

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

December 2012 • Volume 5, Number 12



Above: Chelsea Roberts, who played the lead role of Mary in *The Secret Garden*.



Above: Lucian Restivo giving instructions to Maryfield School students on the gym stage in front of the musical's set.



Above: Jake Stempel teaching the younger students how to enter and exit onto the stage.

Maryfield School teams with Missoula Children's Theatre to put on *The Secret Garden*

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

Most theatre productions take months to prepare for, but the students at Maryfield School in Maryfield, Sask. had less than one week to get ready to perform theirs.

For the seventh time in 12 years, the school hired the Montana-based Missoula Children's Theatre to send two professional actors to help the students to put together a musical from scratch in only six days. It's now a well-loved tradition in the town, said Maryfield School's principal Lydia Frazer, who is the producer of the musical.

"It has become a legacy at the Maryfield School, where many of the students have seen either older siblings or possibly older cousins in productions from years before. It has grown on people," she said.

This year, Lucian Restivo, 23, of Washington D.C. and 22-year-old Jake Stempel from Buffalo Grove, a suburb outside of Chicago, were sent by Missoula Children's Theatre to Maryfield to direct the students' performance of *The Secret Garden* on Saturday, Dec. 8. They spent four hours after school from Monday to Friday coaching the students towards completion of the play.

Missoula Children's Theatre is a non-profit touring children's theatre group based in Missoula, Montana and was founded in 1970. It is the largest of its kind in the world. Its mission statement is: "the development of life skills in children through participation in the performing arts." The company has a team of 94 professional actors, many young and just out of college, who are teamed in groups of two to tour for 11 months, beginning in June, children's summer camps and schools to direct the production of musicals, all of which are put on in only six days. The company has a fleet of trucks for them to load all of the props in and head off to do their work. This year's pairs had 17 different countries where they have put on plays, and those in North America are divided into regions.

Restivo and Stempel have toured schools and summer camps in North Dakota, Montana, Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. In all of them, the musical they put on has been *The Secret Garden*.

Since each performance has an extremely limited time frame for the students to prepare, speed is the essence.

Within two hours after first meeting with the students at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3, Restivo and Stempel had determined the character roles for the 67 participating students, ranging in age from kindergarten to grade 12, in this Victorian-age drama. They made their character choices by asking the students to act out various positions, and they then quickly allocated them a role that their personality seemed to fit best. With Maryfield School having only 117 students, more than half of the students are participating—everyone who wanted to.

The students in the older grades were given the human roles of the musical, while the children in early elementary grades were placed in animal and plant roles, such as flowers, geese and horses. So none of the students who met with

Restivo and Stempel after school on Monday were left out of the performance.

Chelsea Roberts was selected for the lead role of Mary, who in the play makes her way from British colonial India to a lonely estate in rural Yorkshire, England. It is quite a thing for her to be cast so unexpectedly into the lead role, she said.

"I didn't know who I was going to be. I was really nervous. I was kind of surprised and excited," she said.

And it is also a tiring challenge, Roberts said.

"It's hard to memorize your lines in a week."

Later on Monday, after roles were selected, the younger students were allowed to go home while the older students stayed to practice their lines.

The next day after school they delved

more deeply into their roles while learning stage positioning. By Wednesday, they had the house prop set up and were practicing singing, with Maryfield native Carol Veysey on the piano. She has been doing this every year that Missoula has come to town, and, like the students, she learns the notes for the songs when she gets the music sheets on Monday night.

"It's just amazing how they can do what they're doing in such a short period of time, and the kids seem to know all their songs by the time I come to play the piano," she said.

By Thursday, the students were required to have their lines memorized so they could run through the show, and on Friday they were just putting on the polish, practicing the show over a few times. Saturday before the show, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., they came to organize the costumes and do a dress rehearsal. And then they hit the stage in front of their parents and neighbors, with shows at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The cost of bringing in Missoula Children's Theatre was raised by a combination of ticket sales from the previous Missoula Children's Theatre performance at the school and fundraising.

"Everything from a bottle drive to selling different food products, like Mom's Pantries and In Good Taste," Frazer said.

On Wednesday, Stempel was showing in the resource room the kindergarten and grade one students how they were to enter and exit the stage. Kayla McCurry, a grade nine student, was helping Stempel to keep the young ones in order.

"So everyone put up your number one finger. This is season number...?" asked Stempel.

"One!" resounded a string of high-pitched voices.

"And you are going to enter on...?"

"Calling!" they again replied.

Stempel then had them line up in two groups and showed them how they would walk onto the stage.

"You always follow your...?" Stempel again prodded.

"Line leaders!"

"Now face the audience. Now exit, following your line leaders," Stempel instructed.



Professional actors Lucian Restivo and Jake Stempel, who helped Maryfield students to perform *The Secret Garden* with only five days of preparation.

Continued on page 14

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Emmanuel



Left to right (front): Victoria, Thomas, Francis and Diana. (Back): Emmanuel and guide



Thomas



Victoria



Diana and Francis

Christmas campaign for Four Kids in Ghana

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Everyone is busy this time of year, buying Christmas presents, making plans for the holidays, trying to fit in all the extra Christmas parties and events.

Diana Austin from Moosomin is busy enough as a medical student at the University of Saskatchewan with finals coming up in December, but between classes she is organizing a Christmas fundraising campaign for Four Kids in Ghana, a charity she founded to help out four young people she met while volunteering at an African orphanage.

"The kids had grown up at the orphanage, but because the government told them to reduce the children by half, some of the older children had to go," Austin explains.

"Some of the kids had relatives they could go to, but these four had the most potential and didn't have a safe place to go. I spoke with my mom and we agreed we needed to do something for them."

"It's probably the biggest step of faith either one of us have taken."

It was 2009 when Four Kids in Ghana got off the ground. "We had raised some

money—enough to run it for one year—when we started it. It's hard to find property there, so at first they were staying with some American volunteers, then we found them their own house to rent, and employed a woman to take care of them.

