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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba
December 2018 • Volume 11, Number 12



Work on the roof of the massive new hog finishing barn at the Plainview Colony. The massive building measures 172 feet by 710 feet. It will ship out 700 hogs a week to the Maple Leaf plant at Brandon. See inside for more photos.

New finishing barn a step forward for Plainview

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Plainview Colony is expanding its hog operation in a big way.

Plainview has always raised hogs, and they have been recognized for excellence—winning both first and second place at the 2018 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair hog quality competition—and a massive new barn will start filling with hogs in January, the next step forward in the colony's hog business. The massive new barn measures 172 feet by 710 feet. It will take 18 weeks to fill the barn, one 700 hog room a week.

Plainview is about 18 miles southeast of Moosomin, or eight miles straight west of Elkhorn.

The massive new barn has been built at the east side of the colony. It will contain 15,000 hogs, and will ship 700 hogs a week to Brandon.

The colony has invested about \$6 million and a lot of work into the barn. The new barn will allow the colony to do more of its pig farming on the colony.

Currently the colony has hogs at Reston, Somerset, Notre Dame, and other locations in southern Manitoba. It owns a barn at Reston and places pigs in private barns as well.

The colony often has four people on the road each day



Plainview Colony won both first and second place at the 2018 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair hog quality competition.

because the hogs are spread so far afield, but will be able to keep those people at home with the construction of the

new barn.

Pigs are the main source of income for the colony, which also farms about 10,000 acres. The grain raised on the colony is used in the feed, and manure from the hog operation goes back to fertilize the land.

"We do 700 or 800 acres a year with the natural fertilizer," says Ervine Waldner.

The hog barn will be a biosecure area once it starts operating. No one will be allowed in unless they shower in and shower out. Plainview has a high health herd and doesn't want anything to jeopardize that.

Much of the equipment in the barn comes from other Hutterite colonies. Many colonies are involved in the hog business, and some have got into manufacturing of panels, floor grates and other elements that go into the barns.

Construction started in the summer of 2017. The entire colony worked together to build the barn, and help came from other colonies as well.

About 3,000 yards of concrete went into the facility. In one day, about 800 yards of concrete was poured.

"That day we started at five in the morning and went until six at night," says Ervine Waldner.

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Canada's sad march to energy industry oblivion

Encana, Canada's flagship energy company, has now become Americanized, driven south by disastrous Liberal policies

My belief in the importance of Canadian-headquartered companies goes back to the early 1970s when, as a young engineer, I joined the Canadian subsidiary of a Nebraska-based oil and gas company.

While I was treated well and given substantial responsibility, I yearned to work for a company where the decisions were made in Calgary, not Omaha. That opportunity came with a new startup called the Alberta Energy Co. I joined AEC to head the building of the oil and gas division.

The company grew quickly. But five years later, the entire oil and gas industry was struck a huge blow by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's National Energy Program. It capped oil prices below world levels and slapped a confiscatory tax on the gross revenues of energy companies.

Canadian-headquartered companies were supposed to benefit from cash grants, provided we shifted our drilling to federally-owned lands. But most of those lands were in the Arctic, where drilling costs were prohibitive and access to pipelines was non-existent.

After the next federal government, the Brian Mulroney-led Conservatives, killed the Trudeau policies in 1985, AEC got back to the job of company building.

Not long after I became the company's CEO in 1994, American takeovers of Canadian oil and gas companies began accelerating. Having grown AEC into one of the two local energy companies with the largest market value, rivalled only by PanCanadian Petroleum (a member of the venerable Canadian Pacific group), we managed to avoid that fate.

But market intelligence revealed we were on the radar of the global multinational majors, the only players with the capacity to take us out. We knew that the best defence was to become an even larger, nationally-important energy company.

On Jan. 28, 2002, Alberta Energy and PanCanadian announced a \$27-billion "merger of equals" that would create the world's largest publicly-traded independent oil and gas producer.

Given my career-long belief in the importance of Canadian-controlled companies, it was important that the name of our new company symbolize its status as Canada's flagship energy company. Hence the name Encana—from the root words 'energy' and 'Canada.'



Gwyn Morgan

Our merger announcement set off a two-month regulatory period for gaining shareholder approval. During those two months, both companies would be, in stock market lexicon, "in play" and vulnerable to takeover attempts from one of the global majors.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government was facing criticism for the continuing loss of Canadian head offices to foreign takeovers. Without the merger, there was a very real possibility that both of Canada's largest energy companies could fall into foreign hands.

We urgently needed the federal government's help to keep that from happening. Hence, when David O'Brien and I embarked on our mission to convince shareholders to vote for the deal, our first stop was the prime minister's office.

The result was an unprecedented statement in the House of Commons by the minister of Natural Resources that the creation of Encana was in the national interest. Finance Minister Paul Martin also made strongly supportive comments a few days later. These statements were critical to repelling potential takeover attempts that would have derailed our merger.

Employees of the two companies united in our mission of "energy for people." When I retired four years later, Encana was our country's largest energy company and also the largest of all Canadian companies by stock market value. My dream of building a Canadian-headquartered energy company, invulnerable to takeover, had become a reality.

I could never have imagined that, a dozen years later, the company would decide to export itself.

Over the past three years, Encana has shifted much of its multibillion-dollar capital program to the United States. Then last May, Encana CEO Doug Suttles moved from Calgary to Denver. This month came news of Encana's \$7.7-billion acquisition of U.S. producer Newfield Exploration. That will mean that Encana's largest production region will now be the United States, not Canada.

Reluctant to state that stark reality in so many words, Encana's CEO has instead said the company will now

be "headquarterless." But with half its board of directors, 60 per cent of its production and the vast majority of its capital program south of the border, it's impossible to deny that Canada's flagship energy company has now become Americanized.

Disappointed as I am by this turn of events, I can't blame Suttles. He and his board have a responsibility to invest shareholder capital where production can be delivered and sold at international prices. The day of the Newfield announcement, Canadian oil was selling at US\$19.10 a barrel, while prices were US\$63.10 in Texas. Canada's captive-market discount gives away \$200 million a day as a gift to American buyers.

The past few years have been a nightmare for the Canadian industry, where every light at the end of the tunnel has turned out to be train driven by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau barreling at us from the opposite direction.

Trudeau's oil tanker ban in northern B.C. and his refusal to allow a pipeline in the "Great Bear Rainforest" killed Northern Gateway. And his introduction of a post-regulatory hearing requirement to consider "upstream emissions" forced TransCanada to abandon its nation-building Energy East Pipeline that would have replaced foreign oil.

Meanwhile hundreds of tankers carrying oil from Saudi Arabia and other countries make their way up the St. Lawrence without any such emissions reviews.

That left the now-stymied Trans Mountain expansion as the only hope of getting Canadian oil to tidewater.

As if this weren't enough to deter investment in Canada's oil and gas industry, Bill C-69, the Impact Assessment Act, now before the Senate, will make the chances of accomplishing resource infrastructure projects seem near impossible to investors.

And then there are carbon taxes that will hit the industry particularly hard.

These are the disastrous actions that are killing what has long been Canada's most economically important industry.

The story of Encana's creation and rise features the important actions of one Liberal government, many decades ago, that, whatever its other mistakes, at least believed in the importance of a strong domestic oil and gas industry.

And now the sad story of Encana's Americanization features the actions of another Liberal government that is ideologically opposed to the industry's very existence.

Gwyn Morgan is a retired Canadian business leader who has been a director of five global corporations.

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Group meets with deputy premier Moosomin group asks province to take lead on Energy East

A group from Moosomin met with Deputy Premier Gord Wyant at the legislature in Regina Wednesday, Dec. 5 to discuss Energy East.

Moosomin's economic development committee has been working to restart the national conversation on Energy East.

A delegation of Sinc Harrison, Bill Thorn and Kevin Weedmark met with Wyant Wednesday and asked the provincial government to take the lead among provinces in advocating for a return of Energy East.

ENCOURAGED BY MEETING
The group was encouraged by the meeting.

"I thought it was very positive and very timely," Harrison said. "The deputy premier was going to meet immediately after with the premier, and he mentioned to us that it was a timely discussion because the premier was heading off to a meeting with the other premiers and the prime minister.

"Hopefully it encourages the premier to work with the other premiers on bringing Energy East back to the table."

Harrison said he



Meeting with deputy premier

A delegation from the Moosomin Economic Development Committee met with Saskatchewan Deputy Premier Gord Wyant at the legislature last week. From left are Sinc Harrison, Deputy Premier Gord Wyant, Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, Bill Thorn, and Kevin Weedmark.

thought Wyant seemed to be receptive to the group's

message. "He seemed positive

and very interested in what we are trying to

achieve in this area," Harrison said.

"It was a productive meeting, and I give full marks to MLA Steven Bonk for arranging the meeting with the deputy premier on short notice."

WYANT SAYS GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT

Wyant said following the meeting that the provincial government is fully in support of pipeline projects.

"Our government will continue to voice our support for pipeline projects such as Energy East," Wyant said Thursday.

"We have heard the call for pipelines loud and clear, and will continue to federal the federal government to ensure our product gets to market.

"We are encouraged by the active voices advocating for a resolution alongside our government."

GROUP ASKS FOR COMMITMENT

In a letter presented at the meeting, the economic development committee asked the province to take the lead on organizing provincial support for a second look at Energy East.

Continued on page 7

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Enbridge officials happy with Pipeliner Appreciation Event

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
 Officials with Enbridge have expressed their appreciation for the Pipeliner Appreciation event held in Moosomin.

