

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Canadian Cancer Society Fundraiser:

Moosomin, Indian Head to host Relay For Life events

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin and Indian Head will both host Relay For Life events this year.

Relay For Life is a 12-hour event. Teams of at least 10 friends, family, co-workers and neighbors get together to form a Relay For Life team. Each participant pays a registration fee of \$10 and is challenged to raise as much as possible to help in the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life emphasizes three different focuses—celebrating, remembering and fighting back.

Relay For Life is the major fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society, but is also a celebration of cancer survivors, a memorial to those who have lost their battle with cancer, and an encouragement to fight back against the disease.

CELEBRATE

Cancer survivors are introduced during the opening ceremony, and they walk the first lap of the track—the Survivors' Victory Lap. This is a declaration to the community that Relay For Life is celebrating cancer survivors.

Once the Survivor Lap is complete, all the participants join in. Each team has at least one member on the track at all times.

REMEMBER

At dusk a Luminary ceremony is held. Candles line the track and are lit in honor of those who have survived cancer and to remember those who have lost their battle with cancer.

The candles remain lit all night in memory of all those they are dedicated to.

FIGHT BACK

Winding up the relay is the Fight Back ceremony. At this ceremony, everyone who wants to put an end to cancer is asked to make a personal commitment to fight back in some way.

Ways to fight back can vary widely, from eating a healthy diet to committing funds to cancer research.

MOOSOMIN

Moosomin's Relay For Life is coming up Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6 at Bradley Park. The event is being planned by a committee from both Moosomin and Whitewood. This will be Moosomin's sec-



The luminary ceremony is a major part of every Relay For Life event. Luminaries can be purchased in memory of those who have lost their battle with cancer, or in tribute to those who are battling the disease.

ond Relay For Life. The first was held in 2005, and was a major success, with 77 teams and almost 1,000 people participating, more than 100 cancer survivors honored, and 2,904 luminaries sold.

The event raised \$177,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

To register a team in the Moosomin Relay For Life, contact Sharen Hogarth at 435-3919 or 435-2647, or Marj Steffenson at 435-2133.

If you are a cancer survivor contact Ruth Oliver at 435-3478 or Kristen Murray at 739-2527.

To volunteer contact Sheena Metzger at 435-3851.

To purchase a luminary contact Cathy Lonsdate at 435-4336.

INDIAN HEAD

Indian Head's Relay For Life is planned for Saturday, June 13.

To register a team for the Indian Head

relay, contact Amy Railton at 695-2696.

If you are a cancer survivor, contact Lyn Linklater at 695-2283

To volunteer, contact Bonny McLean at 695-3982. To purchase a luminary, contact Marilyn Pelkey at 697-2667.

The World-Spectator is event sponsor for the Moosomin relay, and Plain & Valley is the event sponsor for the Indian Head relay.

RV dealership finds success in rural Manitoba

BY KARA KINNA

Virден, Manitoba—a town of roughly 3,000 people—is one of the smaller communities that dot the Trans-Canada Highway across Canada. But anyone passing through Virден can't help but notice the vast expanse of vacation trailers—hundreds of them—that stretches out along the highway on the north side of the town.

That's because this Prais-

erie town is home to one of the largest RV dealerships in Canada, and, by far, the biggest RV dealership in Manitoba.

Four Seasons Sales has been operating in Virден for 45 years, and, you could say that being based in a rural Manitoba community is one of the big contributors to the business's success.

"We have about 100 acres of property and right now

Four Seasons has grown to be one of the biggest RV dealerships in Canada, and the largest in Manitoba

most of it is covered," says Dave Chyzyk, one of the owners of Four Seasons. "We have about 600 units on the lot, new and used."

While affordable land and low operating costs have allowed Four Seasons Sales the room to expand its business, Chyzyk says it took some brainstorming

to find the secret to growing the RV business in its rural location.

"Probably five years ago, being located in rural Manitoba, we brainstormed on how we can increase business and get more satisfied customers," says Chyzyk. "We decided we would go to them (our custom-

ers), and we adopted our emergency road service program."

Chyzyk says Four Seasons has four emergency vans that will drive to their customers to fix their trailers if a problem comes up. After a customer purchases a trailer from Four Seasons, the business provides this

service free for two years.

"We have a 600 kilometer warranty, but we've gone into Ontario and Alberta before. We've kind of stretched the boundaries a bit," says Chyzyk.

"That emergency service is kind of the big thing, because everyone's schedule today is so busy, and they recognize the value of holiday time and time with their family."

Continued on page 4

FEATURED VEHICLES



2008 Chevrolet Silverado Reg. Cab
4x4, Short Box, 4.8L, Auto, A/T/C, PL, Chrome, AM/FM/CD, 28,000 kms



2008 Chevrolet Cobalt LT
4dr., 2.2L, Auto, A/T/C, PW, PL, Keyless, AM/FM/CD, 23,500 kms



2008 Pontiac Grand Prix
3.8L, Auto, PW, PL, AC, Keyless, ABS, Alloy, 26,000 kms



2007 Saturn Ion
4dr., Coupe, 2.2L, Man., A/T/C, Alloy, New Tires



2006 Chevrolet Avalanche Crew
4x4, 5.3L, Auto, Bench Cloth, A/T/C, PW, PL, Alloy



2006 Chevrolet Uplander LTZ
3.5L, Auto, 7 Pass., Quad Captains, DVD, Remote Start, 89,000 kms



2005 Pontiac Pursuit
Sedan, 2.2L, Auto, PL, Keyless, AM/FM/CD, AC, Cruise, 73,000 kms



2005 GMC Sierra SLE EXT Z71
5.3L, Auto, AC, PW, PL, Keyless, Alloy, 74,000 kms



2004 Oldsmobile Alero GX
Coupe, 2.4L, Auto, PL, Sunroof, Alloy, Only 60,000 kms

PRE-OWNED TRUCKS



2007 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ
5.3L, Auto, Leather, Loaded, Sunroof, Alloy, Balance of Warranty, Crew Cab, 104,000 kms



2006 Chevrolet Silverado Z71 Crew
5.3L, Auto, A/T/C, PW, PL, Alloy, Keyless, Cloth, 75,000 kms



2006 GMC Canyon EXT
4x4, 3.5L, Auto, A/T/C, PW, PL, Alloy, 28,000 kms



2004 GMC SL Sierra EXT 2WD
4.8L, Auto, A/T/C, PL, AM/FM/CD, Alloy, 110,000 kms



2003 GMC Sierra 2500 EXT SLE Diesel
Long Box, 6.6L, Auto, A/T/C, PW, PL, AM/FM/CD, Alloy, 190,000 kms



2003 Ford F-350 SD EXT LARIAT
4x4, 7.3L, Power Stroke Diesel, Auto, Loaded, Leather, New Tires, 149,000 kms



2003 Ford F-350 SD Crew Lariat FX4
6.0L, Diesel, Auto, Loaded, Leather, Sunroof, 150,000 kms



2003 GMC Sierra SLE 1500 Z71 EXT
4x4, 5.3L, Auto, A/T/C, PL, Buckets, Alloy, 188,000 kms



1998 GMC Sierra SLE Z71 EXT
5.3L, Auto, A/T/C, PW, PL, Alloy, AM/FM/CD, New Tires, 135,000 kms

PRE-OWNED CARS



2008 Chev Impala LS
3.5L, Flex Fuel, Sport Pkg., 19,000 kms



2008 Buick Allure CX
3.8L, Auto, AM/FM/CD, ABS, Keyless, 18,000 kms



2008 Chev Impala LS
3.5L, Flex Fuel, Sport Pkg., 20,000 kms



2008 Pontiac Grand Prix
3.8L, Auto, XM Radio, Chrome Wheels, ABS, Remote Start, 23,000 kms



2008 Pontiac G6 SE Sedan
2.4L, Auto, PW, PL, AC, Keyless, Cruise, 22,000 kms



2008 Chev Impala LS
3.5L, Flex Fuel, Sport Pkg., 22,000 kms



2007 Pontiac G6 SE Sedan
3.5L, Auto, ABS, PW, PL, Keyless, AC, Cruise, 28,000 kms



2006 Buick Lacerne CXL
3.8L, Auto, Leather, Loaded, Luxury, New Tires, 55,000 kms



2006 Pontiac Pursuit Coupe
2.2L, 5 Spd. Trans., AC, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM/CD, 60,000 kms



2005 Buick LeSabre Limited
3.8L, Auto, Loaded, Leather, Chrome Wheels, HUD, 80,000 kms



2005 Pontiac Grand Am GT
3.4L, Auto, Sunroof, ATC, PW, PL, Cruise, Only 23,000 kms



2005 Buick LeSabre Limited
3.8L, Auto, Leather, Loaded, Only 70,000 kms

PRE-OWNED VANS/SUVS



2008 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4
5.3L, Flex Fuel, Sunroof, Leather, 23,000 kms



2006 Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD
3.5L, Auto, PW, PL, Alloys, 45,000 kms



2006 Chevrolet Uplander LS Reg.
3.5L, Auto, PW, PL, Remote Start, Only 23,000 kms



2006 Buick Terraza CX
3.5L, Auto, 7 Pass., Loaded, 115,000 kms



2005 Dodge Grand Caravan
V6, Auto, 7 Pass., Captain Chairs, 70,000 kms



2003 Chevrolet Venture LS EXT
3.4L, Auto, 7 Pass., New Tires, 96,000 kms



2002 Pontiac Montana Vision
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2002 Chrysler Intrepid
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SUV BUYBACK



2008 GMC Envoy SLE
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DAY SALE

Thursday, February 19
to Monday, March 2
10 days of Special Savings!

