when they came out to inspect, had already been sitting in three and a half months of damage. They wanted us to already be fixing the house, and we explained that as fast as we were pumping the basement, it was coming back in, so we couldn't even start repair. The guy from EMO who was at the appeal didn't really understand that—I don't think he knew our story beforehand... This was two guys that were probably handed the paperwork and that's it. If it was someone that was in contact with my family, maybe it would have been better."

Belhumeur says the appeal was still helpful, because the appeal board understood his frustrations with EMO.

"The appeal board couldn't understand that, and they couldn't understand how EMO wanted us to start repairing when the basement was still full of water. They had a lot of questions for EMO—why the communication ended, why there was so much confusion. Now we are anxiously waiting... at least we tried," he says. After the appeal, Belhumeur was told he would have the results of the meeting in 10 days. It has been three weeks, and he has not received any correspondence. Belhumeur says he just wants to see his parents get their lives back.

"I told EMO, my parents weren't living in a mansion by any means, but this was their home. They don't want a mansion in return, they just want a home to come back to, something that can be theirs again," he says.

Belhumeur is just one of many farmers in the Southwest corner of Manitoba who have felt wronged by the provincial government after the 2011 floods.

"It's everyone affected by flooding in 2011," says Reg Hewler, the conservative critic for EMO and MIT (Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation). "We hear in question period various numbers about the number of claims in 2011 paid out, and they're not always the same number. We hear from a number of constituents who are still dealing with claims from 2011, and have been through many adjusters so, they go through the first one, they get called



In 2011, both Fred Neil (left) and Pete Penner watched their farms become lakes. Both applied for disaster assistance, and received almost nothing. Both would like to leave their farms to their children and grandchildren, and fear that with financial loss, and uncertainty of future flooding disasters, they will have nothing to offer their families.

away, a new one comes in and is looking for information you gave the first adjuster, you have to make sure you have copies of everything—it's a very confusing and long process for people."

Hewler says hearing stories of constituents like Belhumeur shows an urgent need for quicker turnaround from the government.

"I hear about difficulty with adjusters in terms of knowing what is eligible, issues with various programs they have to apply under, information that keeps changing from the adjusters, issues with documentation, if you give paperwork to an adjuster, it can get lost and misplaced—some people just give up and just deal with it themselves," he says. For farmers, dealing with it themselves is necessary if they want to survive.

"You just have to try to get on with your life," says Fred Neil, a dairy farmer near Hartney, Manitoba.

Neil's dairy farm is about half a mile from the Souris River, and in 2011, he was forced to evacuate the farm.

"The survey crews came out a week before the water hit, and they made a mark on my barn here, and said 'this is as high as the water is going to rise,'" says Neil, pointing to a faded mark on the outside of his barn, about six feet high. "What are you supposed to do with information like that, you have a week to get everything out."

In that week, Neil had hundreds of people on the farm helping him strip out the barns, relocate equipment, and super-sandbag around his home. Once everything was out, Neil still had 250 cows to get off the property.

"Of course, no one farm could take them, and I had to split them into six different farms," he says.

After nine weeks, Neil could bring his herd back, there were issues with the cows already.

"We were averaging 29 kilograms per cow before, and when they came back, we were doing 21, because cows are creatures of habit, and the stress of the move was hard on them," he says. "We had to get another 40 odd cows in just to fill our quota."

Five months later is when the true nightmare started, Neil says.

"What came back with the cows from the move was mycoplasma, a disease nobody had ever seen in cows here before. You can get a vaccine for it in the States, but it is not allowed in Canada. We had 52 per cent mortality the first year back.

"I was thinking, 'what the hell is going

on? We'd never seen anything like mycoplasma before. It is a disease in the joints, like arthritis, and they could not get up, they could not walk, if you could get them up, they would just fall... our veterinarian told us it was a contact disease that likely came from one of the farms. It was heartbreaking to watch. Some of these cows, my wife raised from calves," Neil says. "How she keeps her sanity is beyond me. You come out here every morning at 4:30, wondering what the hell is going to hit you today, and you're losing a cow every two days."