Bill Thorn came up with the idea for the event, the idea was discussed at the September Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the chamber decided to back it. The town of Moosomin contributed by donating the use of its facilities. Borderland Co-op contributed by donating meat for the barbecue.

The event consisted of free use of the Nutrien Sportsplex for the afternoon, and a barbecue and Grey Cup Party at the Conexus MCC Centre in the evening.

"It was an awesome setup, good food and the people were very friendly," said Denny Hay, Construc-



Lots of the Banister employees were thrilled with their prizes, including Julie Dionne and Earl Mannette who won a free hat and bag.

tion Manager for Spread Six with Enbridge.

"It was very well received by our crews. Moosomin has been very receptive and welcoming to the large influx of workers into

their small town. I've only recently moved here but every business I've been in has been very friendly and appreciative of the economic impact the pipeline is having in the commu-

nity." That sentiment was echoed at Enbridge head office.

"Enbridge has worked hard over the years to build and maintain relationships with communities in proximity to our pipelines all across North America," said Joanne Bradbury, Community Engagement strategist with Enbridge.

"Our ties to community are especially strong in the prairie provinces. Towns like Moosomin, where we've operated for more than 65 years, are like home to us.

"With Line 3 project construction, we realize our presence has increased significantly in the past little while and we're just so appreciative of the warm welcome our people have received all along the Line 3 project during project

construction—from east-central Alberta to the Manitoba-U.S. border.

"The invitation for our crews to attend the Grey Cup Party at the Moosomin Sportsplex is an excep-

tional example of the kind of hospitality that the west is known for and, on behalf of Enbridge, I would like to thank the organizers and volunteers for putting on such a first-class event."



People with Banister, Enbridge and members of the public enjoying the barbecue and the game at the MCC Centre.



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Moosomin group asks province to take lead on Energy East

Continued from page 4

"The town and RM of Moosomin have asked us to look into reviving Energy East, as the original proposal put forward by TransCanada would have been important to our area, and to the oil industry which is very important to our region," the group wrote in the letter.

"The proposal would have included a tank farm at Moosomin and feeder pipelines that would have given Saskatchewan oil access to eastern markets. Our committee has been working for over a year promoting Energy East 2.0.

"Our area municipalities were responsive for resolutions being passed by SUMA and SARM supporting Energy East 2.0 which they have taken forward to their national organization, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

"During months of research we have spoken with many people in the oil and pipeline industries, including some of those instrumental in drawing up the original proposal for Energy East.

"We have heard again and again about the problem of getting Western Canadian crude to market and the devastating impact the lack of market access is having on our oil industry.

"We believe, based on our conversations with those in the industry, that a project similar to the original Energy East proposal by TransCanada could still be viable, if the federal government creates the right conditions for it to succeed.

"Crude oil by rail may be beneficial for the oil industry in the short term, but is only a stopgap measure, has disadvantages compared to pipelines from a safety standpoint, and could congest the rail system for other Saskatchewan commodities such as grain, oilseeds, pulses, potash, lumber etc.

"We ask the Saskatchewan Government to take a leadership role in working with the provincial governments of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick to lobby the federal government to create the conditions so that a pipeline to the east could be viable, by removing the consideration of upstream and downstream carbon emissions from new pipeline proposals—

which are not taken into account for other developments—and reconsidering the aspects of Bill C-69 that would make pipelines more difficult to build in Canada.

"We would also like your assistance in emphasizing to TransCanada that the provincial governments are supportive of the concept behind Energy East.

"We believe that there is a solution to the market access issues affecting the Western Canadian oil industry, which has led to an increased differential, has led to a crisis in the oil patch, and has led to production cuts in Alberta.

"We believe that the private sector can provide that solution, to help get our energy products to market, as long as the federal government creates the conditions to make that solution viable—the same conditions that made pipeline projects viable in the past.

"We ask for your help in organizing the affected provincial governments to speak with one voice on this issue.

"Thank you very much for considering our request. We appreciate any assistance the provincial government can provide in this matter."



Steven Bonk

—more pipeline projects, more ways to get our energy products to tide-water, to alleviate some of the stress on our rail system, but more importantly to attract more investment into the energy industry because we've been battered by some pretty significant headwinds the last few years.

"I think the deputy premier was very attuned to the message that the Moosomin group brought forward, and was very receptive to it.

"He spoke with the premier right after that, and the premier was just on his way to the First Ministers meeting."

Bonk said he believes the provinces working together can have an impact.

"Right now we have a strong coalition of provinces that are pushing for more development in the energy sector, and particularly in pipelines, but what we've seen from our federal government hasn't made me overly optimistic.

"I think if we do have a strong unified voice from the provinces, it's our best chance of having a project approved.

"If you look at the Alberta numbers alone, it's \$85 million a day that they're losing in the oil price differential. We're talking billions of dollars a year of lost revenue to our economy.

"This is something we need to remedy, particularly when we're importing oil from foreign countries at world prices and selling our domestic oil at a discount. There's no logic to it.

"We could be a lot further ahead if we could have more pipeline projects approved."

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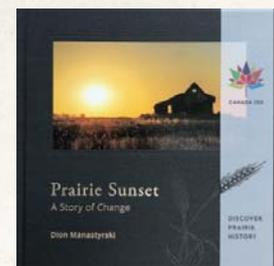
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Fundraiser planned for Rick Stewart

A fundraiser for Rick Stewart is coming up Saturday, December 22 at the Armoury Hall in Moosomin.

Friends are organizing the event, which will include a silent auction and music by Fenton Martens.

Rick's family provided the following statement:

Rick Stewart is a community member of Fleming and Moosomin area since his parents moved to the RM of Maryfield to farm in 1965.

He graduated from McNaughton High school and then attended the University of

Saskatchewan where he got a Bachelor of Agriculture.

He has been married to Beryl since 1989 and has two adult children, Chad (Darla Down) and Ria.

Rick was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in March of 2018.

Multiple myeloma is a cancer that forms in a type of white blood cell called a plasma cell. Plasma cells help you fight infections by making antibodies that recognize and attack germs.

He has undergone numerous treatments including chemotherapy and radiation, most of which had to be done in Regina as

well as a stem cell transplant in Saskatoon.

Beryl and Ria spent much of this time with him staying in the city for weeks at a time.

Multiple Myeloma is not curable, it is a relapsing-remitting type of cancer.

Rick will require multiple follow ups with his oncologists and if symptoms relapse again, he will need further treatments.

Rick has been unable to work since February when his symptoms began.

He was working for the Department of Highways at the time of his diagnosis and due to his age he is not eligible for any dis-

ability.

Over the years Rick has been involved volunteering and working for many community groups and organizations.

These include Fleming legion, Fleming historical society, Fleming Jets, Fleming Fire Department, coaching minor ball and hockey, and countless more. He has given much to this community and any help we can provide to him and Beryl is greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance to everyone for paying it forward.

With sincere gratitude,
The Stewart Family

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Some people have their favorite chain stores they like to support, others go out of their way to support mom and pop stores, or buy what they can as locally as possible, from the Hutterites down the road or at the farmers market.

Where we choose to shop now makes more of a difference than ever.

There have always been options for people. They have always had the local option or the other option.

134 years ago, the pages of this newspaper advertised the local stores where people could buy their goods, but some chose to order everything from the Eaton's catalogue and pick up the parcels at the train station. (You could even buy

a pre-fab house kit from the Eaton's catalogue back then.)

Eaton's has long since been replaced by other competitors to local businesses—the big box stores in the cities and of course online shopping.

Where people decide to spend their money has a big impact on their communities, especially smaller communities, where every dollar spent locally is important to the businesses in your community.

These local businesses employ your friends and neighbors, pay property taxes to support your community, and support everything from fundraisers to your children's hockey team to the community recreation facilities that make your community great.

The people of Elkhorn recently found out how important their shopping habits are when Twin



Kevin Weedmark

Valley Co-op announced the closure of the home centre in Elkhorn, then changed its decision and will keep the home centre open after a community meeting where it was emphasized how important local support is. Twin Valley is willing to keep the store open, but will be watching levels of local support with the hope that more support comes through for the local home centre.

This month we're starting a campaign to remind people how important it is to shop locally.

We're asking our readers to take the \$50 challenge!

The idea is simple, and the numbers are amazing! If every reader of the World-Spectator spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$31,000,000 into our local economy each year! \$31 Million!

What's \$50 a week? It's a case of paper for your business bought locally rather than in the city.

It's one meal out in the

local area, not in Brandon, Yorkton, or Regina. It's one piece of clothing bought in a local store and not online.

It's one less weekend trip to the city over the course of the year, with that weekend spent checking out something in the local area instead—the Sportsplex, the cross-country ski trails, the snowmobile trails, Assessippi, or the Moose Mountains—check out the Winter Fun Guide inside this week's paper to see some of the attractions you could explore in the local area.

The Nov. 26 issue of the World-Spectator also included a Christmas Gift Guide that was distrib-

uted to additional households as well as our regular advertisers.

If every person who read the Christmas Gift Guide spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$49,000,000 into our local economy each year!

Our monthly Plain and Valley publication goes to a huge area.

If every person in the area covered by Plain and Valley spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$169,000,000 into our local economy each year!

The future of your community is in your hands! Take the \$50 challenge and support your community!

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Grandma is only on duty part-time

By DONNA BEUTLER

If you know our family at all, you'll know some of us as fairly quiet and reserved. Our daughter will be quick to point out that the 'some' in our family excludes moi.

And so, last fall when our Kindergarten-aged granddaughter was sent to the principal's office after two warnings for talking too much, I was like, "Yes-sssss!!!" I am sure that poor girl is still confused about my reaction that day.

