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Vallev Plain &

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Campbell's hockey camp growing in popularity





Left: Jessica Campbell poses with kids and their autographed jerseys. Right: Campbell with kids on the ice during her hockey camp.

When Jessica Campbell decided to host a hockey camp in Rocanville during the Christmas season in 2014, it filled up in no time.

2014, it filled up in no time. Campbell, a professional women's hockey player who grew up in Rocanville, saw around 50 kids from around the area come out for the camp, which was planned at the last minute and adver-tised only through word of

mouth.

This Christmas, Campbell decided to host a second camp, this time over two days, and adding pee wee and bantam players. In no time she had 100 kids

in no time she had 100 kids signed up for camp. Campbell plays with the Calgary Inferno and is training with the Team Canada women's hockey

team with the hopes of competing in the next Olympics.
But Rocanville is where

Campbell got her start in

hockey.
"I'm so proud to be from a community like Rocanville and from a small town who has rallied be-hind me and supported me all through my career," says Campbell.
"I remember as a kid

The remember as a kid having those kind of opportunities in Rocanville. There were people outside the community who came and did that for us, and I wanted to make sure that the kids that are now com-ing up in Rocanville minor hockey and in the sur-rounding areas have that

opportunity.

"It has become a privilege and an honor for me

to have those opportuni-ties and to give back and share my knowledge and expertise with the younger kids so they do get that extra help and opportunity I had as a young kid. So that's kind of where the idea came up. It's a way I can give back to the community, and get to the most amount of kids over the holidays.

holidays."

Campbell says she was shocked at how quickly the first camp filled up.
"It was crazy, I think I came up with the idea two weeks before I came home for Christmas. We put the camp on December 21 and camp on December 21, and within three days word of mouth had spread and I would say every kid in minor hockey had signed up. And then word of mouth travelled around Moosomin and it was completely

"Last year I only did prenovice to atom. And then this year I added two more groups, peewee and ban-tam, because I wanted to make sure those kids also got that opportunity.

"Rocanville minor hock-

ey doesn't have a team in every age group. Some of the kids now play in Wa-pella or Whitewood, but I wanted to make sure every kid in the communitywhether their team was from Rocanville or Whitewood-had that opportu-

This year Campbell hosted the camps on Dec. 21 and Dec. 23. The camps ran from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

each day. Campbell savs came from fairly far away to attend the camps.

"One girl came all the way from Wynyard, Saskatchewan, and some came from Regina," she says. "It was just a day camp, so it was two onice sessions and a dryland session, and an autograph signing and pictures and lunch. So it wasn't about making profit, it was just about getting the kids a jersev as a memorabilia kind of keepsake, and it was just giving them those extra tools to help them in their training as hockey players both on the ice and off the

ice.
"It spread really quick and I didn't market it at all. I just said first come first serve, and I opened it up to minor hockey and they all jumped on it. Then they passed it around to the other players in White-wood, Wapella, Moosomin and it was just completely full. It was really exciting to have that fill up so quickly.'

Campbell says she loves

Campucii says sile loves hosting the camps. "Hockey becomes your full-time job and you've kind of got to take a step back and ask 'what's the fun in it, why am I play-ing?"

ing?'
"I'm the type of player who likes to surround myself with younger kids— it's just a constant remindit's just a constant reminder of why I played in the first case and why I like to lace up the skates still to this day, for the fun of the game. And when you lose that fun it becomes a job, and it doesn't have that same passion and enjoyment

Continued on page 13™



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O

Local curlers win bonspiel in China

BY KARA KINNA Maryfield curlers Brook-lyn Lemon and Candace Chisholm, who curl with skip Michelle Englot from Regina, weren't planning to be in China this December, but when an opportu-nity came their team's way, they decided to take it.

they decided to take it.

The Englot team, along with Lemon, Chisholm and Stephanie Schmidt, were invited by the Canadian Curling Association to attend the Yichun International Women's Bonspiel in China from December 14-18. Not only did the team decide to attend, but they came home the winners.

came home the winners.
"All year we've been
playing in spiels, world
tour events, and at these
events you accumulate
points to get invited to
slams and qualify for provincial playdowns," says
Lemon, explaining how
they came to be asked to
attend the spiel. attend the spiel.
"Out of all of our spiels



Above: Team Englot at the awards ceremony for the Yichum International Women's Bonspiel in China. From left are Michelle Englot, Candace Chisholm, Steph Schmidt, Brooklyn Lemon, and

this year we qualified for quite a few of them, and we were hoping to get in-vited to the slam in Yorkton, which finished two weeks ago, however the cutoff was before some of our spiels so we didn't get invited to that spiel. China happened to be on the same date as this slam event, so some of the top teams that did make it into the slam with their points were already going to the event in Yorkton. "The Canadian Curling

The Canadian Curling Association got asked by the curling association in China to send over a Ca-nadian team to go to this spiel. The Canadian Curling Association looked at our points and our performance over the year and asked us to go. So it was an invitational event and the Canadian Curling Association chose us.

Lemon says they weren't sure initially if they would accept the invitation.

Continued on page 7™

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My top five favorite people of 2015

Every year I do it.

I select my top five peo-ple from the previous 12 months

Sometimes I throw in famous name here or there (like the year Barack Obama made the cut). But mostly, they're just ordinary, amazingly kind and giving folks who live

amongst us.

5 – Tara-Leigh Brown-Heslip – I don't know EXACTLY what it is about this economic development dynamo from Indian Head that has

earned her a spot on my list (because there are so many things), but I just love her. I love the way she moved to a new town, jumped into rural life and was able to rally people in a way that was subtle but stunningly successful. She became the program coordinator for In-dian Head's Main Street Revitalization program and from there she has just set her region on fire. If you ever see something hosted at Indian Head's refurbished Grand The-



Christalee Froese

atre. chances are Tara will be there and will have had some part in making it happen. Thank you Tara for your infectious community spirit which is humble and understated (as you are), but oh so effective and appreciated (as you are too). 4 - Kym van

- Kym van Staveren I met this remarkable
Griffin, Sask. mother of four while writing a story about international adop tions from the Ukraine. Kym and her husband Marcel hosted two young orphanage girls from the Ukraine for a sum-mer program in 2014. After falling in love with the girls and having to send them back to their orphanage, the van Sta-verens decided do the unthinkable and go to the Ukraine to adopt the girls. It was a heroic act filled with many obstacles and tense moments. But after six weeks, Kym brought her girls home and they joined her two sons to become a loving family of six. Thank you

Kym for your incredible act of courage, kindness and love.

3 - Anne Lamott -Okay, here's one of the famous ones whom I've never actually met. She's a writer from San Francisco and while the two of us probably have very little in common in terms of actual lifestyles, we do have 'words' which are enough to bond me to her like she is a sister. Anne (whom I'm on a Anne (whom I'm on a first-name basis with, of course) speaks with such honesty that I sometimes laugh until I cry. Here's one example, from her latest book Small Victories, that absolutely cracked me up this past Christmas reading sea-son. It's about skiing with

her teenage son:
"Nowadays, he instantly disappears with the hordes of snowboarders. I believe he is somewhat embarrassed to be seen with me: once, standing next to him and his friend at the bottom of a hill, I fell over for no reason. And in fact, the very first time we went skiing together, I skied in a strangely slow, inexo-rable path for a hundred feet or so, straight into a huge net at the bot-tom of the slope, erected to protect the small Ski Bear children from being crushed. Then I got tangled up in it, like a fish."

