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Plain & Valley

December 2020 • Volume 13, Number 12

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Left to right: The second outdoor rink being built in Esterhazy, Alan Batters on his Zamboni keeping Kipling ice smooth, and a skater enjoying the iced over Moosomin Lake, which has been great for skating this year.

More options for outdoor skating in local communities this winter!

Outdoor rinks, skateways and walking paths

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
 With so many restrictions on indoor activities, towns are looking to the great outdoors for getting people to enjoy some time together.

Moosomin

At Moosomin Regional Park, people are taking advantage of the hiking trails and there is even some ice fishing and skating happening on the frozen lake.

In the town of Moosomin, Rec Director, Mike Schwean, is planning to add a skate way in addition to the town's outdoor rink.

"We are planning on flooding some of our roadways, just because it kind of works well with COVID-19. People can keep six feet apart and skate around the park. I think it will be a great thing for the holidays when the kids try to get out of the house, but we need some snow to make our borders," said Schwean.

The idea was born when Schwean was thinking of how to keep people coming to the parks but still stay safely apart from each other.

"I did not know what kind of restrictions they were going to put on outdoor rinks. I felt bad that we didn't have any public skating regardless of the indoor rink because we were not able to monitor numbers. So we just tried to come up with way that we could have a bunch of people

skating and still keep six feet apart. Obviously, once we can keep them six feet apart it is just a matter of length," said Schwean.

As of now, the planned 500 yard route should take the average skater about 15 to 20 minutes to do one loop.

"Even if we have 100 skaters on there, no one should be very close," said Schwean.

This is the first year that Schwean is trying this track, and hopes it becomes a yearly tradition.

"Once we get one year under our belts I am sure the second one will be a lot easier, but I have never seen one of these to be honest. I have seen pictures of things kind of like this, but my hope is we get a bunch of snow and we can make 3 foot banks on the sides and you will be able to skate right through the park," said Schwean.

Esterhazy

Brenda Redman, who serves as Esterhazy's recreation director is also planning to add a skate way and an additional outdoor rink at the town's regional park.

"We have already one outdoor rink and we added another one right besides it, plus a skate way all the way around our regional park camp ground," said Redman.

The second rink will be worked on first and then the skate track will be underway.

"We are working on the second outdoor rink right now and then once we get that going we will be working on the

one around the campground. There will be lights, there will be fire pits and picnic tables, so it will be fun," said Redman.

There will be no vendors, but there will be enough fire pits for people to enjoy.

"If you want to make a fire and bring your own hot chocolate, there will be a spot for you," said Redman.

Kipling

In Kipling, Alan Batters will host an outdoor rink for the second year on a piece of property he owns in town. The rink was first introduced as part of the winter carnival last year.

"They were looking for an outdoor rink and they approached me because I had this property across from my house. We did the rink last year and the feedback was great. A lot of families were out there on Christmas eve, so we thought we would do it again this year," said Batters.

With the rink's success last year, the only way to top it was to go bigger.

"This year we are doing a bit bigger and bit better. We actually put the lines in and goal creases and we added more lights and more fire pits and benches just to accommodate more people and to do it safely with all the COVID-19 restrictions and just get people out side," said Batters.

The town does have an indoor rink, but the protocols in place, really limit the amount of people that can enjoy it at a time.

"Once the weather cools off a bit we will open to the public. You can have lots of kids that would not normally go to the rink that are out skating," said Batters.

There are also no vendors at this outdoor rink.

"It is very informal. You can't have any organized events, you can't say you are having a hockey game. It is just an open thing for the public. The lights are on 24/7. Last new years eve we had people out there past midnight," said Batters.

To keep the ice on the rink nice, Batters even bought a Zamboni.

See more details on the Batters rink in the December 14 issue of the World-Specator.

Prairie West Rec

With the whole province in a code red lockdown, there is not much that Rec Director Laurel Richter can offer the residents the Virden area, but there are still walking trails.

"We re in code red, so can't even open our outdoor rink. It is quite different once you cross the border,"

The walking trail is at the local golf course. "I actually just turned the golf cart path into a walking track and that opened last Monday. That is new to the community, but that is basically all we can do," said Richter. The walking path will hopefully become a snow shoe path once snow comes to the region.

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Local communities rally around Love4Levi

By VICTOR VAN DER MERWE
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Fundraising has brought in tens of thousands of dollars for Levi Jamieson's family.

Last month, Moosomin's Levi Jamieson and his friend Zayn Leslie got into an accident. Leslie escaped with minor injuries, but Jamieson had to be rushed by STARS ambulance to Regina. Once there it was decided to fly him to Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Recently Jamieson has been moved back to the hospital in Regina. Although he is stable at this time, it is clear there is going to be a long recovery period ahead for him.

When people in the communities in the surrounding area heard about this, there came a wave of support for the family.

A cow pie bingo was organized to get Jamieson's live stock involved in fundraising. There was also a Conexus credit union account set up under the name Love 4 Levi where people could simply deposit donations. Two local hockey teams and two local businesses also showed their support for Levi and the Jamieson family and the disbanded Predators softball team came out one last time show why they were champions.

Cow pie bingo

With strict regulations on large gatherings, it has been tough coming up with ideas for fundraisers. Alana Webb took on this challenge and decided that live streaming a cow pie bingo event on Facebook, might be an interesting way to raise some money for the Jamieson family.

"It only seems fitting to get the cows involved to help raise money," said Webb.

The event was originally scheduled to be live streamed on Facebook on Sunday November 8, but due to an ice storm that was forecasted on that day, cow pie bingo was moved to Wednesday, November 4.

"We switched it to a nice day, which was fine," said Webb.

The location for the cow pie bingo was Ja-Lyn Farms



Levi Jamieson

located about four miles east of Welwyn, and was attended by Alana Webb who helped organize the event and Brooke Lowes who is part of the Ja-Lyn Farms crew. The Jamieson family was also represented by Levi's brother Devon Jamieson, his sister Cheyenne Jamieson, his sister-in-law Stacy Jamieson, his uncle Keith Turpie and even his niece and nephew were there for the event.

"They actually ended up bringing Levi's animals. They brought some of his dairy cows and his horse Buddy, two of his heavy horses and his sister's 4-H heifer," said Webb.

For two hours the animals were alternating in the area where the squares were set up for the event. Sadly, Levi's animals became camera shy.

"Not one of the animals had a poop. It was really funny. We dragged it out and then said okay this is getting too long. Then Brooke went and got one of her heifers out of the feed lot. It pooped three times before it came in the rink and walked in and instantly had a poop and it was done," said Webb.

One of the nice things about the virtual event, was that Levi could see what was happening as he fac-

timed his friends and family who were at the farm.

"Of course, Brooke had to tease Levi about it, because it was one of hers. But it was awesome, we had lots of fun," said Webb.

The event was not just a lot of fun, it was also a huge success.

"Thursday morning I went and got a cheque wrote for \$11,270 and then I still had a few late donations come in, but that was the initial amount," said Webb.

The cow pie bingo money will be added to the 'Love 4 Levi' account set up through Conexus Credit Union.

'Love 4 Levi' Conexus account

The idea of the 'Love 4 Levi' account came from Lindsey Miller who saw it as the simplest way to raise money during a pandemic. Once word got out, people from as far as Saskatoon responded.

"It has been super successful. People have definitely come together. We have had people from all over donate. I actually had someone call me from Saskatoon. He is originally from Ontario. He had called me because he had seen our

article in the World-Spectator. He just wanted to call and tell the family that he had a grandson in Ontario that went through the same thing. His grandson was in an induced coma for months and so this kind of hit home for him. He actually donated money and he doesn't even know the Jamieson family whatsoever. He just donated to the cause, because it really hit home for him. He was quite emotional, it was a tough call to take," said Miller.

The gentleman from Saskatoon was one of many people who sent in donations to the account.