Last year, as this gregarious five-year-old was preparing for the school's Christmas concert, she was bemoaning the fact that she really didn't like the brown pants she was supposed to wear in her role as a gingerbread cookie.

In an effort to make her feel more comfortable, her mother told her to just wear black tights and black shorts instead. Her immediate response was, "But then I'll look like a burnt cookie!"

This year, we won't need to be on the lookout for a burnt cookie during the school concert but we will

The Lighter Side of Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM
by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
dl_beutler@yahoo.ca



be on the lookout for the bright smiling faces of our five grandjoes and indeed the enthusiasm of all of our community's students.

This season has included the incredible beauty of hoar frost, pardon me, 'rime frost,' as it covered the trees and fences and corrals and turned our farm into a look-alike of one of those pictures you see in a calen-

dar. Wow!

This time of year always brings with it some moments of nostalgia, some memories of good times (and sad), some notable laughs of the year gone by all wrapped up in a cloak of thankfulness for every blessing and every gift (those not found in gift bags or amongst the wrap and tinsel of the season).

And so from my neck of the woods, rather from the prairies of southeast Saskatchewan, here's wishing you a perfectly wonderful and very Merry Christmas!



May your Faith be Strong as Three Wisemen who followed the Star of Bethlehem to the Saviour of the World

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Merry Christmas!
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Kim Poole photo

Christmas events galore!

There has been no shortage of Christmas events in the local area, from Carol Festivals, to late night shopping events, to Santa Days.

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, the CP Holiday Train stopped in Moosomin, as well as in Brandon, Virden and Broadview along the tracks. Hundreds of people came out to see the performances by Terri Clark, Sierra Noble and Kelly Prescott. Above, from left, are Terri Clark, Kelly Prescott and Sierra Noble performing in Moosomin.

Below is the Full Gospel Church Choir singing Ordinary Baby at the Esterhazy Carol Festival which was held on December 5.



Merry Christmas



Wishing you and yours all the best this Christmas season.

Steven Bonk,
 MLA for Moosomin Constituency,
 Candace and Emma

Photo by Paper Moon Photography – Grenfell, SK



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5pm-9pm
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December 19 Christmas Bonus Draw
Shop at 3 Participating Businesses
from 5pm-9pm and be entered to
WIN \$500 in Moosomin Bucks

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LAST MINUTE
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LATE NIGHT
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to build, strengthen and grow your community



take the \$50 challenge

If every person in the area covered by Plain and Valley spends \$50 a week locally instead of in the city or online, that will inject \$169,000,000 into our local economy each year!

\$169 MILLION!

what's \$50 a week?

- It's a case of paper for your business bought locally rather than in the city
- It's one meal out in the local area, not in Brandon, Yorkton, or Regina.
- It's one piece of clothing bought in a local store and not online.
- It's one less weekend trip to the city over the course of the year, with that weekend spent checking out something in the local area instead—the Sportsplex, the cross-country ski trails, the snowmobile trails, Asessippi or the Moose Mountains.

Take the \$50 challenge and support your community!

Plain & Valley

Local ridings look solid blue for 2019

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

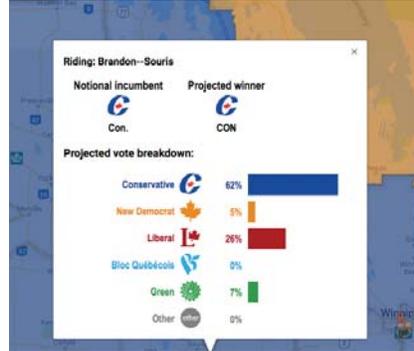
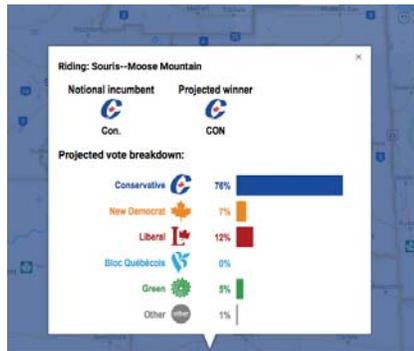
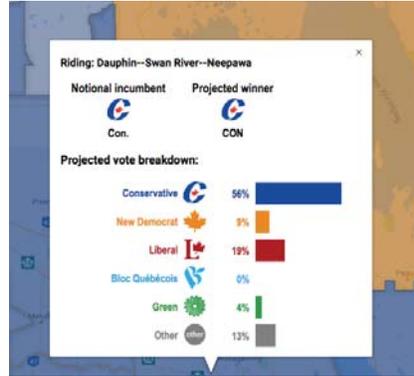
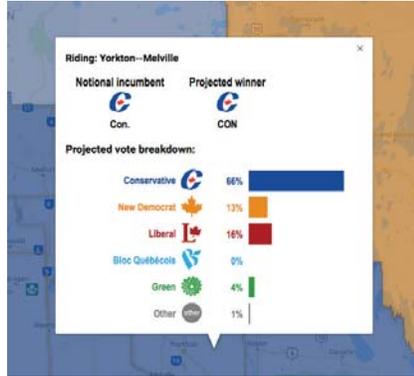
While the average of all national polls shows the Liberals leading nationally ahead of the 2019 election, polling shows that the Conservative incumbents in the four southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba ridings—Souris-Moose Mountain and Yorkton Melville in Saskatchewan, and Brandon-Souris and Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa in Manitoba—are well ahead of their rivals.

Averaging all national polls shows the Conservatives well ahead in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Liberals well ahead in British Columbia, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces, and the Liberals slightly ahead in Ontario.

Among local ridings, Souris-Moose Mountain looks to be among the safest Conservative ridings in Canada, with the Conservatives projected to take 76 per cent of the vote.

Conservative Dr. Robert Kitchen won with 70 per cent of the vote in the 2015 election. The projection takes into account the vote total in the last election, and the change in party support in the region based on polling since the last election.

Souris-Moose Mountain has not always been such a cakewalk for the Conservatives. Conservative Ed Komarnicki won with only 36 per cent of the vote back in 2004, when



Grant Devine mounted a strong campaign as an independent, Reformer Roy Baily won with 41 per cent of the vote in 1997, with a four-way vote split, and

Bernie Collins—the last Liberal to represent the riding—won with 31 per cent of the vote 25 years ago, in 1993, when the vote was split among the

Liberals, Reformers, NDP and Progressive Conservatives.

The other three seats in the region also appear to be safe for the Conserva-

tive incumbents.

The Conservatives are projected to win with 66 per cent of the vote in Yorkton-Melville, where Cathy Wagantall won with

59 per cent in 2015.

The Conservatives are projected to win with 62 per cent in Brandon-Souris, where Larry Maguire won with 50 per cent of the vote in 2015.

The Conservatives are projected to win with 56 per cent of the vote in Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa, where Robert Sopuck won with 46 per cent of the vote in 2015.

The next federal election is slated for Oct. 21, 2019, but some political commentators have suggested it may be called early.

Canada's Chief Electoral Officer told a Commons committee in September that his agency intends to be ready for an election by next April, five months before the fixed election date for 2019.

Chief Electoral Officer Stéphane Perrault made the statement when he informed a Commons committee this week that a sweeping bill to overhaul the Canada Elections Act and upgrade cyber security would have to clear Parliament by December to give his office time to prepare.

"In terms of this bill, our target for readiness to deliver the election is April," Perrault said in response to Conservative questions at a meeting of the Commons Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs, which began reviewing the legislation, Bill C-76. "It's not September, it's April."



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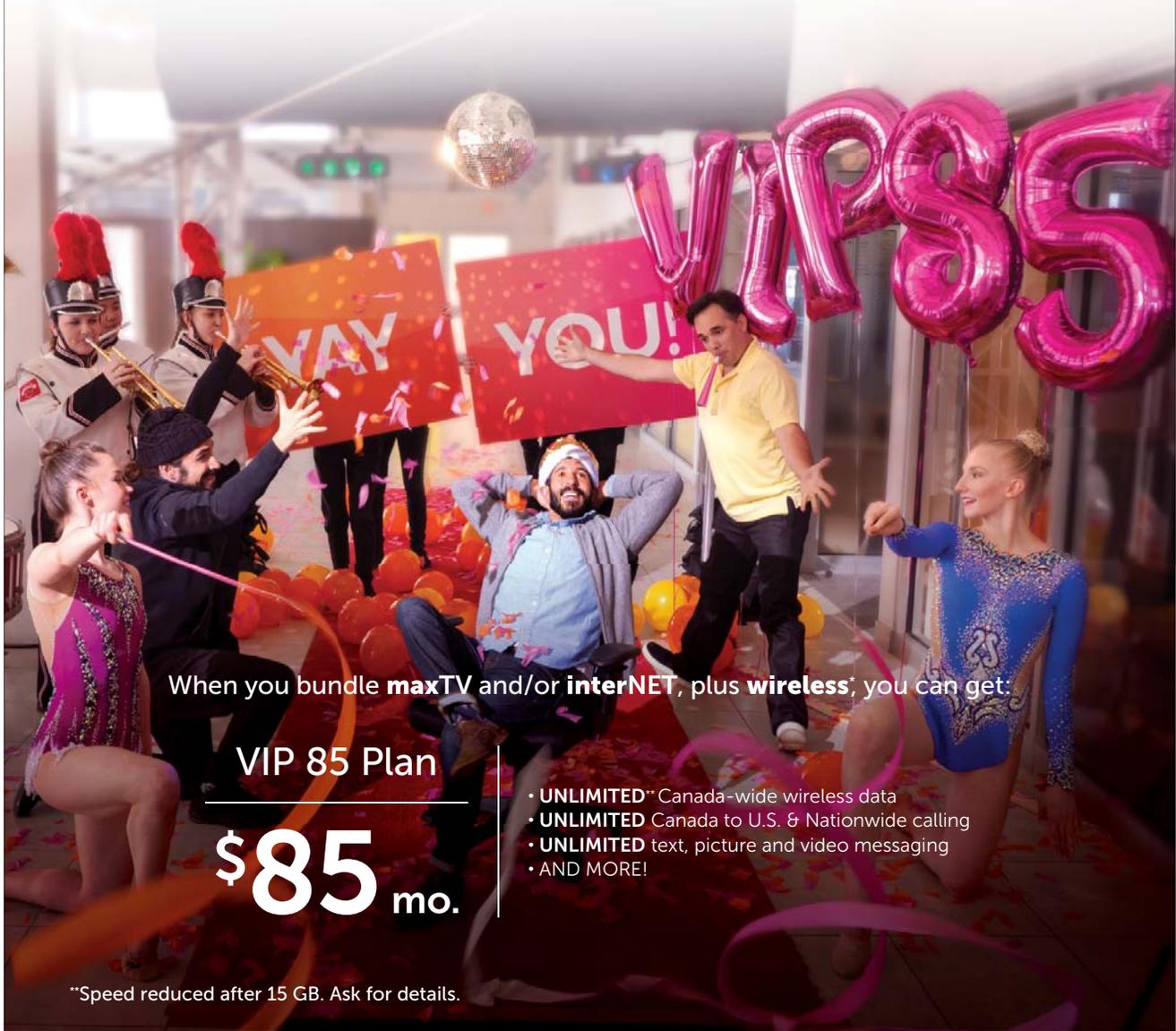


