

Creative Vision gearing up for Music Man

BY ROBYN TOCKER

It takes months of dedicated planning, rehearsing and designing to put on a spectacular show—three things Sherri Meredith, Sandra Poole and Raven Willoughby know all about.

Starting Nov. 13, Creative Vision will put on its third play in six years: *The Music Man*.

"It's about a con man in 1912 coming into River City, Iowa and trying to sell his instruments to the local people who are supposedly gullible," explained Poole, the music director.

This year's cast has a more pronounced age range than other years. Actors range from ages seven to 82. With 70 cast members and about 50 crew members, Meredith, Poole and Willoughby have many helping hands.

Auditions took place in June to establish the principal cast. Over the summer, Meredith, the stage director, and Poole worked with the leads and only recently added the chorus to rehearsals. A meeting was held between the prop group, hair and makeup, and publicity to make sure every facet was up and running.

"It will be a constant, daily endeavor until the show goes on," said Willoughby, the producer.

Because this isn't the first play the women have worked on together, they feel they are ahead of where they were that very first year when they put on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat* in 2011.

"What I'm finding about this production is people can come and see people that have been with us from the beginning in different roles all the time, but every time we have new people coming forward and so the family just grows bigger," said Meredith.

"When auditions hit, there are always some wonderful surprises. There are also some people who have never been in a show before, never sung in public before, and we train them as we go," Poole explained.

Poole is pleased the group is on schedule. They recently started work with their barbershop quartet and are starting choreography. Laurel Unger will be assisting in that capacity.

"Everything is time sensitive," said Willoughby.

"These ladies know when to introduce different elements, like when the band will start to play with them, when they need to start focusing on both the acting and the singing in conjunction with each other. For me and sets, I can't start building everything at the beginning of the summer because I have no place to store it," said Willoughby.

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THE MUSIC MAN

This is the first play Creative Vision is doing that has a speaking and dancing component to it.

"Our last two plays were music from start to finish, so in this one we're going to put a little more pressure on our acting... We're really excited to try something different," said Meredith.

"It's different from the last couple of plays that we've put on and that's been our mission. Each year we do a play, we're doing something that will draw in audiences for a different reason," said Willoughby.

Joseph is a familiar story with biblical tones. *Les Miserables*, from 2013, was extremely dramatic.

"This one is totally different in its own right and ways in that it's more of a family-orientated one from our previous (plays). The music is more diverse than the other two pieces that we've done," Willoughby said.

Creative Vision puts on a play every second year. Meredith said this keeps the company coming back, along with the public.

"When you do something annually, sometimes it becomes not quite as looked forward to," said Meredith.

"It's a pretty big project, and sometimes husbands like to see their wives," Poole added with a laugh.

"I find that when we do the project, we put our whole heart and soul into it and if we did it more, I don't know—it might not be quite as spectacular," said Poole.

The creative people from Moosomin and the surrounding areas have other outlets to keep them busy during the off season. A 30-voice choir continues to practice and perform. Poole said because of *Joseph*, the community band started up again.

None of these plays would have been possible without Poole and her idea to set up a theatre group like Creative Vision in 2011.

"Raven and I both have theatre backgrounds. We got on board right away," said Meredith. She and Willoughby are teachers at McNaughton High School while Poole teaches at MacLeod Elementary School.

Poole had the idea, but Meredith insists the performances couldn't go on without

the support of the company. "We're the heads, but there's so many people that come on board," she said.

"We have people working for props and husbands building sets," Meredith added.

One of these husbands is Willoughby's, who happens to be handy at building sets.

"I think Raven lucked out when she married a fellow who makes sets. I think we all lucked out on that one," said Poole with a laugh.

Although the women have official titles, they wear many different hats to make sure this production comes to fruition.

"We all wear three or four different hats. Sandra helps lead the pit, Sherri does all the technical arranging, and I do the sets," Willoughby said.

So far, no ideas have been tossed around for the play in 2017.

"We all have a favourite list, but sometimes it depends on where the demographic is at the time. Who's in the community, who's around?" said Meredith.

It also depends on what the previous show was, said Willoughby.

"We change our minds sometimes, too," Willoughby added with a laugh.

Proceeds from *The Music Man* go back into the Conexus Convention Centre in Moosomin. Through this, Creative Vision and the Town of Moosomin have been able to purchase lighting, drapery and portable staging for the centre.

The three women appreciate the contributions from the Town of Moosomin and those who donate dessert for the intermission during each of the performances. The cast serves dessert but all are donated by community members.

"There are some people that aren't interested in doing something weekly and being involved that way, but they definitely want to help out in some way," said Willoughby.

"The desserts are delectable," said Poole. "It's amazing what comes in."

If anyone wishes to volunteer their time to the play in any capacity, they are welcome to come out and offer their talents.

The Music Man is playing at the Conexus Convention Centre on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m., Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 through Isabelle Dietrich at 306-435-3581 or E-mail at isabellerdietrich@gmail.com.

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Jess Moskaluke wins second CCMA award

BY JULIA DIMA
Langenburg-raised Jess Moskaluke found herself in awe for the second year in a row last Sunday, when she won her second Female Vocalist of the Year Award at the Canadian Country Music Association awards.

"I was so excited. I was a little speechless, but you can't be speechless for too long, because ironically, they make you give an acceptance speech," Moskaluke says.

Moskaluke grew up in Langenburg, and always had a passion for music, from singing in the church choir to entering singing competitions and posting her videos on YouTube. She's traveled a long way from her humble roots to be a two-time CCMA award winner, winner of multiple SCMA (Saskatchewan Country Music Association) awards, and have two full-length albums out, with a third EP on the way September 25, called *Kiss Me Quiet*.

The title track from her new EP was released last week, along with a music video.

In 2013, Moskaluke won two awards at

the SCMA awards, female vocalist of the year, and single of the year, and her first CCMA, which she says came as a complete surprise.

"I don't think I will ever expect anything. In this industry, things change so quickly, and if you are not working as hard as you possibly can, that's when things will get sniped away from you. So, I've never expected any success to come my way, but I'm very fortunate it has," she says.

This year, along with her second CCMA, Moskaluke also won the SCMA Fans' Choice Award, Female Vocalist of the Year, Single of the Year, Video of the Year, and Album of the Year.

The past two years, Moskaluke says, have been a complete whirlwind.

"It's been crazy and very exciting," she says. "It's been very overwhelming, having your day slotted into 15 minute time slots—that's something growing up in a small town you're really not used to because you're kind of like, oh, I have this and then I'll visit so and so. So it's been an adjustment for me to have my day so concisely scheduled, and it's been a lot of ad-

justments. Lots of really great things, and some things that are difficult, but it's a big career move and a learning experience."

Moskaluke has been on the road touring since the end of February this year, and aside from a short break back in Langenburg last week—time to do her laundry, Moskaluke says. She'll continue to tour until November. She is now on tour with Dean Brody and Paul Brandt.

Moskaluke admits that touring can be exhausting, but she keeps pushing through and being passionate.

"I just know this is what I chose to do and what I enjoy doing, so I just get up and look at my schedule, and say, okay, let's get this done," she says.

She says that winning the CCMA awards encourage her that she's on the right track with her music career and that she should keep working hard.

"For me personally, the CCMA association has been great, and the awards show has been great, but obviously, this is not about doing something for awards or accolades, it's about doing something that you are passionate about and that you enjoy," Moskaluke says. "But as a result of some of the CCMA awards, it feels like a pat on the back from your peers, and it feels like somebody telling you that you are going in the right direction and that you are doing something right."

Moskaluke says that despite the fame she's accumulated, her small-town upbringing in Langenburg prepared her well for the country music industry in Canada.

"The country music industry, especially in Canada has a very small town feel. It's a small industry, and once you've immersed yourself in it, it's easy to know everybody—so, the same small town rules apply."

Back home, Moskaluke says that she's finding it odd to come home as a bigger country star each year, and while many people continue to think of her as Jess Moskaluke from down the road, there's some more starstruck fans.

"It's a bit strange to me, I certainly prefer when people remember me as Jess from down the road. But, it's inter-



Photo courtesy of Grant Martin Photography
Jess Moskaluke at the CCMA awards with her second Female Vocalist of the Year award.

esting for them to see someone on their TV more than they get to see them in person, unfortunately, these days," she says. "I was a swimming instructor for a long time, so a lot of those kids that are growing up and are now in high school, I taught them swimming, so they think that's pretty cool."

Moskaluke says as her career in country music continues to grow, she is taking some time to reflect on where she came from.

"I probably need to, eventually, when I have time, sit back and have some time to reflect. Every once in a while something hits you, and you think, gosh, two years ago, I wasn't doing this, and it's pretty cool to reflect," Moskaluke says.

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Kutawagan Creek Diversion Project:

Province decides not to proceed with project

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
The provincial government is not proceeding with the Kutawagan Creek Diversion Project for the Quill Lakes.

The proposed project would have reduced Quill Lake water levels by diverting fresh water from Kutawagan Creek away from the Quill Lakes to Last Mountain Lake, from which it would flow into the Qu'Appelle River system.

Water levels are rising in the Quill Lakes, and the diversion was an attempt to prevent the Quills from overflowing onto farmland in the future.

The Water Security Agency undertook survey and design work to assess the feasibility of the project, including constructing a berm east of Highways 6 and 16 at Kutawagan inlet to Big Quill Lake, a channel to divert fresh water from Kutawagan to Last Mountain Lake and control structure at the Kutawagan spill point east of Nokomis.

The Water Security Agency held public consultations with stakeholders, including municipalities, businesses, agriculture producers, land owners, cabin owners, and environmental and community organizations. In addition, nearly 500 people participated in four public open house meetings.

What the government heard at those meetings was that cottage owners and homeowners in the Qu'Appelle Valley did not want to see any additional water diverted to the

Qu'Appelle—which already has spring flooding issues some years.

It also became clear through the consultations that many feared the environmental impact of diverting Kutawagan Creek water—which has a higher salinity—into the Qu'Appelle River.

"This project was proposed, and when we proposed it, we committed to do consultation with stakeholders and open houses with individuals who are and may be affected by the proposed project," Herb Cox, the Minister responsible for the Water Security Agency told the World-Spectator in an interview Friday.

"We heard very clearly

from the open houses that we did and the stakeholder meetings that we had—I think there were some 500 people who attended these—about 74 per cent of them . . . didn't approve of the project.

"And that kind of depended on where you came from. The Quill Lakes people felt the project didn't go far enough to alleviate the problems in the Quills, and the downstream people on Last Mountain Lake and the Qu'Appelle chain pretty much frankly just said we don't want any more water and we don't want the risk of saline water.

"Considering those factors we just thought we better go back to the drawing board and start looking for

another alternative."

Cox said the government saw very strong participation in the public meetings. "I think because of the complexity of this situation and the number of people who would be affected, and the fact that there are environmental issues involved," he said. "It's not unprecedented, but it's maybe a little more extensive than in some cases."

So what are the alternatives the government can look at now that the creek diversion is off the table?

"That's one of the good things about the consultation that we did," said Cox.

"We got a lot of suggestions about other alternatives, so we're actively pursuing them. We know we

have to do something."

How much time is there before something has to be done or the Quill Lakes will spill over?

"I wish I knew that," said Cox. "We've got about 1.1 metres right now before it reaches fill point.

"Barring a huge rainfall or huge snowpack this year, I think we have some breathing room but we can't bank on that. We have to keep going until we find a solution."

He said the department wants to find a solution as soon as possible.

He said he is pleased that so much information came out through the public meetings.

"It's a lot better to hear this, to have this consultation, before rather than after,

and that was our purpose for doing it," he said.