"Everybody has been so generous. Every day I look at the account and it is amazing seeing that during these tough times people are still willing to help out this family. It has been very humbling seeing the response from the community," said Miller.

The account has raised over \$10,000 just through deposits and that amount will grow extensively with the funds from the cow pie bingo and other fundraising efforts in the area.

"I had all these big ideas to do things, but with COVID-19 right now it is so uncertain that we just knew that something like this would be successful, because you would not have to worry about things being cancelled. I think what we have done so far is pretty big. It is not to say that in the future we wouldn't think of doing something else for them, because we

are sure Levi has a long recovery ahead of him," said Miller.

Moosomin Rangers

On Friday, November 20

and Saturday November 21, the Moosomin Rangers played the Rocanville Tigers. Both teams used their respective home games to raise money for the Love 4 Levi fundraiser.

Continued on page 27



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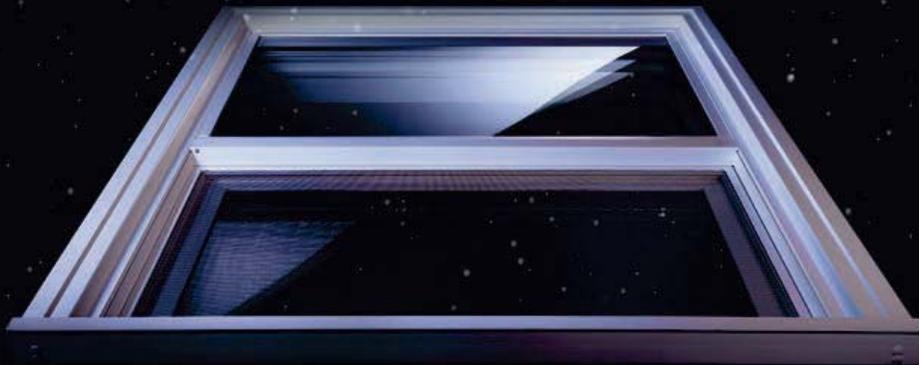
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Federal support programs can be helpful, but complex

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

As 2020 comes to an end, Canada is still dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. With case numbers rising with the colder weather, provinces are beginning to enact stricter health and safety protocols to help flatten the curve.

These guidelines are important to lessening the impact of Covid-19 until a vaccine becomes available, but they've also put small businesses across the country in an unprecedented situation.

To help these small businesses survive through these trying times the federal government has developed support programs. Programs such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy were launched to give businesses across Canada a hand during the uncertainty of the pandemic, but the complexity of the programs have caused some businesses to struggle with accessing them.

The CEWS provides employers who have seen a drop in revenue during the pandemic with support to help cover parts of employee wages while the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy program provides organizations impacted by revenue loss during the pandemic with support for rent or property tax, insurance, and mortgage interest if the business owns the building.

MNP Speciality Tax Business Advisor Matt Bolley knows the finer details of these federal support programs can be confusing but encourages small businesses with revenue loss to look into them to see if they qualify.

"In general the wage subsidy program supports businesses who have had declines in revenue regardless of the reasoning—it doesn't have to be Covid related," said Bolley. "If they've had a decline in revenue they're able to claim a wage subsidy based off of the percentage of decline in revenue that they've had. If they're over 50 per cent decline in revenue then there are top up payments they're eligible for as well."

"Some of the details are fairly complex in terms of how the actual percentage subsidy gets calculated, it's not as straightforward as I've made it out to be, but in general if a business has had a revenue decline compared to months in a prior year or compared to January and February of 2020 they'd be eligible to claim a wage subsidy. Then they'd have to work through the calculations provided on the CRA website or talk to their accountant to work through the calculations to see what percentage of a subsidy they'd be eligible for."

The CRA online calculator can be a helpful tool for those struggling with the support programs says Bolley, but un-



MNP Speciality Tax Business Advisor Matt Bolley recommends small businesses reach out for help when navigating the federal support programs.

derstanding the information needed to work through the calculations is a necessity.

"My best recommendation to anyone who's looking to explore these programs is the Canada Revenue Agency does have online calculators available both for the CEWS and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy that was recently introduced," he said. "For the wage subsidy there's a fair bit of information that you need to gather ahead of time. If you go to the calculator it will at least tell you what information you need and then you can kind of work through the calculations."

"It varies though, some businesses with one or two or five employees are going to find the calculator much easier to use than say someone with 50 employees. I do think at that point it can get a little overwhelming so I would try using the calculator and failing that we offer our clients assistance with applying for those programs and even if they're not clients of ours, we can provide that or their accountants would be someone to reach out to and see if they can provide assistance with navigating through the application process. But the best starting point would be the online CRA calculator."

With the new federal rent subsidy program, Bolley says it can help any business that rents or owns their property with mitigating revenue loss, but again he stresses the importance of fully understanding the details and information needed for the program.

"The rent subsidy program is a bit of a misnomer in that it's not just for businesses that rent their property, it's also for businesses that own their property," he said. "Similar to the wage subsidy program, the way it works is that basically you get to claim a percentage of your rental expense or your property tax, insurance, and mortgage interest if you own the property. The percentage is based on the decline in your revenues so again if you've had a 15 per cent decline in revenues between October 2020 versus October 2019 then you get to claim a subsidy equal to 15 per cent of your monthly rent expense or your monthly property tax, insurance, and mortgage interest if you own your building."

Overall, Bolley has heard many people have been struggling with accessing and understanding the federal support programs because of their complexity. He says it's not a clear process, but that shouldn't stop them from looking into what they might qualify for.

"The biggest feedback I've gotten is that it is complicated," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities, but there are also a lot of pitfalls in terms of understanding the rules. It's not very straightforward and it can get very confusing for businesses that don't have a significant accounting department or a function where people can actually devote time to going through the process because obviously people (who) have their regular jobs to do (don't have the time) the books or run the business, let alone to try and sit down and go through these programs."

Continued on page 20

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Due to increased Covid-19 activity in the area, effective as of Nov. 18, SHA announced that Broadview Union Hospital is caring exclusively for Covid positive patients and known close contacts to Covid positive patients only.

Non-Covid patient care needs will be met in hospitals in surrounding rural locations.

The Broadview Union Hospital will not be open to the general public.

The Broadview Medical Clinic will remain open to the public. However, access will be restricted to the outside clinic entrance and exit. Laboratory services will only be available on an urgent basis at the discretion of the physician or nurse practitioner. X-ray services will not be available until further notice.

"With the recent surge in cases, the SHA is reminding the public that the primary factor in enabling the health system to meet the demand created by the Covid-19 virus is actions taken by Saskatchewan residents to stop the spread," says SHA. "Please help us by physical dis-

tancing, washing your hands regularly, limiting your bubble as much as possible, abiding by all public health orders and wearing a mask whenever you are in public indoor settings.

"At this time, it is essential for all residents to stay home if they are feeling even the mildest symptoms as an increasing number of cases are residents going to work when sick.

"Recognize the symptoms: Stay home if you have symptoms and monitor yourself. Symptoms include: fever, cough, headache, muscle and/or joint aches and pains, sore throat, chills, runny nose, nasal congestion, conjunctivitis, dizziness, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite (difficulty feeding for children), loss of sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing.

"Covid-19 is in Saskatchewan: Protect yourself and your family at all times during the pandemic by following all public health orders and recommendations and ensuring you do your part to stop the spread. Covid-19

is transmitted through coughing and sneezing (droplet transmission), and by touching surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands. Every day we are learning more about Covid-19 and other ways it may be transmitted.

"Get tested: Learn more about testing and take the online self-assessment at Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 to determine if you need to get tested. Testing is universally available to anyone who requests it, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. Please note that in accordance with the latest expert advice on Covid-19, testing for symptomatic people may be delayed until their symptoms have been present for 48 hours to minimize the number of false negative tests. Call HealthLine 811 or your physician for a referral.

"Care for yourself and others: Remember, anyone at any age can contract Covid-19, so be kind to each other and follow the recommended practices."

