

Maryfield Theatre looking to go digital

EY ADAM WIGHTMAN With a population of 365 people, the town of Maryfield has something that most communities its size do not—a movie the-atre that can seat the majority of its residents. If all of Maryfield's inhabitants came to watch a movie, only 45 of them wouldn't be able get a seat. While that doesn't include those who live in the town's surrounding area, who regularly use the theatre, it shows how important the theatre is to those from the village

the theatre, it shows how important the theatre is to those from the village. "It's an old beauty. It's pretty big compared to other theatres around," said Pat Adair, who helps run the theatre with her hus-band, Gerry, the president of the Auditorium Committee and the only person who runs the theatre's 35 mm film projector. The Maryfield Auditorium, which has a theatre and a large hall in the basement, was built in 1939, and movies have been played there ever since. It is now owned by the town and oper-ated by the Auditorium Committee, and Pat and Gerry are the ones who do most of the work needed to organize the theatre's movie nights. Twice a week, on Friday and Sunday evenings, they show movies at the theatre, from light children's movies to serious thrillers—all of them are new releases yet to be put onto serious thrillers—all of them are new releases yet to be put onto DVD

The theatre hasn't changed much over the years, other than a few minor adjustments to the 35 mm projector and the \$30,000 ramp and lift, constructed in the back of the building, to make the venue wheel-chair accessible. There are around the same number of seats as there were when it was constructed, the same number of seats as there were when it was constructed, the same soft material on the walls for good acoustics and the same pillars supporting the ceiling from the walls. It has a classic old-theatre aroma, of popcorn steam that has been seared into the seats, the carpet and the walls and ceiling over the decades. But not everything is the same. The biggest change for the the-atre has come in recent years, and it is related to a global trend in the movie business that the theatre will need to meet if it is to continue making movies. It is the growing dominance of digital

continue making movies. It is the growing dominance of digital

Films. Ever since Avatar, a hugely successful movie that could only be the disting projector, came out in 2009, most played in theatres with a digital projector, came out in 2009, most of North America's commercial theatres have switched their projectors from the traditional ones which ran 35 mm celluloid film to ones that project digital films. As a result, there are fewer movies available on 35 mm film, which the Maryfield Theatre's projector runs. The theatre's current projector has been playing movies at the theatre since the 1980s, with minor improvements installed over the years to allow for larger reels. But they may soon have to do away with their projector and go digital. Gerry said that often there is only a handful of 39 mm film copies of a movie available for all of the theatres in Western Canada. "They only make so many of these 35 mm films anymore," said

Gerry while preparing the projector for Sunday night's showing of *Killing them Softly*. "One movie we showed, I can't remember the name of now, had only one copy for all of Western Canada. When we showed Ice Age for our Santa Day show, it was flown in from B.C."

But showing films on a 35 mm film projector isn't just a matter of inconvenience for the Gerry and Pat—it means that the Mary-field Theatre may not be able to continue to play movies into the future. It is a problem faced by thousands of small theatres across North America

There has been a steady decline in the number of movie copies in 35 mm film available, and the number is continuing down-ward. It is a matter of economics. It costs movie studios \$1,500 to print and distribute one copy of a movie on 35-mm film, but it costs only \$150 for them to create and distribute a digital copy. As a result, many industry experts believe that movies available on 35 mm film will be phased out in a couple of years. "They've told us that there word' be 35-mm prints, and when that day comes, we're toast," Pat said.

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Couples Phil and Kay Smith and Rob and Freda Hill waiting to watch the Maryfield Theatre's Sunday night showing of Killing Them Softly



Maryfield Theatre volunteers waiting for moviegoers to arrive. Anna Macksymchuk (left) volunteered to work concessions for the Sunday night's movie. Pat Adair (centre) and her husband and the Auditorium Board President Gerry Adair (right) are responsible for putting on films for the theatre's Friday and Sunday night movies.



Plain and Valley



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It is the third consecutive bronze medal that the pair have won at the national championship, and while their goal was to place in the top two, it was still a thrilling event to compete in, Rudi said. "It was just a fantastic competition. The pairs in Canada are very strong all around. It (the pairs free-skate) was probably one of the best events at the competition to watch," said Rudi. There were only six pairs at the competition, and Rudi, from Kipling, and Paige, of Kennedy, were the only pair not from Central Canada, with four from the Greater To-ronto Area and one from Montreal. The competition in-volved both a short program and a long program, and the six pairs who took part were placed according to their combined score for both programs. program, they had four and a half minutes to perform 13 elements of their choosing. Their combined scores for the two programs were calculated shortly after the long program Placing third secured them a berth in Four Continents Figure Skating Championship, held this year in Osaka, championship. ⁶ Ipgrade Your Way! Get the phone you want, when you want. ... 12:0 SAMSUNG 12.21 THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denette photo ²v в' № М 🚖 🏢 🖪 **IT'S EASY!** 1. Check the balance owing on your current phone 2. Pay the balance off 3. Get a sweet deal on the latest new phone! KIPLING STORE **MONTMARTRE STORE** Find us on 501 Main Street, Kipling, SK Highway #48, Montmartre, S Facebook Phone: (306) 736-2255 Phone: (306) 424-2871 www.chittronics.com 1002 North Front St., M SaskTel 204-748-3619 AUTHORIZED DEALER Contact Plain and Valley at 306-435-2445

Bronze medal for Paige and Rudi

EY ADAM WIGHTMAN Locals Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers won the bronze medal at the Canadian Figure Skating Champion-ship at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga on Sunday, Jan. 20

combined score for both programs.

The short program took place on Friday, Jan. 18. For it, each pair had roughly three and a half minutes to per-form a number of skating manoeuvres, called elements, long pre-determined by the events organizers. They placed third in that event, but they made a mistake that cost them points. Paige didn't land properly on her triple toe, and she slid into Rud's path. So she had to slam on the brakes, which interfered with their next manoeuvre, celido

a slide. "Because we had no momentum, we couldn't get a very good score on that element. And we lost a lot of points on those two elements," Rudi said. They performed the long program, on the other hand, as smooth as ice. It took place on Sunday, and for the

Japan from Feb. 16-11. But it isn't where they wanted to be going. If they had finished in first or second, they would have earned a spot in this year's World Figure Skating Championships, in London, Ont. in mid March. "It is a little bit of a bittersweet thing for us." Rudi said.

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to get top two in nationals. This is now our third time with bronze in Canada." Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford won their second

gold medal at the competition, and Kirsten Moore-Tow-ers and Dylan Moscovitch captured silver. Both pairs are

ers and Dylan Moscovitch captured silver. Both pairs are on the Canadian national team with Rudi and Paige. "We're really excited for our fellow competitors and friends chance to compete at worlds." Rudi said. Rudi and Paige say that they will both be cheering in front of the television for their friends during the inter-national competition. And for good reason. If a country's two skating pairs finish at worlds with a combined place-ment of 13 or lower (such as one pair getting fourth place and the ather finishing in fifth for exampla their country. and the other finishing in fifth, for example), their country can send three pairs to the next Olympics, for which the three pairs would have to qualify at their annual national

Continued page 4 🖙



Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers perform their senior pair short program during the 2013 Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Mississauga, Ont., on Friday, January 18, 2013.





in. SK

Paige and Rudi win bronze

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For Continued from page 3 For Canadian skaters, that will be next year's Canadian Figure Skating Championships. One of the Canadian pairs has to finish in the top 10 at Worlds if Canada can send two teams.