Neil wound up having to restructure his herd, repair the damage, and sell some of his dairy quota. He decided he would never evacuate his farm again, and built a massive dyke between his farm and the flooded pasture between him and the Souris River. Since 2011, Neil has incurred \$1.5 million in debt. He has received \$85,000 from DFA.

"That was a goodwill gesture from our premier. Everything else we've done here that's cost me money, they claim is a farm improvement. How is it a farm improvement? If we had not been so determined and bloody-minded, we would have just walked away from the place," he says.

Doyle Piwinski, the MLA for Arthur-Virden, who has been in communication with Neil and other constituents facing issues getting compensation, says he has raised Neil's concerns in question period on two different occasions, with no action being taken. Neil himself met with Premier Greg Selinger, and says that meeting led to no solutions.

"I've missed two milkings since 2011, and one was when I went to Winnipeg to meet the Premier. He said 'Don't worry, we'll look after you.' What a load of nonsense," Neil says.

Neil says he just wants to be able to get back to where he was in before 2011.

"Just compensate us for what we've lost. \$1.5 million—nobody can stand that loss. I feel like they are keeping me at arm's length and finding stuff to nitpick about, instead of giving out financial disaster assistance, which, in my understanding of it, comes from the federal government, and then the province distributes it out. It seems to get to Winnipeg and that's it. Where it goes after that, I have no idea... It's just bureaucracy gone mad."

Other farmers in the region who have lost crops and livelihoods and not received assistance feel that getting the money back is futile at this point—they want to see real solutions.

Jack Edwards and Pete Penner farm near Boissevain and Deloraine, on opposite sides of Whitewater Lake. In 2011, Whitewater Lake flooded, and despite building dykes protecting their land, both farmers were flooded. In 2014, Pete Penner was hit even harder, with four sections entirely under water. Looking at an aerial photograph taken of his land after 2014's flood, Penner points to the dyke he built around his house, that managed to save a small patch of land. "I live on an island now" he says.

In 2011, Penner says he was told he was eligible for DFA, but the hope of receiving any actual compensation disintegrated as the process dragged on.

"They said I was covered, but I was not receiving any payments. Someone from EMO came out here, and saw that I was not getting paid. I filled out the paperwork four times, and they kept phoning me needing more information. I sent them my income tax three times to verify that I was a bona fide farmer, and they kept losing it. I was getting so frustrated, that I said, 'is this worth my while anyhow?' They told me yes, it was. I did get something from them—I claimed \$1,500 for a fence repair, and that is the only money I got back. I didn't get anything for pumping, or for the dyke I built, or anything else. And the people from EMO were telling me 'that should be covered, reapply.' I got the \$1,500 to fix the fence, and that is the last I heard from them," he says.

Edwards was in the same situation in 2011, and was told he was not eligible for work he'd done, including building a dyke. In 2014, he was eligible for crop insurance, because he did seed a crop, which he lost 50 per cent of in the flood.

"I have so many claims for unseeded acres with crop insurance, that I fear pretty soon guys like me are going to get kicked out of the program. Unfortunately through no fault of our own, we can't seed year after year, and premiums get higher, coverage gets lower, it comes to a point that you wonder if it's worth it to take on this insurance... Farmers still have to pay taxes, crop or no crop. We ask the RM for tax breaks, but they still have to survive too," Edwards says.

Edwards has a son who wants to take over the family farm, and like Neil, he fears he'll have nothing left for his family to inherit of the water does not recede.

"You do what you have to do and hope it gets better. My son is interested in this game, he is trying to get into farming. When we looked out over the farm on June 29, I should have told him to run far away that day—but, he's hopefully in it for the long haul."

Penner has the same worries for his son and grandson.

"They want to farm, and this is what I have to offer to them now, it's pathetic. We had a very good viable operation, but when you lose four sections of it, it sucks. Your income is cut pretty bad. The farm can't keep losing 2,500 acres a year and still survive," Penner says.

"If we can get a better drainage system, that would solve some of these issues—get the water moving. This has been talked to death, we go round and round with the government on it, and it's time to act," Edwards says.

There is a solution for the farmers around Whitewater Lake, according to the farmers, and RMs of Morton and Winchester that surround the lake.