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Large quantity of firearms stolen from Storthoaks

On Wednesday, November 21 Carnduff Detachment received a report of a break and enter to a residence outside Storthoaks Sask.

The homeowner had been away for the past six weeks and returned to find his house had been the victim of a break and enter while he was absent.

Several personal items were taken from the residence.

The homeowner is an avid gun collector and the preliminary investigation has determined that a large quantity of

firearms was stolen from the residence.

At this point it is estimated over 70 guns are missing; 46 prohibited handguns, 27 restricted handguns, three prohibited rifles and one restricted rifle and an unknown quantity of ammunition.

It is believed that all of the firearms had been stored in accordance with firearm regulations.

This theft is currently under investigation with the assistance of the Yorkton Forensic Identification Section, Ca-

nadian Firearms Program and the Chief Firearms officer of Saskatchewan, National Weapons Enforcement Support Team, and Canadian Border Services

If anyone was in the area around Storkoaks over the past month and noticed anything out of the ordinary they are urged to please contact Carnduff Detachment at 306-482-4400 or you may contact Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com with your information.



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- Mullett's RONA
- Your Dollar Store With More
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- Dano's Lounge
- Subway
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace Foods
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MOOSOMIN

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- The World-Spectator
- Zaylie Furniture
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- Bear Claw Casino

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- Sisters' Boutique & Bistro

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Diana Austin and Chris Crossley of Moosomin with some of the beneficiaries of the Kids in Ghana project.

Kids in Ghana shows it takes a village to raise a child—even halfway around the world

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Diana Austin's university years were fairly typical. Long hours of studying as a medical student, hanging out with her friends—and the occasional trip to Ghana to check on the development project she spearheaded and ran with the help of family and friends. Okay, maybe that last bit isn't typical.

The Kids in Ghana project started out after Diana had volunteered in Ghana in 2004 and 2009. The rules were changing and four of the kids who had been part of the program where Austin volunteered would no longer qualify, would have no support, and likely could not continue school. "While I was there, the government had instructed the children's home to reduce the number of kids in the home, as part of a new nation-wide policy," she says.

"Some of the kids had safe places to go to but some didn't. The original four kids in the program were identified as the ones who had the most potential and didn't have homes they could go to."

She decided to set up her own program. A house was rented, a housekeeper hired, and the kids' expenses were covered.

"That was in 2009. It was a response to an immediate need. It was a reaction to what was going on," she says. "We had to do something. We had enough money for a year, so we thought we would start and see how things went. It's been an adventure as we've gone along."

"Antwi, the oldest, was just finished junior high school, Emmanuel and Victoria were in their last year of primary school, year six, and Agyenim was in year five."

"None of them really had a place to go, or a safe place where they could live and continue to go to school. If Emmanuel went home, he would have become the family servant. His mother had died, and he would be going to live with his father and his father's second family."

"We rented a house and put the kids through school. Now Antwi has finished high school, went through

post-secondary training in human resources and finished his national service. He graduated from the program last year. He is no longer receiving support from the program.

"Victoria had a baby, Oliver, in 2014. He is four now and is in pre-K and is a very independent child. Victoria finished high school last June and is in a private nursing college."

"Emmanuel is in his second of four years of a Bachelor of Social Work program in Accra."

"Agyenim is in his last year of high school. He will probably take vocational training afterwards. He would like to get on with the national bus service."

Without the program, says Diana, they wouldn't have finished high school.

"Emmanuel probably would have gone home and worked for his father's second family," she says.

"Victoria likely would have had to go sell water on the street, which isn't a safe job."

"Agyenim's situation was very precarious. His cousin went back to where he was from. We saw him several months after leaving the orphanage and he looked like he was essentially homeless."

"Antwi, who was at the top of his class after junior high school, wouldn't have been able to go to high school. He would have had to go work on a farm, which involves a lot of manual labor."

Back in Moosomin, a support system has evolved over the years—family, friends, church members, and others who support fundraisers for the kids—a village half way around the world helping raise the children.

"My family has been a huge support," says Diana. "My mom has been a big part of it from the very beginning. She's done a lot of the behind-the-scenes stuff and a lot of the financial stuff. Dad has helped a lot with the vegetable sales and that sort of thing. My sister Danielle has helped. She has gone three times and she got some footage—she wants to put together a documentary."

"Chris has been there several times and helped by being a supporter for them, and brought back shea butter to sell as a fundraiser. When Chris and I got married we asked for donations for the Kids in Ghana instead of gifts, so that kept it going for a while. Our Christmas campaign is a big fundraiser every year."

"In addition to my family, the success of the program is thanks to numerous friends and neighbors who have contributed in a number of different ways. (Including the World Spectator!)," says Diana.

"Diana says the project has been a learning experience. "One part of international aid has been avoiding building reliance. We are trying to help them but trying to push them toward independence. On the scale of a project like ours, we see the challenge of helping without creating dependence."

"Running the sponsorship program is both rewarding (to see the impact it has had on the group) and challenging," says Diana.

"One of these challenges is the fact that I wish I could do more. I wish I could be there for them more. The work is also a regular reminder of the inequality that exists in the world. I'm quite strict about ensuring that the money that is donated is only used for necessities and not spent frivolously. While I know this is the right thing to do from the sponsorship program point of view, it leaves me feeling guilty knowing how much more fortunate I have been in my own life. The kids live in an unfinished house, without running water and proper furniture while I live a comfortable life in Canada. Essentially, being involved in the program comes with a multitude of complex emotions that are hard to put into words."

"It's become so much a part of my life and such a big part of who I am, it's impossible to imagine my life without it."

The Kids in Ghana fifth annual Christmas Card campaign is under way. Donations can be sent in by mail or e-transferred to the addresses below. Along with a donation, donors can let organizers know if the donation is for someone in particular. They will send them a card and let them know that you donated in honour of them.

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SE College holding third annual food bank collection drive

Southeast College is once again collecting donations at its campus locations in Estevan, Moosomin, Whitewood, Indian Head and Weyburn.

Collection has already begun at a number of locations and will wrap up on December 19 with all of the collected items donated locally in each of the communities.

"As part of our commitment to enhancing our student experience and to encourage our students and staff to help to give back to the communities that we serve, we are very excited to offer collection points for donations," stated Sheena Onrait, Manager of Marketing and Communications for Southeast College.

"As part of an added bonus this year, every donation that a person makes, either a nonperishable food item donation or a cash donation, will earn them a draw ballot. At the end of the collection period we will draw at each of our locations for a prize package!"

Collection bins will be placed in the college's campus locations in Estevan, Indian Head, Whitewood, Moosomin and Weyburn. Staff, students and the public are encouraged to drop off donations at these loca-



ties up until December 19.

"We are members of the communities that we serve and we recognize that food bank usage traditionally increases in the Christmas season," said Dion McGrath, President and CEO of Southeast College. "We encourage other businesses and groups to join in with us to help meet the needs of individuals and fami-

lies in, southeast Saskatchewan."

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Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Social services minister visits Moosomin

Saskatchewan Social Services Minister Paul Merriman visited Moosomin Thursday, Nov. 29 where he and Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk visited the Pipestone Kin-Ability Centre, met with the Moosomin Housing Authority, and sat down for an interview with World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark.

Pipestone Kin-Ability Centre provides support services to adults with cognitive disabilities, and operates a SARCAN depot, an eco depot that recycles oil and filters, and operates a commercial laundry business that handles laundry for the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

The Moosomin Housing Authority operates 135 family and senior housing units—73 senior units including senior buildings such as Centennial Manor, Sterling Manor and Knotty Pine, and 62 family and single social units, including Greystone Heights, Willowdale Manor, Moose Mountain Place, and several individual duplexes and houses. It is jointly owned by the federal, provincial and local governments.

Following is the full interview:

Tell me why you are in Moosomin today? What was the purpose of your trip?