"We're really hoping that they have a strong competi-tion. This is one of the times that you're cheering your heart out for your competitors," Rudi said. However the two Canadian pairs finish at the World Figure Skating Championship, Rudi and Lawrence have a for the structure of the structure and how mean

rigure Skating Championsmp, Kuch and Lawrence have a future that is quite bright. They are young and have many figure-skating related options open to them in if they don't ever make it to the Olympics, whether it be coaching, judg-ing or skating in the professional circuit, Lawrence said. Having such options is something that they have earned through a lot of hard work, the long hours put in on the ice and the chemistry they have developed

and the chemistry they have developed. But that chemistry they have developed. But that chemistry wasn't always there. Lawrence didn't think that she and Rudi were a match made in heaven when she was first approached by her coach Patty Hole asking her to skate with him as a pair.



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"I thought, well, Paige jumps the same way," Hole said. "So I asked her, 'Can you be the guinea pig?" The year was 2005, and the two were skating at the Wa-wota Skating Club. Rudi needed a new skating partner af-ter the skater whom he used to skate in pairs with, Kristi Bonkowski, decided she wanted to skate singles.

But Lawrence repeatedly declined Hole's request that she try skating with Rudi. She thought she wanted to

skate singles

skate singles. "I was very against it. I'm an independent girl and thought that I didn't want to skate with somebody as a pair. I said no quite a few times," she said. Eventually Lawrence decided to help him out, just un-til he found a full-time partner to skate pairs with. But, slowly, the idea of skating with Rudi as a pair began to grow on her, with every practice, she said. "I really started to enjoy it. I really began to enjoy the throws and the lifts and the challenge. It turned into some-thing I really enjoyed doing"

thing I really enjoyed doing" Hole put the two through a test trial, overlooked by

another pair, to see if they had what it takes. And they passed

In a matter of weeks she decided that she would skate full-time in pairs with Rudi. "It just seemed like something that was going to work, and here they are," Hole said. The rest, Hole said, is history, one that has spanned sey-

The rest, Hole said, is history, one that has spanned sev-en years and has led to three consecutive bronze medals in senior pairs at the Canadian Figure Skating Champion-ships, and to the cusp of the qualifying for the Olympics. Currently, Lawrence and Rudi live and practice out of Virden, and they still are coached by Patty Hole. The pair practices five to six days a week for three to four hours each day. They also do one to two hours of off-ice train-ing during the days that they practice. Off ice training in a during the days that they practice. each day. They also do one to two hours of off-ice train-ing during the days that they practice. Off-ice training in-cludes cardio and strength exercises. A couple of days a week they do ballet and off-ice lifts. For three days a week, they have choreography sessions to polish their program they perform at competitions. And, when they aren't too busy travelling to competitions, they do yoga. "We treat it like a job," said Lawrence. "It's our career choice for right now. We devote as much time and effort to it as we can."

to it as we can.

The pair also goes to Ellenton, Florida, just south of Tampa, a couple of times each year to work with Lyndon Johnson, a professional coach.

What started as a reluctant spot-filling has grown into a brother and sister relationship, and everything that comes along with it, Lawrence said





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THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young photo

Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers perform in the gala exhibition at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships in Mississauga, Ont. on Sunday January 20, 2013.

"We know each other very well, and we get along for the most part, but there is always that brother sister bick-

The most part, but there is always that brother sister bick-ering." Lawrence said. But what can you expect? she asked. "Being around each other six days a week, for many days of the year—we don't get many days off—it's pretty hard to get along all of the time. But any arguments we have are never a big deal," she said. Rudi agrees Rudi agrees.

"We get in some tussles," he said. "It's like anything else. When I do the math, I've been skating with her at the same club for 15 years, and in a way it's like a marriage, but we do have our own separate personal lives outside of skating.

They have not only skated together in the same club during those 15 years, they also have skated for the same club: the Wawota Skating Club. While they train out of Virden, they name the Wawota club as their home club on

Wrden, they name the Wawda club as their nome club on their annual Skate Canada registration. "We're very proud of our roots," Rudi said. "Paige and I have been very supported by Saskatchewan and the Wa-wota figure skating club, but even though we don't train there, we still continue to represent it. I feel it made us the strong pair team that we are today," he said.



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Asessippi Ski Area and Resort: piece of the mountains not too far away

By Adam Wightman

BY ADAM WIGHMAN With some fresh snow and an air temperature that isn't far below zero, Josh Fogarty, 25, and his friend Brandon Mayer, 24, are just where they want to be on a day like today—the terrain park at the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort. They stand in a crowd that is perched above the park—which is a sequence of jumps for skiers and snow boarders to jump and make tricks on—waiting their turn to fly down the run.

down the run.

But they are willing to wait a little while, because they know there isn't another ter-rain park in the region like this, nor is their another ski hill in the region that has to

offer what Asessippi does. "It's definitely the best hill on the Prairies—longer runs, better features, and they build a nice terrain park each year," said Fogarty, casually leaning on his poles, his twin-tipped skis spread for balance.

twin-tpped skis spread tor balance. The two are from Regina, and they usually make it out to Asessippi a couple of times a year. They both use twin-tipped skis, the favored type of ski for those who try tricks and jumps, as both the front and back ends are curved upwards to make land-ing easier. They have both been skiing since they were kids, and they have been all over in search of good runs on which to make their jumps. They have been to every hill on the Prairies and to some on the Rockies, they say. Mayer agrees with Fogarty in his summation of the quality of Asessippi. "This is just a bigger hill than anywhere else around," Mayer said. "The terrain park, which I'm using to do more tricks and learn, is definitely the best one in Sas-katchewan."

katchewan." The queue ahead of the skiers is starting to thin out. Some of those waiting are new skiers and a bit uneasy about taking a run down the park. They're waiting for some more experienced skiers to give them a preview. Fogarty decides that he'll give it a go. He plants his poles into the compacted snow and pushes toward the edge of the slope, driving his skis to the side, like skates, to get a bit of momentum—and then he's off. He picks up speed before the first jump, and hits it and makes considerable air, pulling his skis up and to the side for style. He hits three of the jumps, and then waits the who fellower forgetic route. They wait for a bit to use the he other science.

for Mayer, who follows Fogarty's route. They wait for a bit to watch the other skiers,

and then they're off to the chair lift and the bottom of the hill, to make their way back

and then they re on to the chain intrance the bottom of the rank, to make the set of the anomaly. A person višiting the hill for the first time will nofice this when they drive down to the parking lot from the main road, with the wooden and earthy high-priced cabins to the right of the road looking like a scene out of a Rocky Mountain resort. One will notice it when one looks up the hill and sees just how large the it really is and how many runs cut through the borested valley slope. And, particularly, one will notice it when looking back to the base of the hill when going up the chair-lift, seeing the huge expanse of the Assiniboine Valley spread out all around. "Once you see the facility, you'll see it's a step far above," said Roz Pulo, the direc-tor of marketing for the ski area and resort. "A lot of people call it a little Whistler. I refer to it as a little piece of the mountains not too far away," This uniqueness is just what the shareholders that developed and built the ski re-sort 15 years ago were looking to capture after they did some research into ways to

Inis uniqueness is just what the shareholders that developed and built the ski re-sort 15 years ago were looking to capture after they did some research into ways to make the ski area and resort financially feasible, said Pulo. "The market research that we did, really proved to us that the Prairies didn't need another community hill. If we wanted to move forward, we had to move forward with a better-than approach," she said That's what skiers Fogarty and Mayer said, and it's what one will hear when speak-

ng with other skiers and snow boarders who use the hill: it's the best hill around for hundreds of miles.