"Fifteen creeks go into Whitewater Lake, and it makes its way out to Souris only through Medora Creek. Basically, runoff from Whitewater Lake has flooded every farmer around the lake entirely," says RM of Morton Reeve Bob McCallum. "We have to get this water out of the lake so that these people can get their lives back."

Continued on page 22



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Burke says harvest has changed over the years

Continued from page 7
Burke says everything changed when they got their first combine.

"In 1951 we got a combine and that was the end of thrashing," he says. "My favorite time was when we did away with the thresher and got a combine. I did more combining than I did thrashing, although there's no comparison between early combines and those today."

But the combine still wasn't everything. "We had bad years combining too—1985 we had all that rain. It was worse than it was this year."

"I had my last combine

for nineteen years."

Burke says the size of farms has changed significantly.

"In my time there was a farmer every half section. Nowadays there are four or five thousand acres to do."

"There is a big difference between then and now. Now they're trying to farm all of Saskatchewan."

Burke says he started farming on his own in 1946.

"My brother and I farmed together for a few years until we got our own outfits and then we separated and went on our own."

"I was left a half section when I first started, when my father passed away. I took over the farm, I was farming three sections then. Although most new farmers started out with a quarter section."

Crops were different back then, says Burke.

"We didn't have canola or any special crops—we mostly had wheat, oats and barley—those were the main three. Sometimes we'd do maybe 20 or 30 acres of rye in case we didn't have any hay. We tried to do flax, but flax wasn't very competitive with weeds."

Burke says the quality of

crops is much better now. "The quality of crops has increased—there's no doubt about that. We were always told that we were never going to grow enough grain to feed the world. We don't realize it in this part of the world but we really do feed the world."

Today Burke lives in Pipestone Villas in Moosomin. Burke says there are some things he still misses about farming.

"Family life is the good life, but I think I went through one of the better times," he says. "I've had hard times, and I've had good times. So you gotta

take one with the other.

"I think the biggest thing that I miss was when I was with my cattle. I miss them, I miss having a calf born every spring. You go out there and you were sure they were your family—you'd treat one a little better than the other."

He says harvest is still a special time for him.

"I always look forward to harvest which I think some of the boys do now too, because they're driving three or four-hundred thousand dollar combines. It's a pretty nice way to farm, really. We didn't have that in my day, we had probably a little hard-

er work than there is now." Despite his nostalgia, Burke says because of his age, he's happy to let the younger farmers do the work.

"Well, I'll tell you one thing, I'm glad I'm not out there," he says with a laugh. "Sure I miss it, but age catches up with you. I farmed until '95 and then I quit farming. I had a real good retired life in Moosomin, and I enjoyed every minute of it. And it's nice to go out to the farm and see what's going on. I go out there for two or three hours before going back to what I was doing—which was nothing!"



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Manitoba farmers still without 2011 compensation

Continued from page 20

Farmers in the area would like better management of that creek, including gates and a channel so that it can be controlled. Edwards says there is a road allowance that can be turned into a controlled ditch for Medora Creek. He believes that this would have saved a large percentage of his farm.

"These people just want to farm their land. If the lake is going to run, let's put it into a channel that when it does get to its peak level, it's let go in a controlled way," says RM of Winchester Acting Reeve Gord Weidenhamer. They are hoping that the provincial government and Ducks Unlimited will work with the RM on constructing a controlled ditch.

"We need a real solution to this, to get the water down," adds Penner.

In the Assiniboine Valley near Virden, farmers have been trying to work on a viable solution to flood issues with the provincial government since 2007.

Keith Pearn and Stan Cochrane of the Assiniboine Valley Producers Association say that a government program that was intended to compensate them for flooding in the Assiniboine Valley, the Shellmouth Dam Act.

The Shellmouth Dam near the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Border, and controls water flow from Lake of the Prairies into the Assiniboine River. Since the mid-2000s, if the dam was full, and any heavy rainfall caused flooding, it would spill and flood farmers below the dam along the Assiniboine Valley.

"We told Premier Doer at that time, he has to see what's happening in the Assiniboine Valley below the dam," says Keith Pearn. "He acknowledged the issues and said 'we have to help you guys.'"