A NOTE TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

Due to the nature of this sale, we felt a brief explanation is essential. At closing, Monday, March 2, we will tally the 10 days of cash sales and divide by 10 to get the average daily sale. The day which is closest to this daily average, without going over it, will be the day which ALL purchasers will receive their purchase amount back, tax excluded.

In case of credit card (Kullberg's, Visa, MasterCard) purchases, we will issue credit immediately.

As we are tremendously overstocked right now, every piece of furniture, bedding and accessories in-stock will be included in this sale. No exception - clearance, damaged, discontinued and even new arrivals.

We must reduce our inventory and to ensure we do, we will even give it away for one day!

Kullberg's 10 Day Sale - shop and save big time for nine days, shop free for one day.

Richard Kullberg
Kullberg's Furniture

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• 744 Spinal Contour pocket coil
• Memory foam Topper
Could be FREE \$999

Ashley Sofa Set
• Easy to clean 100% microfibre
• 2 colors Cocoa & Cafe
Could be FREE Sofa \$719
Loveseat \$619

Palliser Sofa Set
• 100% Leather
• 4 colors
Could be FREE Sofa \$1,099
Loveseat \$1,049

La-Z-Boy Rocker Recliner
• 100% Leather
• Good choice of colors
• A real beauty
Could be FREE \$999

Pub Style Dinette Set
• 42" round table
• 4-24" Padded Stools
• 5 piece Set
Could be FREE \$699

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• 2 large storage drawers
• 2 adjustable shelves
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SALE RULES:

- All sales must be paid in full.
- Visa, MasterCard or Kullberg's credit cards accepted.
- Sale starts Thursday, February 19 at 9 a.m. and ends Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m.
- All purchases on free day will be notified and receive their full refund by Friday, March 6 at 9 p.m.
- All sale tallies and free day will be verified by our accounting firm.
- Commercial sales, appliances and electronics excluded in tallies and free day.
- All taxes excluded in tallies and refunds.
- No return or substitutions for these 10 sale days.

Service gives Virden RV dealership its edge

Continued from front

Chzyk says customers appreciate not having to haul their trailers in for repair if something goes wrong on a holiday. He also says this service has been some of the best advertising for the dealership.

"We realize the value of our customers and we do everything we can for them," he says. "We always go the extra mile. And those people who get looked after will tell people, and they tell two more people..."

The focus on service has obviously worked for the dealership. Four Seasons' original location was a small lot and a small building on King Street in Virden. In 1992, the business moved to its current location, north of the Trans-Canada Highway. Since then, they have built on to their building twice.

Today, the dealership has trailers on 100 acres of land. There are 19 bays at its location, and a staff of around 55 people.

Chzyk says the emergency service is something that has been unique to Four Seasons for a long time. He says it's a business tactic that looks more at long-term growth than short-term concerns.

"It's a very expensive endeavor, and it takes a long time," he says. "Other dealerships offer it, but they are just starting. The reason we have so many staff members is to make



A view from above of the indoor sales event put on by Four Seasons and Virden Recreation and Watersports every year.

sure all our customers get looked after."

With its large inventory, every year, Four Seasons holds a massive indoor show and sale at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. The show is always combined with another Virden business—Virden Recreation and Watersports. This year the show is being held from Feb. 18-22.

According to Chzyk, the indoor show is how the dealership kicks off its busy season.

"That's kind of the jump-start to our year," he says. It's quite the event. We've created a really exciting atmosphere. Last year we had 10,000 people through the door. It takes about four months to prepare for it. We haul about 50 units in and decorate them all and put on a great big sale and show, and we always give away something big, like a fifth wheel or \$10,000 cash.

"Last year we sold 80 units in five days." Chzyk says, while Four

Seasons may look at bringing in different lines of product, or new services, over the years, the dealership isn't looking at changing the way it does business.

"I don't think we're going to change what's got us here," he says. "... If you look through campgrounds across Manitoba, you'll definitely see our Four Seasons logo.

"The backbone of our business is service. It's gotten us where we are."

Tried and True Recipes

by Sandra Johnson



Ham and Tomato-rice Soup

1 meaty ham bone	1 large potato, finely diced
12 cups water	2 ribs celery, chopped
6 cups water	2 cups cabbage, finely shredded and chopped
1 bay leaf	4 cups canned tomatoes
2 cups onion, chopped	1 cup heavy cream
3/4 cup long grain rice	1 cup carrots, finely diced

Place ham bone and 12 cups water in Dutch oven or stockpot and simmer for 2 hours. Remove from heat. Remove ham bone from pot and remove ham from bone. Put ham back in soup pot and add another 6 cups of water. Add bay leaf, chopped onion, rice, diced carrots, diced potato, chopped celery and shredded cabbage.

Boil for about 20 to 30 minutes, until rice is done. Add 4 cups canned tomatoes and bring to boil. Add 1 cup of heavy cream. Heat. Serve. Put any leftovers in sealers and keep in fridge.

Cornmeal Cheddar Biscuits

1 1/2 cups flour	1/2 cup margarine
1/2 cup cornmeal	1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
2 tsp. sugar	3/4 cup milk
1 Tbsp baking powder	
1/2 tsp. salt	

Combine dry ingredients, cut in margarine until crumbly. Stir in cheese and milk, just until moistened. Drop by 1/4 cupfuls onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 450°F for 12 to 15 minutes, or until light golden brown. Serve warm. Yields 1 dozen.

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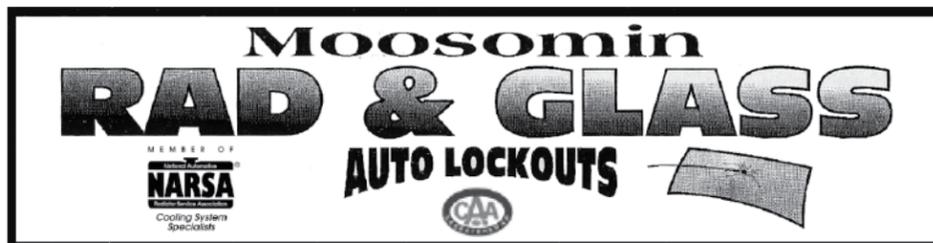
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Campbell jumps onto world hockey stage

BY CHRIS ISTANCE

It's not difficult to determine who has influenced Jessica Campbell's success in the sport of hockey.

The 16-year-old former resident of Rocanville—and the lone Saskatchewan player on the Canadian Under-18 Women's hockey team—is following a path left by her siblings, who have each had hockey successes of their own.

Jessica's oldest brother Josh Campbell played with the Yorkton Terriers in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League before he was killed in a tragic vehicle accident in 2002.

Dion Campbell followed his older brother to Yorkton, then moved on to complete his junior career with the Melville Millionaires. He is now a member of the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds in Canadian Interuniversity Sport competition.

Then there's Gina Campbell, an 18-year-old rookie with the University of Regina Cougars women's hockey team.

"With her two older brothers and her sister playing, I think that was a motivator for her (to play hockey)," said Monique Campbell, Jessica's mother and a former member of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies hockey club herself. She now lives in Rocanville after moving from Rocanville in 2002.

After playing two seasons with the Melville Prairie Fire 'AAA' Midget girls team, Jessica moved on to the Pursuit of Excellence Hockey Academy in Kelowna, B.C. this season. The academy is a secondary school for hockey players aged 12 to 17 with an intense hockey development program.

However, it is on the international stage where she has most recently shone.

After playing with the Canada's Under-18 development team last summer, Jessica cracked the roster of the Canadian National Under-18 team, which competed at the International Ice Hockey Federation's Women's Under-18 Championships in Fussen, Germany from Jan. 5 to 10.

After winning three preliminary round games against Switzerland, Finland and the Czech Republic, Canada defeated Sweden 6-1 in the semi-final to earn a berth in the gold medal final against the United States on Jan. 10.

The Canadians lost the championship game 3-2 in overtime. Jessica had one assist in the match, bringing her tournament totals to two goals and seven assists.

"Everything was amazing, from the rink to the town. We were treated like gold" Jessica said from Montreal, where her Pursuit of Excellence Academy was touring universities and playing hockey last week.

"It was quite amazing playing there and playing with Team Canada was a lifetime experience. It was awesome."

It was also a challenging step up in competition compared to what she is used to.

"You've got to elevate

your game that much more and eliminate all of your errors or the puck ends up in your net," she said. "It's a lot faster, more intense. You can't take a split second away. You've just got to move the puck or it's turned over."

Ultimately, however, Jessica's experience with the under-18 team was just a rung on the ladder of her hockey career. The left-handed forward, who is eligible to play one more year with the under-18 squad, wants to play for Team Canada in the Olympics, have a university career and continue in the sport in other capacities, such as coaching.

"The thing for Jessica is she is always having fun with whatever she's doing," said Monique. "It's still like that now. There may be more pressure at a higher level, but she's always having fun."

Jessica said her oldest brother's death gave her some perspective on her life, including where she wanted to take her hockey career. She was 10 years old when it happened.