The ski resort opened in 1999. They have 25 runs, three chair lifts, two carpets to take people to the top of the bunny hill, two terrain parks, a snow-tubing hill and a bunny hill for beginner skiers and snow boarders. The hill's season usually runs from the second week in December to early April, but this year it will close on March 31.

During the summer, they open to have river tubing in the Shell River for the months of July and August.

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The ski area and resort's lodge as seen from the hill.





From left, Roger Smith and Linda Bock, Reva Sutton and Mike Mayer having some tea or coffee and getting warm by the freshly lit fire inside the most famous and popular stopping point along the trail system. the Hilton Lodae



The view of the ravine from the doors of the Bear Creek Hilton Lodge,

Tri-Valley Trails provide snowmobilers with a safe and fun wilderness adventure

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

Gary Williamson starts up a snowmobile in the parking lot of Universe Satellite in Rocanville. I hop on the back. He sits in the front and grabs the handlebars and then

"Let me know where you want to stop to get your pictures," he tells me He then lays on the gas and we head south across the road to partake in one of his favorite pastimes: riding the Tri-Valley Tevil outor. Trail system

Today he is showing me the a portion of the 270 km-long trail system so I can get a better understanding of how it functions, its scope and what it is like to ride them. Williamson knows them as good as any-

one. He is one of the volunteers for the Tri-Valley snowmobiling club who makes the trails anew every year. Williamson is responsible for maintaining the northern part of the trail, through Rocanville, St. Lazare, Spy Hill and Tantallon. Each No-

vember, usually just after the first major sonwfall, he packs the trails by dragging a metal drag, pulled by a track-tractor, over the trails. Then, along with other vol-unteers, he puts up the thousands of the trail's safety signs, which indicate to the trail's vafety signs, which indicate to the trail's vafety signs, which indicate to the trail's vafety signs, which indicate to the trail's detay shead. hazards ahead. "You see how often there are signs," he

tells me when he stops at a fork in the trail. "It takes a lot of time and work to put them

up," Throughout the season, which usually runs from December until mid March, he grooms the trails with the snowmobiling club's groomer to ensure that snowdrifts along the trails are flattened and its surface

stays smooth. The Tri-Valley trails were first created in the early 1990s by Ken McLeod and a group of local residents who wanted a place where people could safely ride their snow-mobiles. Since the trails are marked with

TRIPLE

safety signs -ranging from 'slow,' 'stop' or ones that indicate sharp turns ahead—and are surveyed each year by club members like Williamson, there are no dangerous surprises that snowmobilers can run into and be seriously injured by. Each winter, snowmobilers in Canada and the United States are killed after they hit a hidden ob-stacle, such as a stump, rock or fence, while riding on land they are not familiar with. So, while those who use the trails are looking for fun, safety first is still the motto of the trail system. Later in the day, I learned the dangers of snowmobiling when we flew by a hidden messy tangle of old fence posts and barbed-wire. Williamson slowed the snowmobile to make his point.

"Now, you see how fast we are going. If there wasn't a trail and I didn't know this land and had been travelling 20 feet to our left, it would have been bad," he said.

But despite the lessons that I learned on the trails, there wasn't much on my mind

at the time but wild enjoyment, and I was smiling as the woods, stones, hills and roads flew by at 80 km an hour.

Williamson's first stop of the day was to take me to a major intersection of the trail system on the west side of Highway 8 just south of the Rocanville turnoff. He wanted to show me one of the major kinds of ed to show me one of the major kinds of signage that are posted along the trails— maps and directions. There is a blue desti-nation-distance sign, stating '5t. Lazare 37 km, 5py Hill 34 km,' both arrows pointing north. And there is a black sign with a map the transformation of the statement of on it. It's backside, Williamson tells me, points north. The maps on all Saskatchewan snowmobiling trails point north, to give snowmobility tails point foru, to The map shows where we are on the trail system and what trail we are on Each trail on the map is numbered, and the one we are on, which goes from Moosomin Lake to Spy Hill, is 312A.

RANCH

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I are used one active this in Saskatch-ewan, where English is everywhere? In a minority context, a close collabora-tion between school, family, and commu-nity becomes key to instilling French lan-guage and culture in a child, right from an early age an early age. The Conseil des écoles fransaskoises

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Horticulture for the Prairies

special type of person—the "gar-dener with spunk." This is likely due to the passion that seems to be present with this unique group of stewards of the earth that results from our variable and challenging climate, the extra short growing season and that deep desire to beat the odds and "grow it all." Yes, the Prairie Gardener is often almost revered.

This love of the earth and this quest for knowledge coupled with a growing horticultural industry was the impetus to spawn the Saskatoon School of Horticulture (SSH). This fully accredited school offers a curriculum that blends together the academic and practical to form a graduate that has met their personal needs in their quest for knowledge and experience and has also sup-plied the industry with manage-ment personnel that helps all of us enjoy the fruits of horticulture!

The need to supply people to serve the ever growing number of garden-ers and serve an industry that has not ers and serve an industry that has not stopped growing has ensured that our students and graduates are fully employed doing what they love and making the salary and reaping the benefits they desire. Our graduates have become important players in the golf course, parks, field and pro-duction greenhouse, landscaping, medicinal plants, interiorscapes, horticultural therany industries and medicinal plants, interiorscapes, horticultural therapy industries and more. This field we call horticulture is a vast entity that provides a fer-tile employment market with many possible careers either working for yourself or for established horticul-tural businesses.

SSH offers a variety of programs that are delivered either face-to-face or by distance. Students studying at the school in Saskatoon are encouraged to begin in September while distance education offers start dates in May, September and January. Students that are studying by distance do have to complete a practical por-tion to their studies but it is offered in a variety of locations and with a flexible schedule that can include evenings and weekends. This en-ables those interested to build a new career to do so while still maintain-ing their current profession or to be home with their families. We aim to be a school that not

only meets the needs of our students academically but also embraces our individual life needs so you can be guaranteed an enjoyable educational experience. If you are looking for a new mean-

ingful career then we might just be the right fit for you. Join us and grow your future and build the ca-reer of your dreams.

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Living on the Prairies breeds a





Parkland College Celebrates 40 years of educating

Parkland College is celebrating its 40th anniversary by doing what has made it successful over the past four decades—focusing on its diversity and adaptability to serve the education and training needs of adult learners and industry partners in East Central Saskatchewan.