"Last December we finally found a house we could afford. Most houses in that area were built by Habitat for Humanity. There weren't any new houses coming up, so it was a little difficult to find a place for them. It's a basic house—lots of renovations still need to be done."

At first there wasn't much of a formal

fundraising effort.

"It just kind of started," Diana says. "We had a bit of money, we thought we would tell people about it, a few people donated some good sums of money, which got us off to a good start, but buying the house took quite a bit of our funds, and senior high school there can be more expensive than you would think."

"Junior high was free, but school fees probably ended up adding on a \$400 cost of each of them. It's become more expensive, so I've put in more of my own money."

Continued on page 6

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Left: Joseph and Baby Jesus surrounded by the Children's Chorus.

Bottom left: Anthony Kelly performs "Are You Listening?"

Center: Trevor Poole and Bob Laing along with Jacinta Van Den Bussche, Beryl Stewart, Shirley Dahlgren and Dominic Van Den Bussche performing "Sweet Sweet Spirit."

Below right: Sherrie Meredith plays the part of an angel.



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Christmas campaign for Four Kids in Ghana

Continued from page 3

The Christmas fundraising campaign is intended to cover upcoming living and education costs for the four students. The funds, as all donations for Four Kids in Ghana, flow through St. Mary's Church in Moosomin. The church has taken on the kids as a mission project.

"We don't have a target with the Christmas campaign, but it would be nice if we could make a couple of thousand dollars. That would be ideal.

"Some people have been very generous. The father of a friend of mine has donated \$1,000 a year for the last few years, but anything we get would be great."

Austin believes the project is helping these four students transition to adult life.

"In August we sat down with the kids, and asked them about their long-term goals," she said. "The oldest one will finish high school in

April. He's very smart and very hard working. In an ideal world I would like to get him funding to come and do his undergraduate degree at University of Saskatchewan.

"I'm relying on donors now, but I'm going to be starting my residency in 2014, and will start practicing in 2016, so I will be able to contribute more."

Austin said the costs of the project are rising, but she's happy to know the four are being cared for.

"It is quite expensive for everything, but we've taken these four on and we've committed to them," she said. "We'll be continuing to care for them until they're able to be on their own."

"All of us involved know that it's not going to come easy, but we will just work toward it."

Anyone interested in contributing to the Four Kids in Ghana project can turn to page 42 for more information on how to contribute.



The kids at their home in Ghana.

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Covering Southern Saskatchewan and Southern Manitoba

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Ledcor makes Moosomin its temporary home

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN
Ledcor's pipeline maintenance project based in Moosomin has been going well since the contracting company began its work in the middle of October, said Ledcor project manager Jim McCarthy.

Since then, the Ledcor crew is based on Wright Road on the south side of Moosomin. The crew's foreman and managers in temporary offices at the site. The crew meets in the morning before departing for the different sites on a pipeline they are repairing.

The crew is responsible for repairing parts of the Enbridge pipeline from about 100 km west of Moosomin to the Manitoba border. The line runs south of Moosomin.

If all goes to plan, McCarthy said, the construction crew should be finished repairs by late January to mid February on all of the roughly 80 locations of the pipelines which have become corroded. When they are finished, they will pack up their trailers and move on to the next area of the pipeline that needs to be repaired.

"In this particular area, it really depends, because Enbridge is doing evaluations of its pipelines all of the time. But that's when we anticipate we'll be done," McCarthy said.

The repairs of the segment of the pipeline that the Moosomin crew is responsible for is part of a reparation project taking place all across Canada.

"Enbridge is evaluating different locations all across the country, and they add locations for repair based on what they find," he said.

"There are five or six other contractors doing the same thing we're doing right now in Canada," Mc-



Ledcor's Moosomin headquarters on Wright Road.

Carthy said.

Enbridge is an energy pipeline company, with lines that stretch from Edmonton all the way to Montreal and into the United States. The pipeline that they are working on goes west to east from Edmonton to Manitoba before it veers south into the United States. There are a number of lines running east to west around 35 kilometres south of Moosomin, but this project is only working on one of them, McCarthy said. Over time, parts of the pipeline have become corroded and so must be welded to prevent any spills. Ledcor is hired by the company to regularly repair their lines.

To determine which parts of the pipeline need to be repaired, they ran a piece

of equipment through the pipelines to sense which areas of it must be thickened. When one area reads too thin, Ledcor will go in and dig it up for an inspection crew hired by Enbridge to do a manual inspection of the outer surface of the pipeline. If the inspectors determine it needs to be thickened, Ledcor will weld on steel sleeves around the outside of the thinned pipeline in order to bulk up its thickness. They will then backfill the pipeline and move on to the next piece of the line that needs to be bulked.

"It just strengthens the pipe in that area and gives it more durability and brings its strength greater than it originally had," McCarthy said.

Ledcor chose Moosomin as its base for the pipeline reparation project in the area due to it being a sizeable town in a central location for the segment the crew is responsible for fixing, McCarthy said.

"It's the closest town to where the majority of the work is, so it's a sensible place to work. There's less travel time to the different sites," he said.

As a result, there are roughly 100 Ledcor employees that have temporarily made Moosomin their place of residence. While Ledcor headquarters in Moosomin is located on Wright Road on the south side of town, there is no camp for the workers to live in, so they all have to find their own places to stay. Some have found

rooms to rent in houses, while others have settled in the town's motels, McCarthy said.

"They're expected to find their own place to stay, and they get paid a certain amount of their compensation called live-out allowance."

"It certainly gives the local communities in which we stay a benefit to their economy," he said.

Three of Ledcor's workers in Moosomin, Chris Glen, Andy Zulyniak and Nick Stermer, have even temporarily signed on with the Moosomin Rangers. They played their first game with the team on Friday, Nov. 30.

"We have a number of guys that are darn good hockey players. We've had that happen before. It's a

good way to get involved with the community. It's good for those fellows, because when you're on the road and moving from place to place, you don't always have time to do other things than just working.

"So it gives those guys a good opportunity to get in some recreation and have some fun and practice their game and get to meet some of the people in the community."