"When he passed away, it kind of triggered me," she said. "It made me see that I just want to go further from there, to live his dream while going after mine because I looked up to him . . . It kind of turned things around and made me see new things. It was an eye opener for goals and dreams to try to succeed at."

Monique says having her daughter playing hockey at a school so far away has been tough.

"It's been a big change for us to let her go at such a young age," she said. "You don't want to see her go, but you don't want to hold her back, either."

It wasn't the same with Josh, who was only about an hour and a half away from Rocanville when he played with the Terriers.

When Dion hit the SJHL, the family had moved to Melville.

Jessica, however, is two provinces and more than 1,200 kilometres away while still in high school. She is in Grade 11 at the Pursuit of Excellence Academy.

"Moving away wasn't really that hard because I was so focussed on hockey," said Jessica, who spends two hours a day, five days a week on the ice. "I want to get better every day I'm here. I still keep in touch with everyone and still keep all of my friendships at home."

Her distance from home aside, Monique believes the school is the best thing for Jessica's long-term prospects both inside and outside of hockey. Besides the education and the hockey programming, the school is focussed on leadership, life skills, values and respect, Monique said.

"Considering what she is learning at the school, I don't think being away from home hurts her in any way," Monique said.

Jessica said the chance to attend the Pursuit of Excellence Hockey Academy was an opportunity she did not want to miss.

"When I found out about



Melville resident Jessica Campbell played with the Canadian Women's Under-18 team at the 2009 IIHF Women's Under-18 Championships in Fussen, Germany last month.

Submitted photos

the B.C. academy, I was in awe because of the amount of ice time and then the academy's program for skill development made me want to be there," said Jessica.

"I know I'm going to get better and that's where I have to be if I want to go further in hockey. I didn't really thing about leaving things behind. I wanted to do what's best for me and what's going to get me furthest."

Regardless she has the support of her family, who she stays in close contact with.

"We all love hockey in our family. We kind of live and breath it. It's pretty amazing to have the whole family supporting you," Jessica said.



Everything under the Sun...

Left to right:
Greg Houston - Maintenance Worker
Linda Chapman - Housekeeper

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\$19,995



2006 GMC 1500 SLE Ext 4x4
5.3L V8 auto, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, 40/20/40 bench, keyless entry, 17" alum whls, chrome tubes, box rails, 93,000 kms.

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2003 GMC 2500HD SLE Ext 4x4
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2008 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan

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\$20,895



2007 Chrysler Sebring Touring Sedan

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2008 Buick Allure CX Sedan

3.8L V6 auto, front buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, 16" chrome whls, keyless entry, chrome pkg, 11,300 kms.

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2008 Pontiac Grand Prix Sedan

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2008 Pontiac G6 SE Sedan

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2008 Pontiac G5 SE Sedan

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2008 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Sedan

2.2L 4cyl auto, A/C/T, buckets, CD player, 12,200 kms. Stock #3320

\$10,995



2008 Chevrolet Uplander LT1 Ext

3.9L V6 auto, 7 passenger, A/C/T, PW/PL, DVD player, keyless entry, rear air & heat, 25,700 kms. Stock #3310.

\$16,995



2003 Mitsubishi Eclipse GT Coupe

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2006 Chevrolet Optra LT Wagon

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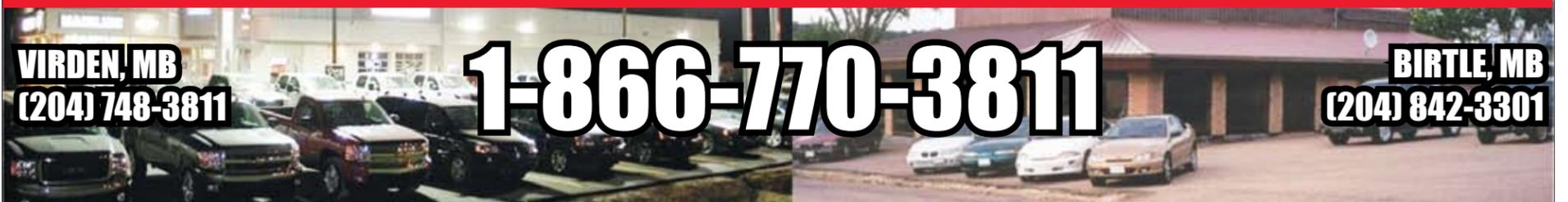
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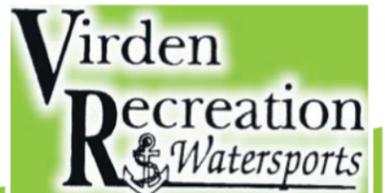


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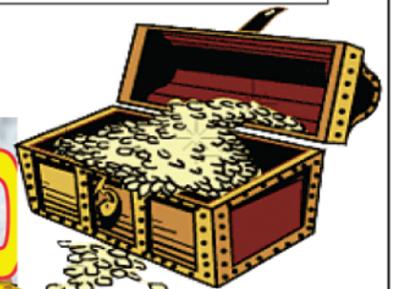
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New long term care facilities for Kipling, Redvers

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The provincial government is investing \$152.8 million to build 13 new long-term care facilities to replace 13 outdated facilities throughout Saskatchewan, including Willowdale Lodge in Kipling and the long-term portion of Redvers Health Centre in Redvers. The funding is part of the government's plan to accelerate infrastructure spending this year, as part of its Ready for Growth initiative, to ensure Saskatchewan's economy remains strong. The province will fund 65 per cent of the costs, while local communities will contribute 35 per cent.

The community of Kipling has separate acute and long-term care facilities. The proposed project will replace the 28-bed Willowdale Lodge with a new long-term care facility. The potential for integration with the hospital is being investigated. The projected cost of the Kipling facility is \$17.9 million, of which the province will contribute \$11.6 million and the local area will contribute the rest.

In Redvers, the community self-funded the construction of a 14-bed long-term care facility. The new long-term care project entails demolition of the present long-term care facility and construction of new long-term care beds integrated with the acute care facility. The estimated cost of the Redvers project is \$8.9 million, of which the province will contribute \$5.8 million.

"In many cases the condition of our existing facility is simply not up to the standards that seniors deserve," said Moosomin MLA and Speaker of the Legislature Don Toth. "Making sure that our health facilities are up-to-date is incredibly important to ensure the safety and comfort of residents and health care providers."

He said many of the projects have been in the plan-

ning stages for several years.

"The communities have been raising funds for their portion, and they have been lobbying for these projects to be completed," said Toth. "Last year the government asked the regional health authorities to put forward their wish lists for their priorities. They basically have these projects at the shovel-ready stage."

He said the government considered reducing the local funding requirement from 35 per cent, but found the province would not be able to fund as many projects that way. "To reduce it to a 90-10 split would have meant we could afford to build a lot fewer projects, and right now we have such an infrastructure deficit in the health care field, we need to build as many new facilities as possible."

Toth said that under the former NDP government there was little construction of health care facilities in rural Saskatchewan.

"Some years there was one facility announced, and some years there were none," he said. "I know back when Grant Devine was elected we had to do a lot of catch-up. Whitewood, Wawota, Broadview and Wolseley were all built under Devine and we provided some help to Sunrise Villa in Maryfield, which has really been money well spent."

More than 540 long-term care residents will benefit from new facilities being constructed in the communities of: Maple Creek (48 long-term beds plus 20 acute care beds), Rosetown (47 long-term care beds), Kerrobert (36 long-term care beds), Biggar (59 long term care beds), Tisdale (33 long-term care beds),

Kelvington (46 long-term care beds), Meadow Lake (55 long-term care beds), Prince Albert (50 long-term

beds), Shellbrook (34 long-term care beds plus 20 acute care beds), Watrous (35 long-term care beds), Redvers (24 long-term care beds), Kipling (28 long-term care beds), and Radville (52 long-term care beds).

Last week's announcement is part of the \$500 million dollar accelerated infrastructure plan announced by Premier Brad Wall to provide an "economic booster shot" to Saskatchewan's economy.

Projects with an estimated cost of \$25 million or less have been targeted as the government believes they can be ready for construction in the shortest time period possible. While most of the projects involve long-term care facilities, the projects in Maple Creek and Shellbrook will also include replacement of acute care facilities.

The projected cost of each facility is based on replacing existing beds, but the ministry of health will work with health regions to determine the required bed numbers once approval to do so is received. The planning process will begin immediately.

The provincial share of the projects is expected to be \$152.8 million at this point, but this figure may increase as planning moves ahead.

All 13 of the buildings being replaced have been identified as priorities by the health regions in which they are located.

This \$152.8 million investment in health infrastructure is in addition to the \$198 million already announced for health capital this fiscal year.

The 2008-09 health budget includes \$100 million to address maintenance requirements in facilities across the province.

Province accelerates funding for preK-12 school improvements in Kipling, Wolseley

PreK-12 schools in Kipling and Wolseley will benefit from fast-tracked improvements due to a \$142 million infrastructure boost for schools across the province. Improvements include everything from maintenance and repairs, to brand new schools.

"More than 35,000 Saskatchewan students will be directly impacted by these improvements, enhancing their learning and teaching experience," said Moosomin MLA Don Toth. "In the Batoche constituency alone, this announcement will benefit almost 500 students."