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Left: Isabelle Berns submitted this photo of a Covid-ready Santa located southwest of Moosomin.

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Season's Greetings
CHRISTMAS 2020



Shayna Zubko photo

Left: Esterhazy is hosting a Light the Night Christmas light contest to get people in the Christmas spirit! At left is one of the decorated yards hoping for a shot at winning the contest!



STEVEN BONK
MLA for
Moosomin Constituency

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Merry Christmas!

*As you celebrate the season,
may it bring you joy and happiness!*




Honourable Warren Kaeding, PAg
MLA for Melville-Saltcoats
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and my assistant, Rick McIntyre, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

As we look forward to 2021, it is time to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in Saskatchewan.

I wish you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season.

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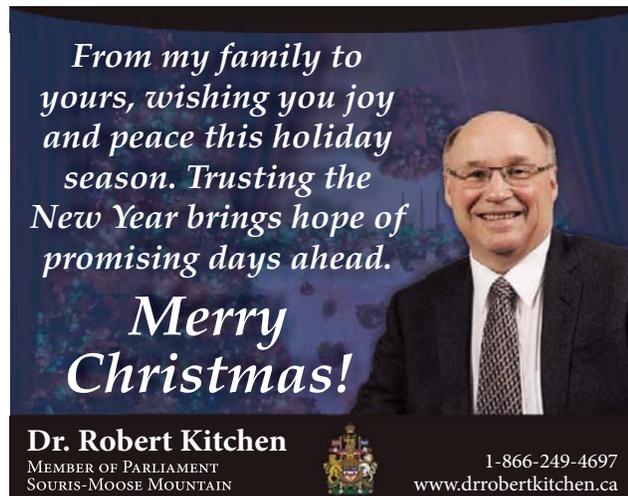


Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!
As you celebrate with those you love, may your Christmas season be filled with warmth, peace and joy!

Daryl Harrison
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Cannington Constituency

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Lots of people have been getting in the Christmas spirit by decorating and lighting up their homes around Moosomin in hopes of winning the Twinkle Tour prize. Shown here is one of the decorative displays in a front yard!



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Saskatchewan Covid-19 restrictions:

CFIB welcomes small-business-first approach

Kevin Weedmark spoke with Marilyn Braun-Pollon of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business about the new Covid-19 restrictions introduced in Saskatchewan in November.

What strikes you the most about the restrictions announced?

Just the fact that they have avoided a blanket lockdown. After what we have seen in Manitoba and Ontario we're pleased they have avoided that kind of lockdown.

Even though these restrictions will hurt some small businesses, specifically in the hospitality sector, these restrictions are preferable to the blanket lockdowns we see in other provinces.

We appreciate the targeted approach to address the rising case counts instead of using blanket lockdowns.

We have said we know that businesses are in a fragile position. There is recent research that shows that 35 per cent of businesses are losing money every day that they are open and we also know a full 43 per cent wouldn't survive a second lockdown.

These new limited measures are going to give many small businesses a fighting chance to survive this holiday season and now it's up to residents and everyone to respect and follow the public health guidelines and the advice of the Chief Medical Health Officer on what it will take to keep us safe.

We know that business owners are working hard to keep their customers and staff safe each day. We all have a role to play in keeping the cases low in Saskatchewan and that's why we really need Saskatchewan residents to really follow these rules now.

We appreciate the limited, targeted approach in restrictions. We cannot ask small businesses to cover the cost of protecting society alone, so we were encouraged that the premier mentioned they were reviewing and considering how best to support the hospitality sector. We believe that business owners that are impacted by these restrictions need full, immediate and ongoing support when these restrictions are introduced. So we'll watch for that going forward.

We really appreciate this small-business-first retail strategy that the provincial government has adopted. It will bring capacity controls on busy big box stores and allow those other quieter retailers, small retailers, to remain open. That's much more sensible than what we're seeing in Ontario and Manitoba.

How unique is that across Canada?



Marilyn Braun-Pollon

Well Manitoba after CFIB raised the concern of the unlevel playing field, the imbalance, of small bookstores, florists and lighting stores having to be closed while you had big, long lineups at Costco and Walmart to buy the same items.

In Manitoba they restricted the big box stores from selling non-essential goods, but they're still not allowing retail stores across the street, who can social distance and do a lot to keep their customers and staff safe.

We just launched a campaign in Ontario directed at premier Ford that we need to make sure that we're not closing those independent stores at a very critical time.

In Manitoba, we've been really critical of the government on the unfairness of their approach for small businesses.

How much of an impact do you think these restrictions are going to have on the hospitality industry in Saskatchewan? On restaurants and bars?

Time will tell. The capacity limits will have an impact. I think if you asked a restaurant owner, anything short of a total shutdown is going to be welcomed. It's going to impact sales for sure. But we're also hopeful that there will

be some financial support that will come as well from the provincial government.

How much consultation has the government had with businesses groups? Has there been a lot of back and forth? Have you had some opportunities for input?

One thing we have appreciated very much is the consultation, and when we had those announcements for the restrictions about a week ago they said we're going to review and consult with the hospitality industry guidelines.

We appreciate the fact that they were consulting with the hospitality industry stakeholders and giving us an opportunity to submit our views and concerns and recommendations before proceeding with additional restrictions to this especially hard-hit sector. We appreciated the dialogue back and forth.

We are certainly going to continue to call for financial support, so we hopefully see that. We were encouraged to hear the premier say that the government is considering how best to support the hospitality sector.

We hope that will translate to full, immediate and ongoing support for this sector.

I think everyone was a little worried when the press conference was cancelled and was thinking now what? What is coming down the pipe? (The announcement Wednesday was originally scheduled for Tuesday)

The fact that we had the announcement today and that it is avoiding a blanket lockdown, the fact that they chose this approach is a relief.

Small businesses are doing a very good job of keeping their staff and customers safe. 79 per cent of businesses that we just surveyed said their businesses go above and beyond the Covid-19 health and safety guidelines. So they're already doing more than what's required and that is certainly a good sign.

But when 35 per cent said right now their business is losing money every day, that's why we have to have a really strong push to finish out the year.

93 per cent of our members say that it's crucial and critical for small businesses' survival that people make an extra effort to shop local this year.

We're just urging all Canadians to shop small, to support small businesses.

Among our members, 87 per cent of those relying on in-store sales say they are easily able to limit the number of customers in their stores.

They're already doing a lot to keep their staff and their customers safe.

Continued on page 21

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Teddy Bears Anonymous provide priceless gifts

BY VICTOR VAN DER MERWE
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Teddy Bears Anonymous is a registered charity based in Regina that provides teddy bears to sick children in hospitals in Saskatchewan.

All the teddy bears are cello sealed from the factory making them sterile and safe even during a pandemic. The charity is 100 per cent run by volunteers. Luke Lawrence founded the charity after his daughter Erin, passed away.

"I founded the charity under tragic circumstances when my daughter, Erin, passed away due to a rare form of gastric cancer. My daughter had compassion for sick children. When she was taking her first chemotherapy treatments, there was a sign in the hospital here in Regina, that said Juvenile Chemo Ward. Erin stopped and said, 'dad that is terrible.' At the time, it wasn't about Erin, it was about the children on the other side of that door. Those are the kind of things you remember after the fact," said Lawrence.

The idea of the teddy bears as gifts came to be as people kept sending Erin teddy bears.

"While Erin was in the hospital she received flowers and teddy bears. The flowers don't last too long, but the teddy bears stick around, and she received quite a few of them and they were all brand new, and I really did not know what to do with these things. I thought maybe I could place them in places like Sophia House here in Regina, (which provides safe housing and support for families fleeing domestic violence) and a few places where they can be given to the single parents of children. I had a lot of problems trying to get rid of these teddy bears," said Lawrence.

He then turned to Regina emergency medical services and the local hospitals.