Zulyniak, Glen, and Stermer had a big game in their first showing, said Rangers Coach Trevor Green.

"They made a big difference. They're definitely going to help us out," Green said.

Being on a Ledcor pipeline repair crew is a very transient job that sees them travel all over the country, staying for stints of a few months in different towns across Canada. As a result, McCarthy said, it is important for them to fit in well with the communities they stay in, not only for their own sake but also for the sake of Ledcor's reputation.

"A lot of the workers call themselves gypsies, and they go from town to town, and that sort of thing, to keep busy. It's the nature of the work. It's been very important from one of Ledcor's main objectives that any community we go and work in that we leave the community with a positive attitude toward Ledcor," he said.

So far, Moosomin has left a positive impact on the Ledcor crew, he said.

"It's been really good. The community has welcomed us in and taken us in, and our people have sort of gotten involved with the community and have made lots of friends. It's a great place to be."

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The CP Holiday Train rolled into Moosomin at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 7 greeted by hundreds of people and cheering school children. The 40 minute stop included performances by Doc Walker and Miss Emily, as well as a cheque presentation from CP to the Moosomin Food Bank. Hot chocolate and popcorn was served by volunteers on the ground. The holiday train made a number of stops in Manitoba and Saskatchewan that week.

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Stephanie Lange photo

Frosty morning

A lovely, if chilly, coat of frost covered the Moosomin area on Wednesday, November 14. See page 26 for more photos.

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- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT**
Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, AP3, 18" Alum, JL1, PDF, NZZ, Z82, Z17, Silver, 52,112 kms, was \$33,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 CHEV K2500 LT CREW**
4x4, 6.0L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, AP3, 18" Alum, PDF, NZZ, UY2, 17" Alum, Boards, Z82, Grey, 94,094 kms, was \$33,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 20" Alum, AP3, UVC, UD7, PDD, PDF, UK3, JL1, White, 66,325 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$34,995**
- 2011 CHEV K1500 LT EXT**
4x4, 4.8L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, Keyless, 18" Alum, NZZ, Z82, Z17, Taupe Gray, 18,710 kms, was \$27,995 **NOW \$26,995**
- 2011 CHEV K1500 LTZ EXT**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, CF5, 20" Alum, Z71, PLUS PDD, PDF, UVC, Black, 14,768 kms, was \$39,995 **NOW \$36,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLE CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, PDF, AP3, 17" Alum, JL1, G80, Z82, White, 93,517 kms, was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2011 CHEV AVALANCHE LT 4X4**
5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, AP3, Z82, JL1, Steps, Silver, 38,501 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLT EXT 4X4**
4x4, 5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd. Leather, PDD, PDF, UD7, AP3, 18" Alum, steps, JL1, Blue-green, 37,155 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$32,995**
- 2011 GMC K1500 SLE EXT**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, AP3, 18" Alum, PDD, PCM, PDF, UK3, JL1, Laser Blue, 70,542 kms, was \$28,995 **NOW \$27,995**
- 2010 GMC K2500HD SLE**
4x4, Crew, 6.0L DURAMAX, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, 17" Alum, 6" WALS, AP3, Black, 82,116 kms, was \$40,995 **NOW \$39,995**
- 2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, CF5, AP3, 18" Alum, PDD, PDF, JF4, JL1, UD7, Storm Grey, 57,451 kms, was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, CF5, AP3, 18" Alum, Z82, Z17, PDF, NZZ, DK, Blue, 110,671 kms, was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**
- 2010 CHEV AVALANCHE LT**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, UK3, G80, Z82, Taupe Gray, 76,032 kms, was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 CHEV K1500 LTZ CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Leather, CF5, 18" Alum, Z71, PLUS Pkg, AP3, G80, White, 105,898 kms, was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**
- 2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW 4X4**
5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd. Leather, GAT, PDG, 18" Alum, AP3, G80, PDF, UK3, White, 85,312 kms, was \$31,995 **NOW \$29,995**
- 2009 CHEV K1500 LT CREW**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, PDF, AP3, 17" Alum, Z82, White, 130,262 kms, was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

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- 2009 CHEV AVALANCHE LT**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, CF5, UK3, G80, Z82, Blue/girt, 152,536 kms, was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**
- 2008 CHEV K1500 LT EXT**
4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, PCW, PDD, UD7, JF4, AP3, 18" Alum, JL1, PDF, White, 146,584 kms, was \$20,995 **NOW \$18,995**
- 2008 CHEV AVALANCHE LTZ**
5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, 20" Alum, CF5, UD7, AP3, JF4, Z82, White, 125,182 kms, was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**
- 2008 GMC 1500 SLT EXT**
4.8L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, Keyless, Blue, 99,000 kms **NOW \$14,995**
- 2006 GMC 1500 EXT 4X4 SPECIAL EDITION**
4.8L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, 17" Alum, Tubes, Black, 116,261 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$14,995**
- 2005 GMC K1500 SLE EXT 4X4**
5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, AUO, UK3, 17" Alum, G80, Z71, Z82, A/M, Remote Start, White, 136,915 kms, was \$17,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2005 CHEV K1500 LS EXT 4X4**
5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, Tubes, 17" Alum, CJ3, NZZ, Z71, Z82, White, 133,285 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$12,995**

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- 2007 DODGE DURANGO LTD**
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- 2005 CHEV EQUINOX LT AWD**
3.4L V6, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Htd Leather, Buckets, 17" Alum, CD, Gold, 152,890 kms, was \$11,995 **NOW \$8,995**