8

Since its inception in 1973, Parkland College has worked to expand the philosophy of life-long learning in the Parkland region. Among the seven basic principles upon which the Saskatchewan community college system was founded is the idea that programs are to be devel-oped in response to the needs of the community. Today, Parkland Col-lege delivers hundreds of program sessions at its campuses in Canora, Esterhazy, Fort Qu'Appelle, Mel-ville, and Yorkton. Students can choose from a broad spectrum of educational services from trades training and high school upgrad-ing to the province's most diverse off-campus university offerings. The trades and industrial area

is an example of the responsive-ness and flexibility of Parkland College. For example, the College is again offering the SIAST Multi-Mechanical Trades program in Yorkton. In just 26 weeks, students learn the skills necessary to work in the Heavy Equipment, Truck and Transport, Agricultural Ma-chinery, and Automotive Service trades. The popular Boom Truck, Crane and Hoist Operator pro-

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College

gram returns to Fort Qu'Appelle in September for 13 weeks. And new for 2013 is the 12-week Railway Conductor program which will

Parkland College in Melville is home to two popular emergency services programs: firefighting and paramedic training. The 14-week National Fire Protection Associa-tion (NERA) 1001 tion (NFPA) 1001 – Professional Firefighters program gives gradu-ates a comprehensive blend of the ory and practical skills required for ory and practical skills required for an entry-level career. This year's student intakes, called platoons, are scheduled for March and Au-gust. Meanwhile, the 18-week Pri-mary Care Paramedic (PCP) pro-gram trains graduates for work with ambulance operations, fire services, industrial sites, mining sites, military departments, or spe-cial care facilities. The next PCP program begins in November. To meet the steady demand for

To meet the steady demand for special care aides in the area, Parkland College continues to offer the one-year SIAST Continuing Care one-year SIAST Continuing Care Assistant Program in Yorkton. Graduates typically find employ-ment in home care settings, spe-cial care facilities (such as nursing homes), and hospitals. Two full-time programs are slated for 2013: the spring session begins in April, followed by a fall program starting in Sentember Part-time courses are in September. Part-time courses are also available throughout the year. Parkland College offers more than 130 courses from the University of Saskatchewan and the Uni-versity of Regina. Students in Yorkton can complete several degree options at the undergraduate and master's levels from these institu-tions. Bachelor's degrees available at Parkland College include Social Work, Indigenous Education, Geography, Justice, Northern Stud-ies, Police Studies, and Sociology. Graduate degrees are offered in Master of Education Administration and the Master of Nursing

tion and the Master of Nursing (coming soon). Along with these diverse training options, many students are drawn to the unique learning environ-ment at Parkland College where class sizes are typically smaller. Students flourish in a friendly and welcomine setting where their welcoming setting where their teachers know them by name. Instructors and counsellors are dedicated to their students and have a

passion for life-long learning. The College also offers a very generous scholarship program. More than \$100,000 was awarded to 103 students enrolled at Parkland College in 2012. The benefits are two-fold: students don't have to leave the community to further their education, and they don't in-cur the costs associated with living away from home.

To inquire further, call Parkland College toll-free at 1-866-783-6766, or visit www.parklandcollege. sk.ca. Additional information can be found at www.facebook.com/ CollegeofChoice.



January 2013







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Salute to Advanced Education

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These are the skills taught at Lakeland College's Stu-dent Managed Farm (SMF)—powered by New Hol-land. Lakeland, Alberta's oldest agricultural college, hosts one of the few student managed working farms in Canada. Located at Lakeland's Vermilion campus, it's also an of the largest student managed form in it's also one of the largest student managed farms in North America. Lakeland's SMF has been in existence for more than

20 years and was developed with input from industry representatives, educators and farmers. A multi-year

20 years altu was developed with input nominators in representatives, educators and farmers. A multi-year partnership with New Holland has enhanced Lake-land's SMF operation by providing students access to new equipment with state-of-the-art technology. Lakeland's SMF has two components—crops, and livestock with beef (commercial and purebred), dairy and sheep units. It has access to 1,700-plus acres of college-owned land, purebred Black Angus and com-mercial cattle herds, Dorset and Arcott sheep, and Hol-stein and Jersey dairy cattle. Students studying Animal Science Technology and Crop Technology put their classroom theory to work with hands-on learning op-portunities on the SMF. Students in Lakeland's other agricultural sciences programs (Agribusiness, Animal Health Technology, Western Ranch and Cow Horse, Veterinary Medical Assistant, and General Agriculture) also use the SMF for project work.

Veterinary Medical Assistant, and General Agriculture) also use the SMF for project work. For each of the SMF's beef, dairy and sheep units, student teams manage responsibilities such as feeding and grazing, facility maintenance, disease prevention and treatment, herd management, genetics manage-ment, finance and recordkeeping, and marketing. Stu-dents meet regularly then bring key decisions forward at weekly management meetings. Instructors mentor and guide students but decisions are made by stu-dents. dents

Lakeland students also represent the SMF at indus-try events. At November's Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, the SMF sheep unit placed first with its pen of three commercial ewe lambs. The SMF commercial beef unit also had a great showing. The students took three pens of animals and won Grand Champion Futurity Pen of five Bred Heifers and Reserve Cham-pion Pen of five Feeder Steers. For details visit www. lakelandcollege.ca or phone 1-800-661-6490.

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Salute to Advanced Education

SRC: Southeast Sask's one-stop-shop for higher learning

With over 35 years of technical and trades certifi-experience in delivering cate programs through its education and training to southeast Saskatchewan, southeast Saskatchewan, Southeast Regional Col-lege (SRC) puts people and communities in touch with a variety of higher learning opportunities that can change lives and lead to successful careers. With campus locations in Moosomin, Whitewood, Moosomin, WhiteWood, Indian Head, Weyburn, Estevan, and Assiniboia, the key benefits for SRC students include a quality educational experience in a familiar environment without the inconvenience and cost of relocating to a larger centre.

Just what types of train-ing and education oppor-tunities are available at SRC?

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION SRC delivers a variety of main educational partner, SIAST. Some of these programs are offered on a full-time basis, which means that they typically start in the Fall and students are in the classroom all day. However, some SIAST certificate programs may be offered on a part-time basis in which students can atand weekends in order to accommodate their work schedule. Students taking these programs receive the exact same instruction that they would at SIAST and receive a SIAST certificate upon graduation.

Upon graduation. Other post-secondary courses from SIAST, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatch-ewan are available at SRC through online or tele-

vised distance learning. SRC provides televised instruction and computer lab services to access these courses

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION SRC's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program is for adult learners wanting to complete high school, meet post-secondary entrance repost-secondary entrance re-quirements, improve their employment opportunities, or develop personal skills. Taught by qualified teach-ers the Grade 10, Grade 12, and General Education Development (GED) prep courses are delivered at the Moosomin, Weyburn Estevan, and Indian Head campuses as well as Kah-kewistahaw, Ocean Man, Ochapowace, Piapot Ur-ban (Regina), Piapot Valley (on-reserve), and Pheasant Rump First Nations locations





FULL-TIME TRADES & TECHNICAL TRAINING **PROGRAMS STARTING IN FALL 2013:**

PROGRAM	LOCATION	START DATE
Electrician	Estevan	October 28
Office Education	Estevan	September 3
Power Engineering	Estevan	August 19
Electrician	Moosomin	October 7
Office Education	Moosomin	October 7
Esthetician	Weyburn	October 21
Hairstylist	Weyburn	October 22
Continuing Care Assistant	Whitewood	October 15

All programs listed above are SIAST-accredited certificate programs. Watch www.southeastcollege.org for more details as they become available.

To receive an information and registration package on any of these programs, contact us toll-free at 1-866-999-7372.

Courses and locations are subject to change



English as Another Language (EAL) classes are well attended in five different SRC locations.