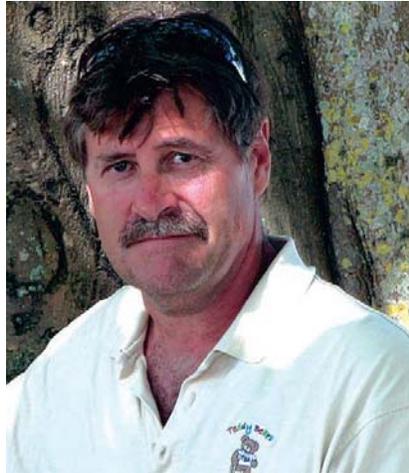
"My first application was to Regina EMS. They took the bears off my hands and the feedback was positive. They said that there is a huge application for teddy bears," said Lawrence.

Soon after that, Teddy Bears Anonymous was established. The charity was founded in December of 2008 and has been giving teddy bears as gifts to children ever since.

"We call it a gift. We share the gift. When a hospital presents a teddy bear to a child it is a gift. They are all brand new, we order them directly from the manufacturer. Each teddy bear is cello sealed so that children in the hospital can take them into surgery," said Lawrence.

The fact that the bears have never been touched by human hands also make it ideal for the pandemic and for EMS services.

"With Covid-19, it is perfect that they are all cello sealed. EMS likes them because everything has to be sterile, and children have something they can keep in the hospital



Luke Lawrence, the founder of Teddy Bears Anonymous that has given the gift of a teddy bear to 161,000 children

and take it into surgery," said Lawrence.

Custom made bears

Teddy Bears Anonymous became a registered charity in 2011.

"When we first started the charity, we did not have our own custom-made teddy bears. We started out with (bear) donations. Back then you could accept donations like that from the public. We did ask that the bears be brand new," said Lawrence.

As time progressed so did the bears that the charity handed out as gifts. The goal was to get the right bear that children can take with them wherever they go during their stay in a hospital.

"We went through some growing pains and we came up with a brown bear. Our bears are all nine inches in size. We selected that size because the feedback from the hospitals were they wanted a small bear that children can keep with them in surgery and take with them into MRIs and CAT scans. It is not about the size, it's about the com-

fort of the child," said Lawrence.

His daughter's compassion for sick children is still prevalent in the organization. Everybody involved does it for the love of the cause.

"We are operated 100 per cent by volunteers, and that is something that is important. Nobody draws a salary, including myself. 100 per cent of all fundraisers and donations go directly to the cause and that is to purchase teddy bears for sick children in Saskatchewan hospitals," said Lawrence.

As time went on, other nine inch bears joined the classic brown bear.

"We started with the nine inch brown bear and now we've got a nine inch brown, black and white bear. We also have a panda bear and as of this year, we have a koala bear. The koala bear is only available in Saskatoon at the Children's Hospital. The panda bears are available in Regina at the surgical wards, and the black brown and white bears are available for emergency rooms and EMS. They all kind of have their own applications," said Lawrence.

Donations to Teddy Bears Anonymous come from all over the province. They cannot accept donations in the form of bears, only money to purchase their cello sealed bears from the manufacturer.

"There are all kinds of ways to donate. Companies will usually send cheques through the mail, and most individuals are donating online through our website. We operate on cash donations only. We don't accept used bears from the public, we never have since we developed our own bear. We buy teddy bears, we order them directly from the manufacturer. They take three months from the time we order them to come into our possession," said Lawrence.

Bear distribution

Once the bears are in the possession of Teddy Bears Anonymous, they distribute the toys to the hospitals and EMS where they are needed.

"They contact us. We have two locations in the province where we distribute our bears from. Regina looks after the south hub. We look after Estevan, Weyburn, the south quarter, as far north as Yorkton and Moosomin is one of the hospitals in that area. In Saskatoon, we distribute in Saskatoon's core and north. We go as far north as La Loche, Prince Albert and Meadow Lake," said Lawrence.

The reach of this charity is especially impressive, since Teddy Bears Anonymous doesn't spend money on advertising.

"We've been around a while, we don't advertise because of the cost associated with it. You won't hear us on the radio or see us in a newspaper ad unless it was promoted by somebody else," said Lawrence.

Continued on page 16



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Number of curling events to be held in Calgary 'bubble'

By TRAVIS LONGMAN
Curlers from across Canada received good news recently.

It was announced that the Tim Hortons Brier (presented by AGI), Scotties Tournament of Hearts, Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship, and the Men's world championships will all be held in a bubble in Calgary. Curling is following a model similar to what the NHL and NBA have used. No fans will be allowed to attend.

Steve Laycock of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan has been to the Brier several times including the last two representing British Columbia. This season he is usually on a rink with Jim Cotter, Andrew Nerpin and Rick Sawatsky. The group has only competed together twice this season but they did make the playoffs in both. Laycock has also gone to an event as an alternate with team Kleiter, the reigning Saskatchewan Junior champions. The team won the event. He also played a mixed doubles event with Nancy Martin,



which they won. Laycock believes curling could be finished for the rest of 2020 but his B.C. rink does have events in January if restrictions are lifted.

The recent announcement of the curling bubble has Laycock excited.

"Obviously I'm excited about the po-

tential of still getting a chance to play in the Brier this year as without that announcement there was a very real possibility our season could be over," Laycock says.

The events will have a different atmosphere this year with no fans being allowed

"Such a big part of the brier experience is playing in front of the crowds, interacting with the fans at autograph sessions, and going to the brier patch," Adds Laycock

"It would also be weird to not have our families or normal support groups with us, but the thrill of competition would still be there. And it wouldn't be far from our minds that it will still be on TV with huge audiences watching us play. So no problems getting motivated."

No dates have been set for the events in Calgary but the announcement of the bubble is certainly a sweep in the right direction.

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Draw Date: December 22, 2020

Teddy Bears Anonymous provide priceless gifts

Continued from page 12

Like everything else, Teddy Bears Anonymous has been hampered by the pandemic.

"We have not done any fundraisers like we used to. We used to do a lot of hands-on fundraisers. We would go to wherever we had an invitation to go. We used to have cabarets and barbecues and all those things, but with COVID-19, those things are restricted," said Lawrence.

This has not slowed down the popularity of the charity. "Word of mouth is how we operate and good news travels fast," said Lawrence.

The hospitals and emergency medical services that would like to receive their own bears only need contact Teddy Bears Anonymous.

"If there is a hospital or EMS in Saskatchewan that has heard about the program, they can contact us. Because we work with volunteers, we have to establish some kind of liaison. If it is with a hospital, we need someone from the hospital, like a manager, or sometimes it is a head nurse to work with. Then, we need volunteers in the community. Somebody has to distribute the bears," said Lawrence.

Getting bears from Regina to places like Moosomin, can be a challenge sometimes.

"Moosomin is about two hours down the highway from Regina. So, when we hear from the hospital that they need another shipment of bears, we will put something on Facebook, that a hospital needs a shipment of bears delivered, and probably within a matter of hours, we have a volunteer going that way that says 'hey we can pick them up.' People want to get involved with a good thing," said Lawrence.

This desire of people wanting to get involved means that even the shipping of the bears are done on a volunteer basis. This includes EMS workers on occasion.

"We do not pay for shipping and we ship all over the province. Especially in the Saskatoon area, it is a long way to La Loche, Meadow Lake and Prince Albert area. People who are transporting children to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. So, when they come in, they will make arrangements with us to pick up bears and take them back. A lot of EMS people pick up the bear directly," said Lawrence.

The different kinds of bears are available for different kinds of situations.

"Last year, we introduced the panda bear into our family of bears for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, because it was their grand opening. We are also partners with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. Now that is a year old and so we have taken the panda bear and introduced it to our regular family of bears, but because they are still a special bear, we only offer them at surgical wards. You only get a panda bear if you are having surgery. If you come into the emergency department, you get one of our three colour bears (brown, black or white)," said Lawrence.

Another new addition to the bear family is the koala bear that was introduced in October.