I wanted to come out and see the KinAbility and talk to the local housing authority. I like to get around the province and actually talk to people who are running the programs to see what's working, what isn't working, and where we can as a government maximize our dol-

lars in rural Saskatchewan and in urban Saskatchewan.

I hadn't been out to Moosomin—I've been spending a lot of time on some First Nations communities up in the north, and travelling around the province. I was invited by MLA Steven Bonk to come out and see what is happening in the great town of Moosomin, and in his constituency.

What did you learn on your visit to Moosomin today?

Well, a lot of things have changed since I was last in Moosomin about 15 years ago. The town has expanded, there has been some great growth, there are new businesses in Moosomin, the town seems to be very much thriving.

I learned a lot about what is happening at the Kin-Ability and what is happening with some of the participants, and how they're getting participants with different abilities to be able to contribute back to the economy and provide a service that is very well needed and at a cost-effective price.

It was a great trip to be able to see what's going on at the local level. I'm trying to go around the province and see what's working and see if there are opportunities to duplicate a service that's working.

If there's something that's working really well in Moosomin, I don't want you guys to keep it a secret here, I want to be

able to pass it on to some other communities and perhaps help them meet some challenges that they have.

How did you enjoy your visit to the Kin-Ability? Is it similar to how some other centres are set up?

They're all unique. Sometimes it's the scale, sometimes it's the duties they perform. There are some things at SaskAbilities in Saskatoon where they actually do the cutting and making of coveralls for the highways department.

Others do very minor tasks, but tasks that need to be done, and there are some that do very complex things.

It's always interesting to see how they adapt each centre for the needs of the community and the abilities of their participants, because all the participants are different.

I had a great tour. I met with some great participants there. The laundry facility is absolutely amazing. I was impressed that they are doing the oil recycling, because that's something that has waned in interest over the last little while. I was glad to see they were doing that.

Of course I saw the SARCAN side of things.

I wanted to talk a little bit about logistics, what's working, what isn't working, and what do they need from us as a government to be able to help support them to meet their mandate.

And how did your discussion with the housing authority go?

We were discussing a few things at the housing authority. Moosomin is in a unique position in the province. They've weathered the economic storm extremely well.

There has been a lot of growth here. We want to make sure we're maximizing the Sask Housing units, that they are being utilized, and that the assets are not depreciating. We want to make sure that those units are available for anyone who needs Sask Housing, and if they're not being utilized for that, that they're utilized for the best needs of the community.

What big issues are you facing in your portfolio day to day?

Most of the day-to-day issues would be on the income assistance side of things. There are a lot of people with a lot of complex issues around the province who are having challenges in meeting their daily needs.

What we're trying to do as a government, and I think as a society, is to make sure that they have every opportunity to be successful. And if they have every opportunity to be successful within the community, then it's up to them to be able to take that next step.

Continued on page 35



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40 Home of Economy

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Tankard committee continues prep for February event

BY DONNA BEUTLER
 There is a lot of excitement around Whitewood with the SaskTel Tankard coming to town in less than two months. "Everything is going better than expected," Chad Kelly, Whitewood Curling Club president and Tankard Committee president said.

"We have hit our sponsorship and volunteer goals although we are still open for more volunteers to sign up," Kelly stated in a recent interview.

"Three teams are now qualified for the Tankard," Kelly said, "and by the end of December, 10 teams will be qualified."

A total of 16 men's curling teams will be competing for the Saskatchewan title. The winner will move on to the Tim Hortons Brier in Bradon, Manitoba in March.

Kelly spoke of the 'hype' and that feeling of excitement that people around town are feeling and as more and more people learn about it, that feeling keeps on growing.

"It's not just curling," Kelly said, "but also the local flair that comes with it—there will be old-time music, two great

bands, open mic, various food concessions.

"Curling is one part of it but it's so much more." In an earlier interview with Kelly, he said this all started with a simple email to CURLSASK and that they couldn't believe it when they got word that Whitewood had been offered the Tankard.

Kelly explained that CURLSASK had heard about Whitewood's curling events and how Whitewood had converted their skating rink to curling ice.

"We took CURLSASK's offer to our committee and the overwhelming majority said yes," Kelly said of their acceptance.

The event, to be held Feb. 6-10, 2019, will see the skating ice surface converted to four sheets of curling ice.

"All of the glass and netting will be taken down for the event," Kelly said. As well hockey will be closed down for 10 days in Whitewood.

As for the curling ice, it will be removed and become the 'patch' and will be a place where live feeds from the competition can be watched. As well there will be a bar, live entertainment, etc. on the curling side.

"We expect 500-600 people will be coming to town," Kelly said.

This will include members of the 16 teams, media, and officials. A shuttle will be set up to run from Moosomin to Whitewood as Whitewood will not have enough accommodation room.

"This is not just about Whitewood but about the area," Kelly said. "It's the first time an event like this has come to this area."

The theme, Kelly explained, will be 'Crossroads to the Brier,' as Whitewood is known as the Crossroads Community, and the next step up from the Tankard is the Brier which, in 2019, will be held in Brandon, Manitoba, just two hours east of Whitewood.

The local board that will handle the planning and organization of the premier event consists of Chad Kelly, Chairman; Jason Krupski, Vice Chairman; Warren Delmage, Treasurer; and Jennalee Beutler, Secretary. Early bird tickets will be on sale for \$60 until Dec. 20 before the price increases to \$80 a ticket. Information on the Tankard, including ticket sales, can be found on SaskTelTankard.com.

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Support building for new Golf clubhouse

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Moosomin Elks made a \$2,500 donation to the Pipestone Hills Golf Club's new clubhouse project recently, as support continues to build for the project.

The golf club purchased the former Tourism Saskatchewan Visitor Reception Centre, and moved it a year ago to the golf club, nestled in the Pipestone Valley south of Moosomin.

An addition was built on and decks were added all around the building.

"The total project is going to end up somewhere around the \$400,000 to \$450,000 mark," said golf club president Brandon Banga.

"We do have some donations that will be coming in once the project is finished. Some contractors will be donating some money back. We worked very closely with Co-op on this and it was wonderful—they supplied basically all of the material for the project. They have agreed to donate some of the cost back based on a percentage of what we purchased there. To date this year I think we are at \$125,000 raised. It's been fantastic. That's not just events that we put on or fundraisers that we put on, but it's also donations."

There have been some successful fundraisers for the clubhouse project and more are coming up.

"The next thing that we are going to be doing is a lottery. It will be \$100 per ticket. It's a \$10,000 prize.

"We wanted to find something that was going to get some more of the membership involved. This will get everyone involved and give them the opportunity to contribute by selling tickets.

"We're looking for that project to really help keep things moving forward, and we will continue to do the things that we've been successful with and keep adding to it."

Banga said it makes a difference having donations come in from individuals and from groups like the Elks.



Above, Rod Lee of the Moosomin Elks presents a cheque for \$2,500 to Brandon Banga of the Pipestone Hills Golf Club for the golf course's new clubhouse. Below left, what is now the new clubhouse and had been the former tourist centre was moved to the golf course a year ago. Here it crosses the CP Main Line east of Moosomin.



"It means everything," he said. "It's not just individuals in the community. It's not just our membership. It's not just the businesses that give, it's not just the organizations, it's everything together. That's how things happen in these small communities—it's through donations, it's through work provided—all of it together makes it work."

"There are people who have put in time out there, there are people who support it financially. Every contribution, no matter how small they are, no matter how big they are, all are important."

"One of the things that we said when we went into this is we want to try to put on events, whether it be golf tournaments, whether it be a Halloween cabaret, whatever it is, that it's something that people can feel like they are contributing to but are also getting something back in return, so that we're not always just asking people to write a cheque."

"Those events have gone over extremely well and we're going to continue to do it and we're going to con-

tinue to adapt them, provide something new, keep things interesting to keep people interested so it doesn't feel like it's always a fundraising effort or a donation effort, it's more of a case where people are thinking we're contributing, we're helping, we're still enjoying what's going on to benefit that golf course clubhouse."

He said he is happy with the new facility.

"You're not going to find one around for a nine-hole golf course that's going to equal what we have," he said. "It's a big improvement from what we had as a clubhouse. When you walk into the old one and then you walk into the new one you see the difference. It's just night and day. It's fantastic."

The Elks raised the money for their contribution through the Chase the Ace they run weekly at the Up-ton Hotel.

"We contribute to a lot of projects around the community and we thought this is a very good project to support," Rod Lee said.

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Costa Rica: Land of 'pura vida'

STORY SUPPLIED BY VISION TRAVEL
 More than a simple expression, pura vida is a way of life in Costa Rica. The two words nearly always offered at the end of a cordial exchange translate literally to "pure life." They say so much more, however, as the essence of a charming culture not unlike our own: down to earth, understated, chill. This pleasantly laid-back attitude is just one of many surprises in store should you choose to visit Costa Rica.



rainforest and stopping to bask in mineral-rich thermal pools painted silver with volcanic ash. Kick it up a notch as you tackle one of the world's longest ziplines—just over a country mile—superman-style above a canopy full of howler monkeys. If you're still up for it, there's a kayak or stand-up paddleboard with your name on it.

Costa Rica is one of the world's most visited destinations, favoured in particular by nature enthusiasts and lovers of adventure. A quick span of its vast expanses of lush mountainous rainforest, rich biodiversity and endless stretches of untouched shoreline leave little doubt as to why. A vacation in Costa Rica has something in it for everyone. Picture yourself hiking through acres of protected

Nesting turtles, sleepy surfer villages and local markets ensure full days for those seeking something less strenuous. Don't feel like moving today? No

problem. Lay your towel on the beach and watch the day roll by or sip icebergs (beer topped with frozen margarita mix) by the pool at your boutique hotel or all-inclusive resort.