"We aren't just going to go ahead and do something without doing a lot of work on it, and that was part of what we wanted here. When we started doing our detailed analysis and our detailed work, we wanted to find out exactly what was needed for this project. (The analysis) and the consultation process all had a bearing on the decision we made this week."

The Water Security Agency will now be reviewing other possible alternatives around the Quill Lakes, including application of the risk-based drainage regulations in the new Agricultural Water Management Strategy.

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Cole, Davidson, Gabrielle, and Bear back on the ice in WHL

BY JULIA DIMA

This year, four local hockey players are continuing to pursue their dreams of playing professional hockey by starting up new seasons in the WHL. Moosomin's Ryrk Cole is returning to the Regina Pats for his second season, while old teammate, NHL prospect Jesse Gabrielle, was traded to the Prince George Cougars from the Pats about a month before the start of the season. Fellow NHL draft pick, Ethan Bear, from Ochapowace First Nation, is heading back to the Seattle Thunderbirds for his third season. Last Christmas, Moosomin's Dawson Davidson was called up to the Kamloops Blazers from his AAA team, the Moose Jaw Generals. This year, he starts his first full season with the Blazers.

Ryrk Cole started his hockey career playing AA bantam hockey with the Melville Millionaires before moving into AAA, which he played with the Moose Jaw Generals, racking up 87 points in two seasons.

He got picked up by the Regina Pats at the start of last season, and scored nine goals and 12 assists in his rookie season, and another goal in playoffs.

"It was a good season, we had an older team off the start, and then made some key trades, and it was a younger team for the second half of the season," Cole says. "We swept Swift Current in the playoffs and then lost out to Brandon in the quarter finals."

Now, older, faster, and more 'patient with the puck' in his words, Cole is back for his second year in the WHL. He says that he's looking forward to being more of a leader on the team.

"The younger team gave me a bigger role, and let me step up and play my game, and just have a lot more confidence. It's a good feeling being relied on and having that pressure to produce," he says. "Really, just the concept of being a leader makes you feel good, and makes you have to lead."

Cole came back to Moosomin for the off-season, finishing his grade 12 year, but coming home did not mean any breaks for him. Cole spent the start of his season

making regular trips to Ochapowace First Nation to skate in the start of the season, and spent the end of July and August in Regina training as well.

"I like getting better and putting my time in the summer to know I have confidence coming into camp so I can make the team again and have a bigger role in the coming season," he says. "You always want to improve, so just making little steps in your game to improve is a big thing."

Though Cole has hopes to make it to the NHL one day, the idea of getting drafted doesn't get in the way of his day-to-day goals to improve and bring his team to playoffs.

"I don't let future plans affect my game very much, I just go out there every night and just focus on shift by shift what I need to do, and I try and play my game every night," he says. "I think our team can be a playoff contender this year, and it's going to be a good year for myself and the team."

The Regina Pats opened their season on Thursday night against the Moose Jaw Warriors. Their next home game is this Saturday against the Brandon Wheat Kings.

While Cole starts another season with the Pats, his old teammate Jesse Gabrielle is not heading back to Regina. In early August, Gabrielle was traded to the Prince George Cougars for the 2015-2016 season, seven months after being traded to the Pats from the Brandon Wheat Kings.

Gabrielle says the trade is a good thing, the next step in his development as a professional hockey player.

"I had fun in Regina but I think this was a good move for me and my development, and I think I am going to help Prince George win some games this year, and make it to playoffs," Gabrielle says. "We have seven guys on this team go to NHL camps, so they are really focusing on us and developing us the best that they can, and I think they are doing a really good job of it, and they are helping make us better hockey players every day, and giving us the tools to be successful."

Continued on page 26

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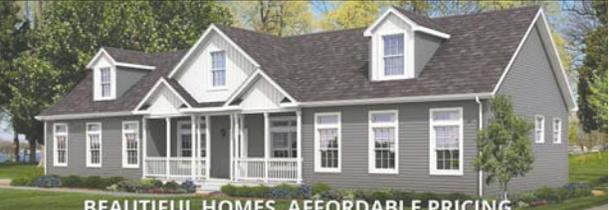
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Disc golf coming to Rocanville ski trails

BY JULIA DIMA

Disc golf is growing in popularity across North America, and in Saskatchewan, disc golf leagues are popping up, and the odd-looking courses are becoming a part of public parks. There are 22 courses already established in Saskatchewan, a large number of them within 125 kilometres of Yorkton, where Calvin Daniels has been helping the sport grow, and encouraging parks, towns, and RMs to jump on board.

What is disc golf? In many ways, the relatively new sport is just like ball golf—there are tees, pars, fairways, and courses are usually nine or 18 hole. But golfers leave the clubs at home. In disc golf, three small plastic discs—a driver, mid-range, and putter disc—are thrown like frisbees to targets, that resemble chain link baskets. The goal, like in golf, is to get the disc into the basket in the least number of throws.

For the most part, getting involved in the game has an affordable start up price. A set of discs runs around \$40 for the three, and while professional certified disc golf baskets run in the \$600 range, mobile practice baskets are around \$400 cheaper, and for those curious about the sport, there are a number of ways to do-it-yourself, and construct a practice basket, or something called a tonal pole—a large empty propane tank jammed on top of a two by four piece of wood. The large clang made by the disc hitting the tank makes it easier for disc golfers to know they've hit the mark.

Now, the sport is expanding close to home. A new 18-hole disc golf course will be set up at the Rocanville Cross Country Ski Trails, which are situated in a treed area two miles south of Rocanville.

Calvin Daniels, who has been instrumental in establishing the disc golf course in Yorkton, and many in the surrounding region, has been reaching out to a number of communities who may be interested in establishing a course. Rocanville is one of nine Daniels approached that will be installing a course. Daniels approached Recreation Director Jamie MacLeod about the possibility, and MacLeod suggested getting in touch with Dennis Hack, who manages the ski trails.

Hack says he was not totally convinced when Daniels approached him about something called disc golf—like many, he hadn't



Joshua and Ashton Istace toss their discs during a disc golf game at Carleton Trail.

heard of the growing sport. After doing some more reading about the game, and speaking to Daniels, Hack realized that the sport seemed reasonably priced, and looked like it would create a fun activity that would turn the trails into an all-season area for recreational use.

"I guess it's huge in the States and elsewhere in the world, and it's reasonably priced, and the ski trail apparently will be a very unique course compared to others," Hack says. "Once it's installed, there's really no costs. It is fun, and it's a total family event, and it will get people out and walking and enjoying nature too."

For Hack, that is a big reason for maintaining the ski trails in the winter, where the mostly treed-in trails create a serene sanctuary from harsh winter winds for skiers, and where the club is always open, with skis and boots for rent, so any skier of any level can come out to the trails, and enjoy a ski with family, or a solitary ski, being accompanied by the whitetail deer, moose, and songbirds that wander the trails too. Hack says he can see the two activities feeding off of each other, with skiers encouraged to come back and try disc golf in the summer, and disc golfers coming back to ski come winter.

Daniels says that the ski trails will provide a unique course, potentially a more challenging one that will attract tournaments and pros.

Many courses are in more open areas, and fairways are typically lined with grasses, not trees.

After mapping out the trail area, Daniels says that it will be an 18-hole, 5,000 foot course, and while pars will be decided after

the course is tested, it will be around par 60 for the course.

From the small cabin that welcomes skiers to the cross country ski trails, the course will end up being about a mile long walk around. The tee points and targets will be placed off the main ski trails, so they do not interfere in the winter. Some brush will be removed to ensure the targets are visible.

Locally, Chris Istace of Moosomin will be helping establish the course. He and Hack have already begun some of the work clearing brush for the course. The plan is to first install tonal poles, which are much cheaper than baskets, and if the sport becomes popular over the course of the spring, professional disc golf baskets will be installed, so the course can host tournaments.

Istace is an avid disc golfer, and has been playing casually for around 10 years. In the past year, his kids have become involved as well, and now the family competes in tournaments together.

"What I appreciate about it and I can see will attract



Dennis Hack and Chris Istace survey the ski trails where the new disc golf course is being installed.

people is it's something I can compete in with my son who is 11, and he is competitive with me. We can compete together, whereas we can't go out and play hockey together," Istace explains. "It is something anybody at any age can participate in, it's relatively easy, and you can play at your own level. Because it's a relatively new sport as well, everybody starts at the same level."

Istace says that even in tournaments, and at the professional competitive level, the game is based in the social aspect more than the competitive aspect. He says it is a great sport for families to participate in together, and unlike a round of golf, it takes only about an hour to finish a 60-par course, so even young children can play a full game without getting bored.

Istace hopes that eventually, the interest in the game will grow enough that there can be a once-a-week disc golf club in the area that gets together to play at the ski trails. He says that having been a disc golfer for some time, he'd like to offer instruction for people new to the sport who want to give it a try.

"We could have a one night a week league, for people to come out and learn the sport and play, and have a bit of competition. But the focus of it is not competition, it's just to challenge yourself and have fun. It's a very minimal competition sport," Istace says. "We would also like to start a circuit of tournaments that would go from course to course in the region."

Daniels says that is his hope in the Yorkton region.

"We will establish the Parkland Association of Disc Golf, which will be an umbrella organization encompassing all the courses 125 kilometres around Yorkton," Daniels says. "We can promote sport, and get people playing this year, but next year, we would like to have courses host a tournament, and we'll have a tournament series."

Daniels says he's optimistic that the course will be ready for some initial play this October, before snowfall, since the work needed to get the course set up is minimal. In the meantime, other courses are opening up as well. There will be a disc golf course set up at Birtle, and Daniels

has approached Assesippi Ski Resort about installing a course. Separate from Daniels' efforts, there will also be a 9-hole course at Carleton Trail near Spy Hill.

Daniels says that having disc golf courses will have a ripple effect in communities.

"As you host tournaments, it's like anything else, people will travel to a disc golf club to play it. In that process, people have lunch at the local cafe, buy gas, and do the things tourists do in a town," he says. "A starter set is \$40—there aren't a lot of sports where you can start for \$40 that get you outside and being active. And there are not too many sports where grandpa can go out with his 40-year-old son and 10-year-old grandson and all play the same sport together."

Financing for the course will be up to Hack and the Recreation Department in Rocanville who will help. Hack says that the goal is to eventually fundraise, ask for corporate sponsorship, and get grants to help buy the actual disc golf baskets if the sport gains a lot of popularity with the tonal poles.

Though no plans have been confirmed yet, Hack says it's likely that the disc golf course will be similar to the ski club system, where there will be a few disc sets available for rent for a nominal fee at the cabin, and the course would be open any time for people to come and play.

Hack says that since he already mows much of the trail in the summer for hiking and walking enthusiasts, the cost of maintenance once the course is installed will be minimal. The hope is for the course to be ready for those interested to give it a try this fall.

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Government to match donations for refugees

BY ROBYN TOCKER

The Canadian government has announced it will match donations for the Syrian refugee crisis, giving groups such as the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and World Vision an extra hand.

The Foodgrains Bank has been responding to the crisis since 2012. In that time, they have provided over \$25 million to displaced persons in need of food. World Vision has been working since 2011 and has provided \$35 million through government grants.

Jim Cornelius, the executive director of the Foodgrains Bank for 18 years, said it is the largest crisis they have responded to in the last four years. The aid was initially for those coming across the Syrian border into neighbouring countries such as Lebanon and Jordan.

"As the crisis worsened, we also began responding to millions of people displaced inside Syria. Working with a whole network of partner groups, we've been providing what now is over \$25 million worth of food assistance to 375,000 people in the area," he said.

Currently, the Foodgrains Bank is responding to the crisis with eight food distribution and food voucher projects.

Lindsay Gladding is the team leader for World Vision's Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs team. She said World Vision has reached two million people in Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon since their relief efforts began.