Pearn, Cochrane, and other producers worked with the Ministry of Agriculture on developing a program that would provide the flooded farmers with compensation for holding water. Under the ad hoc program developed, the farmers received small payouts in 2005, 2007, and 2010. The

Shellmouth Dam Act was passed in 2008, and received royal assent in February, 2011, after which point, management of the act was transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture to MIT.

"At no time did we have any say about the rules and regulations of the act," says Pearn. "The government decided everything that happened with it. Basically, it's not working. . . . As we sit here today, we have not had one nickel spent between here and Brandon to a landowner that has lost his crop."

The intent of the act was to compensate farmers when artificial flooding happened. The issue, Pearn says, is that the government determined the definition of artificial flooding without consulting with the producers impacted.

"They're saying most of the time it's natural flooding first before any artificial—your outflows from Lake of the Prairies have to be greater than your inflows before they say there is artificial flooding."

But Pearn and Cochrane argue that each time the dam is filled too high, and overflows with a storm, that is artificial flooding, and believe there would be less spillover if the province worked with Saskatchewan on managing drainage.

Pearn says that high water levels at the dam exacerbated the floods in 2010, 2011, 2012, and this year.

Cochrane says the definitions of artificial and natural flooding in the act are convoluted and that is preventing the farmers from being compensated.

"They made the act so complicated that it is hard to make it work. The key issue is what is artificial flooding? Now that it's floods every year, it's hard to call it natural, it's a combination of the water table and man-made drainage," Cochrane says.

The dam, Cochrane says, is kept full for irrigation, and it is important to Portage La Prairie and Brandon. But, the floods keep happening because the province overfills the dam.

"They get it up to or above summer level

early in the spring, and if a rain comes along, there is no capacity for flood control, and that is what happened in those two years. Even this spring—Keith and I had meetings in the spring, and the province said snow water would not be an issue. In the spring, they kept closing conduit on the dam, because they were concerned about not having enough water. A few weeks later, it was going over the spillway and dam was out of control. After this year's flood in June, it was six feet over the spillway."

Cochrane and Pearn would like to see spot loss insurance, or a similar program to address floods in the valley, since they don't believe the Shellmouth Dam Act will ever provide them with compensation.

Pearn says he wants to help his sons stay hopeful, but it is hard.

"They're very frustrated, very disappointed in what's taking place. In the same hand, they do realize we are going through wet years, and they are hopeful this will straighten out at some point, and we're also hopeful we're going to get some help to keep things rolling smoothly until this cycle does end, or some problems get solved," he says. "But we cannot continue farming this 40,000 acres between Shellmouth Dam and Brandon with this kind of uncertainty. If I am going to plant a crop and spend money putting in the crop each spring, not knowing if I've got something to protect me, might as well forget about it."

Piwniuk says Manitoba needs to start thinking long-term and big picture about the plights of these farmers.

"The big thing that has to happen—and it is starting to—the Assiniboine Basin Commission is being developed. That includes working with federal government, the provincial governments in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and also the governor in North Dakota. It is all one system," he says. "We can have all these small solutions, but we need to look at the big picture, and have something like the Red River Basin over here. We need to get everyone on board."

Both Pearn and Cochrane feel that un-

checked drainage in Saskatchewan is a big part of flooding issues downstream along the Assiniboine, and the provincial government in Manitoba is not doing enough to work with Saskatchewan on drainage concerns.

"Minister Ashton acknowledged that there is too much illegal drainage in Saskatchewan, and it's a problem. My question is, if he knows that the drainage happening in Saskatchewan is an issue, how can he call the flooding in Manitoba natural? To me, that's artificial."

Pearn adds that he feels the provincial government used disaster assistance programs as a quick-fix to issues that require long-term solutions.

"Government has been using it as a crutch for every flood that happens, they just say, 'Oh, you can use DFA.' But, it's obviously not working."

Piwniuk agrees, and he says that since 90 per cent of disaster funding is allocated by the federal government, that they need to be the first to tell the provinces it will no longer be the solution, and encourage mitigation.

"This is a chance, I think for the federal government to say 'Look, we can't keep giving you guys money'. Often with DFA, they require us to put everything back to its original condition to get reimbursed. You know how the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and getting the same results? That is exactly what is happening here. This is the opportunity for the federal government, and our MPs to get a better solution started."