I could see Anne tied up there in the net, her skis sticking out in directions she could not control, and I laughed so hard I cried. I've been caught in cried. I've been caught in that very same net myself. Thank you Anne for the gift of being able to laugh at ourselves.

2 - Crystal Dusyk – This young lady recently started a pharmacy and ciff store from exact here.

gift store from scratch in my small town and she is a business force to be reckoned with. But it's not that, it's that she spent hours and hours over the Christmas holidays working to provide five local families with the groceries and gifts they'd need to make this Christmas season com-plete. Thank you Crystal for your business acu-men, but mostly, thank

you for your generosity.

1 - Wendy Weichel
& the Grade 7 Class at
Montmartre School This group worked to-This group worked together to raise over 450 pounds of food for local families. Often we recognize kids this age for the number of goals they've scored, or the grades they've gotten (high or low), or the mischief they've caused. I'd like they recognize teacher Wendy. recognize teacher Wendy Weichel and every single one of the Grade 7s for thinking of others.

Who's on your 'Five greatest people of 2015 list'? Let them know!

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Saskatchewan has shortest wait times for medical treatment in Canada

The median wait time for Canadians seeking medically necessary surgery or other therapeutic treatment remains stagnant for the third consecutive year, finds a new study released Tuesday by the Fraser Institute.

The study, an annual survey of physicians from across the country, reports a median wait time of 183 weeks up.

sicians from across the country, reports a median wait time of 18.3 weeks, up slightly from 18.2 weeks in 2014. In 1993, the wait time was just 9.3 weeks. The study examines the total wait time faced by patients across 12 medical specialities from referral by a general practitioner (ie: a family doctor) to consultation with a specialist, and subsequent receipt of treatment. "These protracted wait times are not the result of insufficient spending but because of poor policy. In fact, it's possible to reduce wait times without higher spending or abandoning universality.

versality.

The key is to better understand the health policy experiences of other more successful universal health care systems around the developed world," said Bacchus Barua, senior economist at the Fraser Institute's Centre for Health Policy Studies and author of "Waiting Your Turn: Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2015

Report."
On a provincial basis, Saskatchewan now has the shortest waits in ewan now has the shortest waits in the country at 13.6 weeks, a dramatic turnaround from 2011 when it was among the country's longest wait times (29.0 weeks). It's followed by Ontario (14.2 weeks), Quebec (16.4 weeks), which has also decreased wait times circuits 2013 kids (25 to weeks). since its 2013 high of 25.9 weeks

ish Columbia recorded an increase in wait times with its median wait now sitting at 22.4 weeks.

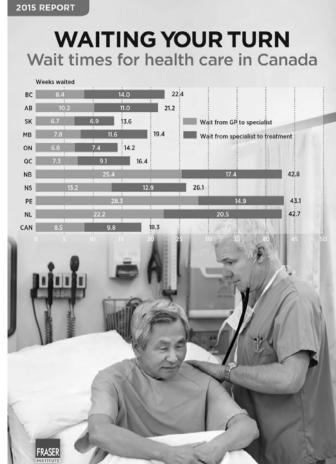
Meanwhile, the Atlantic provinces face the longest median wait times: Prince Edward Island (43.1 weeks) followed closely by New Brunswick (42.8 weeks) and Newfoundland and (42.8 weeks) and Newroundiand and Labrador (42.7 weeks). However, the number of survey responses in At-lantic Canada were lower than other provinces which may result in report-ed median wait times being higher or lower than those actually experienced.

Among the various specialities, the longest referral-to-treatment wait the longest referral-to-treatment wait times exist for patients requiring or-thopaedic surgery—the treatment of ailments related to bones, joints, and muscles—at 35.7 weeks and neurosur-gery (27.6 weeks), surgery performed on the nervous system. In fact, patients requiring such treatments can expect to wait over 15 weeks to just get a consultation with a specialist after getting a referral from their family doctor. "These wait times for medically

"These wait times for medically necessary treatment in Canada are not simply minor inconveniences. They

simply minor inconveniences. They can result in pain and suffering for patients, contribute to lost productivity at work, decreased quality of life, and in the worst cases, disability and death," Barua said.

On a somewhat better note, patients face much shorter referral-to-treatment wait times, relative to other treatments, for radiation oncology (4.1 weeks) and medical oncology (4.5 weeks)—specialties involved in the treatment of cancer.







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Local curlers win bonspiel in China the battle and came out on

™ Continued from Page 3 "It was a little bit unbe-lievable when we did get asked. We didn't know all the details off the hop and we were hoping to get into the Yorkon slam, and at that time we didn't know if we had made the cut or

not.
"At that point at the very beginning we were a little apprehensive." When the team found

out they would not be go-ing to Yorkton, they decided to take the opportunity to compete in China. "Out of every country

when you think of curling and touring the world to go curl, China isn't exactly the first place we would have picked, however it's an amazing opportunity going anywhere," says Lemon. "It was an all expense paid trip so it makes it pretty hard to say no to that and it is an amazing experience to travel that far, to curl on different ice. All these experiences accumulated to make it such a good experience that we couldn't really turn it down."

'We didn't really need to take much time to decide, it's a pretty wonderful op-portunity and we felt pret-ty privileged that we had been asked and definitely wanted to take the opportunity to wear the maple leaf," says Chisholm.

Lemon says the Chinese, who are still developing the skills of their curlers, were looking for high qual-ity competitive teams for

"It's a development spiel," says Lemon. "There were three Chinese teams were three Chinese teams there and the Chinese are working on developing their teams, as a lot of their teams are younger, so they are wanting to get good competition there to play these teams. Canada also looked at this spiel as a de-

velopmental spiel. "Candace, mys myself and



Below: Team Englot in action on the ice.

Steph are younger and the Canadian Curling Asso-ciation wanted to give that international experience to our team." While Lemon has curled

once before in Turkey, the experience was new for Chisholm. was entirely

Lemon says going over-seas to curl has its challenges.

"Getting adjusted to the jetlag and travelling there was quite different and the communication challenges. The ice was fabu-lous and we have curled against international teams against international teams here (in Canada) on the world curling tour. There are Japanese teams, teams from Sweden that come from Sweden that come here, and from Switzer-land. We have played the international teams, how-ever playing in a different country and overcoming barriers of communication, jetlag, and the food was

even a big thing."

Lemon says the team went to the spiel hoping to

"We went in with the goal of winning. I knew I wanted to make the play-offs. We knew it was go-ing to be challenging—just that it was new for a lot of us and adjusting to the time change. We were hitting the ice with the round robin, so you know that even your first few games will really count towards whether or not you're going to qualify for the playoffs. So we wanted to get there and perform well right off the bat."

"We knew going in that that it was new for a lot

"We knew going in that it was a round robin and we knew going in that our goal was to make playoffs," says Chisholm. "And once we made playoffs we just wanted to revisit our goals and see where we thought we would sit after the

round robin. And after we finished first in the round robin, we set our goals on had two games per day so it was a good schedule for us," adds Chisholm. The team went 8-1 in the round robin, losing their one game to the United States

"I think we were still ad-

justing to the experience and time change and the

and time change and the ice was quite slippery and the USA played amazing against us. So we lost that game," says Lemon.

Despite their loss to the U.S. Englot's team came out first in the round robin,

meeting the U.S. in the fi-

nal game.
"We managed the rest of our round robin games quite handily and it was great that we ended up

playing USA in the final," says Lemon. "It was a little bit of a rebattle and we played really well in

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nal game.

winning the event."