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2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, Spoiler, CD, Black, 158,902 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA SEDAN**
50th Annr., 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, CF5, 18" Alum, AP3, UK3, Black Girt, 146,629 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA LTZ**
Sedan, 3.9L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, CF5, 18" Alum, XM Bose, AUO, Black, 107,421 kms, was \$13,995 **NOW \$12,995**
- 2008 PONTIAC G6 SE SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Keyless, CD, Dk Gray, 67,914 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2008 BUICK ALLURE CX SEDAN**
3.8L V6 ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, Alum Wheels, Chrome pkg, Silver, 110,173 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT SEDAN**
3.8L V6, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16" Alum, CD, Silver, 112,779 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA LS**
Sedan, 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 16" Alum, Keyless, Spoiler, CD, Grey, 84,500 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$11,995**
- 2008 CHEV IMPALA SEDAN**
50th Anniversary, 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr, Buckets, CF5, 18" Alum, AP3, UK3, Black, 88,802 kms, was \$15,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT SEDAN**
3.8L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16" Alum, Red, 107,000 kms, was \$10,995 **NOW \$8,995**
- 2007 BUICK LUCERNE CXL**
Sedan, 4.6L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, 17" Alum, UD7, AP3, Lux Pkg, Bronze, 115,261 kms, was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**
- 2007 PONTIAC G6 SE SEDAN**
2.2L, 4CYL, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, Sunroof, 16" Alum, Black, 126,312 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2007 BUICK ALLURE CX**
3.8L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, Silver, 104,342 kms, was \$12,995 **NOW \$9,995**
- 2006 PONTIAC G6 GTP SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd Lthr Buckets, Sunroof, 18" Alum, JF4, AP3, Black, 96,142 kms, was \$11,995 **NOW \$10,995**
- 2006 PONTIAC G6 SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 16" Alum, Spoiler, UK3, Gold, 154,643 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**
- 2005 PONTIAC G6 GT SEDAN**
3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Sunroof, 17" Alum, AP3, Monsoon, UK3, Silver, 140,426 kms, was \$8,995 **NOW \$7,995**

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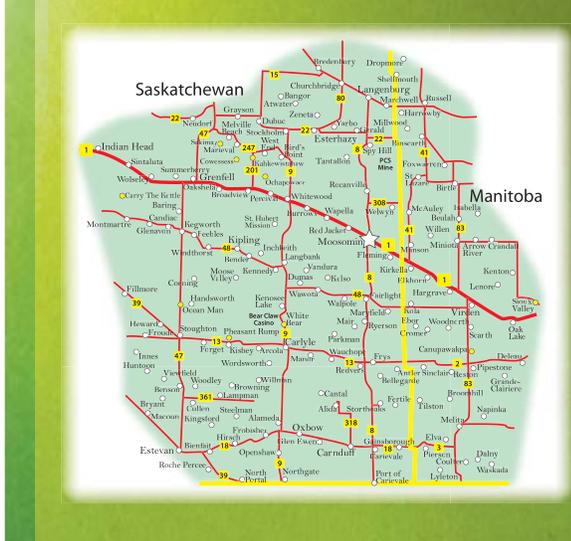
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Adam Wightman photos

Santa makes the rounds

Santa Claus on his reindeer float at Light Up Wawota Night on Thursday, Nov. 29. He made a few laps of the town and met with children looking to inform him of their wishes for the fast-approaching Christmas.

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2012 Dodge RAM 1500 crew cab, SXT, Hemi, stk #5217A	\$20,995	SALE \$27,800
2011 Dodge Durango leather, rear DVD, stk #4985A	\$46,900	SALE \$37,500
2011 Dodge Journey RT leather, loaded, stk #5453A	\$25,975	SALE \$24,900
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2011 Kia Forte automatic, leather, stk #5300A	\$19,995	SALE \$18,800
2010 Dodge Ram 1500 air, cruise, tilt, stk #5153A	\$27,495	SALE \$26,500
2010 Chrysler 300 leather, stk #5022A	\$22,995	SALE \$19,800
2010 Jeep Commander leather, 7 passenger, stk #4792A	\$28,995	SALE \$25,500
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Missoula Children's Theatre visits Maryfield

Continued from page 1

Stempel has been doing this part of *The Secret Garden* with youth for 19 shows since June. He instructs the kids in a direct, no non-sense manner, as there isn't time to waste.

"This show is very hard to do," he said. "And because it is a hard show to do, we encourage them to work as hard as they can."

The challenge of putting the show together in such a short period of time means that Stempel and Restivo have to move quickly. They teach a handful of students a particular part of the play and stress that they have to learn it fast.

"We teach the show in segments, group by group, and then we bring them all together," Stempel said.

It is a routine that they have hammered into habit by now, at schools and camps across the American plains and the Canadian prairies. The two actors have been with Missoula Children's Theatre since May. That month was spent in training, before they began touring in June. In the summer, they toured at children's camps, which

were based around putting on *The Secret Garden*. Since September they have been working at different schools, zigzagging north and south across the Canadian-American border. Most of the places they have been to are small communities, and so they, both self-admitted city kids, have been seeing things they haven't before.

"It's a culture shock for me. I've never been in small communities," said Stempel. "But the thing I love about small communities like this, is that it is really cozy. Everybody knows everybody."

Restivo said that Maryfield seems to have a different atmosphere than most small towns he's been to on the tour.

"I will say that Maryfield has a big-city feel. I haven't felt like I have been in a small town. There seems to be a lot going on," he said.

Getting to travel to the different places has left a special feeling with them, something that would be hard to get without having such a unique job.

"The great thing about travelling is the people in the

communities that you are able to meet within that short amount of time you have with them," Stempel said.

"There is a big difference in the kids between the different towns. These kids seem to be the most humorous kids I have ever been with."

"It's nice to come into the town and be warmed by their personality," Restivo added. "And it is nice to come into the towns and have the kids drawn to you."

As per the theatre company's motto, the two actors say that the most fundamental part of helping these youth is what they hope the students take away from it—valuable life skills.

"In the process we teach them skills of commitment, being able to practice at something, which you would be able to use for many other things."

"Then there's things like time management, and basic life skills of team work, and we teach them about confidence, and we are very encouraging," said Restivo.

Encouragement is one of the most important requirements for teaching the children how to perform the mu-

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Above: Jake Stempel directing the students singing the songs of *The Secret Garden* in the Maryfield School gym, while Maryfield resident Carol Veysey plays the piano.

sical, they stressed. They have to give the children positive feedback in order to keep them going with such an intense week of training.