Despite their stress and frustrations with the failure of the Shellmouth Dam Act, and the inaction of the government, Pearn and Cochrane say they are in the fight for compensation for the long run.

"These bureaucrats know they've got a problem, and as long as we keep pushing, this is a thorn in their side," Pearn says. "I think they want it to go away some day, and they're either going to have to deal with it by changing the legislation, or coming up with something that will work for farmers."



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20 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
22 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.	
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27 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
29 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE (CHAROLAIS INFLUENCE)	10 A.M.	
31 FRIDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.	
November			
3 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
5 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE (ANGUS INFLUENCE)	10 A.M.	
7 FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11 A.M.	
10 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
12 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.	
14 FRIDAY	REGULAR CATTLE SALE	9 A.M.	
17 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
19 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE (ANGUS INFLUENCE)	10 A.M.	
21 FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11 A.M.	
24 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.	
26 WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE	10 A.M.	
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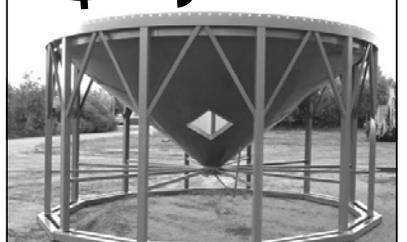
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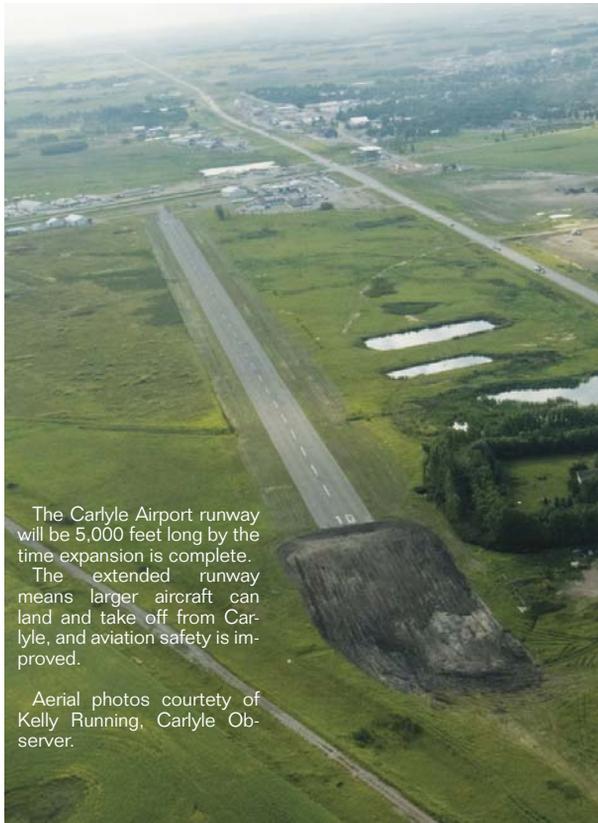
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Aerial photos courtesy of Kelly Running, Carlyle Observer.



Wet conditions this summer have set back construction on phase one of the airport expansion—the paving of an additional 500 feet of runway—but the full expansion of 1,500 feet of runway is expected to be completed in the next two to three years.

Julia Dima photo

Carlyle Airport expansion growing business in the region

BY JULIA DIMA

The Carlyle Airport, now called the Ted Brady Municipal Airport will be expanding significantly over the next two to three years. The improvements to the airport began around five years ago when the 3,153 foot runway was repaved, and a new GPS approach was installed to improve landing capabilities. Those improvements cost about \$535,000. Now, the airport commission is going to expand the length of the runway to 5,000 feet. In addition, the GPS approach was improved by installing a Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) GPS approach, that makes landing in poor visibility easier. With these improvements, the municipal airport would gain the designation of a regional airport, which would create more business opportunity.

"A regional airport is one designated to serve an area as opposed to a municipal airport—which is really more of a grass strip type of airport that is really just there for the local guys to deal with. A regional airport is serving a bigger footprint. We're not really a municipal airport because we are really busy. But to get into that regional designation, you need to have a little bit of a bigger facility, so we are working into getting into that footprint of truly becoming a regional airport, and when we get to 5,000 feet and with the new instrument approach we've got in here, we're getting into that space," explains Blair Andrew, co-chair of Carlyle's Airport Commission.