"Talk about flying off the shelves, that is an understatement, they (hospitals) just took 13 cases last week," said Lawrence.

With 50 bears in one case, that is a lot of koalas making children happy.



The family of nine inch bears that Teddy Bears Anonymous give as gifts to sick children in Saskatchewan hospitals and by EMS workers

Storing bears

Because it takes up to three months for one order of bears to come in from the manufacturer, Lawrence tries to do one large order a year to ensure there are enough bears for distribution. This means that there needs to be a place to store the cases of bears. Even here, the public has stepped up to help.

"We are partners with PUPS in Saskatoon and PUPS in Regina. They have secure storage facilities for our bears. So, we don't even pay for warehousing," said Lawrence. PUPS is a company that offers storage solutions to people in cities across Canada. They are one of the many companies that have chosen to support Teddy Bears Anonymous.

"If you go on our website under partners and sponsors, you will see all these different companies," said Lawrence.

COVID-19

Even with no advertising efforts done by the organization and depending purely on word of mouth or media coverage, Teddy Bears Anonymous have distributed 161,000 bears to sick children in Saskatchewan hospitals.

"The challenge right now is COVID-19. It has affected how we operate, our ability to communicate with people. There is no more person-to-person anymore, it is all virtual. There is a lot of restrictions out there for fundraising. As far as support goes the smaller you are, the less recognition, the less support you see. The demand is massive, but the support is not," said Lawrence.

"We just had a 50/50 provincial lottery. If you look

around you see everybody has had one. COVID-19 has changed the way we do business," said Lawrence.

Regardless of challenges, the feedback makes it all worth it.

"The feedback that we get from parents, that is why we do what we do. It is called Teddy Bears Anonymous, so anonymously we donate the bears to a hospital and anonymously they get gifted to children. Then, we get feedback through e-mails or comments on Facebook regarding what it has done for their child. That is basically what we run on, it is like a thank you. It is priceless," said Lawrence.

The bears sometimes help the parents as much as the children.

"You get a child to the hospital but you forgot their favourite blanket. Then you get there and without knowing anything about it, they give the kid a teddy bear as they go into surgery. It is a pleasant thing for the child, it settles them down and it can settle the parents down too. It is a priceless gift. That is the positive spin on what we do, it is the testimonials from parents," said Lawrence.

Regina Police

The Regina police also contacted Teddy Bears Anonymous for some bears.

"We partnered up Regina police force about three years ago, and at that time they thought it would be a unique application to gift a child a teddy bear in a traumatic situation. It could be a death in the family or it could be an accident, they said it was another tool in their belts, that says it all," said Lawrence.

Lawrence is very happy to report that the Regina police has not had need to order more bears from him.

"We gave them a lot of teddy bears and thank God, they have not had a large demand for them," said Lawrence.

For more information on how to donate, people can visit teddybearsanonymous.ca or call 1-306-949-8260.

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Request for extension on grade crossings regulations deadline

By VICTOR VAN DER MERWE

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Prairie farmers and private landowners have one year left to make sure the railroad crossing on their land meets the new mandatory grade crossing requirements that came into force in November 2014. Private landowners who fail to comply with the new regulations and standards will eventually have their grade crossings closed.

The leaders of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture (AFA), the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), and Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) have stepped up their call to Transport Minister Marc Garneau for an extension to the November 28, 2021 deadline.

"A year seems like a long way away, but the railways have let six years lapse before starting to take action," said Bill Campbell, president of KAP.

The late start by Canadian National Railway (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) will make it almost impossible for private landowners to comply with the new regulations by the set deadline.

"In Manitoba alone, CN has 735 public crossings and 215 private crossing along with 51 road authorities. CP has an even larger network in the province and only started contacting farmers with private rail crossings in March 2020," said Campbell.

The railways are responsible for locating all crossing owners and enter into agreements with them. In some cases, the farmers and landowners may need to make upgrades and also take on new costs for ongoing maintenance to the grade crossings. This is a departure from how this issue was handled in the past as it was traditionally the responsibility of the railways to maintain and upgrade the rail network. This responsibility included grade crossings as part of Canada's heritage and settlement of the west.

The farm leaders call on the federal government to reconsider its decision for railway companies to impose grade crossings upgrade and maintenance costs on private landowners and request an extension of the 2021 deadline.

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan

Duane Haave, General Manager at the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, feels that the scope of the project is too wide to be completed before the November 28, 2021 deadline.

"There could be landowners out there that are not aware that they have a crossing. Most crossings are municipal, so if you are on a public road and you come to a rail crossing, that crossing, it's the municipality or province that maintains it, and for the safety upgrades there has been some money provided to those levels of government to do the improvements to bring them up to standard.

"The risk with the privately owned ones, is we may have landowners that may have purchased that land without being fully aware that there is a crossing that they are using, or that there is a designation or that there is a requirement for upgrades.

"So, the farmer in that case might be on the hook for bringing it (a grade crossing) up to a standard. We think people need to be aware of this and there has not really been a lot of discussion, we really became aware of it may be less than a year ago, so we are thinking that there may be an issue with some of the landowners," said Haave.

The other problem with the deadline is that not all landowners live on their land.

"There are lots of people who have inherited a piece of farm land and they might live in Regina or they might live somewhere else and then they may face a bill for upgrading. We just think there needs to be more time to roll this out so that all the landowners are aware of implications of the change," said Haave.

Haave also pointed out the difference between municipal and provincial grade crossings and ones on private land.

"The crossings in Moosomin, if they needed some work on them they would have done so or on the highway and municipal roads around them would have done them. But there might be a landowner east or west of Moosomin, and they may not be aware of this so, we just want to make sure that private landowners are not left out of the loop on this and so wind up with a surprise," said Haave.

Haave wants to make sure that everyone knows about these new regulations.

"It has been coming for few years, it just has not been very well publicized. It could be quite a bit of money. It could be in the thousands of dollars. It is only fair to give people a heads up and let them see what they want to do," said Haave.

He thinks that one more year might help inform every-



Farm leaders request extension on private grade crossing regulations, to make sure all landowners and farmers are aware of necessary changes

one that these regulations may affect.

"We are asking for a year. Just to get more time for it to get out there, it has been kind of an unusual year. To be fair to government officials as well, a lot of them have tried to work remotely and it is probably not working that well. People aren't seeing each other in person, so it is hard to get information out to the community. So, it is all a challenge to try and get information out these days so the World-Spectator is a great ally in that effort," said Haave.

Continued on page 18

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Request for extension on grade crossings regulations deadline

Continued from page 17

Keystone Agricultural Producers

Patty Rosher, general manager at Keystone Agricultural Producers feel that the delayed response by railway companies have put private landowners on the back foot.

"They changed the regulation in 2014 and just this year, the railway started reaching out to owners of the land that those crossings are on. They have to find them, they have to go into an agreement for the landowner to take over the maintenance and safety of those railroad crossings. They have to do it for all the municipalities and all the private land owners like farmers and there is many of them. The railways took a very long time before they even started reaching out to them and trying to find out who owns the land that those crossings are on, and they only have one year before they all have to be fixed up," said Rosher.

The goal of the deadline extension is to make sure everyone is informed about what is expected of them.

"In some cases it won't be an issue, in other cases, farmers might have to clear bush or do some kind of maintenance, that can cost quite a bit of money and the railways still have to find the landowners and go into an agreement with them. We don't think they are going to get it all done in a year, especially when they've had six years to get going on it and nothing has been done," said Rosher.

The late response by the railways has placed the landowners in a tough spot.

"They have left it to the last minute and according to the regulations, if the crossing have not been made safe, and not brought up to the standards, then the railway will remove the crossings. For some farmers that is the only way to get into a field or it might be how they actually get into their farm yard. There is quite a bit of concern," said Rosher.

The new regulations are a departure from how this was handled in the past, and making everyone aware of these changes might take longer than a year.