ENGLISH AS

ANOTHER LANGUAGE Since 2009, SRC has been working with the federal and provincial govern-ments to provide English training to permanent and temporary residents across southeast Saskatchewan. SRC's EAL instructors are dedicated and enthusiastic about teaching. They have a combination of teaching degrees, classroom experience, CERTESL training, and experience teaching overseas. EAL students are assessed on their English abilities, and then placed in either Beginner or Intermediate classes to further mediate classes to rurner develop their speaking, lis-tening, reading, and writ-ing skills. EAL classes are delivered in the evenings at five different SRC locations

SAFETY & INDUSTRIAL The Saskatchewan Ener-

gy Training Institute is a di-vision of SRC that special-izes in industrial and safety training courses. Employer and industry regulations quite commonly require employees to be certified in various areas in order to perform job duties. One of the most sought-after safety training courses the College offers is CPR/ First Aid/AED. Training in Heavy Equipment opera-tion, 1A Trucking, and defensive driving are popular as well. SRC also provides specialty training for the oilfield through its main training partner, ENFORM. A team of SRC Business Consultants works with

employers to determine which SRC programs, courses, and services will benefit their operations. BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEUR Many businesses need

to train employees on the job. SRC has access to a variety of training options to strengthen those technical or soft skills. From Micro-soft Office to QuickBooks, computer training is avail-able in a classroom setting or one-on-one at the office if required. For current or aspiring managers, SRC has partnered with the Southern Alberta Institute Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in order to provide one-day and two-day workshops throughout the region. In-structed by experienced business professionals, the workshops deliver parchi workshops deliver practical, skill-oriented, and in-teractive business knowl-edge on a variety of topics including Leadership, Suincluding Leadership, pervision, and Human Resources.

PERSONAL INTEREST For those who simply want to learn something new, SRC runs a variety of personal interest courses personal interest courses throughout the year. Digi-tal photography, Spanish for Beginners, and Intro-duction to the Internet, Email, and Facebook are just a few of the courses available at various cam-pus locations. And if you enjoy learning from the comfort of your home com-puter, SRC's Ed2Go online learning centre offers aflearning centre offers af-fordable, fast, fun, and convenient courses on a wide



A Student Services Counsellor at SRC provides student support from registration through to graduation.

range of topics.

To HELP YOU GET STARTED ... Career counseling is a Career counseling is a very important service that SRC provides free of charge. SRC's Student Services Counsellors are dedicated to supporting students in their efforts to be successful in achiev-ing their endomin ing their academic and ca-reer goals. This includes providing information on educational options, completing the application and registration process, identi-fying learner supports, and job search strategies. Counsellors also assist students with identifying and ap-plying for additional funding, including the \$75,000 in scholarships and bursa-ries that SRC's awards annually.

To inquire about a program or course, or to set up an appointment with a Student Services Counsel-lor, simply call SRC toll-free at 1-866-999-7372. Visit www.southeastcolleg.org for more information, including a complete A to Z course listing. Social media users can stay connected with SRC's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or Twit-ter account. Finally, SRC's Tradewinds course catalogue is mailed to residents in southeast Saskatchewan twice a year and is also available at each main campus. Whatever your education

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2012 GMC K1500 SLT



Crew, 4x4, 6.2L V8, GAT, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather, 853, Cf5, AP3, BTV, PDD, PDJ, JF4, JL1, White, 29,637 kms, was \$39,995 3 \bigcirc

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2011 GMC CANYON EXT

2011 GMC K1500 SLT EXT 4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr., PDD, PDF, UD7, AP3, 18" Alum, Steps, JL1, Blue Grnt, 37,155 kms, was \$35,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2011 GMC K1500 SLE CREW 4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, PDF, AP3, 17"Alum, JL1, G80, Z82, White, 93,517 kms, was \$26,995 NOW \$25,995

2010 GMC K1500 SLT CREW 4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr., CF5, AP3, DVD, 18"Alum, Z82, Z71, PDF, NZZ, DK Blue, 110,671 kms, was \$26,995NOW \$24,995

2005 GMC K1500 SLT CREW 4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, 17"Alum, AU0, NZZ, 6CD, UK3, Silver Birch, 147,674 kms, was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995

2005 GMC 1500 EXT RWD L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL, 40/20/40, Keyless, 17"Alum, CJ3, Boxliner, G80, ite, 71,117 kms, was \$10,995

2005 CHEV K1500 LS EXT





100,955 kms, was \$17,995 NOW \$15,995

2009 CADILLAC SRX AWD

2008 CHEV SUBURBAN LT

AWD, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather, 8 Passenger, DVD, 18" Alum, UD7, BTV, V92, XM, Gold, 93,805, was \$26,995 Л \bigcirc • -

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Sedan, 2.2L 4 cyl., 5 Speed, Buckets, CD, Silver, 44,774 kms. 2010 CHEV COBALT LT

2.2L 4 cvl., 5 Speed, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, Kevless, 15"Alum, CD

2009 CHEV COBALT LT COUPE Team Canada, 2.2L 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, AP3, 16"Alum, Spoiler, XM, UK3, Red, 117,178 kms, was \$11,995.....NOW \$8,995

2009 PONTIAC VIBE AWD 2.4L 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, 17" Alum, Keyless, CF5, XM, UK3, Prem. Audio, Blue, 73,252 kms, was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995

2009 PONTIAC G6 GT COUPE 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL, Buckets, 17" Alum, AP3, Monsoon, Sunroof, UK3,

2009 PONTIAC G6 SE COUPE 2.4L 4 cyl., Podium Edition, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, CF5, AP3, 17"Alum, UK3, WhiteDmnd., 92,818 kms, was \$15,995 ... NOW \$13,995

2009 PONTIAC G6 SE SEDAN

2008 CHEV IMPALA LS

2008 CHEV IMPALA SEDAN 2006 CHEV INITALA SEDAN 50th Ann., 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, CF5, 18"Alum, AP3, UK3, BlackGrnt, 146,629 kms, was \$12,995NOW \$11,995

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2007 PONTIAC G6 SE SEDAN NOW \$7,995 2010 Chevrolet Aveo LT



OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED CARS

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2007 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX in, 3.8L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16"Alum, R 107,000 kms, was \$10,995

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2006 PONTIAC G6 GTP SEDAN Htd. Lthr. Buckets. Sunroof. 18"Alum. JF4. AP3.



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2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4, 2.5L 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 17"Alum, CD,

2010 CHEV EQUINOX LTZ AWD, 2:4L 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, AP3, 18"Alum, UD7, UVC, XM, Mocha, 80,114 kms, was \$25,995......NOW \$24,995

3.6L, V6, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, Luxury Pkg.., 17"Alum, C3U, AP3, Conv. Pkg.. JF4, 7Pass., WhtDmnd., 83,080 kms, was \$25,995NOW \$23,995

2008 CHEV SUBURDAN L1 4X4, 6.0L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, AP3, UD7, 17"Alum, CF5, 6CD, DK Blue, 105,304 kms, was \$27,995 NOW \$26,995

2007 CHEV TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4, 4.2L 6 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, 17"Alum, Keyless Boards, GreySTONE, 115,930 kms, was \$15,995......NOW \$14,995 **OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED VANS**

OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED CARS

A safe and fun trail for snowmobilers

14

Continued from page 6 "Where we are sitting," Williamson tells me, "is a ma-jor intersection, and each intersection has a you-are-here """

sign." Williamson then gives me a basic overview of the sig-

Williamson then gives me a basic overview of the sig-nage and the stakes with green reflective tape at the top, which mark the sides of the trails. "The idea of the stakes is that they all have reflective tape on the top of them, and you get an idea of where the trail is going to go. Each curve is marked. The stop-aheads are all ahead of the stop signs. "It's beging the ability on the spow, with all the same

are all ahead of the stop signs. "It's basically a highway on the snow, with all the same signs and everything." We cross the highway and fly down the trail, which runs parallel to the highway about 15 metres east. For the next 15 minutes, we go through open fields. With nothing to cover my neck, the cold wind bites. "We'll be in the woods soon enough," Williamson tells me

me

We then cross Highway 8 and head west

'This is probably the busiest highway in Saskatchewan,' Williamson said. Directly ahead to the other side of the highway is a sheet

Directly ahead to the other side of the highway is a sheet of grey poplar trees topped with snow, standing as a wall. We enter the trail as if heading into a cave and continue on. The trees offer a nice variety to the open fields. For the next 20 minutes we are mostly in the woods, interspersed with a few recently cleared fields. We come upon a sign that is lying on the ground, and Williamson slows the snowmo-bile and gets off to pick it up and jam it back into the snow.