Currently, the airport has begun construction on phase one of the expansion, which is expanding the runway length to 3,700 feet. The first phase, along with the WAAS GPS will cost about \$325,000. The additional 1,500 feet of runway—which will be phase two, and be completed over the next two or three years—will cost another \$700,000.

Andrew says the biggest push for the improvements is safety.

"The longer the runway, the safer it is for any aviation activity," he says. "We had an instance this year where we had an accident and they ended up having to transfer the person to Estevan at the airport to get them to Saskatoon. Our runway conditions did not allow for that aircraft to utilize the 3,200 feet of runway we had—basically, the surface conditions did not allow for the short runway to be used. If you have 10,000 feet of runway, if you've got a bit of ice on that runway, with a high powered aircraft, the runway length is less of an issue, but if you have a high-powered aircraft and 3,200 feet of runway and it is icy, there is a formula for whether or not you can safely come into that runway. Those factors all play together, the surface conditions make a short runway a problem, so if it was a long runway, that wouldn't necessarily be a problem."

The GPS approach also means that pilots have a better chance of approaching the runway in poor weather conditions. Blayne Seidl is a pilot for Canadian Energy Services in Carlyle. He says that in poor weather conditions, a GPS approach means pilots have a better chance of landing, because they do not need to physically see the runway as early.

"Traditionally, you could picture some virtual steps coming down, that is how an aircraft descends, and for each level, it's determined what the minimum safe altitude is," Seidl explains. "So, every time the aircraft descends another step, it has to make power adjustments and it's not a stabilized approach—it's not a constant angle. The new GPS approach allows constant levelling down toward the runway. So, because it is more stable, we are hoping we can get the minimum altitude lowered. Right now, we are limited to 500 feet above the ground before the pilot has to call it a missed approach because he could not see the runway. We still land all airplanes by hand, so we

"In Carlyle, you can walk out the door of the airport, go onto the chartered aircraft your company has there, and you and your three or four other business associates hop into the plane, and 90 minutes later, you're in Calgary, going to your meeting."

—Blair Andrew

need to see the runway to land it, so the lower and closer we can get to the runway with the GPS, the better the chances of being able to see it in poor weather. . . . The improved GPS approach and longer runway increases the safety factor as well. The company installing this for us says the GPS approach decreases the odds of an accident on approach by 80 per cent."

The lengthening of the runway also means that larger propeller aircraft and jet engine aircraft can use the airport. That would benefit Seidl, who frequently flies to and from Calgary, where Canadian Energy Services' head offices are, but with the size of the aircraft, cannot always carry the fuel loads needed to get to Calgary, having to stop in Regina to refuel.

"The heavier a plane, the more runway it needs to get airborne or stop, so the longer the runway is, we can carry heavier loads. We do trips to Calgary, and right now, there has been several trips I've done to Calgary where the load that we wanted to take to Calgary we couldn't carry directly out of Carlyle, so—at more cost to us—we would have to hop up to Regina and get enough fuel to take us to Calgary. Whereas, with a longer runway, we could load that extra fuel and go straight to Calgary from Carlyle," Seidl explains.

Carlyle is in the heart of Saskatchewan's oil patch, and Andrew says the oil industry knows time is money, so improved efficiency would increase oil industry traffic in Carlyle, and subsequently benefit the hotels, restaurants, and shops in town. In addition, for local people who work in the oil patch in Carlyle and are making frequent trips to places like Calgary or Edmonton, there is an increase in efficiency.

"The airports do reflect what is going on with the local econo-

my—as it gets busier in Southeast Saskatchewan, businesses are trying to find a more efficient way of getting business done, and the aviation traffic is really one of those things that reflects that," says Andrew. "For example—from Moosomin to Regina is a two hour drive. Then you spend 90 minutes at the airport waiting to hop on the plane to fly to Calgary. That will take you another 90 minutes to get to Calgary. So, you now have five hours before you get out of the Calgary terminal to put into your day. Whereas in Carlyle, you can walk out the door of the airport, go onto the chartered aircraft your company has there, and you and your three or four other business associates hop into the plane, and 90 minutes later, you're in Calgary, going to your meeting. You leave home at 8 am, you make your 10 or 11 a.m. meeting in Calgary, you hop in the plane at 4, and you're at home having supper with your family at the end of the day."