The funding is part of the \$500 million economic booster shot announced by Premier Brad Wall last week. Earmarked as part of government's \$1.5 billion Ready for Growth infrastructure commitment for 2009-10, the \$500 million was accelerated to this fiscal year in light of global economic concerns and possible impacts on Saskatchewan's economy.

"We want to ensure our economy stays strong. This investment in our schools means companies are buy-

ing supplies, it means they are hiring workers to build and repair our schools—and it means better places of learning for our kids. The benefits are numerous," said Education Minister Ken

Krawetz.

This includes funding for the following projects: Washrooms at the Kipling School; and gym service upgrades at Wolseley High School.

The \$142 million invest-

ment for the province's education infrastructure is in addition to the over \$117 million already announced for PreK-12 education capital this year, under the Ready for Growth program.

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Man throws cat at wife during argument

• The flame that was supposed to burn eternally at a war veterans' memorial in Bullhead City, Arizona, did not live up to its name. It was lit for little more than a month before being turned off. A \$1,400 gas bill has a way of influencing people. A public outcry has resulted in the flame being restored.

• Farmers who work in the alpine areas of Europe are strapped for cash. They have a new money-making scheme, harvesting snow and selling it to desperate ski slopes. Despite a freezing winter, snow depths at lower altitudes are down and Austrian resorts have had to buy truckloads of snow from higher up the mountains.

• In Deland, Florida, a cemetery worker found bullets at a burial ground and discharged one by striking it with a metal punch, shooting himself in the arm. Howard Sheppard, 30, said he found rifle bullets left behind by military funeral processions, and police are investigating that accusation. Sheppard first told police he threw a hammer and a weed-eater on the shelf where the bullets were, setting off a bullet. But he later said he discharged the round himself with a metal punch.

• In an unusual request of its employees, Canon Inc, a Japanese company, has told its employees to go home early twice a week to make babies. The move gives employees more family time and should pump up the nation's low birthrate, which at 1.34 is well below the 2.0 needed to maintain the country's population. One reason the population is shrinking, as well as aging faster than any country in the world, is its workers' notorious 12-hour workdays.

• A man in Omaha has filed a lawsuit accusing his ex-wife and former father-in-law of hiding a recording device inside his daughter's teddy bear in order to spy on him. William Duane Lewton is involved in a custody battle with his former wife, Dianna Divingnzo. It is believed the teddy bear recorded several hundred hours of conversations over five months. Lewton, his daughter (now five) and five other plaintiffs who were recorded by the bear are seeking \$20,000 each, plus other damages and court costs, from each of Divingnzo, her father, Sam, and several others (such as her lawyer) for invasion of privacy and violation of state and federal wiretapping laws.

• Cadillac unveiled President Barack Obama's new presidential limo. The five-inch-armor-plated car can withstand a roadside bomb, a poison gas attack and gunfire. "If we'd sent President Bush to invade Iraq personally," quipped Argus Hamilton, "we'd have been out of there by now."

• An employee of Britain's National Health Service for the Central Lancashire region lost a computer memory stick containing the health information of as many as 6,360 patients. It was announced that there was good news since the info had been encrypted for privacy. On the other hand, when the man lost the device, it was clearly marked with a sticky note with the encryption password



Gene Hauta

written on it.

• A couple of Surrey, B.C. good samaritans who stopped to help two different women whose cars were stuck in the snow delivered a nasty surprise. After they freed the cars, they simply drove away in them with the women's purses.

• The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has been seeking 75 volunteers to be trained in listening to frogs so that the state can complete its annual frog survey. Georgia has 31 frog species, each making a distinctive noise. After practicing detection, surveyors will monitor frog habitats to help officials measure population trends.

• A 19-year-old in Deltona, Florida did not like it when his mother unplugged his video game system. He retaliated by throwing a taco at her. Zachary Moir was charged with domestic violence battery and refused his mother's request that he leave the house.

• No fewer than 20-million Chinese live in caves, but that is not necessarily as bad as it sounds. In addition to the obvious advantages such as no mortgage, some caves have been lived in by the same family for generations. Many have electricity, plumbing and cable television. Heat is not usually needed, even in winter, because of the insulation of the earth.

• Joseph Goetz, 48, was charged with attempted robbery of the Susquehanna Bank in Springettsbury Township, Pa.. However he got away with nothing since he got there right after opening and none of the tellers had their cash drawers yet. Goetz was highly irritated at having wasted his time and threatened to file a "complaint" about the bank's operations.

• A Romanian man who had been on the run from police for four years has been found. Neighbors thought it was odd that his mother was buying cigarettes and beer, even though she professed not to smoke or drink. The man had built a hideaway under his mother's bed.

• A Florida appeals court ruled that Andrew Craissati no longer has to pay alimony to his ex-wife. The couple's divorce agreement called for alimony only until she remarried or was "cohabiting" with another person for at least three months. Believe it or not, Craissati successfully argues that his wife was doing exactly that, even though she was doing it in a prison cell after being convicted of a serious DUI offense.

• A judge at a district court in Kerry, Ireland, dis-

missed two DUI cases because the blood-alcohol readings were not administered properly. The usual procedure is to isolate the suspects for 20 minutes before the test, but they had been permitted to use urinals. The lawyers for the men successfully argued that "steam" from the urine might have wafted into the men's noses and raised their readings.

• A New York state man is facing charges after throwing a cat at his wife during an argument. Paul A. Wood, 25, got into a domestic dispute with his wife. Besides throwing the cat, he punched a hole in the wall of their trailer park home.

• Police in Boulder, Colo., were called to a sushi bar after a man punched a bus boy and ran away without paying. Police were hot on his trail so he dove under a car. Even after they threatened to use pepper spray, he refused to come out. They tried the spray and then sent a dog after him. Daniel Axford McKeever, 30, of California, was finally arrested.

His excuse for running was that it was exciting. "You have to admit, this is why you do this job," he said. McKeever also promised in a letter to the department to praise them for "a job well done."

• Luke Radick, 21, was charged with attempted robbery of the National Bank of Palmerton in Sciota, Pa. Employees would not open the door for Radick, since he was standing at the door, holding a shotgun and covering his face.

• France's former president Jacques Chirac was hospitalized with dog bites after he was mauled by his clinically depressed toy poodle. Honestly, I don't make this stuff up. "She picked up the scent of another dog on him and she wouldn't be bought off with another jeweled collar," joked Argus Hamilton.

• Until next time . . . keep reading between the lines . . .

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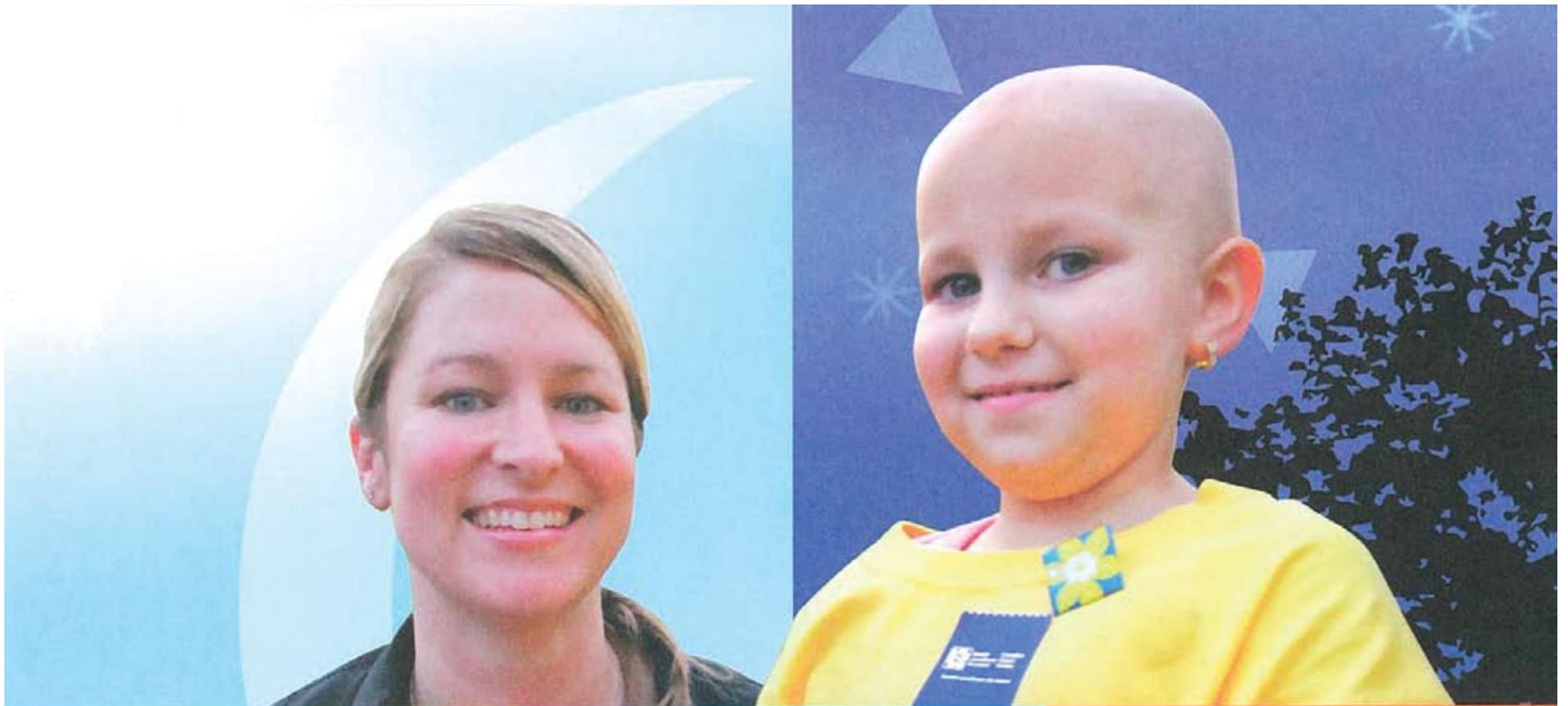
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Foodgrains Bank helps in Mozambique

BY SYLVIA MACBEAN

Water is the most precious resource in Tete province in central Mozambique.