The Secret Garden was chosen by the theatre company because its story line itself teaches valuable life skills, Restivo said. The theatre company's rendition of the story plays up the metaphor of the garden—which is a symbol for life. As Mary cares for the garden and brings it back to health, it brings her and her friend Colin back to it as well.

"The moral of the story that we try to teach the children is to care for others and they will care for you. Mary cares for the garden, and it makes her and Colin happy," Restivo said.

It is a lesson that they will continue teaching kids for the rest of their contract with Missoula Children's Theatre. After that, they have their own plans for beginning their theatrical careers. In the year after Restivo finished his BA in Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University, he formed an independent theatre company that he hopes to take to Chicago to develop it on the independent theatre scene. Stempel, on the other hand, would like to one day move to New York to have a go at a commercial acting career, to perform on big productions with large budgets.

In the meantime, they are very much living the dream, helping children do what they themselves love. And they say that the children at Maryfield School make it easy.

"I have only known them for less than a week, but they all seem to be great kids and fast learners. They have great personalities," Restivo said.

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International election observer MP Ed Komarnicki watches election in **Ukraine**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki saw an election from a different perspective as he travelled to Ukraine as an international election observer. Komarnicki said last week he felt lucky to have been chosen for the mission.

"It was a great privilege to visit Ukraine and to be able to observe the opening and closing of an election poll as well as to make unannounced visits to other polls in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine," he said.

"I was quite impressed for the most part with how well the election process went on election day. Outside of one urgent request for us to report to local police in one polling station, we were not impeded in our access to the polling stations or to information requested. I understand that there were more significant complaints in Eastern and Southern Ukraine."

Komarnicki was one of 10 Canadian members or parliament who travelled to Ukraine to observe the vote.

"There were 10 parliamentarians that could go, including some Liberals and some NDP," Komarnicki explained in an interview in Moosomin last week.

"I applied because I'm interested in Ukraine—I'm of Ukrainian descent, I speak a bit of the language, and I had been in Ukraine during the last election for MPs. Having had some experience may have been a factor in my being chosen."

Komarnicki says Canadian observers watched the whole election process



Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki, left, at a polling place in Ukraine to monitor elections.

to ensure the vote was conducted fairly.

"We had an opportunity to observe voters lists, number of ballots, locals going through the process of being identified on voters lists, signing off on voters list, providing passport

identification, signing off on ballot counterfoils, and proceeding to the ballot stations. In my view the process went fairly smoothly in the polling stations we observed during the day. We witnessed one irate voter when a polling sta-

tion didn't open on time, and the vote count took exceptionally long."

The trip was short, but election day was long.

The Canadians left on a Wednesday evening and were back in the country the next Tuesday. "We were

constantly on the move," says Komarnicki.

Election day kept the observers busy for more than 22 hours as ballot counting stretched from election night into the next morning.

"On election day we

were there to witness the whole process. We started at 7 a.m., the polls close at 8 p.m., but we didn't get out until 5:30 a.m. Because it's a complicated election process, counting the ballots takes a long time."

Continued on page 19

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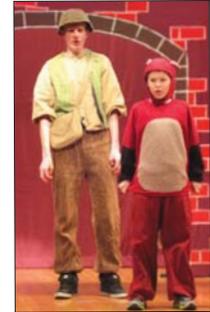
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Below are some scenes from the Maryfield play "The Secret Garden" which was put on with the help of the Missoula Children's Theatre recently. Professional actors Lucian Restivo and Jake Stempel helped Maryfield students to perform The Secret Garden with only five days of preparation.



Above: Kian Sweeting (Ben Weatherstaff), Joseph Orr (Archibald Craven), Amelia McMullin (Martha Sowerby), and Carrick Friesen (Colin Craven)

Top Center: Humans singing. In back, from left, are Kian Sweeting (Ben Weatherstaff), Lee Retzlaff (Doctor Craven), Joseph Orr (Archibald Craven), Ami Veysey (Susan Sowerby). Front: Becky Thiessen (Mrs. Medlock), Amelia McMullin (Martha Sowerby), Carrick Friesen (Colin Craven), and Brandon McMullin (Dickon Sowerby).



Left: Brittany Thiessen and Aerial Roberts

Above right: Brandon McMullin (Dickon) and Rylee Glover (raccoon).

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MP Ed Komarnicki watches election in Ukraine

Continued from page 17

In other areas it took even longer—in several district election commissions the tabulation was not completed days after the election.

"They have a much more complicated system than Canada," says Komarnicki. "They elect 225 MPs by a first-past-the-post system like us, and another 225 by a proportional system, and there are about 22 parties and umpteen candidates—so it takes a while to count.

"There are two ballots, one listing parties, and another listing candidates. The first thing they do when the polls close is to separate the candidate ballots from the party ballots, and ensure that they balance."

Some of the votes are then redistributed. "Any party not receiving five per cent of the vote has its seats distributed amongst the other parties that did, proportional to the votes they received. Although this system is somewhat foreign to many of us, it is not to the Ukrainian population, who appeared quite engaged to me."

He said that the election day activities he witnessed appeared to be fair.

"Our people want to be absolutely sure that the count was fair and they took extraordinary precautions to ensure everything was evenhanded, fair and transparent," said Komarnicki.

"In some ways, it was similar to a Canadian election. The process is very much the same during polling day—you count the number of people on the voters list, the number of ballots, you provide identification—it's very much the same.

"They operated very efficiently. There was one incident—at one polling station the police wanted us to leave the polling station because they wanted to see us urgently. We refused to meet with them. We never did find out what the urgency was."

Komarnicki raised some questions when he saw two sets of legs under the curtains of one voting booth. "I asked what kind of man they had with four legs, but it turned out to be a man with his son."

While election day appeared to be fair, Komarnicki says the overall political system is biased toward the government.

"From my vantage point the bigger

issue facing Ukraine is what transpired prior to voting day and immediately following," he said.

"Two prominent opposition figures, Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko, remained imprisoned during the election period, following trials that were criticized as unfair. Neither Ms. Tymoshenko nor Mr. Lutsenko were permitted to register as a candidate for election and the head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly of which I was a part was not allowed to meet with Ms. Tymoshenko.