Lemon says they also wanted to use the spiel to get prepped for provincials

"Our last world tour about was about three weeks ago and then our provincials are at the end of January, so at that point in time we really didn't in time we really didn't have anything planned for curling. So we wanted to use this event as good preparation for our provincials coming up at the end of January. It's much like provincials. You have two cames a day and they you games a day and then you have the opening ceremonies the banquet and it's a

week-long event."

"Being that we were a 14-hour time difference, I felt that we adjusted very well. We prepared ourselves as best we could for that. We top."
"Seeing them in the final,

we knew we had to play a lot better against them, and we did, we came out play-ing pretty well," says Ch-isholm.

isholm.

"We didn't expect to win it, but we expected to go in and play our best and know that we could com-

pete with any team there.
"It was a pretty good feeling, to come home and let Canada know that we won it."

"In a way it was surpris-ing. We went over there not really sure what to expect because we hadn't faced many of the teams that were there."

"It was really good, it was an amazing experi-ence," says Lemon. "We ence," says Lemon. "We won \$8,000 U.S. so that was good. Travelling all season we had a lot of flights and hotel rooms to pay for, so it was good to replenish our winnings and our sponsorship money at the end of the year and going into our provincials.

"But also to win a spiel

at an international level is pretty overwhelming. And we got to stand on the po-dium and they played the Canadian anthem and our flag was risen with USA and with Finland flag, beside it and that was pretty neat to see.

neat to see.

"Last year the team that represented Canada didn't fare very well, so to go there and to be asked by the Canadian Curling Association to represent the Canadian Curling Association and perform well at this spiel is a really good feeling. We didn't want to let down anyhody by colet down anybody by go-ing there. We wanted to perform well for ourselves and Canada. We wanted the Canadian Curling As-sociation to see that we can perform at this level and maybe eventually get asked to go to some of these events in the future

these events in the future again would be great."
"The highlight was win-ning." says Chisholm.
"They held a banquet with a podium ceremony which was really nice. They raised the flag and played the nathe flag and played the national anthem. That was probably the highlight, listening to the Canadian national anthem and watching the flag go up.

"I hope we get a chance to do something like that again. We were really fortunate to have been asked. If we had a chance we would

we had a chance we would definitely do it again."



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PotashCorp expansion almost complete



BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

PotashCorp Rocanville has reached a significant milestone in its expansion, with the new service shaft at Scissors Creek now in use

The first group of employees went down on it Dec. said PotashCorp Rocanville General Manager Larry

The Scissors Creek service shaft is now being used to transport workers and equipment between the surface

and the mining level.

The original service shaft will be converted to a sec-

The original service shaft will be converted to a second production shaft to bring ore to the surface, a project that should be completed by October.

"In the original service shaft we're doing some grouting in the walls to seal off some natural water that leaks in," said Long. "It's not a lot but we do it because that water is brine, and the salt precipitates in the wall, and we have to clean that up. Because we're not using it right now and we're going to convert it, we're just taking the opportunity to drill holes in it and pump grout in to help control that little bit of brine that's coming in. That's going to take us about six weeks to two months to do."

The conversion of the original service shaft will be a large project.

"It's the last big project on the expansion," said Long. "Once that's done, the expansion is done. We will tear down the old headframe, we'll finish building the rest of the production headframe, we'll have to do steel work in the hole itself to set up the system for the skips. Those are the two major fundamental steps. Once that work is done, and we have all the utilities installed the power, everything we need to run the system—we have an ABB hoisting system that we're using. What

have an ABB hoisting system that we're using. What you do then is called roping up, so you install the ropes, you hang the new skips on the ropes, and at that point, when everything is in place, we start commissioning the new system. It sounds simple, but it's a lot of work.

"Then it's the hookup at that point. We have to do the final installation to get it going to the mill. It's the same underground, from the bins underground to where the skips are loaded underground, there will have to be the final connection done there as well.

"Twically what you do then is you on into the com-

final connection done there as well.
"Typically what you do then is you go into the commissioning, so you start testing the system, you start running muck into the skips and running it to the surface, running it to the mill. My experience is there's the physical part of the commissioning, but there's also now, like everywhere else, a lot of software and firmware involved. The programming also is a bit of a task.





Scenes from the PotashCorp Rocanville expansion: These photos have been taken of the PotashCorp Rocanville expansion over the last several

years

At top left, the beginning of drilling freeze holes for the new service shaft. Above, the headframe at the new service shaft at Scissors Creek. At left, the expansion to the mill at the original site. Below, work on the massive new product storage building at the original minesite.





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with completion of new service shaft

"When I was involved in this at the Allan mine that actually was longer than the physical commissioning of

actually was longer than the physical collininssioning of equipment."

Staffing has ramped up at PotashCorp Rocanville through the expansion, and while a few more staff will be added in coming months, the total staff complement is close to the final number.

close to the final number.

"There are still positions to fill," said Long. "Our budget number is 720, and we haven't quite filled it, so we're still hiring, and the final number won't be significantly higher than 720. We'll probably end up somewhere between 720 and 750. A lot of the production and maintenance positions are filled. There are still a few technical resilience fill.

nance positions are filled. There are still a few technical positions to fill.

"Historically, technical positions in the mining industry have been challenging to fill the last 15 years because we don't produce enough of them in Canada out of the university system, so it will be a challenge."

Long said production will start ramping up as soon as the second production shaft is completed.

the second production shaft is completed.

The expansion was planned to add 2.9 million tonnes of operational capability to Rocanville, increasing the facility's annual operational capability to 5.7 million tonnes. The expansion project included the installation of a new mill and a 500,000 tonne product storage building at the current Rocanville site, and the development of the Scissors Creek facility 15 kilometers from the original site.

"There will be immediate ramp-up," said Long. "We have to get it commissioned. That involves ramping up the entire system, and we will be looking at the first quarter of 2017, going into our Canpotex run. Before we do that, we're going to want the entire system to be up, so you have to run the muck, you have to try to get it up to full capacity.

you have to runt the mack, you have a min of the full capacity.

"The rest of the system is already operating We've been using mill two pretty consistently the last couple of months, working the bugs out of it.

"The last real system we have to commission will be the

new loadout and hoisting system."

Long says the expansion depended on the expertise of



Above, the base of the completed service shaft at the mining level. Below left, the completion of the pour for the new headframe.

a lot of PotashCorp Rocan-

"We have people who were brought in to manage the expansion but the technical expertise lies within PotashCorp and so our staff had to be involved with the decision-making process. We had some staff we transferred from operations to the expansion to help out on our side of the fence. Our staff who were still in operations were heavily involved because, in the end, it's going to be our plant and our under-gound mine and our hoisting system, so we want to make sure it's done the

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way we want, so it does put a strain on everyone and I

way we want, so it does put a strain on everyone and I think they're all going to be relieved when we're back in a normal operating mode."

He said several employees were key to the project. "Justin Young moved over to the expansion full time, Shawn Munroe did a lot with the expansion. He's the underground mine superintendent. Vance Thom, who is the general superintendent of the mine, did a lot—he's got a lot of experience in hoisting systems and mine ops. Terry Daniels, the superintendent of operations for the mill, did a lot. Dale Stangeland actually got promoted and moved to the Lanigan mine, but he did a lot of work on this expansion. The general engineering staff and a lot of our general foremen, we would use them and their expertise. Some of the guys put a lot of work into it. Even our accounting staff, Chantelle Ollivier and her staff, they're involved from the financial end of it. The last few years has been a strain on my staff and I think they're all going to be relieved. It was exciting but it can be stressful at times. I think everyone took a lot of pride in what they've accomplished."