"The services we provide range anywhere from cash assistance to refugees for them to be able to buy food and meet their basic needs, to improving water and sanitation infrastructure, providing health services, and education and protection for children," she said.

World Vision has close to 500 relief workers on the ground in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

"Most of them are national Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian staff that work for us in the field," Gladding explained.

The Foodgrains Bank provides food support, but their partner groups provide other services such as housing. Their partner groups include several church relief organizations.

"With the resources they get from their direct donors, from the Government of Canada and other places, many of them have also been providing winterization, support with shelter and health needs," he said.



Canadian Foodgrains Bank photo

Fatima and her brother Muhammed live in a chicken barn in Lebanon because they were forced from their home in Syria when violence overtook their town.

Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) is one of these partners. Terry Smith, the director of International Partnerships for CBM, says the group has donated \$588,000 since its involvement in Lebanon began in 2007.

"This does not include donations given to Canadian Foodgrains Bank from CBM. I am confident that more than \$1 million has been given to help the refugee work of our partners," said Smith.

CBM started work in Lebanon in the latter half of 2006 through the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development (LSESD).

"LSESD invited us to work with them in the area of education," Smith explained. That later grew to a partnership to develop their relief and development department.

In the beginning, LSESD had no budget for their new department. CBM and LSESD worked together and de-



Canadian Foodgrains Bank photo

In Jordan, a young boy waits in line with his grandparents to receive an emergency food basket distributed by a local member of Foodgrains Bank partner, World Renew.

veloped the department that would address the greatest needs of communities through Baptist churches in the area. Now, the budget is over \$4 million for that department.

CBM funds a dozen staff for LSESD. They have no official relief workers on the ground.

"This work is happening at a grassroots level. We're working through local churches in Lebanon," Smith said. Efforts through various charities are ongoing, but this situation is changing.

"As most agencies would say, I think we're increasingly starting to struggle with limited fundraising and limited resources for the growing need that we're facing," said Gladding.

Continued on page 29

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Focus on Ag

Farm Stress Lines provide anonymous rural support

BY JULIA DIMA
Optimistic, resilient, tough. Those are some words used to describe farmers in rural Canada. Despite the image cultivated, farmers and farm families, like any other family, face the struggles of stress, depression, anxiety, and social issues. In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, farm stress lines exist to offer farmers and other rural people a helping hand when they feel like they can't reach out to anyone else.

In Saskatchewan, the farm stress line is an anonymous 24 hour a day phone line managed by Mobile Crisis Services in Regina, which took the line over from the Ministry of Agriculture in 2013. Before then, the line was monitored by others with a background in farming. With the switch to Mobile Crisis Services, the line is now monitored by trained crisis workers with backgrounds in psychology or social work.

"We provide 260 hours of training to all our staff in all our program areas, so that includes the farm stress line. We have another 140 hours of supervised frontline work," says Jan Thorson, with Mobile Crisis Services. "Our training is hugely extensive—how to deal with suicide, domestic violence, investigating a child welfare concern, how to deal with alcohol and drug issues. We have a couple staff who have been here 30 years, so they have a lot of experience."

Since taking over the farm stress line, Thorson says that rural callers often have the same social problems as urban callers, when it comes to their personal life.

"The top three personal and family issues we deal with are stress, relationship problems, and mental health concerns," Thorson says. "And the four top farm issues mentioned to us are financial debt, cash flow, legal concerns, and issues with crops and livestock."

Sometimes, Thorson says, those calling the line will need practical agricultural information, and simply not know who to call. In those cases, callers are redirected to the right resource within the Ministry of Agriculture.

"When it comes to their personal problems, what we like to do is allow people the opportunity to tell us what they feel their problems are. Based on that, we would try to help find them a resource close to them to deal with it, or if they don't have that option—which is a problem in rural Saskatchewan—we encourage them to keep calling us if they don't have access to a counsellor," Thorson says. "It's a lack of resources for farmers, some are very far from a counselling centre,

or transportation is an issue."

Thorson says a number of callers do just that—three or four times each day, they receive calls from farmers and other rural people who are feeling lonely and want someone to talk to anonymously. Agricultural producers experience more stress than the general public might realize, Thorson says.

"We hear lots of anxiety about the actual farming operations—times are uncertain, weather is uncertain, livestock prices are uncertain. There are so many unknowns in farming, and that weighs heavily on people, because they can't control so many things about their livelihood, it's dependent on so many other forces they have no control over—it's

a huge stress for farm families," she says. "I would think unless you have some rural background, most people have no idea of the many challenges that are faced by farmers. Like I said, they can't control many aspects of their lives—world grain prices, world commodity prices, the weather—I think modern farming takes a tremendous amount of organization and strategy, and even then, it can be incredibly stressful, and that

is one of the great things about the farm stress line—even for people who feel like they have to present that image of being a strong, tough farmer, they can talk to us about how they really feel."

Last year was a busy year from the farm stress line. After massive flooding devastated farmland and infrastructure through south Saskatchewan in early July, many farmers saw their livelihoods drowning in the water.

The result was more people seeking help.

"We partnered more closely with agriculture last year to provide crisis counselling to people experiencing flooding," Thorson says. "We had 372 calls to the farm stress line from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, which was a 41 per cent increase from the year before. We can very much say that was related to the flooding."

Continued on page 11

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Focus on Ag

Harvest brings Kola community together to support Canadian Foodgrains Bank

BY ROBYN TOCKER

The Crossborders Community Project at Kola is one of the longest running growing projects for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. On Monday of last week, over 150 people showed their support for the project, said Don Neufeld, the organizer.

"My father started this harvest 28 years ago. When he passed away, my wife and I decided that we would continue on with the project," said Neufeld. "We've always been passionate about agriculture. We've been to different third world countries and we've seen what transpires there and we've always thought it was to our benefit to try and help those people that were less fortunate than us. That's why we do it."

"The harvest is a way of tying the community together," said Leonard Koop. Koop's parents have provided the land being used for the harvest for the last 15 years.

"When my dad retired and moved to town, he still had this land. He donated the full two quarters to the Foodgrains Bank," Koop explained. There were 265 acres seeded in total this year.

The Kola community grew canola this year. Kola has been growing wheat and canola for the past 20 years, said Neufeld. The proceeds from the harvest will go to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the monetary value will be matched four to one by the Government of Canada.

Before the combines were revved up, the volunteers and families sat down for a hot meal provided by the accounting firm BDO.

"It's nice to get out there and feed

the farmers that are doing this for the Foodgrains Bank," said Lisa Andrew, one of the volunteers from BDO.

Many of the farmers who volunteer their time and equipment have harvests of their own. Neufeld said the farmers will put the Foodgrains Bank harvest first.

"I seed this first before I seed anything on my own farm. When it comes to harvest, this usually gets done before anything else does. But this year, we struggled with frost and flea beetles. We seeded here three times and we sprayed three times. I told the crop insurance people, 'I never worked so hard to try and grow a crop in my life,'" he said.

"As far as getting the crop to maturity, this was probably the most difficult year that we've had in all the years that we've done it," Neufeld added.

Lawrence Penner, who has been coming to the harvest since it began, said he stops his own harvest when it's time to help with the Kola growing project.

"We shut down our own and come here and do this. In a few hours, we've got it all done. If we all work together, it doesn't take very long," said Penner.

Tyson Martens has been part of the Foodgrains Bank harvest since it began. This year, he provided his combine to help harvest the crop.

"Our combine isn't here yet because we're running it until the last minute. It's definitely hard to stop doing your own harvest, especially if bad weather is on the way, but we figure that this is important so we always make time for it," he said.

Warren Hunter has been volunteering at the Foodgrains Bank harvest for four years and works on his father-in-law's farm. He drove one of the combines this year and said it isn't a challenge to balance both harvests.

"All the farmers around here just drop what they're doing and they come and do it," he said.

Volunteers and farmers return every year for many reasons. Neufeld has a passion for farming and helping others.

"When we're able to do this as a community and I see the kids and the next generation coming up and they're learning to help others, I think it's probably the best thing I can be involved in," he said.

"I believe the starving people of the world need to be fed," said Penner. "That's why we grow food—to sell and to help starving people."

The volunteers in Kola feel strongly that the Foodgrains Bank is a group they

want to support.

"In all the organizations I'm involved in, when I think that only five per cent of the total funds raised by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank goes to administration, and 95 per cent goes to feed hungry people, that's another reason why I stay involved in it," said Neufeld.

"The Foodgrains Bank is a tremendous organization and an extremely high percentage of their food goes directly to the people," said Koop.

"Every year, there are more people that are out of food and out of homes," said Penner.

"I think the more of these operations there are, the more people we can help throughout the world."

"The needs aren't going away, so we have got to keep helping," said Martens.

"I think it's good for the community," said Hunter.

Continued on page 15

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Focus on Ag

Farm Stress Lines provide anonymous rural support

Continued from page 9

However, the farm stress line is not often as serious a crisis line as others. Though callers address problems with anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts, Thorson says those using the farm stress line are very rarely in a crisis situation when they call—of the 372 calls last year, only five were emergencies. Thorson says the line seems to be doing its job in helping rural callers feel more secure and address their anxiety.

"If we can help people feel more positive, more secure, and give them the sense that there is always help available to them, I think that helps ease people's anxiety and improve their mental health," she says.

In the near future, the farm stress line is going to add a new component, adding email counselling and chat services to their phone line to better provide service.

In Manitoba, there is also a farm stress line, managed by the Manitoba Farm, Rural, and Northern Support Centre, which just recently expanded its services to provide support to those living in rural northern areas of the province. They currently offer an email and chat line in addition to the telephone help line. Falling under the purview of Clinic Community Health in Winnipeg, the services are offered Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Unlike the Saskatchewan services, the Manitoba farm stress line is monitored by counsellors who all have an agricultural background.

"All of our staff are certified crisis counsellors. Because

of where we are located, farmers are supplementing their income with other industries, and it's not particularly unusual for, especially farm women to enter professions like teaching, nursing, and other helping professions. We are fortunate to have most of our staff with us right from the beginning. It helps support the farm income and it's something they are passionate about," explains Janet Smith, with the support centre. "It makes a big difference for the farm calls—farmers are by nature very proud, resilient, some might stay stubborn, and don't reach out for help easily, and are a little bit more on the conservative side when it comes to talking about emotions. So, to have someone that has actually walked a mile in their shoes and knows what they are talking about has made a big difference."

Smith says that like others, farmers experience stress, family problems, relationship problems, and issues with drugs and alcohol. But often, when they call, they don't discuss those issues up front.

"They might talk about financial stress, stress that is related to production side of business, and as we get more into the call, we look at all the ways it's impacting them, and it may be affecting their sleep, or they may be angrier, or not eating properly, or relationships are suffering. So, we are listening for cues, and having a farming background and understanding the nature of farmers helps for the counsellors," she says. "Sometimes people want to talk—that's primarily what our job is to listen and support. We don't give advice, we can help them to find solutions that may fit best for them, but we don't tell them what to do. We only intervene in the most immediate risk situations, which does not happen often. Most people are just wanting someone who can listen, who is maybe not so close to the situation—they often don't want to burden their family members or friends, they often feel embarrassed to talk about their feelings, so this is a very safe place to do that."

Smith says that the stereotypes of farmers as tough and resilient mean that sometimes, rural people have a harder time reaching out for support. But with more public discussions around mental health, that is changing.

"A lot is changing, and a lot of stigma around talking about things like depression and anxiety, is slowly changing, but definitely I think because farmers don't show their cards quite so easily, and have less access to services, that people can very well develop an assumption that all is going well," Smith says. "I think the other thing about it is when you drive past someone's home and they have a new truck or a new tractor, that doesn't tell the whole story. It may look on the outside like everything is running smoothly, and everyone is well, and yet, there may be a lot of stressors under the surface. A service like ours is developed specifically because farmers have a really difficult time finding someone that they feel they can trust to talk to."