"As well political parties had unequal access to private media coverage, the government seemingly targeted measures against media favorable to the opposition, administrative resources were used to assist the governing party, and campaign funding lacked transparency. Media coverage on state owned television was noted as being biased in favor of the ruling party and there were also reported incidents of violence and intimidation of candidates and campaign workers.

"In my view these issues need to be addressed and I would hope that over time

legislation will be introduced and passed to level the playing field for opposition candidates during the campaign period with adequate and transparent rules relating to campaign finances, and with the tabulation of election results.

"Hopefully everyone in the political process will take steps to advance democratic reforms and to ensure that the democratic voice of the Ukrainian people is heard.

"I realize it is a work in progress and that it may take a generation and likely more to bring it closer to where in my opinion it should be."

"On a personal level, the MP says he enjoyed the trip to a country his ancestors came from.

"I had the opportunity to see the area where my grandparents come from," he said. "I do speak Ukrainian, and I was able to converse somewhat with people in the polling place, I could carry on a conversation, which made it easier.

"And I have to admit I did have perogies and borscht every day that I was there."



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CFIB addressing the challenges that come with growth

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan is growing, and the challenges that come with growth have to be addressed. That is the message Marilyn Braun-Pollon of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business brought to the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

"Our members across Saskatchewan are being facing the challenges that come with phenomenal growth.

"There's been lots happening across the province, and you can see it here in Moosomin. "When I last came to speak to the Chamber in Moosomin in 2008, there was no divided highway, and these hotels were not here. We've got growth all around us, Saskatchewan has a lot of things going our way, and the key question is how do we maintain this momentum?"

"With the CFIB one thing we continue to do is commend good policy and criticize bad policy.

"One thing that we think is a step in the right direction is the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. We're looking at increasing our population to 1.2 million by 2020, we want to make sure we're being competitive from a tax perspective. We want to keep lots of focus on education and training. We're hearing from our members that graduates are coming out of high school without the skills they need in the workplace—literacy skills, math skills, people skills—and this is hav-

ing a huge impact on your productivity. "We also have to look at how do we advance our natural resources, and also how to maintain our ag advantage."

She said Saskatchewan business owners are among the most optimistic in the country about their future business prospects.

"We've been bucking the national trend for quite some time, in small business optimism," she said. "Saskatchewan small business optimism is the third highest in the country. When we ask about the current state of our members' businesses, 61 per cent say good, 32 per cent say satisfactory."

The good business climate leads to some challenges.

"The main operating challenge our members identify—the number one issue is a shortage of skilled labor, the second is time constraints, and the third is a shortage of unskilled or semi-skilled labor.

"Today we released a study, Help Wanted, that won't be a surprise to anyone here. It shows that Saskatchewan and Alberta have the highest rate of private sector job vacancies in the country."

In Saskatchewan there are 11,700 unfilled jobs.

Braun-Pollon pointed out that the majority of employers are finding it difficult to fill positions—42 per cent say it has been very difficult to find employees in the last three years, and 32 per cent say it was somewhat difficult.

Braun-Pollon said the immigration system is not bringing the people to Saskatchewan that employers need to work.

"Our immigration system is totally out of sync with what you need as employers," she said. "We met with Minister Boyd to speak specifically about immigration. We know we have some work to do on immigration. On the temporary foreign worker program, he wants to hear from businesses on their experiences."

She pointed out that the labor shortage is having a very real impact on small business owners.

Asked how the difficulty in hiring new employees have affected them, 76 per cent of Saskatchewan business owners say they are working more hours. Other problems cited include seeing poor quality applicants for positions (69 per cent), increased labor costs (66 per cent), reduced productivity (56 per cent) High turnover and frequent retraining (54 per cent), and deteriorating customer service (44 per cent.) 31 per cent of businesses have had to delay or cancel expansion plans, 12 per cent have had to reduce hours, and, at the extreme, three per cent of business owners have said they have had to close due to lack of staff.

What does Braun-Pollon believe are some of the solutions to the problem?

"One thing we're hearing from our members is the need for better soft skills and better literacy skills for high school graduates," she says.

Like the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the CFIB is placing a strong emphasis on education, and the group plans to issue a report on education reform shortly.

"Another priority is making sure that the permanent immigration system meets the needs of your workplace," said Braun-Pollon. "We need to get the right workers at the right place at the right time."

She said there are steps the provincial government can take to help the situation.

"Balancing the labor laws is the number

one priority," she said. "We've heard a lot of rhetoric that this will strip workers of their rights. Nothing could be further from the truth. We need some flexibility. We're talking about modernizing the workplace. The world of work has changed dramatically over the last 25 years, and labor laws haven't. We're hoping that we can see some positive changes from this that will make us more competitive. We need flexibility on hours of work and overtime, and we believe the allocation of stat holidays should be between employer and employees.

"The sky's not going to fall the day after the legislation is introduced."

She also believes that reducing red tape is a big part of the solution.

"Canadian businesses face a \$30.5 billion a year cost to comply with government regulations. We've been trying to keep government officials accountable. We're checking up on CRA offices—calling different offices, asking the same questions—seeing if they get the same answers. There have been some changes in the way CRA works. They now will stand by what they tell you. If they give you the wrong information, that's their problem now, not yours."

"We want to keep red tape under control to give you more time to run your business."

She said that governments have done a good job of lowering the overall tax burden. "We have to remind governments that tax cuts are good for businesses, and also for employees. When we look at what businesses have done with savings from tax reductions, 64 per cent have invested in new equipment, 63 per cent have increased employee salary or benefits, 57 per cent have paid down debt, 31 per cent have lowered or maintained prices, 31 per cent have increased charitable donations, and 26 per cent have hired additional employees. Obviously tax cuts are good for businesses and employees.

Continued on page 27

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CEO says finding doctors is top priority

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

With hospital services reduced in Kipling due to a shortage of physicians, the CEO of the Sun Country Health Region says that recruiting physicians to work in the district is the top priority for the health region.