All around are large hoof prints. "You see those? A moose came by. He sniffed it and knocked it over," Williamson said. Williamson's actions regarding safety speak louder than his words about the issue. He has a sense of responsibility and ownership for the trails, and he can't risk the chance a snowmobiler could crash after missing a fallen safety sign. We stop a number of times to pick up downed signs. Deer are another culprit. Williamson said there are many of both

"We have been fortunate that, up to this point, we haven't had anyone hit them. But sooner or later, with the amount

of sleds, there will be an accident I'm sure," he said. We continue on through the woods, and pass through a number of short, dipping valleys. The scenery begins to differentiate from the monotony of the forest. Sometimes we run through the middle of the thick bush, and in others

we run through the middle of the thick bush, and in others it is through a thin woodland with small cattle pastures. We suddenly reach the open field. We stop again; it is another major intersection. A sign indicates that straight ahead is 5py Hill, and to the west, our left, is Tantallon, both 18 km away. "Pretty soon we'll be on top of the Qu'Appelle, and you'll be able to get some good pictures from there," Wil-liamson tells me. By then we are in an open field and fly-ing along at the trail's speed limit of 80 km an hour, rising along a slow incline that stretches for miles. In the far dis-tance, miles off, rises a rectangle over the hill. It's the head frame at Scissor Creek. frame at Scissor Creek.

Just over the hill comes one of the day's best views: the Qu'Appelle Valley, as seen from its southern ridge. Wil-liamson veers right and drives north for 100 metres, stops the craft and turns it off.

"It's quite picturesque here," he said

The valley scoops out to both sides, a huge geographic scar that sticks out of its surrounding Prairie landscape like crater. From there it looks kind of like a painting, with tall dead grass of orange, brown leafless trees in the fore and the same ones looking blue on the other side of the valley, splashed onto the canvass of the white snow. We get back on the trail and continue on. Before long, we

We get back on the trail and continue on. Before long, we are diving down the valley's slope into its bottom. It takes us about 15 minutes to travel through the valley. We reach the old CP rail line at Bear Creek, long since abandoned. As we drive up the old road back up to the ridge, there are two old brick buildings, one an old store and the other a house. There windows are broken and their doors long fallen off, showing the peeled chunks of paint hanging off the interior walls. At one time, when people used to live in the area and the train stopped at Bear Creek to bring in groceries and other goods, the one on the right was a store and the one on the left where the store-owner lived. "People used to come in here for their groceries," said Williamson. "The train would supply the store, and the

Williamson. "The train would supply the store, and the store would sell to the people in the area." "I remembering coming to shop in this store when I was warea."

young," he said. It is one of the hidden gems of the Tri-Valley Trail sys-

tem, and it provides a history lesson. "There aren't too many of these old buildings left from

back then. Most of the time when someone buys a proper-ty with old buildings on it, they're torn down," he told me just before we took off again and climbed the valley and headed south toward one of the trail system's signature attractions: the Hilton Lodge. It took us about 10 minutes to reach the Hilton from the

abandoned store. While the Hilton was nice, the first thing that struck me was its location. The Hilton, a warm-up camp about 15 by 20 feet that was built by Williamson and 17 other members of the snowmobile club in the 1999, is 17 other members of the snowmobile club in the 1999, is perched on top of a 200 metre deep and 300 metre wide ra-vine called the Logan Coulee, its features more sharp and poignant than the Qu'Appelle due to their immediacy. I hadn't seen anything like it, and I didn't think that type of terrain existed in this part of the province. "Wow, what a spot," I tell Williamson. "Yeah it's a nice one," he told me, casually. "Adam Vm isst size to so in and chet tun a fire so it's.

"Adam, I'm just going to go in and start up a fire so it's warm in there for tonight," he said. Just then, four snowmobilers, the first we had seen all day, motored around the path and into the yard of the Hilton. There were two men and two women; they were two couples, or each other's 'squeezes,' as they told me later. We went over the formal greetings and went into the

Hilton

Thiton. One couple was Linda Bock and Roger Smith, the other was Reva Sutton and Mike Mayers, all in either their 60s or 70s and all living in Rocanville. "I don't think there is anyone who has ridden the trails

more than Roger. He would be a good one for you to talk to," Williamson told me as the group was unpacking their

to," Williamson told me as the group was unpacking their food and coffee and tea. The couples sat by the fire and drank their coffee and tea and munched on potato chips. "We'll probably be here for three hours," Bock said. Williamson and I stayed there talking to the couple for the next hour. We talked about the trail system, snowmo-biling, and some other small talk. It turned out that all of these snowmobilers are wilv yet.

It turned out that all of these snowmobilers are wily vet-

erans of the trail system. That week, they had ridden the

"That's all these guys do is ride the trails of four different days, traversing 100 km each day. "That's all these guys do is ride the trails. You don't see them anywhere else," Williamson joked. "They lay awake at night waiting for the groomer to start." Smith and his common-law wife Bock once rode their snowmobiles from central Saskatchewan to Cold Lake, Alth. for a concurrent/jung forting.

snowmobiles from central Saskatchewan to Cold Lake, Alta. for a snowmobiling festival. "You know, you can ride your snowmobile from coast to coast in this country through the trans-Canadian snowmo-biling trail system," Smith told me. Smith and Bock got into snowmobiling seriously in the late 1990s, when they discovered the Tri-Valley Trail sys-tem, and there was then no turning back. At one point, Smith said he would ride five days a week, and for each ride he would coure? 200 km central to the hearth ride, he would cover 200 km, only 70 km short of the length of the entire trail system.

"In the past, we (he and Bock) used to be snowbirds, but once we saw how well these trails were done, it was much more fun than heading south for the winter," he said. The reasons that they like the trails are numerous, but it

The reasons that they like the trails are numerous, but it is because the trails are safe, marked and provide an easy way to see wonderful terrain that they ride them so often. "We're seeing coyotes, we're seeing deer, we're seeing moose. And the scenery too!" said Sutton. "I've seen areas that you would never, never see if it wasn't for the trails; it's beautiful, beautiful, beautiful," she said, her voice ris-ing in pitch and enthusiasm with each beautiful. Without snowmobiling, they all agree that they would have a fairly boring winter, a time of the year they now look forward to. "Us old foeevs. we're in our late 60s and 70s, and it's

"Us old fogeys, we're in our late 60s and 70s, and it's a heck of a good thing to be able to go out and do some-thing like this. It's better than being a couch potato," Smith

The cabin is also another very attractive spot along the trails, and its a most famous stopping point, and one of the few places where the trails' users can meet and socialize with one another. As our conversation was winding down and dusk was approaching, Williamson said he would see them later, because, after all, it was Thursday evening, known by the Tri-Valley regulars as Lodge Night at the Hilton.