Smith says that like the Saskatchewan line, the floods last year resulted in a large increase in call volume, some seeking information, and some stressed about their futures. Smith says whenever there are natural disasters like floods, hail, drought, and frosts, call volume increases, but generally stays steady throughout the year.

Smith says that even though the calls coming through the farm line are more specific to farm issues, there are the same problems of stress, sadness, depression, and family issues no matter where someone is living.

"Human nature is human nature, and we all experience crises in our lives that don't really vary depending where you live. There are some differences, but we are all built the same, we all experience hurt," she says.

In Saskatchewan, the toll free farm stress line is 1-800-667-4442, and the line is monitored 24 hours a day.

In Manitoba, the toll free telephone help line is 1-866-367-3276, and the line is monitored Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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| 15 THURSDAY | SHEEP LAMB & GOAT SALE | 12 NOON |
| 19 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE SALE | 9 A.M. |
| 21 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE SALE | 10 A.M. |
| 26 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE | 9 A.M. |
| 28 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER (Charolais Influence) | 10 A.M. |
| 30 FRIDAY | REGULAR CATTLE SALE | 9 A.M. |
| November | | |
| 2 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE SALE | 9 A.M. |
| 4 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER (Angus Influence) | 10 A.M. |
| 6 FRIDAY | BRED COW & HEIFER SALE | 11 A.M. |
| 9 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE SALE | 9 A.M. |
| 11 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE SALE | 10 A.M. |
| 13 FRIDAY | REGULAR CATTLE SALE | 9 A.M. |
| 16 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE | 9 A.M. |
| 18 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER (Angus Influence) | 10 A.M. |
| 20 FRIDAY | BRED COW & HEIFER SALE | 11 A.M. |
| 23 MONDAY | BUTCHER CATTLE | 9 A.M. |
| 25 WEDNESDAY | PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE | 10 A.M. |
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Focus on Ag

2015 harvest wraps up

BY JULIA DIMA
Farmers across the region are putting another year in the books as harvest 2015 wraps up. Some local farmers are completely finished, and others are about 75 per cent of the way there. Overall, things are looking optimistic.

In the Moosomin area, harvest is about three quarters complete.

"I would say that for the most part, it's an average harvest. Between the guys dealing with hail and other issues this year, overall it's average," says Jeff Vanrobaeys with Parrish and Heimbecker in Moosomin. "That being said, most guys will probably be pleased with that. The other thing is we started back in August, for most guys it's been a long harvest, so you get that sense, that they will be glad to be done."

The quality of the crops coming in so far is variable, Vanrobaeys says. Though most of the growing season was ideal, a cool spring and late frosts made some challenging growing conditions. After a frost in early June, a number of farmers had to reseed canola crops. Coming into harvest, that appears to have been of benefit to them.

"I think in some instances, canola is probably yielding better than they expected, and wheat is probably average. I was talking to a grower this morning, who

says his reseeded canola was his best," he says.

At Richardson Pioneer in Whitewood, Trent Brister says harvest appears to be about 90 per cent completed for local producers. Yields are looking average to above average, and the quality is good, except for some wheat, which was impacted by untimely rains just before harvest.

"The wheat is all done, most of it will grade in top two grades with protein, there will be a little bit of number three, because of the wet weather. The only thing left to combine is a little bit of canola, soybeans, and a bit of oats. There is probably 60 per cent of the flax to go," Brister says. "Yields have all been average or above average, the wheat would probably average around 45 (bushels per acre), canola would average a solid 40, with highs of 60. Barley is likely around 80, oats are on the lighter side, so farmers will be a little disappointed there. Canola is actually going to turn out to be one of the best canola crops—the guys that reseeded it, that did pay off for them, it's averaging five bushels per acre more, and the ones that didn't reseed are still turning out 40 plus bushels per acre."

Canola, he says, did better than expected, sadly, because of the fires in Northern Saskatchewan. "When we had all that

smoke, we had the humidity, and we had 10 days that were bad for the fires, but acted as an insulator from the heat, so we had 10 days that would have cooked the canola when it was flowering without the smoke there," he says.

Farming near Fairlight, Kristjan Hebert says his canola surprised him.

"Overall, just because of the canola having a frosty start, we weren't expecting big things out of our canola, but the stuff that was hit by frost surprised us and

still made it to be a good solid average crop, so that was good," Hebert says.

As of last week, Hebert said that harvest was 98 per cent complete, with winter rye seeded and a short four or five day wait for soybeans to be harvested.

For Hebert, like many local farmers, it has been a long harvest, that got off to an early start in mid-August, but was punctuated by untimely rains that slightly slowed down the harvest.

We had 11 inches of rain in the growing season this

year which is normal for us. We were able to get all our cereals off before the big rain, and all the cereals came off at an average yield and above average quality. Then we did all our canola after the rain," he says.

"Normally, we try to be done before the first of October, so we are a little bit early, but we got to start a little bit early too."

Hebert says that reaching the end of harvest is always a good feeling on the farm.

Continued on page 14



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Focus on Ag

Producers want better resources for labour challenges

BY JULIA DIMA

As farms in Saskatchewan get larger, producers are faced with more labour challenges than before. Now, the Ministry of Agriculture is finding that producers across all sectors are looking for better solutions to meet the challenges they have on their farms. A roundtable was held by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and The Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council (CAHRC) to discuss those challenges.

"One of the things we really wanted to do is get a better understanding of the labour issues producers were facing. Labour is under the purview of the Ministry of Economy. So, we are working with them, and we figured we really need to better understand the challenges that industry is facing," says Bob Wiens with the Ministry of Agriculture. The roundtable had 25 producers from 15 different agricultural sectors including grains and oilseeds, hogs, cattle, and even apiries. Wiens says that they were looking for producers who had some experience in hiring staff, so they could discuss some of their challenges and some of their successes.

"The biggest issue was attraction and retention of employees—human resources issues were probably one of the top things expressed by industry. Agriculture is changing and it continues to change, so what used to be a farm that could be handled by a family unit is now looking at employing others. So that brings hiring challenges, and some people felt there was an HR (human resources) gap," Wiens says. "Another thing they found was issues in getting the right information in a timely manner. So, whether it's challenges hiring through the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, or dealing with the federal or provincial government, people were asking, 'How do I find that stuff?' It was identified by producers that it could be better (to get information)."

Coming out of that discussion, Wiens says the Ministry is hoping to make services easier to access for producers.

"One of the things they identified was wanting one window—who do I phone to find out information? The other thing we are working on is having a web-based place where they can go, and be linked to programs, and answers for questions they may have with labour issues—so they can go to one place," Wiens explained.

Another issue raised at the roundtable was attraction and retention of workers. Wiens says that the roundtable heard a number of different solutions from other producers there in addressing retention issues that come with the territory of rural work.

"We had examples of

producers who provide housing, and other techniques to keep people. One employee said there was no work on Sundays for employees, which probably goes away from the norm. But things like that were identified to help retain employees. When hiring temporary workers from overseas, you have to provide housing, but producers were also talking about Canadian and Saskatchewan workers, where they didn't technically have to provide them with housing, but said that's part of what we need to do to attract a labor force into rural Saskatchewan," Wiens says.

"They had stories of not being able to keep employees, but success stories came from things like providing housing. One success story from a farmer near Tisdale was that they found workers needed family time off, so they looked into more flexible work schedules.

"It was pointed out that when you're hiring someone, you need to be really up-front about what the job will require, and that the job will require that at certain times, you work overtime. That way, you're not dumping this on them after you've hired them," Wiens adds. "We had one person saying it's important to be

up-front, so that when you get people, you are not losing them right away—trying to match the expectations of employer with the expectations of the employee. That was discussed, and people thought it was important."

Wiens says there also needs to be a shift in how the public, and those considering jobs in agriculture, think about the industry. Some issues of attraction and retention may stem from the image of farm work as being long days of hard work in the field, and little else. Wiens says that's not true anymore.

Continued on page 28



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2015 harvest wrapping up

Continued from page 12

"It's always good to wrap things up, everyone is excited to get everything in the bin, and the crew is pretty tired—they all put in a lot of hours and we sure appreciate everything they do. We have some pretty important women around the farm feeding everybody each night, so they put in a lot of hours too, so it's a sense of relief for everybody when we're done," Hebert says.

Near Wawota, Neil Weatherald was also finishing his harvest last week, with 30 acres of oats for the horses left to combine on his 2,800 acre farm.

Aside from some rains, Weatherald says harvest went smoothly, and the quality and yields are looking average.

"Canola was a bit below average, and the wheat was about average. The wheat is not really great right now price-wise, but things will change," he says.

Weatherald says it's been an early harvest, by a few days, and says being finished by the end of September is ideal.

"It feels good to be done, it always does, it's a relief to get everything in the bin, for sure," Weatherald says. "It's drier this year,

we're able to do some field work, and get the fields back into shape, so it's good to be able to have the time to do that."

South of Weatherald in the Redvers area, Dustin Toms finished harvesting his 6,000 acre farm in the third week of September. He's calling it an early harvest and an overall good year.

"Other than a wet spring, we can't ask for much more at this point in time—it's been a pretty good year, especially after what we've come through the last four or five years," he says. "The quality is looking very good, the quality on the barley is excellent. The only downfall is the wheat, which was right on average, and the prices are not awesome on wheat right now, so we're looking to market more barley and canola."

Toms says the earlier harvest gives him a chance to get field work done that has been neglected for a few years where late harvests and wet conditions made it a challenge.

Near Maryfield, John Van Eaton was around 75 per cent finished harvest last week, estimating it would be another five



Farmers have been wrapping up harvest in the Moosomin area over the last couple of weeks. World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark got this photo of local fields looking west from Highway 8 south of Rocanville on Sept. 13, with the help of local pilot Rob Austin.

or six days to completely finish the harvest. He says that harvest was off to an early start, but the rain set things back.

"I was expecting to be basically finishing up about now, but we're five days or so away from that. We're not stressed out by it yet this would be, historically, a little on the early side for us," he says. "Overall, we are fairly pleased with the yields. For us, I would say this is slightly above average. Looking at the last five years, we've had a few wet years that were nothing short of a disaster, so we're pretty happy with the results this year."

Van Eaton says he's looking forward to having everything in the bin in the next week.

Dwayne Wolf from Wapella is also about 75 per cent completed his harvest, with a small amount of canola left, and soybeans, which he hopes will be mature this week. Soybeans are, historically, about a week ahead of schedule this year, due to the warmer conditions through the summer.

"Quality and yields are expected to be good, but it's hard to say until you start combining them. Everything is kind of average to above average, the wheat was probably average or slightly below," he says. "Overall, for us, it's a good harvest."

Wolf, like other producers, was off to an early start at the end of August, and was slowed down by the rain in the following weeks.

"It slowed us down a fair bit—considering we were combining malt barley and winter wheat early on, and now here we are at the 23rd of September, and it doesn't look like we will be done until the first week of October, so it is a drawn out harvest. We were hoping to have this all wrapped up by the end of September," Wolf says.

Despite that, the end is near, and Wolf is feeling optimistic about finishing the busiest time of the year for farmers.

"Each day, it's been a long grind, so guys will be happy to get it done and put another one in the books," he says.



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Focus on Ag

Harvest brings Kola community together to support Canadian Foodgrains Bank



Robyn Tocker photos

Above: Volunteers and their families came out to Kola's Crossborder Community Project on Sept. 21. BDO provided the food.



Above: Ten combines were brought over by local farmers to help bring in the Foodgrains Bank harvest. Farmers take time from their own harvests to pitch in and make sure the Foodgrains Bank harvest is completed.



Above: Travis and Ainsley Rintoul provided lunchtime entertainment.