People walk for kilometers in search of water for themselves and their animals. The rainy season usually begins in October, but in 2008 the rains didn't arrive until late December.

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is helping the people of the small rural village of Dzunga to build a new water source called a sand dam. The funds for construction materials for the \$14,000 concrete dam are being paid for in part by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB). The CFGFB received funds from its 15 member church organization donors and also from community fundraising projects. Some of the donations came from Prairie farmers who held community crop growing projects with the proceeds going for food and water projects in Africa.

"The sand dam project is being built by the villagers from Dzunga and will result in a reliable source of water for years to come," said Steve Hochstetler-Shirk, of MCC Mozambique.

"A sand dam is a reinforced concrete wall built across a river bed. They are constructed two to four metres high and up to 90 metres across. A pipe is built into the dam, going 20 metres upstream. Over time, the dam will fill up with water, then sand, which filters water through the pipe built into the dam. About 40% of the volume behind

the dam will be water. Sand dams can hold an incredible amount of water," he explained.

The sand forms a crust that will help prevent the water from evaporating quickly.

Water is collected either from the pipe on the lower side of the dam, or by digging holes in the sand behind the dam to access the water. Each dam provides a clean water supply for local residents and to water animals. The water can also be used for irrigating fruit trees and vegetables.

Holly Nelson, project engineer is hoping that the dam will raise the water table in the immediate area near the reservoir. This will help to recharge area water wells which run dry during periods of drought.

The sand dam will provide a year-round source of water so people don't have to walk long distances during the drought season to get water.

The water is also much cleaner, having been filtered through the sand. The water will still have to be boiled to kill germs and parasites. But, it will be cleaner than other sources that have been contaminated by wildlife, livestock or human feces that are infected with infectious bacteria.

When we arrived at the site of the Dzunga sand dam there were about 75 people sitting under a large baobab tree along a dried river bed close to a sand dam construction site. They had begun work at 6 a.m. and stopped at noon when



Sylvia MacBean photo

The residents of Dzunga, Mozambique construct a sand dam to provide their village with a new water source.

temperatures soured to over 40 C. Crops had been flooded out last year and now newly seeded crops had been droughted out. The people had been promised food aid. They mistook our group as being from the World Food Bank.

"Did you bring us food? Did you bring us medicine? We have cholera. People from here are dying from it," yelled a man to us in

English.

We had been told only two people in the entire district had died from cholera when we had stopped at the district governor's office earlier in the day.

Earlier in November the last rain hit the area and had sent a gush of water down the river. Water wells in the immediate area had gone dry and people had been using the river water they found in scoop-holes in the river bed.

Holly is the engineer working with Serving and Learning Together (SALT) and for the MCC on the Dzunga sand dam project.

"The coming of the rains also means the coming of the yearly cholera season. The rain washes all kinds of things down into the riverbed, including cholera bacteria that could have been lying dormant for months. When people dig scoop-holes (in the river) to obtain water, the water is a deadly blessing," she said.

Dzunga has a small hospital, but it was overflowing with cholera cases, when we stopped there. Some people were quarantined in a hut adjacent to the hospital.

"There have been many others that occurred throughout the village because cholera strikes fast, killing people within hours at times. And without prop-

er latrines the infection can continue to spread quite easily," said Nelson.

A Mozambiquan reporter told me 16 people had died and more than 40 were being treated. Later, we were told that statistically only two people had died that tested positive in blood tests taken at the Dzunga hospital.

If the people had died outside the hospital they weren't counted. Only people who had actual blood work are counted in the statistics.

A man told me that in his nearby village of Mandie, a woman and her family had the disease. "Her husband and her children died and then she ran out of her hut and put her small baby on the road beside her hut. She was ill with cholera and went back in her hut. No one would take the baby because they were afraid of getting cholera from the baby," he said.

"The neighbors later burned their hut to the ground because everyone was dead inside and flies could spread the disease to the whole village," he said.

So, when you read the latest World Health Organization report that over 60,000 deaths from cholera have been reported, these are actual positive blood tests and don't take in the people

who have died in their huts in small remote villages far from hospitals.

A woman told us about her four daughters. The four girls left Dzunga at sunrise carrying empty five gallon yellow Gerry cans. It took three hours in the 40 degree heat to reach a water well dug in the bottom of a riverbed near a neighboring village. The sand burned their bare feet with each step.

They stood in line with many others waiting to fill their containers with water from the well. The well would stop flowing and they would have to wait for the well to recharge.

They spent the night sleeping on the ground waiting to take their turn the next morning. By the end of the second day two of the girls had filled their jugs and began their journey home. The other two girls had to wait until the third day before they could fill their containers. Meanwhile, their two sisters had returned to the well to take their place in line for more water.

This is the life of girls and women during the period of drought in Mozambique.

In early December, freelance journalist Sylvia MacBean went on a food study tour in Mozambique with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



Sylvia MacBean photo

People and animals are using the same water source in a river bed in Tete Province in Mozambique.



Samantha Trafiak photo

Catching some air

Ritchie Robertson does a bit of stunting on his snowmobile north of Arcola. Mild temperatures have made for perfect snowmobiling weather during the month of February.

Regional Health Authority boards named

Health Minister Don McMorris has announced the appointment of board members for Saskatchewan's 12 regional health authorities (RHAs).

"I congratulate all new and returning board members and thank them for accepting the challenge of serving the province through our health governing bodies," McMorris said. "Saskatchewan is about to turn a corner in health care as a result of our Patient First Review, and these capable individuals will guide our efforts to revitalize the system and improve patient care."

Of the 136 people appointed, 75 are men and 61 are women. Twenty-five appointees self-declared their First Nations or Métis background. Approximately 70 per cent of the board members appointed are new to their positions.

Board members are responsible for organizing, managing and delivering health services for all residents in their health regions. The boards work with the Ministry of Health to ensure coordinated, province-wide services, and support strategic goals identified by the Minister of Health.

"My sincere gratitude goes out to former board members for their dedicated service to patients and to the health system," McMorris added.

All of the appointments are for three-year terms.



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Snowplane meet coming up in Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

Few people today know what a snowplane is.

However, on March 1, the general public will have a chance to ride in one of these historic vehicles, as snowplane enthusiasts from across Saskatchewan and Manitoba gather in Moosomin, Sask.

Every year the Moosomin Regional Museum hosts a snowplane meet, inviting owners of these early snow machines to gather in Moosomin and offer rides to the public.

This is the third year that the meet has been held in Moosomin. Dennis Barry, chair of the Moosomin Regional Museum, says seven snowplanes are scheduled to show up this year, giving free rides from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 1. The event will be held at Greenline Equipment on the north side of Moosomin.

The entire event is free, and lunch will be served in the Greenline building.

Since there is no admission or charge for snowplane rides, Barry says the event does not function as a fundraiser for the museum, which holds the event purely for educational reasons.

"The reason we host the snowplane meet is public awareness," says Barry.

Barry says a lot of people today don't know



Snowplanes take off across a field north of Moosomin at the 2008 snowplane meet. Free snowplane rides will be offered at the 2009 meet being held on March 1 this year.

much about snowplanes. The vehicles, which were used years ago like early snowmobiles, have a cab with windows and doors, a number of skis to glide over the snow, and traditionally use an airplane propeller on the back for propulsion.

"Many of the kids, and even some of the adults, think they fly," says Barry

with a laugh.

In 2008, Barry says more than 300 people came to the meet to check out the snowplanes and to take a ride in them in the field behind Greenline Equipment.

Snowplane meets are not common, with only a few being held across the Prairies each year.

"The reason we got this

meet going in Moosomin was that the Fudge snowplane was built here, and the Lorch was built in Spy Hill," says Barry.

Robert Fudge, builder of the popular Fudge snowplane, was the owner of Fudge Industries in Moosomin where he built the machines, while Karl Lorch built his machines at Spy Hill. There will be

both Fudge and Lorch snowplanes giving rides at the snowplane meet in Moosomin on March 1.

Barry says the snowplane meet is as fun for the snowplane owners as it is for the public.

"They like to meet and share stories of their machines and the different models," he says.

Barry expects the event

to be as busy as it was last year, especially since the snowplane rides will be given right until 4:30 p.m. this year.

"I had some older guys from Stockholm call, and they were wondering when the snowplane meet was," says Barry. "They must have been there last year, and they didn't want to miss it this year."

Snowplane Meet

WHEN:
Sunday • March 1, 2009

WHERE:
Greenline Equipment
Moosomin

TIME:
10:30 to 4:30 PM

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FREE ADMISSION
CONCESSION**

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Meeting Feb. 25:

Second phase of Kin Place considered

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Moosomin's Kin Place may more than double in size if there is enough interest from the public in the new units.