"Traditionally the railways have been maintaining those crossings so this is quite a big shift in responsibility and maintenance cost that go along with it. That is why we want to push that deadline back, let's just give our-

selves some time. We got COVID-19 going on and we got all this work that has to be done that can be pushed back. The railways were supposed to communicate with everybody starting in 2014. Regarding the new requirements, they have to locate all the owners, and it is not necessarily the person who is farming that land, but the actual owner who is responsible for that property. They have to hunt them down and then they have to go into an agreement saying 'this is your crossing, do you want to keep it? If yes, these are the standards you have to maintain,'" said Rosher.

In some cases, the effects of the rush job is already being felt by landowners in Manitoba.

"We know that CP has started the process in Manitoba, they say you need to get the grade fixed and get rid of these trees and this is how much it is going to cost. They actually give the farmers a bill which includes \$250 for the inspection and then whatever work has to be done. So, our members have been getting these letters back in March and they had no idea where they were coming from. You can imagine if you get a bill from the railways for thousands of dollars, it is pretty surprising," said Rosher.

The fact that there is a lot of work that both parties need to do to bring the grader crossing up to standard is the reason for the extension request.

"Some of those crossings may not be in use anymore, they might just be left over from an earlier time, so some will be removed but some will need to be upgraded and some won't even need to be touched. Everybody is having a different experience. They had six years to do the communications. The regulations say that the railways were responsible for reaching out to the landowners to get things going. They pretty much have not done anything until March of this year. Now we've got a year left. Let's just push it back a bit. Landowners are very focused on railway safety, especially if they farm around a track, we had one of our members this last month raise a concern with us. There was a fatality up in his area on the CP line going along the Yellowhead Highway. We are very concerned about safety. This just seems a bit abrupt. We just want a pause," said Rosher.



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Canada food and agriculture trade are resilient—despite a pandemic

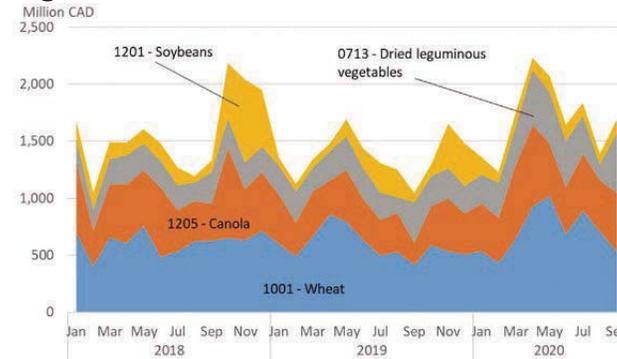
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In June we examined if the Covid-19 pandemic could cause permanent distortions in trade patterns as countries seek to become more self-reliant. Now, with a few more months of data to provide an answer, we see that Canadian food and agriculture has performed relatively well.

Canada's net food export position to hold in 2020

Canada became a net exporter of food in 2019, with a trade surplus of \$88 million. Strong exports continued in Q1 of 2020, with a trade surplus of \$573 million. Food exports dropped by \$542 million in April, while imports declined by \$175 million, causing a \$225 million trade deficit. In May, exports rebounded while imports dropped, creating a trade surplus of \$251 million.

In Q2, the food trade balance was positive, with a \$126 million trade surplus. In Q3, the situation changed, and Canada recorded a food trade deficit of \$219 million, resulting from a drop in exports of animal or vegetable fats and oils and an increase in beverages imports. For the first three



Monthly exports of selected grains and oilseeds peaked in March

quarters of 2020, Canada has a trade surplus of \$480 million.

The pandemic's impact on trade is undeniable, but Canada is still poised to have a trade surplus in 2020.

Pork exports strong performance continue

One reason for Canada's impressive trade performance in the food sector is

pork exports. China continues to deal with an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) and imports massive pork quantities from other nations. China's hog industry is rebuilding, and we can expect China's import demand to slow over the next year. Germany is now also dealing with ASF and is banned from exporting pork to China, opening the door to Canadian exports. Moreover, the upward trend in pork overall cutout values has boosted export values.

Pork export declined for three consecutive months since its peak in May but rebounded in September. COVID-19 outbreaks in pork packing plants did not help export numbers because China suspended meat imports from plants reporting COVID-19 cases. The outbreak of ASF in Germany likely contributed to increased exports in September.

Grain and oilseed exports

In 2019, low grain prices and China suspending two Canadian companies' licenses, hampered grain and oilseed export values. With stronger grain prices, a good crop and China softening restrictions on Canadian canola imports, 2020 is set to be a record year for grain and oilseed exports.

Continued on page 23

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Federal support programs can be helpful, but complex

Continued from page 5

"Unfortunately I've seen quite a few instances where businesses would qualify—particularly for the wage subsidy—but haven't actually applied because they were either misunderstanding that they qualified or just looked at how complex the rules were and decided that it wasn't worth their time to try and apply. I would say the complexity has been the hardest part, and even my own colleagues with this rent subsidy—when I walked through the rules with them and all the pieces of information you need, some of them had their heads spinning a little bit just to understand the rules.

"That would be the biggest complaint, however, if you can navigate the complexity or you have advisors to help you then the subsidies themselves can certainly be helpful for businesses who are struggling right now because of Covid declines or other declines in their revenue."

With all the different circumstances surrounding small businesses, Bolley doesn't want them to be discouraged by the process, but rather to reach out for help so they can get the support they need during the pandemic.

"The CRA has tried to make it straightforward in the sense of setting up the calculators and especially for the wage subsidy program I find that the online calculator is helpful if you have a base understanding," he said. "But I do think if businesses are going to take the time to apply and they're going to try and do it with their internal staff or themselves then I just encourage them to take a detailed reading through all the information on the CRA website, don't just jump right into the calculator because if you don't know some of the background or you have a unique situation then you may either think you don't qualify when you actually do or think you do qualify and in fact it's a smaller amount or there's a pitfall somewhere. Just make sure you read through everything in detail and if it's to the point where they're overwhelmed with it then I encourage them to reach out to their advisor or us at MNP.

"Our partners at our Moosomin office would be happy to sit down with any local businesses and go through their situation and see if we can help them navigate through the programs.

"We've done that for a number of our clients because it's just been too overwhelming for them and we've done enough of the application stuff to understand the ins and the outs and the different things to consider. Business should reach out to their advisors in general to

help them navigate through this if they're having issues.

"The biggest takeaway is that if businesses have had a decline in revenues over the last several months as a result of Covid or otherwise then they need to make

sure they're looking into these programs. If they have revenue drops—even if they're not substantial—this is worth looking into because there's still support available and there's probably a way that they can qualify."



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CFIB welcomes small-business-first approach

Continued from page 11
We have seen in other jurisdictions lockdowns are making in-person shopping absolutely impossible. Our small businesses can control numbers in their stores, they can keep

people safe and there are a lot of online and curb-side options as well. I think making that extra effort to support small businesses in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas is going to be vital.

The fact that we haven't seen a complete lockdown or further restrictions to the retail sector, but in fact the leveling of the playing field, is certainly encouraging.

The small-business-first retail strategy is placing those capacity controls on those busy, big box stores.

It allows those quieter, smaller retailers to remain open and I think that something that we're going to encourage Manitoba and Ontario to consider. Saskatchewan can be an example.

Our rising case numbers show that everyone needs to do their part and follow the new orders. As we know, businesses and the survival of the economy really does depend on it.

We know that 43% of firms would not survive a second lockdown. And if for some reason our cases rise and they have to consider restrictions down the road, the support needs to be there.

Thankfully we have now a federal rent program that goes directly to the tenants and we've got a wage subsidy that is not as generous as it was but the government is still committed to it to next year.

And so provincially we have to have those supports specifically for hospitality right now. We've got a long way to go. The fact that only a third of businesses in the province are at normal sales is really striking.