Continued from page 10
 "We're supporting a good cause. I enjoy being out here with everyone in the field," Hunter added.
 Christina Fehr is part of the Koop family and has been coming for five years. She and her husband and children come out to support the harvest. Her children enjoy seeing their extended family.
 "They like to get together with their friends and ride on the combine with the guys that they know. They just have a great time coming out here and watching everything," said Fehr.
 Koop came to the harvest as a farewell to his mother, but also because he believes in the Foodgrains Bank.
 "We have been very blessed in this country. We have been encouraged with the results of the work that's been done here and with the government matching it four to one. It is a tremendous opportunity to give to the people that are less fortunate," said Koop.

"It's a great cause," said Fehr. "It's important for the kids to see how important it is to give to others and to put others ahead of yourself."
 For a canola harvest in Kola, the community will typically raise \$100,000 before being matched by the Government of Canada. With wheat, the Kola harvest raises \$60,000.
 Without local farmers volunteering their services, the harvest would not happen.
 "There has been lots of help and lots of combines showing up for the day," said Koop. "Companies and organizations come out with their equipment and just help out. It's been absolutely tremendous."
 Penner donated equipment such as combines and trucks to the harvest this year. In total, there were 10 combines donated by various volunteers.
 "We really believe what this does for the whole system. We can donate grain and

time and help the starving people in this world," said Penner.
 "We've got the tools to do it and it's not too much extra effort for us," said Martens. "You keep hearing about all the good that it's doing. You hear the report on how much money is made and where the food is going and you just can't help it."
 "It's a good cause to feed those people that don't have food," said Hunter. "It makes me feel good to help people that need the help."
 For Fehr, every component is important for the harvest to be a success.
 "I think it's great that everybody comes together and does this. The food, the music, the combines, the land—if you didn't have one of them, you wouldn't have anything. It's pretty awesome," said Fehr.
 Kola's community hopes to have another harvest next year, but the land that has been used for the Cross Borders Growing Project may not be available.
 "I don't know if it's going to be here

next year. I've been trying to lobby to find some different land to do the project on," said Neufeld.
 "All things have their time," said Fehr. "We'll see how it goes."
 Penner encourages others to get involved in harvests like this near their communities.
 "If people see a project like this happen in their own communities, they should try to do their best to help. They can donate cash or they can donate time. It doesn't take much time. Anything helps," said Penner.
 Neufeld sees this harvest benefiting people locally and globally.
 "There's a lot of people whose lives are spared because they get to eat, but as far as being beneficial for us, I would say it's more beneficial for us. It's always more blessed to give than to receive. I think that's definitely true. We are the recipients of true happiness when we give what we have," said Neufeld.

Unreserved Public Farm Auction
Bigney Farms Ltd.
 Glen Ewen, SK | October 24, 2015 - 10 am

2002 John Deere 9320 & 2008 Seedmaster TXB60 60 Ft & 1998 John Deere 1900
 2001 John Deere 4710 90 Ft
 2009 John Deere 7930
 Terex 72-518
 1992 International 1090 & 1994 Kenworth W900
 2009 Massey Ferguson 2170 & New Holland BB960A
 Lemken Giant 10 S800

AUCTION LOCATION: From OXBOW, SK, go 9.6 km (6 miles) East, 3.2 km (2 miles) North on Grid 603. GPS: 49.2391, -102.085

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2002 John Deere 9320 4WD - 1986 John Deere 8450 4WD - 2009 John Deere 7930 MFWD - 2003 John Deere 7320 MFWD - 2002 MacDon 972 36 Ft Draper Header - 1992 MacDon 960 36 Ft Draper Header - 1993 Westward 9000 30 Ft Swather - 1995 Peterbilt 375 T/A Truck Tractor - 1989 Volvo Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 1994 Kenworth T/A Grain Truck - 1997 Castleton 40 RT/A Grain Trailer - Doepker Super B Hiboy Trailer - Terex 72-518 Wheel Loader - 2003 JLG/Gradall 6000 Lb 4x4x4 Telescopic Forklift - 2008 Seedmaster TXB60 60 Ft Air Drill - 1998 John Deere 1900 Tow-Behind Air Tank - John Deere 1780 16 Row 30 In. Planter - 2001 John Deere 4710 90 Ft High Clearance Sprayer - Lorai EasyRider 2000 60 Ft 8 Ton Fertilizer Floater Spreader - 2009 Massey Ferguson 2170 Square Baler - New Holland BB960A Square Baler - Pottinger 8600 Novacat Disc 3 Pt Hitch Mower Conditioner - MacDon 940 18 Ft Mower Conditioner Header...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Alpha Acres Ltd. - Jon Penner & Shawna Peters
 Killarney, MB | October 26, 2015 - 10 am

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 2013 Case IH 9230
 2013 Case IH Patriot 4430 120 Ft
 2013 Case IH WD1203 36 Ft
 2010 Case IH 800 Precision Hoe 60 Ft w/3430

AUCTION LOCATION: From KILLARNEY, MB, go 17.7 km (11 miles) South on Hwy 18, then 8 km (5 miles) East on Blixhavn Rd. Yard on North side. GPS: 49.0216, -99.5373

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2013 Case IH 450 Quadtrac - 2013 Case IH Puma 145 MFWD - 2013 Step Deck Trailer - 1978 Bedard Bottle Mfg 4000 Imperial Gallon T/A Tank Trailer - 2012 Rainbow 18 Ft T/A Equipment Trailer - 8 CY Hydraulic Pull Scraper - 2010 Case IH 800 Precision Hoe 60 Ft Air Drill - 2014 Elmers Super 7 90 Ft Heavy Harrow - 2002 Kenworth T800 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 1979 GMC 7000 S/A Grain Truck - 1990 Ford L9000 T/A Flatbed Truck - 2012 Wilson 42 Ft Tri/A Grain Trailer - 2006 Wilson 41 Ft Tri/A Step Deck Trailer - 1978 Bedard Bottle Mfg 4000 Imperial Gallon T/A Tank Trailer - 2012 Rainbow 18 Ft T/A Equipment Trailer - 8 CY Hydraulic Pull Scraper - 2010 Case IH 800 Precision Hoe 60 Ft Air Drill - 2014 Elmers Super 7 90 Ft Heavy Harrow - 2002 Kenworth T800 Sleeper T/A Truck Tractor - 1979 GMC 7000 S/A Grain Truck - 1990 Ford L9000 T/A Flatbed Truck...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Focus on Ag

Deploy only when needed:

Professors developing smart fertilizers

Imagine a fertilizer that stays in the ground until plants need to access it, instead of being washed away or giving plants more nutrients than they can handle.

That's what Carleton University chemistry professor Maria DeRosa and adjunct professor Carlos Monreal are developing: a smart fertilizer that waits to release its nutrients until crops tell it to do so.

It's a technology that could have great benefit for the environment and human nutrition.

Currently, unused or excess fertilizer often ends up in lakes and waterways where it creates algae blooms.

A more efficient and cost-effective fertilizer can play a leading role in increasing crop yields and addressing malnutrition issues, as well as reducing the amount of

fertilizer that farmers need to use, resulting in cost savings.

"If a crop isn't ready to take up fertilizer when it is applied, it is wasted and it's estimated we waste about \$1 billion per year in unused fertilizer," says DeRosa.

"Our goal is to make fertilizer smart so that it delivers its nutrients to a crop only when the crop needs it."

To do this, DeRosa uses aptamers, which are small, single-stranded nucleic acids that can bind to large or small target molecules.

Her research involves identifying these aptamers, which are the "keys" to finding which DNA sequences will bind to the target molecules.

In human medicine, for example, this approach is starting to be used to detect damaged cells and distinguish them from

healthy ones so that therapy is only delivered to the diseased cell.

Crops like wheat and canola will release chemical signals when they need nitrogen.

It was through partnering with Monreal, who is also a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, that DeRosa and her team learned the identity of some of those signals—which allows DeRosa to program the coating of special biodegradable fertilizer capsules she's developed to release the nutrients only when the plants need it.

"For example, if we place the fertilizer into a coated, biodegradable capsule, the coating will protect the fertilizer until the signal arrives from the plant that it needs fertilizer."

"That signal will hit the aptamer in the

coating, break it down and release the fertilizer," DeRosa explains, adding that the capsules protect the fertilizer from being washed away or damaged by extreme temperatures, but allow the nutrients to be released over time as the plants need them.

Following successful development of the coating and capsule and lab-based testing, DeRosa and Monreal are now moving their concept into a greenhouse setting to see how well it performs with real soil and plants.

If successful, DeRosa says this development could open up a whole new field of using nanotechnology and biodegradable polymers to help feed the world's growing population, projected to surpass nine billion by 2050.

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Researcher Maria DeRosa is working on a smart fertilizer that will only release nutrients when needed.

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Left to right: Robert Beamish, Val Watson, Vickie Tutthill, Wendy Leslie and Todd Leslie operate the blades of an antique bottom plow pulled by Lynn Tutthill's 1912 steam engine tractor.

Ed James photo

Steam engine and plow still going strong

BY ED JAMES

The 1912 antique Gaar-Scott steam engine tractor belonging to Lynn Tutthill and family of Elkhorn has had a very busy summer since it was finished in June of this year. In fact I'm sure you read the excellent article written by Julia Dima about Lynn's tractor in a recent issue of this paper.

Now it was time to put the iron horse in storage for the winter by Lynn and his family had one more event for the machine in an act to pay it forward. I know that over the long period of restoration of the steam engine, hundreds of hours were put into it. However, almost as many people also helped. Some were family, friends, neighbors, and strangers but all had some sort of expertise to make the project a success.

So on September 27 for over five hours the tractor could be found in a farm field belonging to Ivan Soder, northeast of town, with the help of a borrowed antique John Deere nine blade bottom plow from the Austin, Man. agricultural museum. It was giving demonstrations of old time steam tractor plowing with many of the volunteers who helped make the tractor operational riding in the steam tractor or helping to operate the bottom plow levers. There was also a small 1952 International Harvester TD-6 tread tractor with plow being operated that also belonged to Mr. Tutthill.

As the steam engine huffed and puffed up and down the field smoke, ashes and sparks flew from the smoke stack and the steam whistle tooted. As you travelled on

the steam tractor you could experience all the power and history of a classic steam engine tractor. There was no shortage of volunteers to ride on or work some of the equipment and along the side of the field were several residents of the local seniors' home brought out by the village handivan. A few of them talked about seeing these massive machines run the long belt on the threshing machines back in the day.

Around noon a field lunch was provided but then it was back to the tractors. Every so often the large water truck or a five-ton truck full of fire wood would load up the steam tractor with the old time fuel, with many willing hands to help out. The people who came out were of all ages and more than expected showed up to see this unique event.

"It was a great day for everyone who came out to look or to participate," said Tutthill. "Perhaps we might do it again next year as part of the Elkhorn Antique Auto Museum, to showcase the steam tractors and the great collection of vehicles and artifacts in our museum. We appreciate the many people who came out today who supported us and hope it makes more people in the area aware of the museum's activities and presences."

Next July he plans to be at the Austin agricultural museum for an attempt to break a world record by having the most operating antique threshing machines in one location. Their goal is to have 120 working machines and with that many you might want to bring along your pitch fork to help throw a few sheaves!