Kin Place is a life-lease condominium. Residents make an equity investment when they move in, pay monthly rent that is subsidized by the equity, and receive all their equity back when they move out.

Kin Place was built in 1999 by the Moosomin Kinsmen Club and is run by a community board. Gateway REDA is contracted to manage the project.

The board that operates Kin Place has decided this is would be a good time to gauge interest in a second phase. "There's always a waiting list for the units in Kin Place, and with the shortage of housing in Moosomin this seemed to be a good time to go ahead," said Jeff Cole.

Cole is the economic development officer for the Gateway REDA and also handles management of Kin Place.

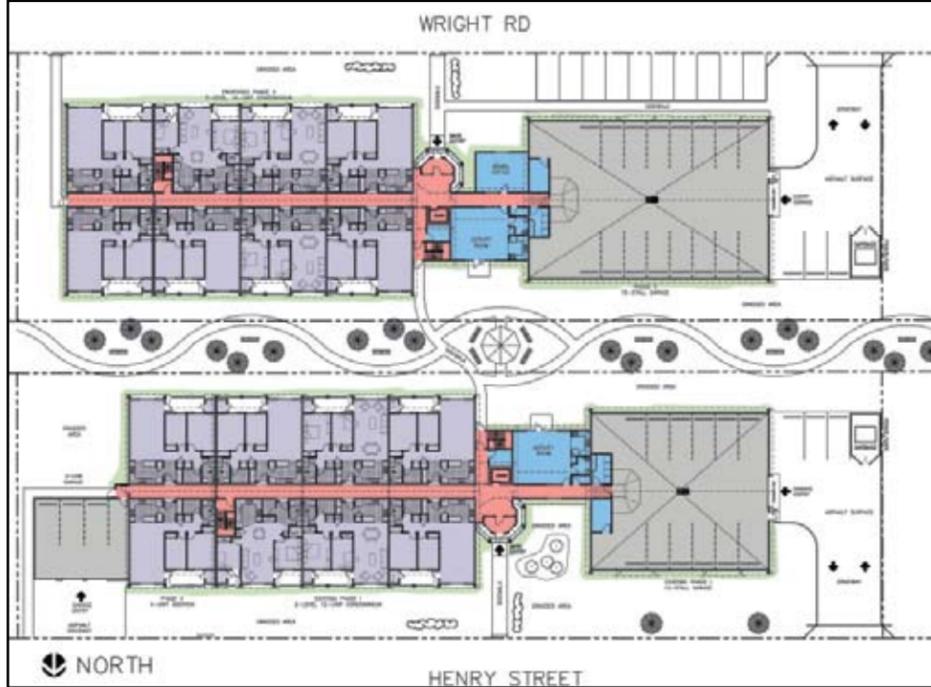
When the original building was built, additional lots facing Wright Road were purchased for an eventual

second phase. An architect has put together concept drawings to illustrate different options for a second phase of Kin Place and the contractor who built the original building has come up with some preliminary figures to determine what it would cost to move ahead with the second phase.

"The numbers are very preliminary, but we could be looking at \$2 to \$2.2 million," said Cole.

"We're looking at 12 or 18 units. If we go to 18 units at three stories high, the economies of scale bring the cost per unit down a bit. You need one roof and one elevator whether you go two stories or three." The main limitation on the size of the project is space for parking. Indoor parking is included as part of the proposal, which takes up a lot of space. "If there's enough interest we can go bigger, but then we might have to go to underground parking,"

While the amount people will have to contribute to live in Phase II will be higher than when the first stage was completed, Cole believes the higher cost



Kin Place II

This architect's drawing shows a proposal for expanding Moosomin's Kin Place life-lease housing project. The existing building is shown at the bottom of the drawing, facing Henry Street. The proposed second phase is shown at the top, facing Wright Road. A landscaped courtyard would be created between the two buildings. Under the life-lease concept, residents make an equity contribution that is refunded in full when they move. Costs of new building have not yet been finalized. Organizers are looking at building 12 or 18 units in the second phase.

may actually be more affordable.

"When we built the first one in 1999-2000 not a lot of houses were selling for \$100,000,

and now a lot of houses are going for \$200,000," he pointed out. "While the costs of this project will be higher, people who are selling their

houses in this market will be able to afford it better. And the money that people put into this they will be able to take out when they

move out. The money goes into trust and it's guaranteed to be returned. You can't lose money like you can in the stock market or mutual funds."

He also points out that the rent for the new Kin Place units will be far lower than for similar units in the cities. "Rent will be more than phase one, but this is still way, way cheaper than similar places in the city," he said. "In Moosomin you've got the hospital, you've got the doctors, you've got all the services, but it's still a small town. This will be good for people who want city amenities in a country atmosphere."

Cole is hopeful the project will sell quickly, opening up a number of family homes in Moosomin and surrounding communities. Depending on interest, construction could start in the spring.

A meeting to discuss the second phase of Kin Place is planned for Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the Uptown Hotel banquet room, starting at 10:30 a.m.

By that time, Cole will have actual costs for equity and rental fees for Phase II.

Moosomin Kin Place Inc. Life-Lease Condominium Development Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2009, from 10:30 am- 12:00 pm, in the Uptown Hotel Banquet Room, 1001 South Front St.



8 GREAT REASONS TO CONSIDER A LIFE-LEASE

- 1. Non-Profit Ownership:**
- Owned and operated by the Moosomin Kinsmen Club.
- 2. Lower Housing Costs:**
- Non-profit ownership results in lower construction and operating costs.
- 3. Special Investments:**
- Additional investments allow tax-free interest.
- 4. Energy Efficiency:**
- Comfortable, state of the art energy efficient temperature controlled apartments.
- 5. Security of Tenure:**
- Investment secures your occupancy as long as you wish.
- 6. Capital Liquidity:**
- Tenants may terminate their lease at any time and subject to proper notice and availability may expect their equity returned within 90 days.
- 7. Freedom from Maintenance:**
- No snow to shovel, grass to cut, furnaces to fix, etc.
- 8. Freedom from Ownership Responsibility.**

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

The Moosomin Kin Place Inc. is exploring a Phase 2 Condominium Project on the south side of the existing Moosomin Kin Place building. Located at 403 Henry St., Kin Place Inc. was built in cooperation with the Kinsmen Club in 1999-2000 to provide affordable, upscale retirement lifestyle housing in Moosomin.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeff Cole, Kin Place Management
Box 1617 Phone: (306) 435-3177
Moosomin, SK S0G 3N0 Email: gatewayreda@sasktel.net

2-BEDROOM CONDO UNITS INCLUDE:

- ❖ Common Room
- ❖ Kitchen
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LIFE LEASE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

What is the life-lease concept?

This concept requires you to put the equity into the project to help finance the cost. You will be asked for a deposit and equity contribution. These fees guarantee your monthly rental payments. By participating in the financing of the project, you allow the sponsors to build amenities and features designed specifically for you.

Is my equity contribution refundable?

Yes, because your contribution is considered your capital. When you vacate, your full equity contribution will be returned in full.

What would happen to the entrance fee in the event of my death?

The entrance fee would be refunded in full to your estate.

Will I get interest on my equity contribution?

No, you will not be paid interest on your equity contribution since it will be used to keep your monthly rent at a lower level than in comparable apartments.

How secure is my contribution?

Your equity contribution is protected through a second mortgage in your name held by a trust company.

Who will be allowed to live there?

Either couples or individuals may live here, but you must be at least 55 years of age. However, if you are over 55 and your spouse is younger, you are both eligible to live there.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY COST OF A LIFE-LEASE?

Expense:	Cost per Month
Property Taxincluded
Heatincluded
Lightsincluded
Water/Sewer/Garbage/Fireincluded
Snow Removal/Lawn Careincluded
Phone Lineincluded
Regular Repair Maintenance (Painting, Appliance Repair, etc.)included
Periodic Major Repair (Roof, Plumbing, Heating, Fridge, Stove, Dishwasher, Air conditioner, Water Softener, Washer & Dryer)included
Required Equity & Condo Fee TBA

HOW MUCH IS YOUR HOUSE COSTING YOU?

Expense:	Cost per Month:
Mortgage Payment	\$ _____
Property Tax	\$ _____
Energy	\$ _____
Power	\$ _____
Water/Sewer/Garbage/Fire	\$ _____
Snow Removal/Lawn Care	\$ _____
Basic Phone Service	\$ _____
Insurance	\$ _____
Regular Repairs/Maintenance: (Painting, Appliance Repair, etc.)	\$ _____
Periodic Major Repairs: (Roof, Plumbing, Heating, Appliances, etc.)	\$ _____
Interest Lost on Money Tied up in Home Equity Example: [(\$ _____ x 5%) ÷ 12 = \$ _____]	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

TOWN OF MOOSOMIN QUICK FACTS:

Businesses/Services:	Distance to Urban Centres:	Population:
Retail Businesses → 230	Regina: 223 km	Town → 2,542
Dentists → 3	Yorkton: 150 km	½ hour radius → 20,000
Pharmacies → 2	Winnipeg: 350 km	1-hour radius → 30,000
Chiropractor → 1	Brandon: 141 km	
Restaurants & Pubs → 11	Saskatoon: 480 km	
Medical Doctors → 7	Calgary: 978 km	
Dial-A-Van (MOTOH)	Edmonton: 1001 km	
Homecare	Minot: 267 km	

Eying opportunity in Saskatchewan

His rich navy blue suit, with its perfectly understated pinstripe and complementary azure necktie, was striking. His innovative business ideas, complete with color-coded pie charts and figure-isolating bar graphs, were equally as impressive.