"It's probably more akin to a health centre as it's operating right now," CEO Marga Cugnet said Thursday.

"During the open hours, nurses are available if somebody comes in and needs an antibiotic, or if the doctor is booking elective procedures. The lab and x-ray departments are operating as usual, but there are no emergency and no in-patient services."

While the one remaining doctor in Kipling has said he is willing to be the sole physician staffing the hospital, Cugnet said the health region doesn't want any hospitals operating with only one physician.

"It's been a practice in the region to have at least two

physicians in any community if we're going to have a hospital open," said Cugnet.

"We've been quite consistent in telling communities we don't expect a solo physician to keep a hospital open. In this case if he was on his own for two weeks, fine, but we don't know how long it will be before we find another doctor, so we don't want to be relying on just one. We told him we would rather he focus on providing services in his clinic. People access over 96 per cent of services in the doctor's office. He was willing to be the only physician responsible for the hospital, but we didn't think it was fair to him or the community."

Cugnet said the health region is working with the community and the province on recruiting physicians.

"It is a partnership," she said. "It's the communities, it's the region, it's the provincial SaskDocs recruitment agency— it's all of us working together. In Kipling the

community is taking the lead."

Cugnet said there has been more focus on recruitment over the last few years.

"We've had to create a recruitment department, and we have three people working on recruitment all the time," she said.

"This is top priority. Physicians are a key link to most, if not all of our programs. They are essential to keep our facilities open."

The doctor shortage is worse than some may realize.

"Right now we're at a 50 per cent vacancy rate across the health region," said Cugnet. "It's been getting higher over the last couple of years. Even though we've been successful in our recruitment efforts, we have been losing doctors as well."

Continued on page 23

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CEO says finding doctors is priority

Continued from page 21

"In the past year we've attracted five new doctors, including three through the SIPP program, but at the same time nine doctors left the region as well.

"A year ago Estevan was in crisis with physicians, and now they're almost up to the number they require. We need 12-13 there and in Weyburn."

She said that the health region would like to have three practitioners to serve the Kipling area, but has been in talks with the Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region about sharing resources between Kipling and Broadview.

"Our plan would be to have three practitioners serving Kipling, which might be two doctors and a nurse practitioner, but we're looking at partnering with Broadview, and there could be six practitioners altogether between the two—there could be four docs and three nurse practitioners, or three and three."

Cugnet said the health region is trying to encourage Saskatchewan medical graduates to consider practising in Sun Country through everything from residencies in family medicine to up to \$100,000 in medical school bursaries

for those who commit to practising in the region.

"We are providing practicum experience which is very targeted to help familiarize students with practice in rural Saskatchewan—they will come for six weeks to three months as part of their training. We've had that opportunity in Weyburn and Estevan as well as Radville.

"We hope at some point they will get to know the community and facility and hopefully some of them will choose to practice here," said Cugnet.

"There's also the family medicine residency program, which is two years of specialty in family medicine. Sun Country has made application, and we hope we can get four medical students doing their residency here.

"They would be here for the two years immediately before beginning their career."

There has been some uptake on the region's bursary program for both doctors and nurses.

"We have four bursaries for medical students. They are eligible for \$25,000 a year for medical school for four years. For each year they accept the bursary, they commit to practising

one year in Sun Country. We actually have four on the bursary right now."

While the recent reduction in hours at the Kipling Medical Centre is due to a shortage of nurses, Cugnet believes that problem will be solved as soon as the physicians are in place to reopen the hospital.

"One nurse actually did go to Regina Qu'Appelle, but will come back when we restore the services."

Cugnet said it is generally not difficult to recruit nurses for Weyburn and Estevan, but recruiting them for smaller communities can be difficult.

"We recruited 47 new grads and experienced nurses into the region last year, but they really don't want to go into the smaller centres," she said.

"To get them into Kipling, Arcola, Redvers is still a real challenge. We expanded our bursary program for nurses outside of Weyburn and Estevan, and none accepted it."

She said progress is being made on recruiting a doctor for Kipling.

"We've had discussions with three physicians already," she said. "One is ready to do part time work, and we're still talking to her. One is internationally educated, we're

seeing if they are eligible for the SIPP program. It takes awhile, and with immigration, it can take six months to a year to get them in. We're really hoping to find someone from Saskatchewan because that can go a lot faster."

A new integrated facility is planned for Kipling. Cugnet said the region is hoping to break ground in the spring.

But how can the region plan for the future, including a new facility, when staffing is a question mark?

"That factor is always in our minds," says Cugnet. "That's why we've been looking at whether we can do a partnership with Broadview to make it sustainable. We've had two doctors in Kipling and when one leaves on holidays you're leaving one alone.

"We're hoping if we work together with Broadview, rather than two sites that are on the edge, you have two sites that are much more stable.

"We're putting lots of effort into this, because we don't want Kipling hospital to close. We know it puts pressure on other facilities, and on the doctors in Moosomin."