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Duncan Construction wins award for challenging project

Spy Hill's C. Duncan Construction received an award from the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association (SHCA) recently for the company's work on the Godwin Slide Project—a major construction project that dealt with repairing the effects of erosion on the valley wall in the Qu'Appelle Valley west of Tantallon.

The award was presented for excellence on a grading/ excavating project. SHCA chair Carmen Dun-

can presented the award to Thomas Selby, a supervi-sor with C. Duncan Consor with C. Duncan Con-struction who oversaw the project. Selby accepted the award on behalf of the com-pany and his crew at the SHCA annual meeting held in Regina.

The Godwin Slide Rehabilitation project was ten-dered by the RM of Spy Hill after flooding in the valley led to severe erosion and sliding of the hillside west of Tantallon. The slide led to

of Tantallon. The slide led to a main road that ran along the valley wall into Tantal-lon being closed.

As part of the project, the existing road needed to be moved to more secure ground and the sliding hill-side stabilized.

Selby worked in conjunc-tion, with tunor preferen-

tion with junior engineer Justin Dejardinis of Golder Associates. The project was



SHCA chair Carmen Duncan, left, presents the 2015 Award of Excellence for a grading/excavation project to Thomas Selby with C. Duncan Construction, the supervisor who oversaw the project. Turn to page 30 for photos of the project. Keith Hershmiller photo

started in July and completed in September.

However, part way through the project, the hill-side began to slide again, and revisions needed to be made to the project, add-ing another three weeks of

"The construction was like that of any other road,

however the biggest thing here was the active slide that was happening at the same time, because it was actively sliding while the guys were working on it," says Sher-ry-Lee Duncan, the safety co-ordinator and human re-sources person at C. Duncan Construction who submit-ted the application for the

award with the SHCA.
"It took the whole crew to

do everything because we had traffic accommodations. It was actually a 20 kilometre detour to get around the project," says Duncan.

Duncan says once the hill started to slide again after being stabilized, it provided an additional challenge.

moted him to supervisor," she says. "He has the knowl-edge of how the machines and the equipment works, and knows how to work

and knows now to work great with the team and take their input.
"On an hourly basis, he has to manage what's going on, he has to manage when to stop, and who to contact. For someone who has never managed a project on his own before, he did very

"I would never have done it if I didn't think I could,"

says Selby.
"It was definitely a chalit was definitely a chal-lenge to the crew because we had rock trucks going up the side of the valley and we always had the challenge of

always had the challenge or the hill actually sliding while we were working on it. "Having that slope and carrying it on all the way to the bottom is quite diffi-cult."

Overall Selby was happy with the job once it was completed.

completed.
"If was great. Everything
went really smoothly. Nothing bad ever happened, and
everything worked out for
us. I'm very happy."
Selby says he was proud
of his crew for working so

well on the project.
"I was proud of Duncan
Construction. Everyone
here was a part of it. It takes more than one person."

More on The Godwin Slide Project on page 20™

"We had to stop produc-tion once it started sliding

and then wait for engineers to get out there," she says. Duncan says the company was especially proud of Sel-

by, who was working as a supervisor for the first time

on this project. "Thomas has worked for

us as an operator and it was





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Campbell's hockey camp growing in popularity



Campbell signing autographs at the hockey camp in Rocanville.

™ Continued from Page 1

"I really enjoy being involved in the community and with the next generation of kids. For me personally I looked up to the Cassie Campbells and the Hayley Wickenheisers and all the pioneers of the women's games, and I think it's my job

women's games, and I think it's my job now as the next generation to inspire the younger kids coming after me.
"Women's hockey is the fastest growing sport in the world right now, and in order to keep up that momentum and get women's hockey to a professionally paid level for women to have a career in 10 to 15 years—that's kind of what my responsibility is to this generation—being a role model.

"Every time I surround myself with kids from Rocanville and the surrounding areas, they're just a reminder of my-self when I was their age—skating on the rink in Rocanville and how much I love the sport and why I do what I do today. It's just that feeling of giving back and also getting a lot of enjoyment in teaching kids and helping them. It's a lot of

"I like to have a lot of fun with the kids. It becomes more so about the fun and not so much about working their butts off, especially over the holidays. For the Christmas season I think it's a fun time for them to just relax and have a camp and the games."

Campbell says she plans to continue holding her hockey camps each Christ-

"My camp is called Prairie Built Hock-ey Skills—that's kind of what my tradeey skins—that skind of what his trade-mark is. I would say I'm prairie built and everyone who supported me through my journey coming out of Saskatchewan hockey into Team Canada and my journey to New York with Cornell University—I think it all comes back to the people back on the prairies that have helped me and supported me and given me opportunities.

Campbell says she is also planning on hosting an all-female hockey camp from August 8-12 in Ochapowace this summer that will include herself and a number of other Team Canada players.

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Trudeau government faces challenging times in 2016

The Trudeau government has a full agenda on its plate for 2016 given the global political and economic envronment, as well as its own list of election promises.

Yet, the fundamental issue that Ottawa must deal with

ment, as well as its own list of election promises. Yet, the fundamental issue that Ottawa must deal with is simple: how Canada will continue to make its economic way in the world given the end of the commodity boom and the tightening of global credit markets. With a lack-luster Central Canadian economy and a depressed Western Canadian resource sector, rising interest rates will reduce what has been an important source of stimulus for the Canadian economy.

The U.S. economic recovery marks the end of a cheap money cycle that has fuelled Canadian housing construction and consumption via the acquisition of record amounts of consumer debt. Canada's household debt burden hit a new record high in the third quarter of 2015 as the ratio of household credit-market debt to disposable income rose to 163.7 per cent. Total credit-market debt reached \$1.89-trillion in the third quarter of 2015 with mortgage debt making up \$1.23-trillion of that.

Moreover, cheap credit has also allowed many governments at the provincial level to live beyond their means by running large deficits and adding to their debt. Provincial

Research clarifies beef producers' environmental footprint

Canada's beef industry continues to improve efficiencies that lessen its environmental impacts, with production of one kilogram of Canadian beef creating 15% fewer greenhouse gas emissions in 2011 compared to 1981, a greenhouse gas emiss new study has found.

greenhouse gas emissions in 2011 Compared to 1941, a new study has found.

Continual improvements in production and feed efficiencies, crop yields and management strategies, resulting in reduced emissions and resource requirements, were largely responsible for the significant decrease in environmental impact, according to the first results of a comprehensive five-year (2013-2018) study examining the Canadian beef industry's environmental footprint.

Conducted by researchers at the University of Manitoba, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Leth-bridge and Environment Canada, the study found that there has been a 15% decrease in methane, 16% decrease in nitrous dioxide and 13% decrease in carbon dioxide from beef production in Canada over the recent 30 year period. Comparing the same time periods, it took 29% fewer cattle in the breeding herd and 24% less land to produce the same amount of beef. This study explored the entire production system—from cow-calf to feedlot. Future phases of the study will assess the impact of Canadian beef production in areas such as water use, biodiver-

Future phases of the study will assess the impact of Canadian beef production in areas such as water use, biodiversity and provision of ecosystems services.

"We're working to get a more accurate assessment of the Canadian beef industry's environmental footprint and these results indicate that the footprint per kilogram of beef produced is getting smaller," said Dr. Tim McAllister, a research scientist at AAFC Lethbridge and one of the study's principal investigators. "The decreased emissions and reduced resource requirements to produce beef over the past few decades, due in part to enhanced production and feed efficiencies, crop yields and management practices, wouldn't have happened if it weren't for investments in research and development, and the industry's ability to adopt those technologies," he explained.