I spoke to the premier on Friday and he said he's aware that a lot of businesses wouldn't survive a second lockdown, and he said they're going to do everything they can to avoid a second lockdown. Of course, he didn't say it'll never happen, but that they'll do everything they can to avoid it. Do you think that Saskatchewan will be able to get through this entire pandemic without another lockdown?

You know, that's the real question here and I would hope so, but it will take everyone.

Small businesses are doing everything possible, they are going above and beyond the guidelines already to keep their staff and customers safe.

The only way we're going to do this and to avoid a second lockdown is for everyone to be following these new orders and doing our part to slow the spread.

Business owners, they haven't recovered from the first wave, the first lockdown. It's a long, long road to recovery.

The next few weeks will really show if we can do that because I don't even want to imagine what it would look like if we had to do that again.

There are businesses on the brink right now. If 35% are losing money every day they're open, then they've got a long ways to go. They've got to get customers back and if they're not comfortable going in the store they'll make the arrangements, they'll find a way to get you your product or service for you where they can.

But I think everyone just needs to make a really extra effort to think local, shop local.

The Amazons and Walmarts, they're not supporting your minor sports. And Amazon certainly isn't paying property taxes in your town and they're not employing your neighbors and your friends either.

We really need to support out local businesses so we can get through this together.



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211 initiative supports victims of violence

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The RCMP is launching its 211 initiative in Saskatchewan to continue their increased focus surrounding partner violence and abuse. The RCMP is partnering with 211 Saskatchewan to provide additional support to victims of interpersonal violence.

211 is a free and confidential information and referral system for communities in Saskatchewan that connects individuals to human services in the province by telephone, text, or online video chat. Its mission is to ensure residents throughout Saskatchewan can connect with people that can provide them with the information and services they need.

This past summer, funding was approved through the RCMP's Family Violence Initiative Fund to complete a division-wide general duty card re-print.

The new business cards will have RCMP contact information on the front and 211 Saskatchewan information on the back.

Victim assistance can be a difficult process and victims are often required to call multiple service providers before getting the appropriate assistance which can discourage victims from seeking assistance.

"Front line officers with the RCMP will use the business cards to inform clients of 211 Saskatchewan and provide them with an avenue of outreach when a social issue is beyond our scope of ability to help with," said Constable Joelle Nieman, Saskatchewan RCMP's Violence Relationship Coordinator.

This initiative was created to help victims of Intimate Partner Violence and family violence who often struggle in silence. 211 Saskatchewan will be an avenue to help empower victims to reach out for help and feel confident knowing they can access the services they need, immediately and within their own community.

"211 Saskatchewan is grateful for our partnership with the RCMP. With 211 being available 24/7/365 through phone, text, web chat, or independent search online, help is available in the way that is most comfortable and convenient for the person seeking services," said Kristin Nelson, Director of 211 Saskatchewan.

"Over the phone, services are available in over 175 languages, including 17 Indigenous languages. We are focused on connecting people to supports and services in their community. Through this partnership, we can help people meet their needs through the most appropriate and effective channel."

The Saskatchewan RCMP is proud to take part in Saskatchewan Violence Prevention Week—which ran from November 30 to December 6, 2020. Saskatchewan Violence Prevention Week is an opportunity to gather people together to focus on the prevention of violence and bring discussions of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to the forefront.

Violence in Relationships investigations remain a high priority for the RCMP. Police officers respond and attend these types of calls for service immediately, but they can be a complex process to resolve.

From January to September 2020, there were 3,711 victims of intimate partner violence reported to the Saskatchewan RCMP. So far, 2,529 of these files resulted in charges.

In October 2019, the Saskatchewan RCMP launched its first Violence in Relationships Course. This training gave officers an opportunity to listen, firsthand, to the experiences of survivors of intimate partner violence. This helped officers increase their understanding of the cycles of violence and how interactions with police impacts the situation.

"We do not measure success on intimate partner violence files by laying charges or making arrests," Nieman said. "Success is measured by ensuring victims have support measures in place that meet their needs and ensuring they are safe."

The Saskatchewan RCMP wanted to offer a more accessible avenue for victims to reach out for help and that's how the idea for the partnership with 211 began.

"This started in January, so it took us about a full year to get the initiative from idea to concept," said Nieman. "We here in the Saskatchewan RCMP were really looking for a way to be able to bridge the gap between our victims of interpersonal violence and speaking assistance. A lot of the time these incidence occur in evenings, after hours, and on weekends when it's often a little bit harder for our victims to seek assistance. We wanted to be able to give them that platform that's available 24/7 where they can seek that assistance. Sometimes our victim services personnel are not able to make contact with the victims until Monday so that was our whole motivation behind this partnership."

A main idea with the partnership is to help address the difficulty many victims have with reaching out for help



when they're in a bad situation and Nieman sees this having a big effect on those with nowhere to go for help.

"We absolutely expect it to have an impact," said Nieman. "Especially in cases of domestic violence, you often see people struggling in silence. They're not always coming forward and the police are not always aware of the real scope of the issue."

"We do anticipate this making a huge impact, just to give those suffering in silence a voice and a way to reach out with a confidential service."

Something Nieman thinks will help a lot with the service is that it will direct victims struggling to the resources they're looking for within their community.

"It's really important that this outreach is available and that it's providing accurate information. We often see with victims that there's a real struggle when they're looking for assistance. Lots of times they get bounced from agency to organization, back and forth."

"This will help streamline that process so the assistance they're actually requiring is who they're getting referred to. It's also in their own community as well, that's a struggle that we have here with Saskatchewan having a lot of remote communities. This way they're getting directed to the appropriate service within their communities or near their communities."

There are many resources that can assist victims and survivors with safety planning. Whether or not victims and survivors decide to report the violence to police, they can reach out to local victim services, shelters, cultural and community health centres, Indigenous friendship centres and other community centres for support.

If you think someone you know might be a victim or survivor, you're encouraged to reach out to them and encourage them to seek support and identify their support network:

- For more information on Intimate Partner Violence

and abuse, creating safety plans and where to get support, visit: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/relationship-violence/intimate-partner-violence-and-abuse>.

- Call 211, text 211 or visit website abuse.sk.211.ca to connect Intimate Partner Violence victims with resources in their community.
- All non-emergency incidents can be reported to any local RCMP detachment by calling 306-310-RCMP (7267).

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2008 2588 Case IH with pick up.....	\$125,000
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2012 9120 Case IH w/pick up.....	\$195,000
2012 Gleaner S77 w/pick up.....	\$185,000
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2018 8240 Case IH duals, pick up.....	CALL

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2010 Seed Hawk 66, 12" spacing, seed and fertilizer distributing kit, tool bar only.....	\$130,000
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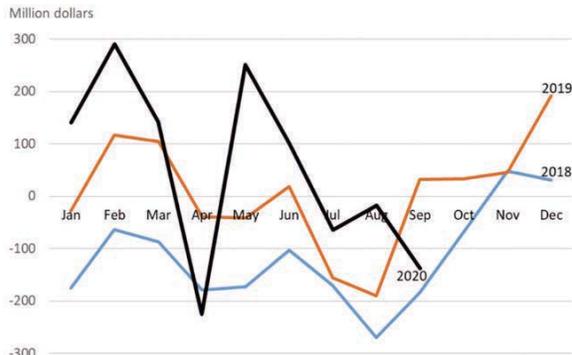
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Monthly Canada trade balance for food

Canada food and agriculture trade are resilient—despite a pandemic

Continued from page 19

The figure below shows export values for wheat, canola, dried leguminous and soybeans, which account for about 90 per cent of Canada's export value of grains, oilseeds and pulses over the last three years. What's remarkable about 2020, so far, is that exports peaked in March as a result of export delays from train barricades in fall 2019 and a rail strike in early winter. Prospects are positive for the rest of the year. The data indicates strong and early grain deliveries this fall, and prices are better than last year. Through the first three quarters of the year, exports of grain and oilseed were \$16.5 billion. Total exports of grains, oilseeds and pulses in 2020 will likely exceed the \$20.8 billion observed in 2015.