The other benefit to the expansion is tourism in the Carlyle and Moose Mountain region.

"One of the areas we would hope the Bear Claw Casino would benefit from—at 5,000 feet and good commercial instrumentation approaches coming into Carlyle, now they can actually fly in some of the higher end talent to perform at the casino. We're a little bit out of the way, if entertainment is flying into Regina and coming out, or traveling this way, then they can actually be 10 minutes away from the casino. We would like to think that is a benefit to the tourism side of it," Andrew explains. "Also, making it more of a destination place for general aviation and aviation enthusiasts. You go to Lake of the Woods in Kenora, and in the summertime there, you see a lot of aircraft sitting in Kenora that

are there for the weekends, the families fly in—so hopefully we can create more of that sort of culture here in the Moose Mountain area by providing an airport facility that lends to that as well."

The strategic location of the airport in oil country means the Carlyle airport is busy. Because the airport is still considered a small municipal airport, Andrew says aviation traffic isn't monitored. But looking at fuel sales is a sign of activity.

"The airport is right adjacent to the town, so you're always seeing traffic coming and going—just based on fuel sales that we go through, both Jet A fuel for turbine traffic, and the general aviation traffic that uses a low-lead fuel, it's a very busy airport when compared to other rural airports."

Andrew says that because of that, the private sector, including Canadian Energy Services, has been a heavy supporter of the costly expansion project to improve the airport.

"A big chunk of funding comes from the private sector. They have the commercial traffic coming in and out, and they see the benefit and understand the time-money equation of business, and so we have had good support from them. The province has a Community Airport Partnership grant, called the CAP grant, and they will match 50 per cent of the cost to a maximum of \$275,000 for a project, and we have applied and received funding from them. And both the town and municipality have been helping out as well to get things going," he says.

Poor weather throughout the spring and summer has set construction of the phase one expansion back, but Andrew says the goal is to be completed phase one in the new year, and to be beginning the major expansion of 1,500 feet.

Wawota preparing to host Musical Ride in 2015

BY KARA KINNA

Exactly 25 years after it came to Wawota the first time, the RCMP Musical Ride is returning to the community.

The RCMP Musical Ride will be in Wawota on July 28, 2015.

Meredith Swanson, who applied to have the ride come to Wawota, says he was surprised when he received word that Wawota was accepted.

"Back in 1990 we had the Musical Ride in Wawota, so it would be the 25th anniversary from the last one," he says. "I was involved in the last one. I thought I've talked about it and talked about it, so I made a few phone calls and sent in an application and just about fell out of my chair when they let us know they are coming."

Swanson says it will be the Wawota Business Enhancement Group that will spearhead organization of the Musical Ride, although he says most of the groups in town will need to get involved to organize the large event.

"We need to involve all of the other groups in town because it's such a large thing that it can't all be done by just a few people," he says.

Aside from the Musical Ride itself,



Riders in the RCMP Musical Ride form their well-known dome formation.

Swanson says the town needs to provide 30 to 45 minutes of entertainment before the ride. Arrangements also need to be made for stabling the horses in the

and feeding the horses, and the grounds for the ride will need to be prepared.

Swanson says the ride will be held in the same place it was held in 1990, on the

north side of the town where the Little Pipestone Valley slopes to form a natural amphitheatre. He says last time the natural setting provided a beautiful backdrop for the ride.

"Just to the east side of the area where the amphitheatre is, it's well treed. And the mounties came out four abreast and walked down this hill, and that scarlet and black against the green, it brought tears to people's eyes," says Swanson.

Last time the Musical Ride was in Wawota, Swanson says about 2,500 people came out to see it, and he is hoping the be able to attract that many people again.

Swanson says Wawota is fortunate to be hosting the ride again.

"We are very lucky, I feel, to be given the opportunity to host it. I'm excited that they are coming."