Livio Di Matteo

government net debt in 2014-15 totalled \$568 billion while federal government net debt stood at \$687 billion, mak-ing the combined federal-provincial net debt-to-

ing the combined rederal-provincial net debt-to-the Trudeau government is embarking on a fiscal path that will see infrastructure spending funded by annual deficits possibly as high as \$25 billion—if not higher. However, these deficits will not

\$25 billion—if not higher. However, these deficits will not have the anticipated stimulatory effect on the economy. The recent U.S. Federal Reserve decision to raise interest rates a quarter point will be followed by other increases and ultimately generate higher borrowing rates for Canadian homeowners, consumers and governments. The additional debt servicing costs at the consumer and government-sector levels will result in significant negative drag on the economy at a time when it already is not firing on all cylinders. The resource sector bust resulting from lower oil and commodity prices has yet to be counterbalanced with a resurgence of the Central Canadian economic heartland that stretches from Windsor to Quebec City.

Canadian economic growth in the final quarter of 2015 appeared to be slowing and a drop in our exports in October may be further evidence of this. Particularly troubling is the fact that, despite a depreciating Canadian dol-lar and a resurgent U.S. economy, October saw a drop in Canadian exports to the United States. This suggests that the one silver lining of rising U.S. interest rates - further depreciation of our dollar that can stimulate our exports may do little to that effect.

may do little to that effect.

In the wake of the 2008-09 recession, there appears to have been a structural shift in the U.S. export market, making it much more competitive for our firms. Many of the manufacturing jobs lost in Ontario and Quebec over the last decade will not be coming back, despite a lower dollar.

dollar.

What is a federal government to do?

In the end, Canada needs to boost its economic productivity and a key component of that is private-sector investment. With the drying up of business investment in the resource sector, investment in capital equipment and machinery needs to be encouraged in other sectors of the economy. Such investment requires business confidence and the prospect of a new era of federal deficit financing may be unsettling the business community especially when juxtaposed against the poor public finance picture in Alberta and Ontario. in Alberta and Ontario.

in Alberta and Ontario.

Even the prospect of small deficits relative to GDP may generate substantial investor uncertainty in an environment where interest rates are on the way up thereby increasing the possibility of future tax hikes to service a rising debt burden.

The best federal government response to a challenging economic environment in 2016 is responsible public

finances and a competitive tax environment.

Livio Di Matteo is a senior fellow at the Fraser Institute and professor of economics at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario



The Godwin Slide Rehabilitation project explained



The Godwin Slide Rehabilitation

Shown here are some photos taken during C. Duncan Construction's work on the Godwin Slide Rehabilitation

Right: A view from the top of the valley, looking down on the excavation that is happening on the hillside. The crew is reducing the slope of the hill and dumping the excess dirt into a ravine.

Lower Right: Due to the active slide on the hillside, equipment needed to work in a tight spot until the rest of the hill could be stabilized. This shot shows dozers, excavators and a rock truck working together in one spot.

Below: The finished product. The hillside is being groomed and made to look natural, with black dirt being laid back down and the hillside being graded. The hill will also be seeded.





Following is the award submission submitted by Sherry-Lee Duncan with C. Duncan Construction for the award from the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association. The submission explains the project in detail.

This project is an exemplary example of the skill and commitment of this company and its employees. The contract called for a constructed road to be built 20 metres from an existing slope failure. The construction was like that of any other road however the bulk of the project was the excavation of the slide. The challenge ahead of the crew was the sometimes vertical slope of the Qu'Appelle Valley. This was conquered with finesse and safety at the forefront of everyone's mind, especially that of first-time supervisor,

was conquered with minesse and salety at the foreiron of everyone's mind, especially that of first-time supervisor, Thomas Selby.

The project called for 80,000 cubic metres to be moved and 134,000 cubic metres to be hauled with the majority of the work to be completed by Sept. 30. The various products from the slide were stockpiled into "useable for construction" and "other." The "other" product was disposed of across from the slide, filling in the valley floor. The crew were careful to maintain a safe distance from the winding Qu'Appelle River so as to not disturb water flow, contaminate the river or disrupt habitats.

Once approximately one quarter of the dirt was excavated the hill began to actively slide again. All activity halted and precautions were taken to secure the safety of the people and the project while Thomas awaited a reassessment by Golder Associates Ltd. The second slide was promptly assessed and changes were made in response to the soil conditions.

In the meantime, Thomas moved his full crew to the far

the soil conditions.

In the meantime, Thomas moved his full crew to the far southeast side of the hill, temporarily steering clear of the weakened slope. This forced the entire crew to operate in a confined space. This required precision driving, increased radio communication and alertness of every operator's po-

sition at any given moment, Excavator operators kept in constant contact, alerting rock trucks to oncoming traffic as they blindly descended the slope to the unloading zone and then again as the rock truck approached the road from the valley floor. It was a successful collaborative approach to

traffic adaptation and safety.
Although the actual project was only 900 metres of roadway, the traffic accommodation entailed a 20 km detour way, the traffic accommodation entailed a 20 km detour for those travelling east and west on the valley floor. Some farmers were just starting harvest, school had begun and the bus needed access, as well as some people travelling to the local potash mines for work. The location was closed to traffic but this did not stop local people (and wildlife) from coming to observe the process. Those on quads were especially dangerous as they were not seen until they were pretty much under the front wheels of the machines. As a level contractor it was not difficult to prescoally contract the pretty much under the front wheels of the machines. As a local contractor it was not difficult to personally contact the adventurous drivers to request they keep their distance. Also special mention needs to be acknowledged when it comes to adapting the work performance to the shift cycles of the miners. As previously stated, the detour was extensive, and our crew were mindful of the added driving time for those headed to work.

The reassessment of the second slide resulted in a new configuration for the northeast slope thus creating an approximate 15,000 cubic metres increase in the dirt to be reproximate 15,000 cubic metres increase in the durt to be removed. Golder Associates junior engineer, Justin Dejardinis, commented, "a great job of keeping me in the loop and being flexible with changes that had to be made . . . that were not planned for."

The additional product was added to the southwest slope

of the valley. Much care was given to the sculpting of the hillside so as to make the excavation appear to be part of the natural landscape. The same can be said for the areas where the "other" product was stockpiled. An existing hillside was expanded and a ravine filled in, created to look like it was made by Mother Nature herself.

like it was made by Mother Nature herself. What started out under bright and dry conditions quickly became bothersome when it took longer for the morning fog to burn off and then risky with the rainfall. However with patience and proficiency the end result was, "an excellent end product. C. Duncan Construction Ltd. were very co-operative with the council's requests. Job well done!" quoted from Mr. Robert Bruce, Reeve for RM of Spy Hill No. 152.

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18	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.		
20	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.		
21	THURSDAY	SHEEP SALE	12 NOON		
25	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.		
27	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.		
29	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11:30 A.M.		

FEBRUARY					
1	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.		
3	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE SALE	10 A.M.		
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10	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER CATTLE SALE	10 A.M.		
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21 January 2016

School board to consider school closure Jan.

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Southeast Corner-one School Division board of education met with representatives of Wapella on Jan. 7, and will decide at its next board meeting on Jan. 19 whether to continue to consider clo-sure or grade discontinu-ance at Wapella.

If the school board de-

cides on Jan. 19 to consider closure, there will be a meeting of electors called, and the board would look for additional submissions before making a final decision. Any change would take place after the end of the current school year.