Go ahead and have it all. It is, after all, your vacation.

Pura vida at a glance

- At just over 20,000 square miles, CR is home to nearly six per cent of the world's species
- With an quarter of its land protected from development, sustainability is more a way of life than practice.



• Bordered by the Pacific Ocean as well as the Caribbean Sea, CR boasts 1,290 km of coastline

When to visit

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- Dry Season ("Summer")—Mid-November through April
- Diverse elevations

moderate temperature and precipitation in certain areas year-round

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Trooper still going strong over 40 years later



Canadian rock band Trooper will be performing in Rocanville on Dec. 15 for the town's Ugly Christmas Sweater Party, which is a fundraiser for the Nutrien Rocanville Community Hall.

Trooper is one of those legendary Canadian bands that has left its mark on Canadian music, and on rock and roll in particular.

The band has been in existence for over 40 years and is still going strong today.

Ra McGuire is one of the original Trooper band members. The World-Spectator interviewed Ra about the band and the show coming up in Rocanville:

Trooper is a well-known and loved band that has been around for a long time. Everyone knows your songs. But what have you guys been up to lately? Are you still touring a lot? What's the average week like for you?

Ra: Trooper plays around 30 shows a year all over Canada, so there's just no such thing as an average week for us! The only thing we can count on is that it's going to be

an adventure.

Has the band gone through a lot of personnel changes, or is the Trooper touring now the same group of guys that were performing in the 1970s?

Ra: Smitty and I started the band in the seventies and wrote all the songs. Gogo and Scott have been part of the band for 23 years and Clay's been with us for 12 years now. So we're a tight group, in every way.

What inspires you guys to continue performing? What do you love about it?

Ra: The best part of our gig is the thousands of people who come out to the shows and cheer us on. There's nothing like that for inspiration.

Rocanville is a town of 1,000 people. What's it like playing in smaller towns as opposed to playing in cities and larger venues? What kind of reaction do you usually get from the crowds in smaller communities?

Ra: The shows are like big parties, so they work well in pretty much any scenario. We play tons of small towns and we like those shows as much, or more, than the ones we do in bigger cities.

The Rocanville concert is always one big, fun Christmas party. Are you able to tell me a little bit about what kind of show you are planning to put on there? Are you playing all your classic hits? Any Christmas tunes?

Ra: We promise to play all the hits, and I "may" bust out one Christmas song. No promises on that one, though.

You guys have been together for a long time. What does the future hold for Trooper?

Ra: Who can predict the future? Our hope is that the adventure continues. We'll stop when it's not fun anymore.

Are you looking forward to the show in Rocanville?

Ra: Yes. We're particularly interested in the sweaters.

Thanks for taking time to answer these questions! Have a great show in Rocanville!!!

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Twin Valley Co-op to keep Elkhorn home centre open

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
After hearing feedback at a community meeting, the board of directors at Twin Valley Co-op has decided to keep the Elkhorn Home Centre open.

Twin Valley announced October 5 that it would be closing the Elkhorn hardware store and gas business January 31, 2019.

The Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce organized a meeting Thursday, October 18 to give community members a chance to find out more about the decision.

Following the meeting, Twin Valley General Manager Dwayne Moncur told the World-Spectator that the Co-op would seriously look at keeping the home centre open.

"What I heard is they certainly don't want to see that location close. We will take it back to the board and we'll have a look at it, but we need some feedback from the people here as to what they're looking for," he said. "We don't have all the answers. At least now everybody knows there's a concern, and we do have some issues. We need to do what we can to make things better."

"We'll go back and discuss it. Maybe we halt this and maybe we don't. As I'm thinking about this, if we stay open, there will be some wholesale changes in that hardware store."

On Nov. 16 the Co-op decided it would keep the Elkhorn home centre open.

Twin Valley issued the following statement on Friday, Nov. 16:

"To the Elkhorn and Area Members of Twin Valley Co-op Ltd:

"The Board and Management of Twin Valley Co-op Ltd are very pleased to announce that, after consulting with members and organizations in the Elkhorn trading area, the decision to close the Elkhorn Home Centre in January 2019 has been rescinded.

"Despite the economic



Twin Valley had announced plans to close the home centre and gas bar in Elkhorn, but after a public meeting in the community, the board reconsidered the decision and last week announced that it will keep the location open.

challenges facing our small rural towns, we are optimistic that, with the support of our Elkhorn membership, the Co-op stores in Elkhorn can remain viable and sustainable.

"Shopping locally has always been what keeps our small-town stores in business.

"Operating results will continue to be reviewed, but with Twin Valley providing the goods and services our members want, and our members reciprocating through their continued support, we look forward to maintaining a presence in Elkhorn.

"The Board and Management wish to thank the members of the Elkhorn community for their input and ideas, and we look forward to keeping those lines of communication open."

Mark Humphries of the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce said he was thrilled with the co-op's decision to keep the store open.

"It was quite the revelation," he said. "We had another meeting a couple of weeks ago between the

chamber and the board. They were willing to listen to constructive ideas from our point of view.

"We wanted them to be more proactive in selling. We've got to get back to that old fashioned way of selling.

"For our part, all the locals have to realize that losing main street businesses affects not just where they can shop but their property values, how many kids are in the school, how many seniors are in the community.

"We've got one year's grace. This has given Elkhorn a chance to look at itself and see if we can support our businesses better.

"Co-op says if they got one more customer a day spending \$100, this discussion wouldn't be happening.

"You divide that by the 500 or 600 people in the area, it doesn't take that much to keep that store open. We have to try to get

that across to people." Humphries said he had been optimistic the Co-op board would reverse its decision to close the location.

"I was extremely hopeful," he said. "They were very respectful. They were very responsive in their approach. They were willing to listen and willing to discuss, which I found very refreshing after what we went through with the bank.

"The dialogue was always polite and respectful. They've given us a year's grace to try and drum up some more customers for that location.

"It's a great opportunity. It doesn't happen very often, I haven't seen in many places where they have gone back from announcing a closure. I wouldn't call it winning the battle, I would call it being given a chance.

"Now that Twin Valley has given them a chance,

we have to take it and show Twin Valley we can get the customers through

the door to make it worthwhile for Twin Valley to keep the store open."



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9	SUNDAY	BONCHUK FARMS FEMALE PRODUCTION SALE
10	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE 9 A.M.
12	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE 9 A.M.
14	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE 11:30 A.M.
17	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE 9 A.M.
19	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE 9 A.M.
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Prairies could dominate in plant-based proteins

BY GEOFFREY MORGAN

It looks like beef. It tastes like beef. It even bleeds like beef, thanks to the beet juice extract.

If not for the distinctive aroma—fast-food chain A&W's Beyond Meat burger gives off a scent more like a casserole than a burger patty—the plant-based protein puck would fool even the most red-blooded carnivores.

It's a tasty concoction made from protein isolated from peas, rice and mung beans as well as canola and coconut oils. Importantly, it's a product that plant-based protein companies across the Prairies believe consumers around the world will buy in increasing quantities.

Entrepreneurs and the federal government don't just want Canada's three Prairie provinces to sell more products derived from plants—they want to see total world domination.

"That presents enormous potential for us," said Innovation, Science and Economic Development Minister Navdeep Bains, whose ministry established the Proteins Industry Canada supercluster in Regina this year and is seeding it with \$153 million.

To access the funding, companies would need to match the contributions from the federal government on new facilities, said Bains, adding that funding announcements are coming "in as little as a matter of weeks."

James Szarko is the president and CEO of Calgary-based Botaneco, which is among a growing number of companies in the West expanding facilities and uses a proprietary method to extract valuable oils, proteins and fibres from canola, safflower, sunflower and hemp.

"We could truly dominate," said Szarko, adding that there is an abundance of farm land in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as plentiful water and suitable crops.

But the industry has a classic Canadian problem. We are once again playing the role of drawers of water and hewers of wood, exporting raw produce to other countries who add value and ship it back to us at higher costs. The missing ingredient is innovative processing methods and facilities to turn the crops and seeds from the Prairies into value-added protein products like hemp-based protein powder or canola-based supplements that are set to grow at an impressive rate globally.

The protein supercluster aims to create 4,500 new jobs and contribute \$4.5 billion to the country's GDP in 10 years time.

The cluster's interim board of directors includes executives from companies across the three provinces, including AGT Food and Ingredients Inc., Emerging Ag Inc., Enns Borthers Ltd., Ag-West Bio Inc. and others.

"It's bigger than one company and bigger than one province," Bains said.

While Ottawa has committed funding to five super-clusters across the country focused on a range of sectors, Bains says the protein hub on the Prairies is kicking off with some existing momentum.

In Sept. 2017, France-based Roquette broke ground on a \$400-million manufacturing facility in Portage la Prairie that will derive proteins from peas—evidence that investors see an opening in the domestic protein sector.

Even established players in the meat industry such as Maple Leaf Foods Inc. intend to participate in the super-cluster and are building a presence in the space. Over the past two years the Mississauga, Ont.-based company purchased Washington-based Field Roast Grain Meat Co. for US\$120 million, and US\$140 million for Lightlife Foods Inc., which makes plant-based tempeh, hot dogs, breakfast foods and burgers.

"We feel that we've entered this space at a very good time. We'll see how quickly it goes," said Rory McAlpine, company senior vice-president, government and industry relations.

Other companies such as WA Grains and Pulse Solutions are building or expanding processing their existing



The A&W Beyond Meat burger, which has a patty made of plant-based protein.

facilities to capture growing opportunity in the market.