He says when he applied for the ride he didn't realize that the town would be coming up to the 25th anniversary of the last time the ride was in Wawota.

"It's great. It was so unplanned. I didn't even know when I applied for it when we had it last. When the RCMP responded saying they were coming, then we looked it up and by golly it was 1990."

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A harvest sunset west of Carlyle.

Julia Dima photo

CWB to build Manitoba grain facility

The Canadian Wheat Board is building another grain-handling facility in Manitoba as it gears up for privatization.

The wheat board says the new elevator to be built near St. Adolphe, south of Winnipeg, will be able to store 34,000 tonnes of grain when it begins operating in 2016.

The Crown-owned organization says the facility will provide excellent rail access to its Thunder Bay terminal as well as to western ports, the U.S. and Mexico.

The CWB has been busy buying and building to strengthen its network, which includes other grain facilities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

The company also plans to add a grain facility in Alberta to its holdings.

Under federal law, the CWB is to be privatized no later than July 31, 2017, but the board says it expects to beat that deadline and hopes to present its plan to Ottawa early next year.

"CWB's rapidly growing network of grain-handling facilities contin-

ues to attract considerable interest by farmers, potential investors and the public," CEO Ian White said Friday in a release about the St. Adolphe project.

The federal government passed a law in 2011 that stripped the Canadian Wheat Board of its monopoly on western wheat and barley sales. Farmers can still market their grain through the board, but now it is a voluntary decision.

The cost of the new St. Adolphe facility was not released.

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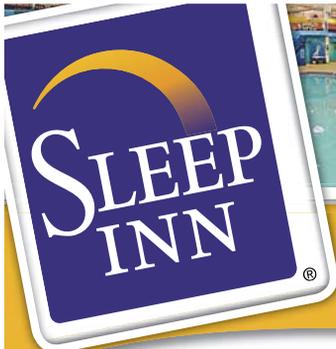


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<p>2013 Ford Explorer</p>  <p>Leather, Moonroof 4WD \$33,900 \$137/week</p> <p>5T031A</p>	<p>2012 Chrysler 200</p>  <p>Limited, PST Paid 39,000 kms \$18,900 \$76/week</p> <p>4T252B</p>	<p>2010 Ford F150</p>  <p>Platinum 88,000 kms \$28,900 \$116/week</p> <p>5T026A</p>	<p>2010 Ford Escape XLT</p>  <p>4WD Moonroof \$18,900 \$76/week</p> <p>5T020A</p>
<p>2013 Chevrolet Silverado</p>  <p>Only 19,000 kms PST Paid \$25,900 \$104/week</p> <p>4T244A</p>	<p>2011 Ford F150</p>  <p>Platinum Next to NEW! \$38,900 \$155/week</p> <p>4T186A</p>	<p>2012 Ford Fusion SEL</p>  <p>No Charge Warranty \$18,900 \$76/week</p> <p>4T173A</p>	<p>2010 Ford Edge SEL</p>  <p>AWD Local Trade \$16,900 \$68/week</p> <p>4T249A</p>
<p>2011 Ford F150</p>  <p>Limited, 6.2L Local Truck \$33,900 \$136/week</p> <p>4T235C</p>	<p>2010 Ford F150</p>  <p>Platinum Lots of adds \$28,900 \$116/week</p> <p>4T235B</p>	<p>2008 Ford F150 XTR</p>  <p>Low kms 4x4 \$17,900 \$72/week</p> <p>4T215B</p>	<p>2012 Ford F150 XLT</p>  <p>5.0L, 4x4 PST Paid \$24,900 \$101/week</p> <p>4T239A</p>
<p>2008 Ford F350 XLT</p>  <p>6.4L No Charge Warranty \$26,900 \$109/week</p> <p>4T126B</p>	<p>2012 Ford F150</p>  <p>Local, FX4 Sweet Ride \$31,900 \$129/week</p> <p>4T212A</p>	<p>2011 Ford F350 Lariat</p>  <p>Local Powerstroke \$34,900 \$141/week</p> <p>5T010A</p>	<p>2011 Ford F250</p>  <p>Powerstroke Western Edition \$36,900 \$148/week</p> <p>5T005A</p>

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