The school board is also considering closure or grade discontinuance at Pangman School, and a Pangman School, and a delegation of seven individuals led by Lori Wolstenholme, Chair of the School Review Committee for Pangman School, attended the December 17 regular meeting of the Board of Education to present information on that school.

The presentation centred

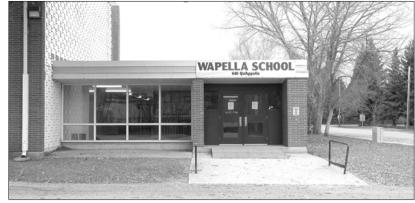
The presentation centred on the successes of Pang-man School as well as concerns with respect to the possible impact that poten-tial school closure/grade discontinuance would have on the community. The presentation included correspondence from the community as well as con-cerns verbalized by two students who were in at-tendance from Pangman School.

School.

Board chair Audrey
Trombley explained that
the meeting with the Pangman delegation, and the
meeting with the Wapella
committee are a regular
part of the school review process.

"From November 1 until the end of January, once the board makes a motion to review the school, it's under review and the com-

under review and the community then establishes a committee," she explained. "It's two people from local government, the town and the RM, school community council, that sort of thing. They request information from us and they provide information to the locard. That pracess goes board. That process goes on up to the end of January, and because it has to be a public meeting (where the board makes the deci-sion) it's set for the 19th of Ianuary, Up until that time



Wapella and Pangman Schools are under review for closure.

they can request all kinds of information and they have community meetings and decide what they want to do. If the community, after this committee meets and they decide that they want to discontinue some grades, they can come and say to the board, 'We and say to the board, We propose that you do this.' If we agree to what their proposal says, that would happen and then the re-

happen and then the review process is done.
"Wapella has set up a committee, and the committee has met with our senior leadership team, and they presented to the board on January 7. We invite them to make presentations to the board. What the period from Nov. 1 to the period from Nov. 1 to Jan. 30 is about is exchang-

"So they made a presentation and the board has copies of their presentation and they will read them and consider them between now and January

"If we move to consider "It we move to consider closure or grade discontinuance, the process then goes on until April. By March 31 we are required to go into the community and have a public meeting with them and listen to be in the control of the control their concerns. We would receive more information from them, they would present delegations again during that period of time, and then we would have to make a decision. By March 31, that process is done, sometime between the end of January and the end of March, all those meetings

and delegations would happen in that period of time. After March 31, the board will make the deci-sion either to leave everything the way it is, or dis-continue grades, or school closure.

"It's a long process. It was much quicker before, but when this government got elected they said, 'No, no, communities need more time,' so they set up the legislation that has given communities ample opportunities to present. Before that even, we make sure we send out to the school community councils and let them know that our information shows that their numbers are low ahead of time. So if they have any information they can let us know. We always feel that school community councils should be consulted and advised ahead of time, so we've been doing that over the

What did Tromblay take

away from the Pangman

presentation?

"My view is that Pangman loves their school, man loves their school, they love their community, and they're saying that their quality of education is exactly what they want. So that's what they're telling me, and that's what their presentation is say-

"There were a couple of students that spoke very well. And they love their school. They have very few students in high school but they feel that they're getting a quality education, that was what they were saying to us.

they were saying to us. They were very passionate about it."
"Before making a decision, we certainly will look at the numbers and how that affects staffing and the quality of education that we can provide. The quality of education that we can provide is number one. Current class size and one. Current class size and projected class size numthe facility, transportation, and resources. Those are the main factors that we consider

Tromblay said she expects to see people from Pangman and Wapella to be there for the decision on

Jan. 19.

"It's very likely that both "It's very likely that both Pangman and Wapella will be at the public meet-ing on the 19th," she said. "They're certainly invited to be there."

She said the board has to consider a lot of different factors in making its deci-

sion.
"We know that in Pangman they love their community and they love their school, we just have to look at some other factors and the board will make a design have dealers. cision based on how much weight they're putting on those factors. As of the 19th, the process will end or we will start a whole new process of review. Our board is very fair and compassionate, and I'm not sure what they're going to



bers for the next five years

are also taken into account. The information that we

get on that is pretty accurate, so we look at current



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Tax changes mean savings for most in 2016

BY KRISTEN WEEDMARK

The new federal Liberal government has introduced tax changes that were im-plemented January 1.

Starting on January 1, the tax rate on income be-tween \$45,282 and \$90,563 has dropped from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent, and the tax rate on income over \$200,000 will rise from 29

per cent to 33 per cent.

Along with income tax changes, family tax policies will also see changes. The Family Tax Cut has been eliminated and the Universal Child Care Benefit will be replaced with the Cana-da Child Benefit beginning

da Child Benefit beginning in July 2016.

The Canada Child Benefit will be \$6,400 for children under six and \$5,400 per year per child six to 17 years old. That's \$533 per month for children under six and \$450 for children six to 17.

The Canada Child Benefit is tax-free and means-end tested, with larger payouts going to lower-income house-holds. Families with more than \$30,000 in household

than \$30,000 in household income will have the pay-ment partially phased out. With these changes, high-income earners face sub-stantial tax hikes, while the rollback of Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA) annual contribution limits from \$10,000 to \$5,500 will also reduce future savings for millions of Canadians. Additionally,

bracket creep will continue to pun-ish all taxpayers in Mani-toba, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia, as well as high-income earners in On-tario and New Brunswick.

"Most taxpayers will receive some form of tax break," said Canadian Tax-payers Federation Federal Director, Aaron Wudrick.

"We've rolled in the child-"We've rolled in the child-care benefits for this as well, partly because we did the same for the last govern-ment, so in terms of the total amount of money you have, between the taxes you pay and the money you re-ceive from those childcare

ceíve from those childcare cheques, most Canadians will have more money. "Essentially, if you are of a lower income, so under about \$100,000 and espe-cially if you have children, you stand to benefit consid-erably, up to \$2,000. I'd say the average break is over \$1,000 so it is a substantial \$1,000 so it is a substantial amount, it's a very welcome change.

The change from the Universal Child Care Benefit to the Canada Child Benefit will substantially affect families with children, with families receiving more

money for childcare.

"The way the old program worked was that evgram worked was that every family was receiving \$160 for every child under six and \$60 for children age six to 17. This is going to be changed and will depend on income. You will receive more money if you have less income, and if you get up to about \$200,000 you don't receive anything at all. So it's the same idea, you get a cheque if you have children, it's just you get more if you earn less money," explained Wudrick Wudrick.

"These changes will affect some Canadians more than others. Definitely people with children are going to see bigger changes. Anyone who benefitted before from who benefitted before from income splitting, where a household was taxed based on how much both spouses made rather than individually, that has been eliminated, so anyone who was saving money with the old income splitting in the last few years will not have that awayner this year." continanymore this year," continued Wudrick.

This means that people "This means that people will be paying more tax. Couples were saving up to \$2,000 a year on that and they'll lose that so they'll have to pay that extra \$2,000. The income tax cut will give them some of that back, but a lot of the folks will still be a little bit worse off. Depending on the calculation, some people will be paying another \$1,000. For example, in Saskatchewan, if a house-hold earns \$150,000 with one earner, you're going to pay an extra \$1,200 in tax this year, so it can be a con-siderable amount."

Wudrick believes that the tax policies in Saskatchewan are much stronger than in Manitoha

Manitoba.

"Generally speaking, we're a group that favours low taxes not just for their own sake, but because we think that they lead to stronger economies and frankly more money to go around for everyone.