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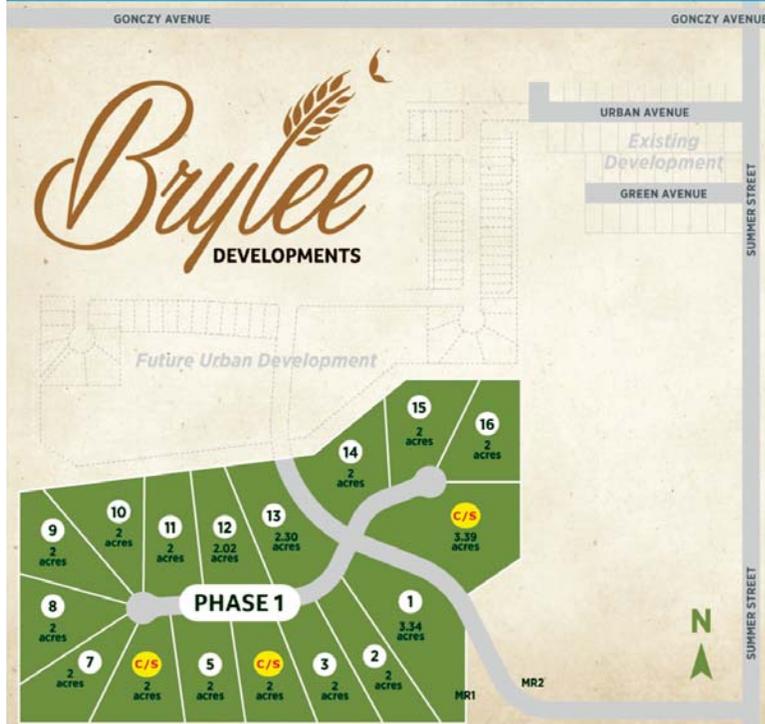
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10-1c

Kids in Ghana project still evolving after a decade

BY ROBYN TOCKER

Diana Austin had just finished high school in Moosomin when she decided to travel to Ghana. Despite her mother's disapproval, she embarked on a journey that would impact four children for the rest of their lives.

"I went to Ghana in 2004 to work in an orphanage. I stayed for six months then I went back after I finished my undergraduate degree. I stayed at the orphanage again for four and a half months. While I was there, the government required that they decrease the number of kids in the home. Some of the kids had a place to go. These four that we take care of we identified as having the most potential—they had the most to lose if they didn't have sponsorship," Austin said.

It was then Austin decided to form the project Kids in Ghana.

"We didn't really know what it was going to be, but we just knew we had to do something."

Since 2009, the project has raised \$48,000 to support the four original children—Emmanuel, Victoria, Francis Agyenim and Thomas Antwi—and a fifth child, Oliver, who was born to Victoria. The money is sent to the oldest, Thomas Antwi.

"He is very mature. Without him, the project wouldn't be possible. I have so much trust in him," said Austin. He informs Austin how much money they need for food, medical care and other necessities.

"Essentially, we act as their foster family. We cover all of their finances.

When they were younger, we paid for someone to take care of them. She is still there helping out," she said.

In the beginning, Austin's mother, Maggie, was not keen on the trip to Ghana. Since then, her mother's opinion has changed.

"It's changed to the point that it's a wonderful program for the kids, but every time she goes, I'm very concerned for her health and her safety. It's a concern, but I think she'll be going forever," Maggie said.

"I'm really proud of her. She sent pictures of the kids when they were younger and now that they're older, I just get a lump in my throat to think of all that has gone on in that time."

Austin receives the bulk of her donations from the Moosomin and Rocanville area.

"We have some family and friends from other areas. It's mostly the Moosomin area, which is amazing because I haven't lived in Moosomin full time since I was in high school," Diana said.

Austin returns to Ghana every one to two years to visit the children. She is going back to Ghana in February 2016 for two weeks.

Kids in Ghana does a variety of fundraisers during the year. With the help of her mother, Austin holds a vegetable sale in Moosomin.

"We do a Christmas card campaign. People will donate and then we can send a card to someone in their name," said Austin.

Kids in Ghana used to be a project operated by St. Mary's Catholic Church

in Moosomin.

"That part has really slowed down because of different tax regulations. The church can no longer allow us to be a division of them," she explained.

"Since that happened, it's been harder, but we make do. We send out letters and people donate."

Austin also sells Ghanaian shea butter lip balm and a book by Larry Easton, titled *Legacy of Worship*, in order to raise money.

"In the beginning, a lot of it was just getting the word out. People were really generous," she said.

A newsletter helps spread the word about Kids in Ghana fundraisers.

Austin has completed medical school and is doing her residency in British Columbia. She continues to receive support from her hometown. She encourages people to keep supporting Kids in Ghana.

"People always ask, 'When is it going to stop? What is the plan?' Essentially, the plan is to help these five children become self-sufficient adults. Canada realizes that just because you turn 18, it doesn't mean that you need to stop having that support. This is following their lives and giving them a chance at a better future. It's a longitudinal pro-

cess," she said.

Thomas Antwi is getting older, but wants to continue school. Continued support will help him achieve that dream.

"Without the support, I don't know if we would have been able to keep going," she said.

Although the children are still in need of assistance, Austin is thinking what the future will be for her project as the years go on.

"When I went to Ghana the first time, I made that connection with the people. I didn't want it to just be about me going and seeing them and it being a short-term thing. The thing with this project is it was never necessarily a planned thing. I didn't have a plan of doing it. It's just what developed. We've thought about long-term, maybe seeing if we can bring one of them over to study here and then they can go back and help Ghana. My guess is that as the project goes on, it's going to morph into something different. My connection with Ghana isn't going to just be done as soon as this project is done. It's going to be an ongoing relationship and commitment that will change as they get older," she said.

Continued on page 35



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Golfers enjoying themselves on the course.

Photos by Robyn Tocker

152 golfers come out to remember 'the boys'

BY KARA KINNA

Seventy-six teams—152 golfers—came out to remember Chad Taylor, Cody Wilson, Brody Parker and Riley Grainger at the fifth annual Rocanville Tigers Memorial Golf Tournament held on Saturday, Sept. 19.

"The memorial tournament was a huge success," says Brad Hickman, one of the organizers, and a friend of Taylor, Wilson, Parker and Grainger. "We had 76 teams and 152 golfers out to remember our teammates and friends. It went really smoothly. The weather really co-operated, and it was a great day."

Taylor, Wilson, Parker and Grainger—simply known as "the boys" to their friends and teammates on the Rocanville Tigers senior hockey team—died suddenly and tragically in a vehicle accident five years ago on a winter day.

The shock of the loss rocked the community. All four of the young men were involved in the community, and the golf tournament became a way for their teammates, family members and friends to remember the four boys each year.

Hickman says people come from as far away as Regina, Calgary and Vancouver for the tournament.

"Some of them are old teammates that had played hockey with the Tigers through the years, and they had played with the boys," he says. "It's a good homecoming and a way to come back to Rocanville and have a good time."

"The highlight is just seeing some familiar faces from other places that continue to come out for this tournament to remember the boys."

Hickman says the sole purpose of the tournament is to remember their lost friends have fun, and that's what happens every year.

"They're still at the top of everybody's thoughts," he says. "Lots of old stories fly, so it's good. That's all we're looking for is to remember the boys and have a good time."

"It's a good way to come home and see friends that we might not always see and remember Chad, Cody, Brody and Riley."

Hickman says the day is always a good one for the families of the four boys.

"It's a good way to visit the families. They are a huge part of this day and they're always at the golf course or at the social, and it's a good way to visit with them," he says.

Hickman, who played hockey with the four boys, and was their friend, says the tournament always makes an impact on him.

"It's awesome, hearing some of those stories again," he says. "Being part of some of those stories, it just brings you back to that time playing hockey with them and things like that."

"It's the memory of the boys that survives through the whole tournament, and that's the whole purpose of it."

"They were important figures in the community. They were involved in various things. It helped the community having four people like that."

Hickman says the tournament is always popular, with over 70 teams registering every year. He says the tournament will continue on year after year.

"The people who travelled a long way, they keep saying that as long as it's going on they'll be coming out. It's a top priority."

The tournament has evolved over the years to include a \$3,000 memorial scholarship to Assiniboine Community College in Brandon. Hickman says the Manitoba government matches the scholarship each year with another \$3,000 so that it can benefit two students.

The plan is to donate \$3,000 a year from the tournament to continue to fund the scholarship. The tournament has also allowed the Tigers to donate to Rocanville Minor Hockey.

Hickman says the Tigers are thankful for the support they receive each year. "The Tigers would like to thank all the golfer and sponsors and volunteers for helping us make this memorial tournament a huge success for remembering the boys," he says.

The tournament winners in the men's category were Blair Hebert and Alex Dodd. The pair shot 61 and won \$1,000. In the women's category, Sharon McKenzie and Cheryl Foster were the winners, shooting 87 and winning \$300.

Owen South and Mariel Kotyk won the mixed category, shooting 73 and winning \$300.

The men's long drive winner was Donovan Van Eeden and the women's long drive winner was Denise Kruppi.

The winner of the longest putt was Willie Yuzicapo for the men and Janice Pritchard for the women.

Closest to the pin was Jyllisa Wacker.



Troy Logan and Owen Wilson were some players who made up 76 teams at the Rocanville Tigers Memorial Golf Tournament.



Robyn Tocker photo

Ninety-five youth and adults came to McNaughton High School in Moosomin to participate in PotashCorp's Family First Workshop. Craig Kielburger, the founder of Free the Children, spoke about how he began the group.

PotashCorp hosts Family First workshop

BY ROBYN TOCKER
Free the Children began with one boy's dream to make a difference in children's lives around the world, but it is also inspiring youths closer to home.
On Sept. 18, 95 people attended the Family First Workshop at McNaughton High School in Moosomin. It was sponsored by PotashCorp and Free the Children.

Chantelle Ollivier, an administration superintendent for PotashCorp Rocanville division said the day was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"The theory is to bring adults and children together, not just children, and have the parents understand how to help build their children's inspiration," she said.

There were many themes for the day, but the main one was "be the change."

"If you want to see change

in the world, you can actually make a change," said Ollivier. "Each individual has the opportunity to either on their own or come together as a group to make a change."

The invitational workshop started with breakfast then led into presentations from Madison Reed and Taylor Stangeland of Rocanville, and Free the Children founder Craig Kielburger. Reed and Stangeland traveled abroad with Free the Children and spoke of their experiences.

Reed traveled to Kenya in 2013 at age 15 and Stangeland spent two weeks in India this year at age 17.

"Chantelle emailed me and said, 'This is something you might be interested in.' It's always been a dream of mine to go over to Africa. I started looking into it and found that it was interesting and looked like a lot of fun," Reed explained.

"My sister went the same year as Madison," said Stangeland. "After my sister went, she really encouraged me to do it. Last year, I was still iffy about it. I wasn't really comfortable going. This year, I was like, 'I may as well apply. If I don't get it, whatever.' I ended up getting accepted and then I started to get excited."

The women enjoyed their trips and learned a great deal about the work Free the Children does.

Reed saw the opening of a school and was amazed by how excited the students were to attend their new school.

"One of the biggest things is it really changed my perspective on my education and the way I look at school. We were there during their winter break months and every day when we were at the school building, there were kids there in their uniforms just to be there," said Reed.



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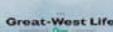
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TransCanada files update on Energy East

Construction would take place from 2017-2020



As part of its quarterly update on Energy East filed with the National Energy Board on Sept. 30, TransCanada released these updated proposed layouts of the pump station and tank farm to be added at the site of the Moosomin Compressor Station, which is located northeast of town. The tank terminal would include three 350,000 barrel tanks for a total capacity of 1,050,000 barrels of oil.

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
TransCanada has filed its latest update on Energy East with the National Energy Board, and the latest update includes updated proposals for the new tank farm and new pump station to be built at the Moosomin Compressor Station site.

Energy East is a proposal to carry western crude oil to eastern Canadian markets and export terminals. Across the Prairies, one pipe currently used to transport natural gas would be converted to carry oil, and a new oil pipeline would be built across Eastern Canada to transport the oil to refineries and to at least one export position, at St. John, New Brunswick.