But then again, one of the other CEO candidates presented an even more spectacular set of possibilities, inspiring our board with his ingenious plans for record-breaking profits and environmentally friendly business growth.

And how about the candidate who had managed organizations right across the country, and even spent a few years in Kuwait managing a business there?

That's the kind of day it was . . . one CEO candidate after another impressing us with their experience, intelligence and innovation.

But the truly amazing part of the day was that these highly educated executives all wanted to come to Southeast Saskatchewan. They had all read the papers and reports indicating that Saskatchewan is the place to be. And they were all excited about the tremendous growth potential in the region.

As you know, it hasn't always been this way. In fact, just a few short years ago, the beaten path for aspiring CEOs led straight out of this province. It didn't matter if you were heading east or west, just as long as you were getting out of Saskatchewan.

If you truly wanted to reach your full leadership potential, you scoured the Ontario want ads, you researched growth companies in Alberta or you sent resumes galore to the western shores of this great coun-



Christalee Froese

try. Your path to the top might take you to Calgary, or Vancouver, or possibly even Toronto—anywhere else but here.

My how times have changed.

The CEO search I partook in recently was an utterly thrilling experience that raised my hopes for the future of this fine province.

Barbara Weselak, an executive recruiter with Meyers Norris Penny, says attracting upwardly mobile leaders into the Saskatchewan labor market is a strong trend she has seen developing over the past several years.

"People who have left the province are coming home to raise their families and to capitalize on the opportunities they now see," said Weselak. "Three years ago, people in Calgary also started talking about the bubble bursting and the same thing is happening in Toronto regarding the bubble bursting in the manufacturing sector, so people have decided that the Prai-

ries is the hot place to be right now."

The candidates we interviewed were from B.C. and Ontario, with careers that had taken them to Calgary, Toronto and overseas. Their ideas were linked into environmental trends, their plans focused on innovation and their attitudes displayed high levels of optimism. Listening to opportunity after opportunity for Saskatchewan, its people and its natural resources, one couldn't help but be tremendously hopeful for the future of our entire province.

So, I asked Barb what this "brain un-drain" might mean for our humble little province—the province that was previously more inclined to give our university grads a set of luggage, rather than a job.

"What it means is diversity—you'll have a diversity of people with a wide range of education, and for an economy, that builds a lot of sustainability and that creates success in communities."

His rich navy blue suit was great. But it was his enthusiasm and ideas that shone.

Can't wait to see what happens when our best and brightest stay within our borders with increasing frequency. And when the best and brightest from beyond our borders start to infiltrate the prairie landscape and put their ideas into action.

Christalee Froese lives in Montmartre, Sask. She welcomes comments at cfroese@sasktel.net.

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2007	MF	9895	Duals, Autolube, MAV Chopper, 16' Swathmaster PU, loaded, 486 hrs., Chopper, chaff spreader, rake up p/u	\$279,000
1995	MF	8570	Chopper, spreader 13' pu hdr	\$52,500
1987	Gleaner	R50	Melroe PU, chopper	\$22,000
1986	MF	8560	Melroe PU, chopper, chaff spreader	\$24,500
1984	Gleaner	L3	Melroe PU, chopper, chaff spreader	\$12,500

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2007	MF	5100	36' Draper header, U2 Reel, combine adapter, guage wheels, transport kit	\$37,900
1994	Gleaner	500	25' Flex Header, U2 P/U reel	\$9,500
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1996	MacDon	871	Combine Adapter to fit TX	\$4,250
1994	Gleaner	700	30' new batt reel, as is	\$2,000

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2008	MF	5480	iwa, 140hp, 955 ldr loader, loaded	0% Financing*
2008	MF	5475	iwa, 135hp, 955 ldr, loaded	0% Financing*
2005	MF	431	45hp, 3pt, remotes, 50 hrs.	\$14,500
2008	MF	596	iwa, 99hp, sync shuttle, DL280 ldr, grapple	0% Financing*
1989	MF	3650	FWA 130hp, loader, grapple, joystick	\$34,900
2008	MF	1531	iwa, 31hp, hydro, loader	0% Financing*
2009	MF	1528	iwa, 28hp, hydro, loader	0% Financing*
2009	MF	GC2400	iwa, 24hp, hydro, loader	0% Financing*

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2008	MF	1756	5x6 Baler, autotie	0% Financing*
2009	MF	1476	16' Mower Conditioner, steel on steel rollers	0% Financing*
2008	MF	3743	430 bu Maure Spreader, upper beater, big rubber	0% Financing*
2002	New Idea	6365	5x6 Hard Core Baler, Full Auto, Mesh wrap (same as Hesston 856A)	\$16,500
2007	MacDon	A30-S	16' Steel on Steel Conditioning Rollers	Call
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2007	Seedhawk	777	84'-12" spacing w/777 cart, loading auger, loaded	\$289,000
2008	Ezee-On	1225	14' Offset Disk	Call

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Manitoba launches \$400,000 agri-food traceability program

The province of Manitoba is committing more than \$400,000 to develop and launch an agri-food traceability system to trace food products from producers to consumers, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Minister Rosann Wowchuk announced in late January.

"Food safety through traceability and surveillance are important to the public's well-being," said the minister. "This registration database will provide valuable information on the location and identification of foods produced or processed in Manitoba, enabling us to quickly track the origin of foods, thus ensuring the ongoing safety and health of Manitobans."

"A comprehensive traceability system will sup-

port a timely and effective provincial response to any food-safety issue or animal health emergency."

The province will be building on the traceability expertise developed and tested in a recent pilot project with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). The budget for these projects is just over \$400,000 and will be used for technical equipment, data-base development and staffing.

The agri-food premises identification system will locate and register all farms and other places where animals are raised, kept or sold. Registration will begin with the livestock sector, but will be expanded to include all farms that grow food, processing plants and eventually all places where food is kept.

Wowchuk indicated producer and processor organizations have developed animal and product identification systems and Manitoba will be working with other federal and provincial partners to track movements of animals, other commodities and food products across Canada.

"Manitoba's traceability and food-safety system would ensure that all food processing done in this province is subject to a monitoring program," said Wowchuk.

"Enhancing the province's ability to track, trace, test and monitor the products in Manitoba's food chain will elevate the status of foods produced here for consumers and customers nationally and internationally, providing economic benefits for the province."

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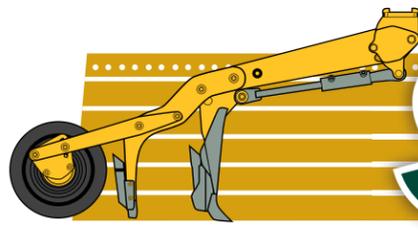
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Cold winter has little impact on area's wildlife

BY CHRIS ISTANCE

This winter's frigid temperatures have not had a huge impact on wildlife in the area, but the real test comes as the month of February moves on, said a Moosomin Conservation Officer.

"We haven't had any calls about deer feeding on stored grain," said Moosomin Conservation Officer Luc Syrenne. "It's been a cold winter, but we haven't had the snow depths yet, so we'll see what happens."

Although through the months of December and January, the region experienced extended periods where thermometers dipped below minus-30 degrees Celsius—and into the minus-40s with the windchill—Syrenne said whitetail deer can generally survive severely cold weather and protect themselves by moving into bushy areas. This habit helps them avoid the wind and find food where the snow is softer to paw through. They will also feed on twigs during the winter months.

The deer also gather together in groups and create trails to follow, helping them move from one area to another in their search for food. Syrenne said they know what they need to consume to get the most energy.

"That's why they can wind up in the stacks of alfalfa," he said.

Instead of the cold, the animals actually have more difficulty foraging for food

when the temperatures rise in late January and early February, said Syrenne.

Snow may continue to fall, making the search for food on the ground more arduous. As the weather becomes mild, a crust of ice develops on top of the snow, the effort to move and find food increases again.

"Snow depths of 18 inches is critical for fawns," he said. "They find it difficult to walk in the snow, but they have more trouble in February when the melt starts and ice forms on the snow. It prevents them from foraging for access to the grain underneath."

This is typically when the deer seek food sources in farmyards and areas where grain is stored.

"The young are the first to succumb, then the bucks because they've been rutting really hard during the fall and have used up their energy reserves. In December, they look to replenish that energy," Syrenne said, adding that the winter of 2000 was the last season with snow depths excessive enough to have an impact on the whitetail deer.

That year was the tail-end of a four-year period of low deer populations in the region.

When the deer are seen in greater numbers in areas used by humans—such as in town or in farmyards—this is a sign that the animals have moved into all-out survival mode.

"They lose their inhibitions to humans and other animals," Syrenne said.

"They're stressed to the point that they don't react to humans or predators like they did before."

Meanwhile, the cold winter also has little effect on the lives of moose or elk.

Syrenne said reports show that moose populations in the area continue to be strong, while elk numbers are increasing.