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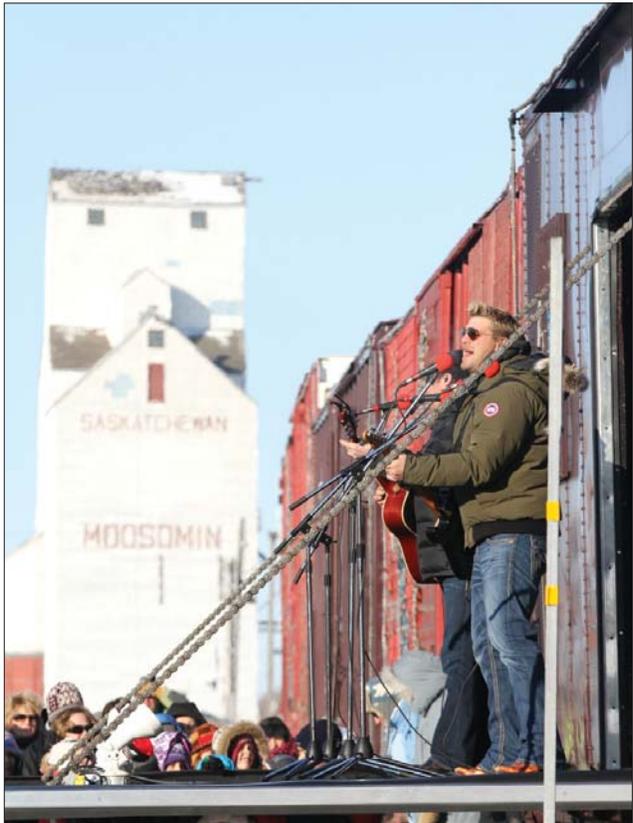
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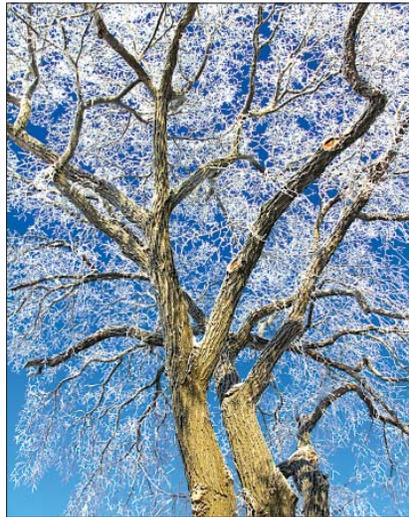
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Frosty morning

A lovely, if chilly, coat of frost covered the Moosomin area on Wednesday, November 14.



Wall says changes are about common sense

CP—The fall sitting of the Saskatchewan legislature saw new liquor rules, big changes for labour and a plan to privatize the Crown corporation that handles land and personal property registries.

Premier Brad Wall said the changes are about common sense.

"We think there's some modernization that's represented in those changes," Wall said Thursday after the fall sitting wrapped up.

The province announced more than 70 new liquor regulations, including the move to allow alcohol to be served at striptease performances and wet clothing contests—as long as there isn't full frontal nudity. The new rules also allow movie theatres to serve alcohol in age-restricted areas.

Saskatchewan is also adding three private liquor stores to its retail mix—two stores in Saskatoon and one in Regina. Wall said new liquor stores are needed because of population growth.

The labour changes are part of a new Saskatchewan Employment Act, which consolidates 12 workplace-related pieces of legislation into one omnibus bill.

Among other things, the legislation indexes the minimum wage and says people with disabilities can't be paid a lower minimum wage. It also says if a contract can't be reached, the parties must take a 14-day cooling off period before a strike or lockout can happen.

The government also introduced legislation that will allow it to sell 60 per cent of Information Services Corp. (ISC).

"Here's a company that has a chance to take the next step, probably needs a little capital to do that. The government doesn't want to invest in these out-of-province ventures, so the best way to do it is for that company to get capital from the market," said Wall.

"I think that's a modernization of a company that has a very bright future ahead, but a brighter future if it isn't limited necessarily by government ownership."

The opposition New Democrats said they were pleased that the government changed labour rules to better protect late-night retail workers from violence. NDP Leader John Nilson also liked that the government agreed to an NDP suggestion to make public a list of government buildings that contain asbestos.

But not everything made Nilson happy.

"We're quite disappointed with the numbers of things that they are selling or disposing of to get dollars to fund their budget," he said.

"They're selling off land that was purchased many years ago for Sask Housing. They're selling ISC."

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Previous North Dakota State Champions

<p>2011 Jeremy Keillor, \$42,500 1,852 entrants</p> <p>2009 Eric Hanson, \$37,500 1,491 entrants</p> <p>2007 Sonny Lehman, \$30,000 1,103 entrants</p> <p>2005 Lyle Kirmis, \$20,000 483 entrants</p>	<p>2010 Andrew Gray, \$40,000 1,716 entrants</p> <p>2008 Sam Dickson, \$35,000 1,341 entrants</p> <p>2006 Curtis Langford, \$25,000 667 entrants</p> <p>2004 Jeff Nehring, \$19,000 387 entrants</p>
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Management reserves the right to cancel or alter any promotion at any time. All decisions of the management are final.



Marilyn Braun-Pollon addresses the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce.

Braun-Pollon speaks in Moosomin

Continued from page 20
 “When the government of Saskatchewan lowered the small business tax rate from 4.5 to 2 per cent, that was good, but we would like them to go one step further, to zero, as our neighbors in Manitoba have done,” Braun-Pollon told chamber members. “That’s the only policy in Manitoba I point to that I think we should emulate.” Braun-Pollon said in an

interview after the meeting that it has been interesting to watch the boom from the beginning in Saskatchewan.
 “The optimism levels started to rise in 2006, and that was significant,” she says. “We started to see levels of optimism gain steam and gain momentum. We have different problems now than we had then. Now we have good problems—we have

a growing population, a growing customer base, we have lots of demand for our products. We just need the workers to fulfil those needs. It’s nice to see Saskatchewan in such a good position.”
 She said the CFIB is listened to by governments because the group is impartial. “They know that we will give credit where credit is due and will point out what other areas they

need to consider,” she said.
 “We’ll deal with the NDP in Manitoba and we’ll deal with the Sask Party in Saskatchewan, and we will deal with opposition as well. What’s important to us is that the policies are small business friendly. We want governments to allow small businesses to do their job, and that’s good for all of us.”

Cost of flooding expected to top \$1.25 billion

CP—The Manitoba government says the cost of last year’s flooding is expected to top \$1.25 billion.
 Infrastructure Minister Steve Ashton says disaster aid, payouts for damaged crops and other measures are still being tallied.
 Ashton expects to recoup a few hundred million dollars from federal disaster programs.
 He says disaster relief alone has totalled \$289 million—about \$53 million more than was paid out during the so-called flood of the century in 1997.
 Ashton also says the province now recognizes there was artificial flooding downstream from the Shellmouth Dam—mostly on agricultural land—and there will be compensation for those affected.
 Heavy rain last spring resulted in a deluge of water over a large swath of southern Manitoba which forced thousands of people from their homes.

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