At the Moosomin Compressor Station, the plan calls for a new pumping station as part of the project, a 1,050,000 barrel tank farm, and a feeder pipeline from Cromer, Manitoba to carry crude to the Moosomin site to be added to the pipeline.

A separate proposal for the Upland Pipeline would bring oil from Williston, North Dakota to the Moosomin compressor station.

Energy East has been delayed as TransCanada has withdrawn its proposal for a marine terminal at Cocouna, Quebec since Beluga whales in the St. Lawrence River were declared endangered.

"Back in April we withdrew the proposed marine terminal in Cocouna, and in

Q4 intend to file documents to reflect the ultimate decision we make," said Energy East spokesman Tim Duboyce.

"There are a lot of things to consider in repositioning that marine terminal. It's got to suit the needs of oil shippers to put it in a certain location, and the proximity to the other marine terminal has an impact. The farther down the St. Lawrence you go, the closer to the other marine terminal you get, and the less reason there is for a second marine terminal. It is possible for energy east to go ahead with one marine terminal."

That decision should be made and should be filed with the National Energy Board in December.

The review process is expected to go ahead in 2016, and if the project is approved, the first shovels should be in the ground in 2017 and the line would be in service in 2020.

Duboyce said that, if the Energy East project is approved, it would create 750 full-time direct and spinoff jobs during construction.

Construction would take place between 2017 and 2020, and would peak in 2018.

"This would be a major project across Saskatchewan," he said. "You're looking at 12 pump stations at about \$60 million apiece."

Cole, Davidson, Gabrielle, and Bear back on the ice in the WHL

Continued from page 6

Gabrielle hails from Moosomin, but played his bantam hockey in Minnesota before returning to Canada to start his WHL career with the Brandon Wheat Kings. He was traded to the Regina Pats last winter just before the trade deadline, and scored 10 goals and nine assists in his 33 games with them. This summer, Gabrielle elevated his hockey success, attending the NHL Scouting Combine, and setting three records in the fitness tests, and in July, Gabrielle was drafted to the Boston Bruins in the fourth draft pick, 105th overall.

He has spent his summer getting a taste of NHL hockey at the Boston Bruins development camp.

"I am having a lot of fun, being on the ice with NHL players every day, so it's a neat experience. Being on the ice with NHL players, you can see it in your future, hopefully. That is what I am looking forward to and working towards, so being at the NHL camp is a huge privilege, and representing Moosomin as best as I can, I think I'm doing well here, so I'm having a lot of fun here," he says. "Seeing how they do everyday life is pretty interesting. I am staying right by the rink, so you get a feel of how it would be, and it's pretty exciting to think you could be here one day in Boston playing for the Bruins and putting on that jersey every night. Right now, I need to focus on having a strong year, and showing them that I deserve a contract in the next year."

Though Gabrielle is going to miss the start of the Cougars' season, he says training in Boston is going to get him prepared for heading back into the WHL. He says he's confident that the Cougars have a strong team, and a good shot at playoffs this year. He spent a few weeks in Prince George getting to know his new teammates before going to Boston, and says he's confident he will fit in well.

Gabrielle's personal goal is to be the player Bruins scouts want to see on the ice this season.

"I know I'm in a good situation with Prince George, I've trained hard, and I know I'm ready to be a big contributor with Prince George, and they are giving me the opportunity to show Boston that I could play hopefully in the NHL next year or the next few years. I'm not too nervous, I am pretty excited," he says. "This year, I want to make a big impact, help Prince George as much as possible, and earn a contract with Boston—that's a pretty lofty goal, but it's what I am aiming for and striving for. I am going to put in all the work I can and give it my best effort."

Ethan Bear is another local player hoping that his efforts this hockey season will get him noticed by NHL scouts. Bear hails from Ochapowace First Nation, and went to the Pursuit of Excellent Hockey School in Kelowna as a teen, before playing his AAA with the Yorkton Harvest.

After a season of AAA, Bear was signed to the Seattle Thunderbirds, and he is starting his third season with them this year.

This summer, Bear was signed to the Edmonton Oilers in the NHL draft in the fifth round, 124th overall.

Bear says he's excited about starting his season with Seattle.

"We are going to be a pretty strong team, we'll be well rounded, we have depth in the front and the back, so I think it's going to be an exciting year for us. But there will be a lot of hard work for us, and we'll face some adversity, but I think it will be a very entertaining season," he says. "Being a top team, you always want to be consistent, so until we find that spot, it might be hard for us, we have to work as a group, not individuals."

Though most of the team is made of younger players, Bear is expecting to fill more of a leadership role, since it's his third season with the Thunderbirds.

"Being a third year, you lead by example for the younger guys coming up, you always want to be consistent in whatever you do, so I think I do have a leadership role of my own now," he says. "For me, it's just being consistent. I know what I can do for the team... so I plan to be consistent and play my game."

Bear says that as his hockey career advances, making the long trip from Ochapowace First Nation to Seattle each year is getting more exciting. And he's hoping this year will show the Oilers that he will be an asset on the team.

"I've always wanted to play in the NHL, so it's a goal to get there, and maybe even winning the season with the Thunderbirds will get me even closer—so, right now, I am taking it step by step," he says.

Along with Bear, there are three other players on the Thunderbirds who were drafted, Matthew Barzal, Ryan Gropp, and Keegan Kolesar.

"Not much changes for us, we all want to sign contracts and make the NHL, so it's just continuing to work hard and be the same guys—it's what got us there so you don't change now. We're going to have fun and help the team win," Bear says.

Dawson Davidson is hoping this year holds big things for him—now 17, it's the first year Davidson is eligible for the NHL draft.

"I'm focused on trying to hopefully get drafted this year—that would be a dream come true," he says.

Davidson played his bantam hockey with the Melville Millionaires, and then moved up to the Moose



Photo courtesy of Keith Hershiller/Regina Pats
Above: Rykr Cole focuses on the ice during a Regina Pats game last season.



Photo courtesy of Kelvin Harrison
Above: Dawson Davidson moves the puck during a Kamloops Blazers game.



Photo courtesy of Brian Liesse/Seattle Thunderbirds
Above: Ethan Bear shoots the puck during a Seattle Thunderbirds game.



Photo courtesy of Keith Hershiller/Regina Pats
Above: Jesse Gabrielle is now with the Prince George Cougars. Above, he hits the puck in a Regina Pats game.

Jaw Generals, where he spent a season and a half before getting called up to play with the Kamloops Blazers after Christmas.

Davidson was signed to the Blazers, and impressed at a winter camp, so he was called up early. In his half season with them last year, Davidson scored three goals and six assists.

Now, he's ready to come back and be a bigger part of the team.

"I think I am finding my place on this team. Last year, it was a big learning year for me, coming in halfway through the season, I had to adapt and change my game really quickly. This year, I feel like I can really play my game and kind of be a leader on this team. I don't really feel like a rookie anymore," he says. "I got 33 games in last year, so that's really good, and it gave me a chance to get a feel for the league and how competitive it is, and where I need to be this year in order to be a guy that plays bigger minutes and is relied upon."

Davidson says the WHL level is very different, and he is improving his skills keeping up with the faster stronger league. He spent his summer getting ready for what he knew was going to be a tough season. Like his friend and old teammate Cole, Davidson spent his summer on the ice at Ochapowace Nation, and doing power skating in Regina.

His goal this season is to see his team make the playoffs, which they haven't for two years. He's also hoping that his game impresses NHL scouts who may be in the crowd this year watching him and other potential prospects.

"It's a team goal that everyone is really focused on, so that is a step me need to take this year," he says. "You can't get too focused on it, you don't want to be focused on the scouts in the crowd too much, you just have to focus on your game, and good things will happen. So, I am really excited to get this year going, it's a big year for the team and myself, so I'm going to focus

on the task at hand."

Overall, Davidson says he is enjoying the warm weather, mountains, and welcoming billet family in he has in Kamloops. He came back to Kamloops a few weeks earlier than the season start to help run a hockey school for six and seven year old kids.

"It was a really cool experience getting to know all the young kids that look up to us and come to every game—they were really excited," Davidson says. "It reminded me that I was a young kid like them at one point wanting to play in the western league and wanting to play NHL, so it's good to see the kids have the dreams I had, and they have someone they can look up to and relate to."

The Blazers started their season on Friday in Kelowna. Their next game will be this Friday against the Victoria Royals.

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Above Left: Martin Bell shows Emmett Fafard, Zen Bell, Sophie Fafard, and Quinn Fafard how wood was cut using an old saw.

Above Right: Ron Hilgers has helped with the threshing event for 25 years, and his brother Jerry for 20. Alongside 93-year-old Peter Hirney (right) and his 84-year-old brother Andrew, the threshing event went off without any troubles. The Hirney brothers pitched sheaves for the majority of the event.



Above Left: Ryan Bast tried out the cash register inside a corner store at the Rocanville Museum Day on Sept. 12. He, along with many other guests, watching the threshing event, ate good food and listened to local musicians from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Above Right: Behrns has worked on the steam engine for 25 years. The steam engine used at the Rocanville Museum Day has been in operation since 1913 and was at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank Olde Tyme Harvest in Langenberg in 2013.

Rocanville Museum Day keeps history alive

BY ROBYN TOCKER

On a sunny Sept. 12, the Rocanville Museum held its annual museum day and saw many guests come through to view the historic buildings, learn about the machines, listen to local musicians, eat delicious food and view the famous threshing event.

For volunteers, it's a challenging, eventful day, but to people like Pat Watson, it's worth it. She has been the secretary for the museum for nine years after her mother stepped down from the position after 40 years.

"(Museum Day) gives young people and old people a chance to come out and see how things used to be and experience the olden days," said Watson.

Despite the long hours, Watson said Museum Day is worth the commitment.

"We have a lot of volunteers. We call on the community and people are willing. It's a community effort," she said.

Watson said it was hard to say how many people would come out this year due to harvest, but she was hopeful for a good turnout.

Threshing is the highlight of Museum Day and two brothers have participated for over 20 years. Ron and Jerry Hilgers got involved with the museum's threshing event because of the history.

"It's to keep our heritage alive. I've liked old stuff since I was a little kid," said Jerry Hilgers.

The threshing event is an older version of what is done today, explained the Hilgers brothers. It separates the wheat, but instead of using a combine, a rack load of sheaves is pulled up beside the threshing machine which is powered by a steam engine.

"It's getting extremely rare. There's not many operational steamers left. You have to fork the sheaves into it, rather than the combine going down the field and doing it all by itself," explained Jerry Hilgers.

"We start by finding a generous farmer who supplies us with a standing crop. We go out and we cut it with a binder, which binds bundles of grain together," continued Ron Hilgers. This year, the crop was donated by Wayne Logan.

The Hilgers brothers think it's important this threshing event is held because it gives visitors the opportunity to

see what was done in the past.

"The kids can see it. Now all they know is that the combines are in the field and this shows them a different part of that process," Ron Hilgers said.

Peter Sinotte, one of the threshing volunteers, came to Saskatchewan from Toronto eight years ago.

"I was born and raised in Toronto but Mom and Dad came out here in the '70s. Once my kids grew up, I thought I would come out here. That was the end of it. I never went back," he explained.

"Coming from a big city and growing up in that big city, coming out here is a whole new, different way of life. You get an appreciation for what farmers have to do. Not of today, but just as much of what it was like yesterday," said Sinotte.

"How labour intensive," Ron Hilgers added.

"I've learned a lot since I've been out here," Sinotte said.

After doing the event for so many years, the Hilgers have gotten the hang of the threshing show.

"We're like any farmer. Sometimes we have break downs, but if everything goes well, it will be a nice, smooth show," said Jerry Hilgers.

The Hilgers brothers worked alongside another pair of brothers during the threshing event, making it a show worth watching.