"But I think it's fair to

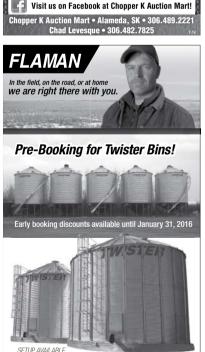
"But I think it's fair to say that Saskatchewan has been more prudent. It's not just the tax side, it's also the spending side, so we think it's a great idea to cut taxes but if that means less rev-enue, sometimes it does not sometimes it doesn't, you have to also make adjust-ments to your spending. We actually like the new Liberal government, we welcome this tax cut, the problem is that they're not really holding back on their spending.
"That means a deficit, and that just means we have to pay for it later instead of now. So we think that that's

the real danger that they're running."

What changes to tax policy would the Canadian Taxpayers Federation like to see

"We certainly like broad based cuts like the income tax cut, we'd like to see few-er brackets, so flatter taxes overall. Again, we think that there's plenty of evidence that shows that if the taxes are flatter you actually end up with more wealthy peo-ple, which means that even ple, which means that even though they're less percent-age tax, they end up paying more tax overall, and that's good for everyone, so we'd like to see that. We'd also like to see a simpler system. like to see a simpler system. Taxes shouldn't be compli-cated, you shouldn't need to hire a tax professional to do your taxes. In some countries the tax form is a page or two, instead of like 70 pages here. So we'd like to see a simpler system for sure."

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Provincial economic forecast calls for growth

Saskatchewan's economy is expected to bounce back from recession, with real GDP forecast to expand by two per cent in 2016.

The construction sector will be the main driver of growth for the provincial economy over the next two

years.
Oil production in Saskatchewan will continue to decline over the next two years, falling by 2.8 per cent and 2.4 per cent in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

British Columbia will have the fastest growing provincial economy from 2015 to 2017. Saskatchewan's economy

will recover from recession will recover from recession in 2016 thanks to a rebound in non-residential construction. The province's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by 1.1 per cent this year before advancing by two per cent in 2016, according to the Conference Board of Canada's, latest Provincial Canada's latest Provincial

Outlook.
"Due to the drop in crude oil prices and drought conditions over the summer months, Saskatchewan has months, Saskatchewan has had a tough year. However, the recession will be short-lived," said Marie-Christine Bernard, Associate Director, Provincial Forecast of the Conference Board of Canada. "A big factor helping the provincial economy rebound next year will be solid growth in construction." Investments in power

generation and the potash industry, as well as the pub-lic infrastructure program of the provincial government, will generate strong growth for the construction sector in Saskatchewan. Following a decline in 2015, the sector is

decline in 2015, the sector is forecast to expand by a solid 5.6 per cent in 2016.

Both potash and uranium mining have bright prospects over the next two years. While potash mining is still struggling with weak prices, production volumes are expected to increase next year and in 2017. The recent expansions at the Rocawille expansions at the Rocawille year and in 2017. The recent expansions at the Rocanville and Vanscoy mines will increase potash output. Meanwhile, uranium production is also set to ramp up thanks to the opening of the Cigar Lake uranium mine in 2014. However, the bright outlook for metal mining and propental mining and propental mining and propental mining and propental mining will not set the propental mining and propental mining and propental mining will not set the propental mining and propental mining will not set the propental mining and the propental mining will not set the propental mining and will not set the propental mining and will not set the propental mining will not set the propental mining and will not set the propental mining will not set the prop non-metal mining will not be enough to offset difficul-ties in the oil and gas sector, ties in the oil and gas sector, which is expected to contract by 2.8 per cent in 2016. Oil prices are expected to recover slowly—keeping drilling activity depressed for the next two years.

next two years.
The drought that hit parts
of Saskatchewan resulted
in poor yields for the agriculture sector. Next year,
with more normal growing
conditions, the sector is ex-

pected to see recovery-type growth of 10.4 per cent. With the provincial econo-my expanding over the next two years, job creation will slowly improve. After es-controlly no job creation this sionly improve. After essentially no job creation this year, employment will grow 0.6 per cent in 2016 and 1.2 per cent in 2017.





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Although each port of call will enliven some level of excitement, none will match the thrill of one's first alimpse of the famous Gatun locks on the Atlantic side.

Panama Canal cruising

Panama, a gorgeous country in Central America, is draped in protected rainforests, teeming with wildlife and is aflutter with bird species—an ecological gold mine. But in addition to these natural wonders, Panama is most noted for the Panama Canal, an astonishing feat

is most noted for the Panama Canal, an astonishing feat of engineering and construction.

Since its opening in 1914, the Panama Canal has presented an affordable passageway between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, thus contributing to streamlined shipping routes, economic growth to the region, and a growing tourism infrastructure.

snipping routes, economic grown to the region, and a growing tourism infrastructure.

With tourism in mind, ones' opportunity to experience this construction marvel is to jump onboard a passenger cruise ship. A 14-day full canal transit cruise would be considered the most traditional itinerary. A voyage might start in Fort Lauderdale and finish in San Diego for example. This presents a cruise that is attractive to a wide range of people and their interests. The beach lover can slip into some flip flops and find a sandy beach at one of the Caribbean or Mexico ports of call, an outdoor sports enthusiast can hike, or bike or kayak, the naturalist can bird watch, sight a monkey or glide through the rain forest treetops in an Aerial Tram in Costa Rica, the historian and culture lover will soak up the history and architecture of Cartagena, Columbia. The main event would focus on the canal transit itself of course, appealing to those interested in engineering, construction, education or just for curiosity.

Although a cach port of call will enliven some level of examples of the contraction of the canal call will enliven some level of examples of the call will enliven some level of examples of the call will enliven some level of examples.

for curiosity.

Although each port of call will enliven some level of ex-Although each port of can will enliver some level of ex-citement, none will match the thrill of one's first glimpse of the famous Gatun locks on the Atlantic side. With an early morning passage through the Limon Bay breakwa-ter into calm waters, the ship will slide smoothly toward

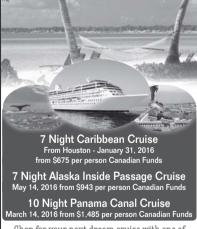
the canal. In the quiet of the morning, as the mist is still lifting from the jungle tree tops nearby, the silence will only be broken by an overture of intoxicating bird song. Only once the cruise ship has been boarded by the mandatory specialized pilot (to work with the ship's captain) and the gargantuan tow cables have been strung from the ship to mules on land (locomotives used to assist in a safe present) can be processed or tractifies the locke continue.

ship to mules on land (locomotives used to assist in a safe passage) can the process of transiting the locks continue. Many cruise lines offer commentary by a historian or trained guide—cruise line guests are immersed in the learning of interesting facts and details about the canal, from the first visions of the project, to the planning, cost, heartache and the final successful outcome to which they are now experiencing. Excitement is fueled by the morning coffee stations set up on the outside decks of the ship—traditional Panama rolls with a lemon cream filling are served and one is never enough of these little filling are served and one is never enough of these little delights.

So, with coffee in one hand and two Panama rolls in the other, get set to witness this man made marvel as the the other, get set to witness this man made marvel as the cruise ship fits snuggly into the first lock and is raised 85 feet via three locks to be delivered into the beautiful Gatun Lake in the middle of a rain forest. And your journey continues—the all-day transit will take you past lush islands as you push toward the Culebra Cut, over the Continental Divide, through the Pedro Miguel Locks, Miraflores Lake and lastly to exit down to the Pacific Ocean level via the Miraflores Locks and out to sea from under the Bridge of the Americas. Take a look over your shoulder to catch a glimpse of Panama City's skyline in

the setting sun—gorgeous.