It will take much bigger thinking if Canada is to compete with giants in the ideas economy.

"Unlike other superclusters, this one is not aspirational," Canada West Foundation director, trade and investment policy Carlo Dade said. "Our goal is total world domination," he said, noting that Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba could collectively corner the global market for plant-based protein.

However, Dade says it's still unclear whether governments in Ottawa, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are willing to work together—which is necessary to support the nascent industry's growth.

"I'm not as convinced on the political level," Dade said. "It's an indictment of government in general."

The Saskatchewan agriculture ministry said it's committed to "a collaborative effort" and is communicating regularly with Alberta and Manitoba on research.

"We need to share our intellectual and physical resources to be successful in this highly competitive global area," the ministry said in a statement, adding the provinces could better co-operate on developing new technologies and market commercialization.

Similarly, the government of Alberta said it's willing to share research.

"There's always been collaboration on research and sharing technology," Alberta Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier said. "Alberta is well positioned to be able to supply some research know-how."

The cluster effect is already under way as the Prairies' agriculture industry is tapping into at least 19 crops and research and development in the region—a nexus of universities, government incubators and the private sector.

Combined, the three provinces are already some of the world's biggest producers of high-protein pulses like peas and lentils, in addition to being major exporters of wheat, canola, barley, beef and other agricultural products.

Saskatchewan, the largest agriculture and agri-foods exporting province, reported \$13.6 billion in exports in those categories in 2017, slightly below \$14.4 billion in exports a year earlier. Alberta broke its own record with \$11 billion in agriculture exports last year, and Manitoba recorded \$4.3 billion in ag-based exports, which was roughly flat from the year before.

Those figures could get a boost as global demand for

plant-based proteins, valued at US\$8 billion in 2017, is projected to grow at an annual rate of 5.9 per cent to US\$14.8 billion by 2023, according to a study by the Canada West Foundation. The report found that plant-based proteins will make up a third of the global protein market by 2054.

The surge is largely a function of a growing global middle class driving demand for protein. Data shows 160 million people are expected to join the middle class every year for the next five years.

Still, there was some disappointment in the Prairies as the plant-based proteins supercluster beat out another 'precision farming' supercluster proposal, focused on cattle and livestock ranchers.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association executive vice-president Dennis Laycraft said his group, which represents beef producers, was disappointed that their proposal—aimed at reducing water and chemical usage in meat products—didn't receive funding, but was pleased for the plant-based proteins supercluster. "It was important that agriculture did achieve one of the clusters," he said.

But Laycraft rejected the idea that meatless hamburgers were more sustainable than the meat version.

"There are a number of people trying to create the perception that livestock agriculture isn't good for the environment," Laycraft said. "Canada is one of the best environmental stories in the world when it comes to livestock production."

But the budding plant-based industry faces rising competition from the United States and Europe.

CWF's Dade says businesses in the United States have already established an advantage in the production of protein derived from soy beans, eliminating one potential strain of proteins for Canadian businesses to compete.

Europe, which has less farmland for crops than Canada, has already been investing in processing centres for other forms of plant-based protein, so Canadian companies need to play catch up.

Botaneco's Szarko acknowledges the competition but notes that Canada has an advantage over its competitors thanks to the recently signed free trade deals with Europe, the United States and the Asia-Pacific countries through the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, which provides domestic agriculture producers low-cost access to a global consumer base.

"I do think Protein Industries (Supercluster) is an incredible catalyst," Szarko said. "The timing couldn't be better."

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At top left, the rafters on the massive finisher barn at Plainview Colony. The sow barn is at right. At lower left, the concrete being poured. The area starting to be filled with concrete in this photo is just half of the building—the boom is reaching over the central corridor. At top centre, the feed system brings feed from outdoor bins directly into the rooms where the hogs are finished. The colony is still building a new feed mill. At lower centre, a coal-fired boiler provides heat to the new hog barn and several other buildings and shops on the colony. At right, a scale will sort pigs into the pen with the optimal feed mix based on their weight. Pigs enter the scale when they want to eat, and the appropriate gate will open based on their weight.



Above right, the sow barn in the foreground and the massive new finishing barn in the background.

Above left, the rafters completed on one half of the massive new finishing barn at the Plainview Colony, located southeast of Moosomin, and directly west of Elkhorn.

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The Wawota/Manor Senior Boys volleyball team with their provincial gold medals. Back row, from left: Coach Riley Riddell, Trevor Steward, Lucas Porter, Nate Bye (Manor), Billy Easton, and Coach Devin Stewart. Front row: Jesse Schill, Jose Villeta, Michael Bierman (Manor), Ross Brimmer (Manor), and Thomas Husband.



The Rocanville Senior Girls volleyball team with their provincial gold medals. Back row: Assistant Coach Helen Hicki, Maria Green, Baily Williamson, Noelle DeCorby, Karyssa Watson, Chandie Haryung, and coach Cathy Johnston. Front row: Ava Reed, McKenzie Stowe, Callie Haryung, and Brooke Kruppi.

Senior volleyball

Rocanville, Wawota/Manor win provincials

Two local volleyball teams—the Rocanville senior girls and the Wawota/Manor senior boys—were provincial champions recently.

It was an emotional moment for the Rocanville Senior Girls Volleyball team when they won the 2A provincial volleyball championship in Medstead on Nov. 17. Not only did the girls go undefeated through provincials championships that weekend, they also had a perfect run up to provincials, going undefeated at conferences and regionals as well.

"It's a pretty magical thing when that happens," says coach Cathy Johnston.

"It was very emotional. We were crying,

we were laughing. It was surreal. It was one of those times when the stars aligned, the draw aligned, our team aligned and they peaked at the right time. And as coach, you know that that happens maybe once in your coaching career, so it was pretty special."

"They got along amazingly well, they had an amazing will to win, and we worked," says Johnston. "We did practice six hours a week twice a week. We practiced three hours the week before provincials every day, and they practiced all summer with me. So we were going after it. We knew it was an opportunity for us when we dropped to 2A, because 3A is such a hard conference.

"We decided last year that we were go-

ing to go after this and they worked so hard. And it takes that. I think they learned exactly what it takes to win a provincials."

The Wawota/Manor senior boys volleyball team brought home gold medals from 2A provincials in Kinistino on Nov. 24 after going undefeated in the tournament to claim the provincial championship.

It was a goal that was one year in the making after the team made it to provincial championships last year and watched provincial gold come within their reach, making it to the provincial final where they lost and came home as silver medalists.

"Last year we came so close, and finish-

ing second in the province, we decided right at the end of last year that we were really going to go for it this year, and we entered some more prestigious tournaments than we did last year," says the team's coach, Riley Riddell.

"I think what it came down to was the boys' willingness to work hard and try to get better each and every day. Their work ethic was really, really strong and we had one goal in mind ever since last fall when we lost in the provincial final, and that was to win provincial gold this year."

At provincials this year, the team went undefeated in all seven of their games, winning all of their games in two sets.

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To be known as Borderland Co-op Aquaplex

Borderland Co-op donates \$50,000 to pool improvements over 10 years

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Borderland Co-op is contributing \$50,000 to Moosomin's swimming pool over the next 10 years. In recognition, the pool will be known as the Borderland Co-op Aquaplex.

Borderland Co-op GM Jason Schenn said the pool was a natural fit for Borderland's contribution.

"The pool is a busy, happening place," he said. "Mike always has ideas to improve it, and we're always happy to help!"

"Mike gave us a wish list and we decided we will commit and make those things happen. We're always looking for good things to do around the community."

"The Co-op has been involved with many of the special events we've had over the past several years," said Moosomin rec director Mike Schween. "We've spent a lot of time and energy at our other facilities. We haven't done as much at the pool—we haven't done a lot of big things there in the last few years."

"Tera (Harper) has been involved with a lot of the special events at the pool and she contacted us about the possibility of the Co-op becoming involved as a partner with the pool and helping us carry on the projects we want to do that we just didn't have the funding available for."

"For us it was perfect timing. We have already been doing a lot with the Co-op. We've been doing stuff together for about five or six years. It was the perfect scenario for us to take it one step further and be able to do new projects."

There are a lot of improvements planned for the pool, including a hot tub and a 10-foot rock climbing wall.

"We will have a hot tub in for next summer," said Schween. "We had done the hot



tub but we were short a bit of money on doing the deck. With the Co-op's help, we are able to finish our hot tub and our deck to start the year next year. The second big thing we are doing is the rock climbing wall for the beginning of the season next year."

The hot tub will be in the same area as the spray park to separate it a bit from the pool area. Schween would like to expand the fenced area of the pool further.

"Eventually I would like to incorporate that whole basketball area," he said, "so we could fence it off so people could still get in there when the pool is closed, but stuff in

that area as well. "Eventually we would like to put up a smaller waterslide, like a speed slide, and an inflatable."

Tera Harper, director of Member Relations with Borderland Co-op, said the pool is the right fit for the Co-op for a recreation partnership.

"Pools are family oriented, the pool is used all summer, families go there and enjoy it, and we want to be part of making that pool the best it can be," she said. "We're so lucky to have an outdoor pool. It's so nice to have, and there are so many events they have for the kids there over the

summer. We have been involved in the pool opening and some on July 1 parties. I think the pool is a real asset to the community.

"It gives the kids something to do in the summer when parents are working," she adds. "The kids just walk there or ride their bikes and go swimming all day. I think it's awesome and now that we're getting more stuff in there—a climbing wall, a hot tub—it'll make it even better."