Eighty-four-year-old Andrew Hirney and his 93-year-old brother Peter pitched sheaves for the threshing show. "I just enjoy it," said Andrew Hirney. His brother echoed his sentiments as he worked to get the threshing hooked up to the steam engine.

The Hirney brothers worked hard as they stood atop the sheaves and pitched them, earning themselves an afternoon of music and other entertainment.

The Hilgers, Sinotte and the Hirneys are not the only ones who got their hands dirty during Museum Day. Conner Leclair and Connor Logan were on hand to drive one of the trucks during the threshing event and pick up any other job that needed completion. It was Leclair's first year at Museum Day and Logan's fourth. The boys enjoy helping out.

"We usually haul out wood for the steamer," said

Leclair.

To the boys, Museum Day is important because it draws in a bigger crowd.

"It gives (the museum) a time to haul the tractors they have in the shed. They get more visitors. Usually if it's a normal day, it is one or two," said Logan.

The day holds appeal to visitors of all ages. Shayna and Derrick Katcher brought their 10-month-old daughter Rebecca to Museum Day. The family enjoyed viewing the historic machines.

"I come here almost every year they have it going," said Shayna Katcher. She plans on attending next year when her daughter will be able to enjoy events like the hay ride.

Another guest, Alan Yung, has lived in Rocanville since 1971 and comes to Museum Day if he is in town. He enjoys the threshing event every year and makes sure to snap lots of pictures. He, along with many other guests, is a fan of the food.

"I'm biased because it's the United Church women who serve the lunch and the pie is incredibly good," he said.

"It's just a great day for the community," he added. "The neat thing about Rocanville's museum in general is the fact that so many of the pieces of equipment can still come to life. When you visit many museums, it's static. At least once or twice a year, a lot of our things come to life," said Yung.

Without people like Ray Behrns and Arthur and Norman Smyth, the museum's machines wouldn't "come alive" every year. Behrns worked on the steam engine—a piece of equipment that has been around since 1913 and is a key part of the threshing event. The Smyths got another tractor up and running for the threshing event.

At 1 p.m., visitors gathered around the steam engine behind the safety of the pylons to watch the threshing take place.

The music from the post office porch could barely be heard over the loud grinding.

Afterwards, children dove into the pile of straw, just like kids did when threshing was an annual ritual on every farm.

Better resources for labour challenges

Continued from page 13
 "We think of agriculture as just primary production—I'm going to be on combine, I'm going to be in a feedlot, we think of it as hard dirty work. Agriculture is much broader than that—it's about research, agronomics, heavy duty mechanics, it's so much more. You can get careers in agriculture and it's not just about a guy working 16-hour days in the fall," Wiens says. "As farms get bigger—the average farm size is over 2,000 acres, and we hear more and more about guys with 30,000 or 40,000 acre farms, that requires equipment repair, human resources, and so on, so the careers are much broader. We have to think of agriculture from a career point of view."

Wiens says an important part of the roundtable was connecting producers with other producers to find solutions. From the Ministry of Agriculture's perspective, the next step is streamlining information and

improving online resources for producers who were asking for easier access to the resources they need.

"How do we get information out there, that was the key thing—as the government develops new web-based services, we want to have linkages to workforce issues, the regulatory sides of things, what's happening with OH&S, workers' compensation, we're looking at best practices, and working closely with CAHRC," Wiens says. "So, our biggest goal is making sure if a producer phones us, we can point them in the right direction, we can point them to programming so they can make better decisions."

This is the first time the Ministry of Agriculture has held such a roundtable, and the hope is to hold others in the future, to continue to gauge and understand the challenges producers are facing with labour in the future.

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Government to match donations for refugees

Continued from page 8

"We're seeing more and more children that are in need of psycho-social support and access to education support. There are children we're seeing now that may not have been in school for four years and so the kind of support that they need to be able to catch up and get back into the education system is significantly more difficult than it would have been if they had only been out for a couple of months," she said.

Because population groups keep moving, Cornelius said the people they are assisting have changed over time, but that doesn't mean the crisis has lessened.

"After a number of years of displacement and the inability to earn an income, their resources simply get dissipated and used up because they're in a much more desperate situation. The need for assistance is only growing," he said.

Gladding and Cornelius agree the matching donations from the federal government will help these groups in two ways.

"First, there are more dollars being committed by the Government of Canada to meet the needs of people in the region," said Cornelius. "Secondly, it encourages Canadians to also support this effort. We have been appealing for resources from Canadians and we hope that this matching arrangement will encourage more Canadians to support the work we're doing in the region."

"We're very hopeful this will help us to ramp up our programming and sustain it," said Gladding. "We recognize that this conflict isn't going away anytime soon, as much as we would like it to."

The government commitment will impact CBM, said Smith.

"The Canadian government has offered this matching

grant for serious humanitarian crises (in the past), but it's been a very narrow window. It's like, 'If people send their money in the next few weeks, we'll match it.' This time, the Canadian government has extended the window to December," said Smith. "It will have a very positive impact for us. We've received a number of calls from our donors about this."

Gladding encourages a political solution for the crisis. "When we talk to children about what they want and what they hope for the future, it's to return to Syria and to have peace in their country and to be able to rebuild. More efforts in that direction would certainly be something that we would welcome and encourage the Canadian government to get involved in," she said.

Cornelius stressed the need for humanitarian assistance in the region.

"A lot of the media attention right now is on refugees flooding into Europe and resettlement. We don't diminish the issues around resettlement at all. One of the reasons there are such massive movements of people is people are losing hope in terms of staying in the region. The resources that are available to support people that are displaced in the region are highly constrained and so people are getting desperate. Most of the people that are displaced are not going to get resettled. They are going to be living in the region and the pressure being placed on neighbouring countries and on households inside Syria is enormous. We have to find ways of increasing that level of humanitarian support to displaced people in the region. It's critical," said Cornelius.

"It's important to recognize that the people fleeing Syria and the refugees we are seeing now coming into Europe are people who are fleeing persecution and who have a right to claim asylum and to have international support,"

said Gladding.

"While we definitely want to help Syrian refugees, we strongly agree that the best place to help a refugee family is as close to their own home as possible," said Smith.

Canadian donations do make a difference and Gladding encourages more Canadians to show their support.

"It's a way for Canadians to contribute to helping to alleviate some of the needs that these refugees are facing, and particularly children. We would certainly categorize this as a significant crisis for Syrian children. Their donations definitely will make a difference in the lives of those kids."

The support Canadian Foodgrains Bank receives does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

"People provide us with funds by doing these growing projects. There's money in the bank. We're able to respond to crises like this. With appeals and designated funding for complex emergencies involving conflict, often there isn't as much funding for that coming from the public.

"It's very complicated. People aren't sure who are the good guys and who are the bad guys, so you tend to get less funding for these types of emergencies than you do for natural disasters," Cornelius said.

"Our work in Lebanon, which is so important, is impossible without the solidarity of Canadian Baptist churches and the Canadian population," said Smith.

The Canadian government will match funds donated to help Syrians impacted by the conflict until December 31, 2015.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development will allocate these funds to Canadian and international humanitarian organizations.

To donate to World Vision, visit www.worldvision.ca.

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Eat Your Heart Out Redvers Zombie Run



Above: The first group of runners in the zombie run ready to be the survivors of the Redvers zombie infestation.



Above: Amber Sylvestre chases down Rheanne Dekeyser on the track to catch her life tags.



Above: Two young zombies, Brooklyn Light and Jade Krainyk.

It wasn't your typical community run taking place in Redvers on September 19. Signs around town read 'Caution, Zombie Run' and 'Run for your life' and there were green-faced, blood-covered members of the walking dead lurking behind buildings, bushes, and trailers throughout town. The 2015 Eat Your Heart Out Zombie Run was the first of its kind in Redvers, held as a fundraiser for the Redvers Arts Centre, which was damaged in the 2014 flood, and needs to be replaced.

The Heart of Redvers group is holding a number of fundraisers to raise funds for the eventual rebuild of the Arts Centre. The zombie run, organizers felt, was a unique way to do that.

"We were just hopping on the zombie bandwagon, and lots of people in the community like that, so we thought this would be something different and unique to our area," says Amber Sylvestre, who helped organize the run. "We absolutely want to do it again. We had lots of

participants telling us 'You know what you should do for next year's?' That's a good thing."

The day featured kids' activities, face painting, a photo area, food, and a social in the evening, along with the three and five kilometre runs. In total, around 130 people registered for the run as humans trying to complete the run and zombies trying to take the red 'life tags' off the waists of the runners.

The arts centre group feels it was a success. In total, before expenses, the run raised about \$10,000.

Sylvestre says it was successful because of the community support and the volunteers.

"We had a lot of donations and volunteers," she says. "Between all the people who made donations, or donated bales and tires, and whatever else, I'm sure we had over 100 volunteers, so it was a big deal."

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|  <p>2011 Buick LaCross CXL Sedan</p> <p>46,778 kms \$22,900</p> <p>STK#: SF5-249AT</p> |  <p>2012 GMC Sierra 1500 SL Nevada Edition Crew Cab, 4WD</p> <p>66,877 kms \$27,900</p> <p>STK#: U5-060T</p> |  <p>2014 Hyundai Santa Fe XL Premium, AWD, 7-Passenger</p> <p>67,868 kms \$27,900</p> <p>STK#: SX5-256AT</p> | |
|  <p>2014 Hyundai Genesis GT Coupe, RWD</p> <p>22,376 kms \$26,900</p> <p>STK#: SF5-188AT</p> |  | |  <p>2015 Kia Sorento EX Sunroof, AWD</p> <p>64,989 kms \$29,900</p> <p>STK#: SF5-229AT</p> |

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Kids in Ghana project still evolving after a decade



Above: Thanks to the project, Emmanuel is succeeding in school. He is currently upgrading his classes so he can pursue secondary education.

Below: Victoria is starting high school while she raises her son, Oliver. One day, she hopes to attend university and study either law, journalism or human resources.



Bottom: Francis Agyenium is succeeding in school now that he has a tutor, hired through the project's funding. He aspires to pursue a creative career, such as acting.



Continued from page 21

Once she completes her residency, Austin will have more time to dedicate to the project and the children.

"This plan wasn't necessarily well-thought out. It was very organic in how it came to be. I'm hoping that future projects might be a bit more deliberate in terms of planning."

Since the project began in 2009, there has been no shortage of problems.

"When we initially started it, it was right before I was leaving Ghana. All this stuff came to pass (with the orphanage) and we got them settled with an American volunteer. That was fine for a while, but then they couldn't stay there anymore, so they had to leave and we had to find them a house. There always seems to be something going on and nothing is really easy there," Austin said.

"Everything is much more complicated. That's always been a bit of the issue. Sometimes they would call, and I would just be like, 'What's it going to be now?' For them, they don't have any control over it," she said.

"The big struggle is just getting charitable status, which is something we're working on. That would enable us to

give the tax receipts," said Austin.

Due to a recent inflation in Ghana, the \$101.70 in Canadian currency Austin used to send per month for food is no longer enough.

"We have increased it to 450 Ghanaian Cedi (\$152.55 Canadian), which is still only essentially a dollar a day for each of them. We would send more, but it has been tough because of decreased donations," she said.

Austin is grateful for the constant support. "Because of the community support, we've been able to keep going. The children always say this is the best thing that ever happened to them because they get opportunities that they would have never been able to otherwise," she said.

Diana Austin hopes that people understand the impact they have had on the children's lives for six years.

"The thing about our project is, it's not going to save the world. I wish our efforts would somehow make things better in Ghana in general, but we know that we're changing five people's lives. Instead of reacting to a crisis, we're hoping to build better futures for them so they can give back to their country and help make it a better place."

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