On a good Thursday night, the Hilton can be packed, with people riding their snowmobiles from as far away as

More people ruling their shownbolies from as far away as Moosomin to attend. "You can see as many as 50 snowmobiles parked outside here on some Thursday nights," he said. The two couples were going to wait at the Lodge and en-joy their tea and coffee while waiting for others to come. "Tonight we brought cube steaks. We'll be cooking steak on the fire." on the fire

on the fire." "It's a fellowship," said Williamson. By around 4:30 Williamson and I got on our helmets and made way to the snowmobile. I signed the Hilton Lodge guest book and told the couples I hoped to see them later. The ride back was nice, a quick 18 kilometres that flew by. Riding on the back and looking around, I thought to myself that a Saskatchewan winter doesn't seem so formi-dable when riding on a scrowmobile instead it seemed like

dable when riding on a snowmobile; instead it seemed like something that one has to go out and greet. We arrived back at Universe Satellite just before dark, at around 5:20, finishing the easiest afternoon of work that I have had. It seems clear to me why Smith doesn't go down to Flor-

ida for his winters anymore.



No need to fret RRSP season

A majority of Canadians feel anxious about RRSP dead-lines, but Saskatchewan Pension Plan (SPP) General Man-

ager Katherine Strutt says there's no need to stress. "People often put off saving because they think they need a lot of money to do so. Even putting a little away each month will help your retirement savings grow over time. At SPP, our 26-year return rate has averaged nearly 8 per cent.

A recent BMO Financial Group study found that 60 per cent of Canadians feel anxious about trying to find money to save for retirement and that nearly half of Canadians who make annual RRSP contributions do so in one lump

"Lump sum contributions are definitely popular," says Strutt. "People have busy lives complicated by many ex-penses, and it can be challenging to contribute the same amount to a retirement plan every month. SPP is designed to accommodate that. We understand that real life hap-

pens, and it's important to us that we continue to be a

pens, and it's important to us that we continue to be a flexible retirement savings option." SPP is a leader in its field and is open to all Canadians aged 18 to 71. Investors can put in up to \$2,500 per year. Established in 1986, the plan is professionally managed and offers low annual fees of about one per cent. "Policy makers have spent a lot of time looking for ways to encourage Canadians to save more for retirement. But wir one of a kind' more an has been here all along," says

our 'one of a kind' program has been here all along," says Strutt.

Twenty-six-year-old Brady Hood is a big fan of SPP. Not only is he a plan member, but since last year his Sas-

Not only is the a plan memory but since last year his sas-katoon-based family business, Olympian Sports, has of-fered SPP as part of its employee benefit package. "Even though I'm young, I see that SPP is a good place to start investing, and it will open doors for our staff to do their own investing too." SPP is the 28th largest defined contribution plan in

Canada, and has grown to over 32,000 members and more than \$300 million in assets The RRSP contribution deadline for 2012 is March 1, 2013.

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piece of the mountains not too far

IST Continued from page 5 Each year the Asessippi Ski Area and Resort sees around 80,000 guests, and the resort got its millionth guest this past New Year's Eve. Around 60 per cent of those who use the hill are skiers, and around 40 per cent are snow boarders, Pulo estimates. People come from all over the come from all over Prairies to ski or board the hill, and most of the visitors are from within a twohour driving radius of the resort.

"Dauphin and Virden and Yorkton, they're all really good communities. Obviously our neighbor-

Obviously our neignoor-ing communities, Russell, Roblin, Inglis, are all fan-tastic supporters." "Winnipeg is a huge market, as is Regina. We have a huge amount of season- pass holders who live in those cities," said

live in those cities," said Pulo, who has been in-volved with the resort since prior to its opening. Since downhill skiing and snowboarding aren't traditional winter ac-tivities for those from the Prairies the manacement tivities for mose non-arc Prairies, the management at Asessippi has spent a lot of time and money towards making the hill

more accessible for those who are beginners, Pulo said.

"We're really focused on teaching more people how to ski and snow-board. We've spent a half of a million dollars in up-grades to make it easier to learn and the carpet, which takes people to the top of the bunny hill. We also graded the top of the bunny hill to make it flat-ter and less challenging for those who are learn-

ing," Pulo said. On Friday, Jan. 18, there were around 100 people at the hill, which is a low number due to it being in the slow season, which always comes following the busy Christmas holiday. Some were flying down the hill, while others were the hill, while others were cautiously winding their way down, a good mix of the novice and the ad-ept. There was plenty of empty hill to take fast runs and great powder to make sharp cuts. Going at full-till, the average skier will make it to the bottom in about two minutes with about two minutes, with some areas having a rela-

tively steep slope. School children make up

Asessippi Homecoming

February Long Weekend

Sunday

Friday

a large portion of the visi-tors who frequent the hill, and on Friday there were a couple of bus loads of school children who made a class trip to the hill, but when they left, the lodge was quite vacant. The lodge is a large wooden building, looking quite quaint and naturally rustic, matching the pine and poplar trees surrounding it and the hill. The lodge has two main floors. The bottom floor is where the rental equipment is stored and doled out and where visitors go to get day pass-es. The first floor has a food court and a couple of rooms where people can sit and eat, and it also has a bar at the wing closest to the hill. The bar is quite cozy, and on Friday there was about 15 people en-joying a few drinks with friends

friends Most of them are Australians. In fact, Australian and New Zealand accents seem to be the dominant dialects in the bottom floor where the equipment is handed out. There is around 20 something Aus-tralians and New Zealanders working at the resort,

Open

9:00 am

to 4:30 pm

Open

9:00 am

to 8:00 pm

all on work visa and most living in a bunk house at the resort, which they say is like living in a hos-tel. There was a group of about eight of them sitting about eigni or men and at the bar and carrying on. The Australians say they The Australians say they have a really good time working at the resort and don't mind working with the New Zealanders, their native country's friendly

international rivals. "We have to live with them, and they're alright," quipped Tegan Davidson, a 24-year-old woman from Melbourne. "The resort is a good

"The resort is a good place to work," added Matt Shaman, a 25-year-old from Sydney. "We love the scenery, the people, the atmosphere, the lifestyle —it's cruisy."

All of the eight Austra-lians at the bar are snowboarders, and they each work around 40 hours a week at the club. But they say the job is quite relaxed and their bosses are easy to work for.

They first arrived with the start of the season in mid November and had all planned on staying for the six month season, but some think they'll extend their stay and stay on with the resort for the summer.

One of the things they notice most about the re-sort, which they take to represent all Canadians, is polite everyone is—the all-Canadian stereotype. "Canadians and the

people at the hill are nice,



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Two snowboarders coast slowly down from the top of the hill, about to make their trip to the bottom. The expansive view of the Assiniboine Valley spreads out in the background



everyone comes here and has a few drinks and goes skiing or snowboarding, not after too many drinks, of course.

"But, in general, people come here with a smile on their face and leave with an even bigger smile on their face."

a school trip to the hill. very friendly. They're very welcoming and very well-mannered."

When asked what they like best about the ski area and resort, some say they like the hill, some the at-mosphere, and some say they the bar. Shaman likes

the bar. "At the end of the day,



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Resort is open late until 8:00 pm with a huge fireworks display approximately 8:20 pm

Monday, February 18,

Come on out on Monday and celebrate Louis Riel day, with kids face painting, Kids movies, and demos Sunday & Monday offered by Fresh Air Experience.