Anyone who has been around the Moosomin pool in the summer knows it's a busy place. There are about 600 kids enrolled in lessons at the pool each summer.

"When I talk to people from other towns, they can't believe our numbers," said Schween.

"They're not even close. Close to half of the kids in lessons are from out of town—there are a lot of grandkids who come down. Lessons are always full and the pool is always busy."

"For two years in a row the pool has done amazingly well money wise," Schween said.

What is the secret of the pool's success?

"We hire a lot of staff—we had 20 kids working there this summer—and we treat them well and we pay them well. It pays dividends. We used to lose staff to other jobs because we didn't pay them very well, but not very often do we lose staff any more. They will keep coming back every summer as they go through university."

"Because we have experienced staff, our lessons work well and the pool does well. Our staff all enjoy working at the pool and all get along well with each other."

Schween said he is appreciative of the Co-op's help.

"I just want to say thanks to the Co-op for this initiative. I think it'll be great."

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The transition continues

Providing information at the open house in Langenburg about Mosaic's transition and decommissioning plans for its Esterhazy potash operations were Tyler Hopson, left, Mosaic's Public Affairs Officer in Regina, and Dustin Maksymchuk, General Manager of Mosaic Esterhazy.



What's going to happen

Interested members of the public had an excellent opportunity recently to find out what Mosaic has planned for its potash mines and mills in this area. The company held an open house in Langenburg at which a great deal of information was available, and explained, by company officials. Roy Tivas, Mine Engineering Manager, left, explains to Syd Sveinbjornson of Churchbridge how the shafts at K1 and K2 are going to be decommissioned in the near future.

End is on the horizon for Mosaic's K1, K2 mines

BY BILL JOHNSTON

Mosaic laid out its short- and mid-term plans for its Esterhazy potash mining operations at an open house in Langenburg's community centre on Wednesday, November 28.

Those plans will see the consolidation of all of the company's mining operations into its new K3 mine site.

Operations in its oldest mine, K1, will be shut down, as will those in the K2 mine which has been fighting costly water inflow problems for over 30 years.

However the above ground mills at both K1 and K2 will continue to operate, processing potash from K3 carried to the mills by above ground conveyor belts.

The open house, which provided information about the decommissioning of the two mines and the transition to K3, drew a steady stream of visitors, including several former employees of the mines.

"The K3 project has been underway for roughly five years and we're probably halfway through the process... hitting some pretty major milestones at this point," Tyler Hopson, Public Affairs Manager with Mosaic, explained.

The next of those will be the start-up of the conveyor project linking K3 to K2 which he said will likely occur in December. At the same time the construction of the K3 to K1 conveyor belt is underway with completion another year or so away.

"More K3 ore will be going to the two mill sites and will gradually transition out of those sites and the decommissioning side comes into play. Underground assets just won't be used or needed," he said.

"That's still four to six years away, but it's coming, so we wanted to give an update to the community to make sure that people understand the process and have any questions they may have answered."

General Manager of Mosaic's Esterhazy operations, Dustin Maksymchuk, noted "the plans are to have K3 fully operational five years from now, so about the end of 2023. And we'll slowly decline our mining in K1 and K2."

He expects the company will no longer be mining at K1 in two years' time and at K2 in about five years.

Safety regulations require mines to have at least two means of egress or exit shafts, so the shaft at K1 will continue to be operational until K2 is finally decommissioned. K3 is not connected to either of the other two mines but has two of its own shafts.

The shutting down of the two mines will result in some significant changes at both sites.

On the surface, it will include salvaging the hoists, removal of buildings that are no longer required (headframes, K1 hoist house, etc.) and finding other uses for some of the buildings.

Underground it will involve rerouting the fibre optic network to the surface, removing regulated materials (as required), salvaging materials and equipment (based on economics) and disconnecting underground utilities, including water lines (brine and fresh).

At the inflow/grout site at K2, approximately two-thirds of the 173 surplus brine injection wells, grout wells, pump-up wells and backfill wells will be decommissioned.

That will not occur until mining at K1 and K2 is shut down.

The wells remaining in service will be utilized, in addition to ongoing brine injection, to monitor the mine and relevant formation as pre-development conditions are gradually restored.

"The capacity of K3 mine is bigger than the combined capacity of K1 and K2," Maksymchuk points out. "We will actually be able to expand our production with the K3 mine."

The planned production at K3 is approximately 6.2 million tonnes of potash product per year, or 19.2 million ore tonnes per year.

In preparation for their new roles, the mills at both K1 and K2 are currently undergoing some minor expansion projects which will allow them to increase their production capabilities.

Maksymchuk says the transition will impact the number of Mosaic employees. "We do anticipate there being fewer positions in the future, but our goal is to minimize the impact on our employees, and minimize the impact on our communities."

"The good news is we have five or six years to plan to get from where we're at to where we need to be in the future. "Attrition will play a key role in those adjustments," he explains, "as about 25 percent of Mosaic's current employees are above the age of 55 and 10 percent are over 60, so we anticipate a significant number... to retire in the next five to seven years. That's the major driver."

Retirements and employee turnover in the next five years may be as high as 35 percent.

Mosaic is developing a workforce transition plan to move employees among and within sites.

The company is assessing potential gaps in skill sets from retirement turnover, to identify where they need to train people for the future.

A Letter of Understanding (LOU) has been created with the union representing its workers to help transition employees.

The goal of the LOU is to avoid the necessity of a layoff associated with the transition, the company says. Mosaic will monitor natural attrition and make adjustments when a vacancy opens, including apprenticeships to retrain employees.

It adds that the plan does not include early retirement or severance packages.

As for its long-term contractors, Maksymchuk says attrition will again be very relevant but the company will also be creating other opportunities for them to help minimize the impact.

As to Mosaic's long-term plans and where they may happen, Hopson says, "This area as a whole is important to Mosaic. Esterhazy is geographically closest but Langenburg, Churchbridge, Yorkton, Melville, Spy Hill, the whole area, is equally important.

"As for the possibility of a K4, I wouldn't say we're actively planning for it. Right now the focus is really on K3 and on transitioning out of the older assets to the new. It could happen someday, but its not imminent."

Change, he says, does create challenges and concerns, but the positive side is that K3 really does represent a step forward and a new chapter for the area.

"As everyone knows, there have been some challenges, especially at K2 over the last couple of decades... but not having to think about that any longer is actually, at the end of the day, a positive."

The future of Mosaic's Esterhazy potash operations, Hopson adds, is very bright. "The quality of the ore is second to none in the world, and not just in Saskatchewan. (Mosaic Esterhazy) is going to be an im-

portant piece of the puzzle for a long time to come.

"Environmental protection will be the focus of the decommissioning of the two mines to ensure there are no long-term hazards to the environment, including groundwater, surface water, soils, air quality, noise and wildlife.

"The majority of decommissioning activities will take place within the already disturbed and active K1 and K2 mill sites."

Maksymchuk says it's going to be a major undertaking. "We have a team of employees and consultants that will work with our municipal, provincial, and federal regulators to ensure that we're meeting or exceeding the regulatory requirements," he says.

"We want to make sure we're doing all the right things."

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Social services minister visits Moosomin

Continued from page 24

But we want to be able to provide all of the supports. Child and family is always a very challenging side of my file, working with foster families, and working with the adoption centre in Saskatoon and other agencies that are trying to help out families who are going through a temporary crisis. We want to be able to help them out with some support.

On the disability side of things, which is something I very much enjoy—it's great to see the participants out there—there are some housing needs. Our SAID program, which is our disability income program—what's working, what isn't working?

Sask Housing has been very successful. We do have some chronically vacant units across the province, about 3,000 of them that aren't being utilized, and I want to be able to touch base with people across Saskatchewan and see what their ideas are on what we can do with these units, because they are the ones who are operating them for us.

What do you hope to accomplish in your time as minister?

There are long-term goals and there are short-term goals. The short-term goal is to be able to provide the best service, and the long-term goal would be, from what I've seen in the income assistance—which is the largest part, there's no one I've met yet that wants to be on income assistance—they want to be self-sufficient. So how can we give them the opportunity to be self-sufficient? If we could change the direction of someone who has become very dependent on the government, to becoming more independent and more successful in their own right and have the opportunity to do that, if I could look back in a few

years and be able to say we helped some people become more self-sufficient, and more independent, I would consider that a great success.

But there are lots of things within social service where there is lots of overlap with education, justice and health. We want to be able to meet all of their needs while trying to give them the opportunity to be successful themselves.

When you travel around the province, do you find that many communities are facing similar issues?

Every community is a little different. The economics of the community and the area makes a big difference. Some of the remote communities, they're having issues with mental health and addictions. In the major centres there are other challenges. But Saskatchewan people are very resilient. They want to be successful. They want to be independent. They want to be able to move themselves forward. The old Saskatchewan of everyone being humble and not show off their success is gone. It's good to see people want to be able to give back to their community when they have been successful.

Steven, what was your goal in bringing the minister out today?

Steven Bonk: I really wanted him to see the KinAbility program in Moosomin. I'm a huge fan. I think it's something that could be replicated across the province.

It's been such a success, and especially when you see the participants and how much pride they take in their work and the good job they're doing in a very cost-effective manner. I think it's just a wonderful program.

What do you think makes it unique?

I have to give a lot of credit to the leadership at the KinAbility. They do an amazing job, and their commitment to their participants and what they do is second to none.

Right: Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk, standing, and Saskatchewan Social Services Minister Paul Merriman, seated, visited the Pipestone KinAbility Centre in Moosomin Thursday. Minister Merriman chats with Brenda Sopp as the two share a few laughs.



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