Steady dairy imports
In recent years, Canada has implemented three trade agreements: CETA, CPTPP and the CUSMA, giving new market access to Canada's dairy market.

While it's still early to quantify these agreement's full impact on Canada's dairy, the figure below tells us there's no upward trend in dairy product import quantities so far. Except for a peak in cheese and whey imports in fall 2019 and a surge in milk and cream imports in June 2020, dairy products imports have stayed relatively constant. It's important to monitor these imports as market access increases following the three agreements schedules.

Trade resilient to the Covid-19 crisis
Covid-19 appears to have had minimal negative impacts on food and ag trade so far, based on the trends recently observed. In the longer run, the crisis may lead countries to revise their strategies for securing food supplies and turn toward more self-reliance. We'll continue monitoring trade patterns for transforming long-run trends.

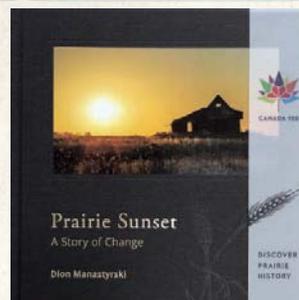
Sebastien is a Principal Agricultural Economist at Farm Credit Canada.



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Prairie Sunset: A Story of Change By Dion Manastyrski

In the creation of this poignant, high-quality, fine-art book, Dion Manastyrski roamed the Canadian prairies, photographing old abandoned houses, barns, schools, and churches. He interviewed over 70 people who lived that past way of life, when the small family farm was at the heart of rural life on the prairies.



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Tourism Estevan debuts Backroads of Estevan Audio Tour

Tourism Estevan is set to launch a tour of a longtime Sunday tradition in Saskatchewan—a drive through the backroads. The Backroads of Estevan Tour is an initiative designed to inspire Estevan residents and visitors as another option to safely explore the community and its surroundings.

"The Backroads tour is a free, self-guided audio tour, an adventure on gravel!" says Rebecca Westling, destination marketing and communication consultant for the City of Estevan. "It has 25 stops filled with historical sites, fantastic lookouts and local folklore."

There are a few ways users can join the tour. To get the full guided experience, users can download an app that

is set up with geofences. The audio will tell participants where to turn and is filled with little tidbits of information.

If users don't want to download the app, they can follow along on the web-based version, but please note the web-based version doesn't have geofencing, so users will have to hit play at each stop automatically.

The Backroads Tour starts at the Estevan Leisure Centre. It takes about an hour a half to complete but may take longer if users decided to get out of their vehicles and explore the stops.

For detailed information on the tour, visit www.estevan.ca/the-backroads-of-estevan-tour/

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To learn more, visit enbridge.com/salutetosafety.



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Local communities rally around Love4Levi

Continued from page 3

"The Jamiesons have been involved with the Rangers for numerous years. All three of Levi's older brothers played for us and they have been good supporters of our team, and we just thought that we should do something for them and it was mentioned that we should donate one of our 50/50 draws. We thought that this would be a good series to do it. So I talked to Rocanville and they were all for it and so we hooked up together," said Peter Nabholz, G.M. of the Moosomin Rangers.

The 50/50 draw held at the Rangers home game that Friday raised \$1,040.

The winner of that nights draw was Tyrell McCaw. He donated his \$520 back to the Love 4 Levi fundraiser.

With such a great response from the Moosomin Rangers fans, Nabholz will gladly help in the future if need be. "We are happy with the 50/50 and if down the road it looks like they need more help, we will certainly be there to support them," said Nabholz.

Rocanville Tigers

Game two between the Rangers and the Tigers happened in Rocanville on Saturday November 21 and again there was a 50/50 to help raise funds for Love 4 Levi.

"The Jamiesons have always been family friends with

players on the Tigers. We have always known the Jamiesons. Moosomin and Rocanville have always been "rivals" and so we thought it would be fun to get together and put on a 50/50 and put the proceeds towards Levi. Our head coach, Jeff Odgers, talked to Peter Nabholz and they got together and discussed it and thought we could raise the money through our 50/50 for both games," said Cassidy Robidoux who volunteers with the Rocanville Tigers.

The two teams may be rivals on the ice, but when it came to supporting a family in the community, Rocanville hockey fans stepped up.

"We managed to raise \$745 and Amanda Howie was the winner. She donated her portion back to Levi," said Robidoux.

Just like the Moosomin team, the Rocanville Tigers are standing by if the Jamiesons need help in the future.

"As for right now, we don't have anything planned, but that is not to say that there won't be anything coming in the future," said Robidoux.

After the game on Saturday, Rocanville and Moosomin presented the two Jamieson brothers currently on the Rangers team with cheques.

"Devon and Tyson Jamieson both play on the Rangers team, so we presented them with the cheques," said Nabholz.

Nixon Electrical Service Ltd. and Holar Electric

Two local business also decided to help out the Jamieson family.

Nixon Electric, based in Moosomin, offered to match the amount raised at both hockey games' 50/50. They wrote a cheque for \$1,845 to be donated to Love 4 Levi.

"I've known the Jamiesons and all their kids since they were young. The Jamieson family has supported just about everything I can think of, they are great people and I just wanted to lend some support back," said Dale Nixon owner of Nixon Electric.

Along with the generous donation, Nixon had kind words of support to offer the Jamieson family.

"I'd like to let the Jamiesons know, and I am sure they do, that the whole community in the area is behind them and that they should stay strong and keep believing," said Nixon.

Braden Arnason who owns Holar Electric based in Whitewood also donated \$250 to the fundraiser.

"I heard about it through the senior hockey teams. They were donating the 50/50 funds from both our games and I talked to my wife and we both decided to pitch in a little money to help out," said Arnason.

Arnason is also a defenseman for the Rocanville Tigers. "I know Levi's brothers through social circles and working with them. We just decided we would help them out. They are a great family, you don't hear many bad things about them, so when a person can help out another good person, I always try to do that. I hope Levi keeps his spirits up and anything that we can help with, don't hesitate to call," said Arnason.

Predators softball team

The Predators, an all girl softball team that used to be based out of Moosomin between 2006 and 2018 has re-emerged in support of the Love 4 Levi fundraiser.

"I coached and managed a successful girls softball team from 2006 to 2018. The Predators was our name and the Jamiesons were huge supporters of our team with their daughter Cheyenne being a part of our 2014 Western Canadian Championship team," said Dale Nixon.

The team that was comprised of players from all over the southeast corner of Saskatchewan no longer exists, but their legacy remains and so does money from some of their fundraising efforts over the years.

"Our club had some funds from all the years of fundraising left over so I got my coaching partner, Peter Nabholz, and a few of the long time Predators together and we decided to give \$5,000 to Love 4 Levi," said Nixon.

Those who wish to donate to Love 4 Levi account can go to any Conexus branch in the area or e-transfer funds by e-mailing lovefourlevi@gmail.com.

For more information, people can call Lindsey Miller at 306-434-6776. There is also a Facebook page called 'Love 4 Levi' that people can visit and show support.

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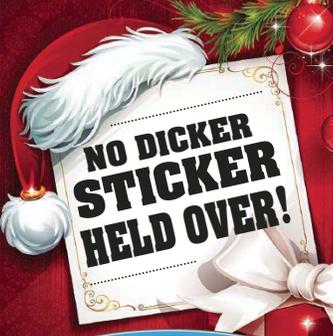
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 2015 Ford Explorer Limited STOCK# 6T033 WAS: \$30,900 SAVE \$1,693	 2017 Jeep Compass STOCK# 0T066A WAS: \$25,900 SAVE \$1,131	 2017 Ford Edge Titanium STOCK# 0T233A WAS: \$36,900 SAVE \$2,401	 2018 Ford Edge Titanium STOCK# 0T235B WAS: \$36,900 SAVE \$1,582	 2018 Ford Ecosport SES Sport STOCK# 0T104A WAS: \$24,900 SAVE \$2,901
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