Plain and Valley

February 2013



Continued from page 1 So, the theatre has de-cided to meet this reality of the movie industry and get a digital projector like commercial theatres have done. But raising the funds won't come easy. It will cost \$90,000 to make the switch, and raising that money will take vears. Pat said. "We and raising that money will take years, Pat said. "We would be very lucky if we could raise the money in two years. It will probably be longer," she said. The digital projector seller that Pat and Gerry

spoke with said that they will need to have all of the money needed to buy the projector before they or-der the equipment: as soon der the equipment: as soon as they order, they will have to pay half of the to-tal cost; when they get the equipment, they will have to pay 40 per cent of the remainder; and they will have to pay the rest before it is installed, which will be around a week or two after around a week or two after

This puts the Maryfield Theatre in a tight spot. Be-cause if the availability of movies on 35 mm film decreases to where the are nearly unavailable, the theatre won't be able to stay open—there won't be enough movies to show.

"It's definitely a possibil-y," Pat said.

ity," Pat said. Shutting down, even temporarily, will in turn make it more difficult for the theatre to raise the money, she thinks. "If we aren't showing movies, people will be less interest-ed in the theatre, and then it will be really bard to raise it will be really hard to raise money, because the theatre wouldn't be a functioning

entity," Pat said. Since the theatre hasn't made much of an annual (it accrued an \$800 deficit in 2012), the Auditorium Committee will need to rely on auctions, donations and things such as bake sales to raise the money for a digital projector. The town has also projector. The town has also applied for a grant from the federal government for a new digital projector. Mem-bers of the Auditorium Committee have started the initial planning for the first online auction for the cause

"People will donate stuff, they show pictures of the prizes, people bid on the prizes, and they will have a three-week span to bid on them," Pat said.

them," Pat said. The four people who were at the theatre's Sunday, Jan. 20 showing of Killing Them Softly would be quite disap-pointed if the theatre ever has to shut down. Couples Rob and Freda Hill and Phil and Kay Smith were the night's only spectators. The Hills are originally from Maryfield but moved away for 30 years and then away for 30 years and then returned several years ago. The Smiths, originally from

Wales, moved just outside of Maryfield around five years ago, and they have been coming to the theatre since they moved in. Both couples usually come out to a movie at the theatre at least once a week, either on Friday evening or Sunday,

"We try to. It's kind of hectic this year with different things going on. But pretty well every year we try to make it to the theatre every weekend," said Phil, who is getting ready for lambing season on his and Kay's sheep farm. If there wasn't a theatre

in Maryfield, the Smiths and the Hills think they probably wouldn't get to see many movies, with the nearest theatres being in Moosomin, Redvers, and Virden.

"We probably wouldn't, would we?" Kay said, half questioning and half real-izing, as she looked at the other three moviegoers. "It's a distance far to go,

and it's only ten minutes from home now," she add-

from nonite now, sinc acce ed. "Especially not on a night like tonight," quipped Phil. "You probably wouldn't want to travel too far." One of the things that the Smiths and the Hills like about the theatre is that it chosen a wide variety of the

shows a wide variety of the newest movies, but they newest movies, but they too are aware of the grow-ing challenge that comes with projecting on 35 mm film. "These guys are get-ting top of the line shows, but they're having a tougher time now because every-thing is going digital," Rob said

Rob and Freda used to attend movies at the theatre regularly in their youth, be-fore they moved from the town. Rob thinks there isn't another building in town as good for hosting public events as is the auditorium

"The theatre is an impor-tant part of the communi-ty," Rob said. "Downstairs is used a lot for dances and weddings. It used to be used for funerals because it is the only place in town that can house everyone. "My grandmom's funeral was in here," he said. Rob said the theatre is nearly the same as it was

back when he watched moves here as a youth, with a couple of differences. "It was the same theatre,

same lights, a different pro-jector since then, but not as many people come nowadays

The Adairs agree that there aren't as many people attending the movies in recent years as there were in the past. There are many reasons for that, the Adairs reasons for that, the Auans think. The digital age that is forcing their hand in get-ting a new projector for the theatre also has afforded youth with many options



Adam Wightman photo Gerry Adair preparing the reel on the Maryfield Theatre's 35 mm film projector for the Sunday night showing of Killing Them Softly.

for convenient entertain-ment that can be enjoyed at home.

"It is increasingly hard to get the young people to come, because there are so many things that they can watch and do and play without coming to spend money in the theatre. They can watch movies on their lap-tops with Netflix," Pat said.

Anna Macksymchuk, the administrator for the RM of Maryfield, was working concessions at the theatre on Sunday. She thinks that the decline in attendance at the theatre's movie nights is the result of a broader societal trend—the growth in the amount of time chil-dren's activities consume.

"It's difficult in a society where parents are driving kids for hockey all over the place, and many children's activities seem to be tak-ing parents everywhere. Sometimes, then, you just want an evening at home," said Macksymchuk, who volunteers to work admissions on the theatre's movie nights twice a year.

Macksymchuk said she tries to watch a movie at the theatre twice a month. because it is still one of the best places around to watch them, she thinks.

"The acoustics are so awesome. It's a pleasure to watch movies here. Any-time I have company I try to hit up a movie here with them, just because it's such a neat environment," she said.

said. Macksymchuk's praise of the theatre's acoustics seems counter-intuitive for a building so old, built without 21st century materials. But like so many old concert halls, the Maryfield concert halls, the Maryfield Theatre's great acoustics are very good, and are the first thing Pat and Gerry bring up when asked about the theatre's strong points. There is a story that Pat was told by her father about the reason why movies sound so good in the theatre. Her

father told her that a deaf man put up the acoustic tiles along the walls back when the theatre was con-structed, and he had a unique method for mak-ing sure they were set just wight

ing sure usy water any fight. "He tuned it with his hands on the wall. He just felt the vibrations on the wall, and he said, 'You need to tune it this way'" Pat said Pat said.

The prices are also much cheaper at the Maryfield Theatre than they are at commercial theatres, with commercial meatres, with admission running \$6 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$3 for children. A large bag of popcorn costs \$3. "You could never get

"You could never get that in Brandon," Mack-symchuk said. "They try to make it community-oriented. They're trying to focus on families. If you're bring-ing in a family of four or five people, it adds up." Other than movies, fu-nerals, weddings and danc-or, that sure how here to be

es the town has hosted a

number of concerts at the theatre. Saskatchewan Extheatre. Saskatchewan Ex-press put on a play last summer to celebrate the RM of Maryfield's 100th anniversary. Brad Johner and Sons played a concert as part of the grand open-ing of the theatre's elevator last spring The Carleton Showband, from Ontario, also played at the theatre. There have been many oth-ers.

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"We had a lot of differwe had a lot of differ-ent, more local people from southwestern Manitoba and around Saskatchewan put on concerts," Pat said. The Maryfield Theatre

is the town's best building for putting on shows of any kind.The future of the theatre playing host to these type of events is dependent on whether the theatre can Movies are the only thing that the theatre is regularly used for, and if the Auditorium Committee is forced to stop showing them, the theatre could fall into disrepair. "I'm

"I'm pretty sure it would—a committee isn't going to stay working hard to maintain the theatre if there is only an occasional dance or play. If there is no income or things going on, then things will start falling apart. It has a water system and an old radiator boiler system; it's old equipment, and you never know when a pipe will come apart," Pat said.

That makes it even more important for them to raise as quickly as possible the needed \$90,000 for a digi-tal projector. The Adairs are hopeful that things will work out and the theatre will continue to be able to show great movies and hold its place as a major centre of Maryfield.

"If we can raise this mon-y and have interest in the theatre, I'm hoping it will stay a viable building," Pat said.







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