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03 PRINCESS CRUISES

In requiring certification for volunteers working with youth

Wall says province may follow Swift Current's lead

Premier Brad Wall says the Saskatchewan government is looking at making funding for organizations conditional on screening volunteers who work with children.

Swift Current mayor Jerrod Schafer recently issued a public apology to former junior hockey players who were molested by Swift Current Broncos coach Graham James. The city has decided to create its own certification system for anyone in the city who works with children, either through an organization or individually, on a volunteer or for-profit basis. Wall said the Swift Current idea may be

wall said the Swift Current idea may be worth making a province-wide initiative. "For those organizations that do get provincial funding, could we make it conditional on ensuring that there's some level of training, perhaps emulating what

they're doing in Swift Current? That's an option we're going to certainly look at," Wall said.

Wall added that he wouldn't want the program to discourage volunteers.

program to discourage volunteers.
"We need them. They make sure that music programs happen across this province, and that art programs happen across Saskatchewan, that there are sports available for young people to play and to try."
Wall said it's possible that any program which gets provincial money could be required to have its members go through a certification process.

certification process.

One of those the mayor of Swift Current apologized to was former NHL hockey player Sheldon Kennedy, who was sexually abused by his junior hockey coach while playing in Swift Current.

Kennedy, who grew up in Elkhorn, said he accepted the apology.

"The way I look at it is that ... Swift Cur-

rent is in a position to show great leader-ship on how a community can take such a negative tragedy and turn it into some-thing positive, and be leaders in our coun-

try around child protection."

Kennedy tweeted "APOLOGY ACCEPT-ED" to let Swift Current residents know

ED" to let Swift Current residents know that he supports them.

"I'm with them in the journey, because you know what, the people of Swift Current don't want to see kids being abused."

Swift Current Mayor Jerrod Schafer expressed his "sincere and absolute sorrow to the substitute of Mr. James and their families."

bressed his sincere and absolute sorrow the victims of Mr. James and their families." Schafer wrote in a statement that sons were sent to Swift Current to chase their

dreams and "too many players left with a lifetime of nightmares.

Schafer said he hopes community organizations that offer youth programming will adopt the new benchmark for their

staff or volunteers.

Kennedy, who is now an advocate for child victims, said he welcomes the new certification program.

He said groups such as Hockey Canada already have similar training, but there are

already have similar training, but there are gaps around rules for things such as private coaches and daycares.
"What we're trying to do is fill the gap of organizations that fall under the city's umbrella and, to us, that was a place where there was really no checks and balances, so ... the city making it a priority is critical," said Kennedy said Kennedy.

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Sheldon Kennedy inspiration for certification program

BY TERROD SCHAFER

In 1996, Sheldon Kennedy rocked the hockey world when he revealed that his junior hockey coach, Graham James, had sexually abused him. He also rocked my city, Swift Current.

Just 10 years earlier, the Western Hockey League's Broncos relocated back to Broncos relocated back to Swift Current and became the focal point of winters for many fans and families in southwestern Saskatch-ewan. The fan base grew with exciting hockey and public events with the players. Overcoming the tragedy of a fatal team bus accident in 1986 to win the Memorial Cup championship just three years later was a story of leg-

When I was nine, I attend-When I was nine, I attended a "Skate with the Broncos" event and all I could think about was meeting my idols and following in their footsteps. I was so proud to get a picture with Sheldon Kennedy.

Today, when I see that picture. Lear't bolls but twonder.

ture, I can't help but wonder what Sheldon must have been thinking about. I can't

been thinking about. I can't imagine it. At the time, many knew Sheldon Kennedy as an extraordinary player who seemed ready to let his un-

seemed ready to let his unquenchable thirst for good times come at the expense of a promising National Hockey League career. Many didn't understand why he acted out the way he did.

Today, people speculate about who should have known. The reality is, many in the community didn't have a clue. They were fans or volunteers who idolized the coach and loved the

communities, Swift Current is a city full of wonderful people who love their team.

people who love their team. It has always been a dif-ficult subject. Neither the city nor our beloved Broncos want to be forever linked with Mr. James. One of our community's greatest sources of pride carries with it a burking shadow of milt it a lurking shadow of guilt and shame, yet avoiding the topic will never change what

topic will never change what happened.

Therefore, I feel an obligation to say this:

On behalf of an entire community, I want to express sincere and absolute sorrow to the victims of Mr. James and their families. Sons were sent here to chase their dreams and should have left

Swift Current with the best memories of their lives. Thankfully, many former players do look back on their time here with fond memories because the Bronco orries because the bronco or-ganization and the city are filled with caring people. Unfortunately, too many players left with a lifetime of nightmares, just as they left Winnipeg, Moose Jaw and likely Calgary because of their time with Mr. James. It's easy to look at the sto-ry of Swift Current and cast

judgment about our igno-rance, naiveté and supposed willingness to look the other

way.
I believe we need to stop casting judgment and start looking a little closer to home. Think about your family or friends, and chances are there is a childhood

es are there is a childhood victim of sexual or physical abuse among them. It's an epidemic in our society leading to mental-health issues such as de-



Swift Current mayor Jerrod Schafer was a fan of the Swift Current Broncos while growing up. Above, Schafer as a youngster with Sheldon Kennedy of the Broncos.

Sheldon Kennedy to make improvements for the men-

tal health and safety of children and their families.
On Jan. 8, the City of Swift

Current will launch its Youth

to keep embarrassing and shameful topics a secret or because we don't know how to respond when we suspect

to respond when we suspect something is wrong. This problem isn't just about hockey coaches, and it's not just happening in small towns. It stretches from our largest urban centres to the family farm, and every single place in between.

We need to get comfortable dealing with the subject matter so we actually have a chance at improving prevention. As my friend Sheldon says, "We need to empower the bystanders."

the bystanders.

Today, all kids know about the danger of strangers, but do they know what to do when a person they know and trust threatens them, hurts them or touches them in a way they know isn't right? Do kids know it is safe to tell, and that we'll believe them?

Do adults know what to do when we sense something must be wrong? We don't, because it's an uncomfort-able topic and far easier to

tion will require a criminal background check of adults, along with training to become better role models, and education on the prevention of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination. It's simple—if you don't want to be youth-certified, either you have something to hide or you aren't willine to inor you aren't willing to invest in yourself to do a bet-ter job of dealing with kids. Parents should demand such certification from anyone volunteering or working for else will deal with it.

Today, I am thrilled my community is standing with victims of abuse by helping

volunteering or working for profit with our kids. The city is leading this change; all staff working in close proximity with chil-dren will become youth-certified and countless others are voluntarily signing up because it's the right thing to do. I couldn't be more proud.

It is my hope that commu-

Certification and Safe Places

strategy. Youth certifica-tion will require a criminal

nity organizations that offer

programming to youth will adopt this new benchmark for their staff or volunteers. Many already demand criminal background checks to help weed out convicted pedophiles, but we believe the education component is also critical to "empower the by-standers" and formally start

standers" and formally start the process of prevention. How many youth-group leaders, personal trainers, music teachers and special-ized sporting coaches will this affect? I hope every single one. It won't help us catch every pedophile, but it will help us with prevention and elevating the conversa-tion.

tion.

Thanks to Sheldon Kennedy, we've come a long way in Canada, but we still have a long way to go. Let's change the focus of physical and sexual child abuse from shame and secrecy to prevention help and healing. vention, help and healing.









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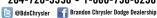






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