Moose and elk in southern Saskatchewan generally see few problems during the winter. Moose feed on twigs, while elk are similar to deer. They prefer grasses, but can feed on twigs as well.

"The populations in southern Saskatchewan are not as troubled as they are in northern Saskatchewan," Syrenne said.

Besides foraging for food in the winter, the moose and elk must be wary of large predators like wolves, who run the animals onto frozen lakes and take their prey.

"The elk and moose here don't have the big predators, so they're able to thrive," Syrenne said.

Then there are the game birds, who have little problems through almost any conditions through the winter.

Grouse forage on buds and berries and have

adapted enough to sustain Saskatchewan's severe climate during December and January. Sharp-tail grouse, for example, bury

themselves in the snow for warmth.

Syrenne it's the game birds that are introduced to the area that have the most

trouble. Birds such as wild turkeys and pheasant have developed the capacity to survive the winter like grouse have.

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Pfizer-Wyeth merger could impact PMU producers

BY SYLVIA MACBEAN

Wyeth, a pharmaceutical company that manufactures drugs for humans and animals, announced recently that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement with the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer.

Pfizer is purchasing Wyeth for \$68 billion.

One might wonder how

this would impact farmers in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and in North Dakota.

Each day urine is collected from pregnant mares in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota.

The pregnant mare urine (PMU) is rich in estrogens and is trucked to the Wyeth processing plant at Brandon, Manitoba, where it is processed for use in

menopausal drugs such as Premarin.

"There are 71 PMU farms in total. There are 15 in Saskatchewan, 53 in Manitoba and three in North Dakota. There are 5,600 brood mares in total in production," said Norm Luba, Executive Director of the North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC).

"Certainly, it is very early, the merger was just announced. The product that we provide the estrogens for is an important product in anyone's portfolio. The product (Premarin) has been around since 1942. My expectation is that it is going to continue most certainly. It is an important product in the Wyeth portfolio and I am sure it will be an important product in the Pfizer portfolio.

"There is no similar product so it is pretty unique from that perspective. It isn't produced anywhere else in the world. It is produced right in Brandon as it has been for years.

"I've been told it is business as usual and until something changes that is the way we are operating."

Shane Boyes raises registered Quarter horses and is a PMU producer in southeast Saskatchewan. He is also NAERIC board member for Saskatchewan.

"You know as much as I do," he says. "Wyeth has the only natural Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) product. They made a billion dollars from sales of Premarin alone last year. I don't think Pfizer would dump a billion dollar industry. We will just have to wait and see what happens."

The Wyeth announcement said that the combined company will create

one of the most diversified companies in the global health care industry.

"Operating through patient-centric businesses that match the speed and agility of small, focused enterprises with the benefits of a global organization's scale and resources, the company will respond more quickly and effectively to meet changing health care needs," the Wyeth press release said.

"The combined company will have product offerings in numerous growing therapeutic areas, a strong product pipeline, leading scientific and manufacturing capabilities, and a premier global footprint in health care.

"With its broad and diver-

sified global product portfolio and reduced dependence on small molecules, the new company will be positioned for improved, consistent, and stable top-line and EPS growth and sustainable shareholder value in the short and long term. It is expected that no drug will account for more than 10 per cent of the combined company's revenue in 2012."

Associated Press reported that Pfizer plans to cut about 8,000 jobs, 10 per cent of its workforce, as part of what it expects will be a staff reduction totalling 15 per cent of the combined companies' workers—implying a total job loss of almost 20,000 employees.



Jennifer Yurchuk photo

Solemn beauty

A lone horse grazes in a snowy pasture southeast of Moosomin on a winter day.

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Wednesday, Feb. 18

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10:00 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 23

Butcher Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Presort Feeder Cattle Sale

10:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 2

Butcher Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 4

Presort Feeder Cattle Sale

10:00 a.m.

Friday, Mar. 6

Bred Cow Sale

11:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 9

Butcher Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 9

Pleasant Dawn Charolais Bull Sale

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

Feeder Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 16

Butcher Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 18

Presort Feeder Cattle Sale

10:00 a.m.

Monday, Mar. 23

Butcher Cattle Sale

9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 25

Presort Feeder Cattle Sale

10:00 a.m.

Friday, Mar. 27

Pen of 5 Replacement Heifer sale

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We are now working on a section that will reach households in Windsor and southwestern Ontario in the new year.

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- A. Regional business investment opportunities
- B. Careers & job opportunities
- C. Real-estate (home and lot opportunities)
- D. Opportunities in the trades
- E. Stories of people who have moved to the region
- F. Regional quality of life
- G. Community profiles
- H. Regional profiles

Our first project was assisted with a financial contribution from the REDA Enhancement Fund. We have applied for funding for this second phase, which keeps advertising costs down. We are targeting an area of Ontario where there have been layoffs in the automotive sector, and where the future of remaining jobs in the industry is in doubt.

Does your community need to attract skilled tradespeople? Does your business need to attract people with the skills to work in the trades or set up new businesses to accommodate growth?

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Asessippi Ski Area celebrating 10th anniversary

BY ROBIN WARK

During Nancy Greene-Raine's illustrious life on skis, she has been to many ski hills, but the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort is certainly one Canada's Female Athlete of the Century remembers well.

The 1968 Olympic giant slalom gold medalist officiated the resort's grand opening in February of 2000 following skiers hitting the slopes in December of 1999. She has not been back since, but is excited to return Feb. 14 to help celebrate the Asessippi Ski Area's 10th anniversary.

"I just loved it. It was so nice . . . I look forward to going again," Greene-Raine said in a phone interview. "There are certain places that I remember as special. That is one of them."

Greene-Raine and Canadian snowboarding enthusiast and journalist Matt Houghton of Push.ca are the guest speakers at a banquet dinner at the Russell and District Community Hall Feb. 14. The next day there will be a variety of events for the whole family at the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort.

Senator Greene-Raine will likely be impressed and surprised by how the resort has grown in the decade since she first visited. A March 2007 expansion increased the ski hill's terrain by a third, increasing the number of runs to 25. It can accommodate more than 125,000 visitors a year and features two snowboarding terrain parks, three downhill tubing runs and a busy food court. When the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort opened in 2000, it earned the Attractions Canada award for Best New Attraction. Since then it has garnered many more honors, including the Ski Area Choice Award in 2008 from WetJet's Up magazine.

More to come

While the resort's shareholders are very proud of how it has survived and thrived in its first decade, they have many plans for the future.

Daymon Gullias is the general manager of the Russell Inn, which is the major shareholder of Asessippi, and has been involved from the early days. He said in the next three or four years the group hopes to expand the village. The expansion could include a coffee house, mini convenience store, day spa, bou-

tique shops, wine store, art gallery and chapel. Development on the ski in and ski out Cottage Cove development also continues.

"We are a winter playground—not just a ski resort," Gullias said. "There has to be a reason for everybody to come."

As well, the resort wants to add to its summer activities, which already include river tubing, paint ball, kayak rentals and a dance camp, said Roz Pulo, the resort's director of marketing. Future plans tentatively include zip lining along with many other activities.

Widespread impact

One only has to visit Asessippi on a winter Saturday to see the resort's success. The slopes are generally busy with people of all ages, including a large number of young people, skiing and snowboarding.

Asessippi Ski and Board Club member Ken Oberlin said the people involved help make the experience at the resort what it is.

"It is a great place to ski, as it has the best mix of slopes for skiers in Manitoba and an excellent staff that have been great for our club (and the Manitoba Alpine community) to work with for the many training sessions and events they are a part of," he said. "The well organized staff keeps the slopes in great shape and the experience a good one!"

While the resort certainly has helped increase the area's interest in skiing, snowboarding and tubing, it also has had a major financial impact on the region. For example, the resort employs 160 full- and part-time employees. The seasonal job opportunities help the youth as well families looking for a secondary income, said Marcia Rowat, the economic development officer for Asessippi Parkland Economic Development Corp.

Bed and breakfast operations and guest houses have been built to accommodate visitors to the resort. As well, tourists are also helping many of the region's other businesses. The resort itself also is an attraction to people interested in moving to or staying in the area.

The beginnings

Back in 1967 a study discussing options for the expansion of Asessippi



The Asessippi resort village during peak ski season.

Provincial Park suggested a ski area would blend in well with the landscape. However, the wheels of a process that would eventually produce the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort were not set in motion until early 1990.

Prompted by Russell MLA Len Derkach, Roblin businessman Bob Cross sought public input on the possibility of developing a local ski hill. By that March the non-profit Asessippi Ski Association, with an eight-member board, was formed. In May of 1992, the Federal Business Development Bank developed a business plan with the estimated cost of developing the resort coming to \$4.6 million, although time would cause that number to go much higher.

Realizing the business community's support was needed, the ski association turned the project over to Ski Asessippi Limited. The Mount St. Castin resort near Quebec City closed when the Asessippi Ski Area was being developed. Equipment was purchased from that former ski hill and hauled more than 2,500 kilometres to Asessippi.

When designing both the runs and the resort, Ski Asessippi Limited approached it from a business perspective, Gullias said. Using information they gathered from visiting 75 resorts in Canada and the U.S., the plan was to put together a unique village

that would cater to a wide variety of people.

Ten years later the crowds show their hard work has paid off.

"We have created a village and an ambiance that is almost a fantasyland that we'd like to live in," Gullias said.

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