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# Plain & Valley

February 2023 • Volume 16 Number 2  
Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Since 2019, Khristina drives from southeast Sask. to Chilliwack, B.C. every summer to bring around 130 backpacks to give to people living on the streets. "Even if my son wasn't on the streets, I would still be going back because that's what I've been called to."

## Backpacks for Chilliwack has a personal connection to helping people on the street

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

A mother of five from the Moosomin area in Saskatchewan, spends every year putting together backpacks full of supplies to give to people who live on the streets in Chilliwack B.C., one of whom is her son.

"Backpacks for Chilliwack is an Evangelical mission of handing out backpacks of necessity items for those who have found themselves in the lifestyle on the streets," said Khristina Lawless.

"Most of them are addicted and with that comes homelessness, and really, the addiction is just a manifestation of symptoms. There's a deeper route, most of them have suffered enormous traumas in their life which has then led them into self-soothing use of substance. This initially numbs them of their pain, but eventually the addiction takes over and it's no longer numbing the pain of the trauma they endured.

"Now they have the trauma, the pain they were trying to kill, and now they're addicted, then homeless. Some people in addition are functioning addicts, and some have found themselves homeless, and my son is one of them."

Lawless explained how her son, Trystan, ended up living in Chilliwack.

"His journey started out here. We are originally from a small town. We are cattle ranchers and he suffered enormous traumas within his life, within the educational system," she said.

"He tried to find a skill to cope with his trauma, but because of his cognitive disability from high functioning ASD, he lacked the ability to cope, and ended up dabbling with drugs. That's where it started, and eventually it led him to homelessness in Regina.

"There's gaps in the system where you can't get them into

detox. There's gaps where there's no space for them in rehab or you're needed to pay out of pocket. There's so many tremendous gaps within these systems.

"So, he found himself homeless in Regina, agreed to go to a rehab facility. We looked into Teen Challenge and ended up sending him to Chilliwack for the program. He was in the program for about three weeks, then they ended up removing him which resulted in him being homeless on the streets."

With the hope of helping her son turn to recovery, Lawless has repeatedly visited the streets in Chilliwack for the last four summers.

"This (initiative) all started because of my son," she said.

"In January 2019 is when I first went to visit him. My eyes were opened to the extreme pandemic of homelessness and addiction that was there."

*Continued on page 3*

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# Backpacks for Chilliwack has personal connection

Continued from front

"A few months later is when I got the idea for Backpacks for Chilliwack. Then, in August 2019, I made my first trip out there with a load of backpacks in my SUV."

Lawless's faith in God is what pushes her to keep on fighting for her son, and continuously showing up for the people in Chilliwack.

"The idea came from God, I was called to do this," she said. "It's not just for my son, it's for many. There are many sons and daughters out there, it's a pandemic. How can I give up on my child? There's no way."

"A lot of them feel unloved. I've seen how society treats them, they treat them like trash and they're not trash. They are somebody's child. They have value, and that's part of what I do, is to go and just speak, to meet them where they're at to speak life and love, and value that their life has into them because a lot of them don't have families, or they have families, but their families have given up on them."

"Meeting people in the middle of where or what they're in is important with no judgment or condemnation, just compassion, hope, faith and love."

It was heartbreaking to see how people living on the streets are treated, said Lawless.

"People are rude to each other at the best of times, but when they encounter people who are homeless, it's a whole other level of rudeness," said Lawless.

"It's because of that stigma and perception of them deserving to be out there, that it's their fault they are out there. They don't want to be using, you ask them and they don't want to, but they don't know how to get out. And, when services aren't available to help them get out, it makes it harder."

Lawless usually goes to Chilliwack every summer, but something in her gut told her to make a trip during this past winter.

"I just felt called to go. I was having a really hard Christmas, some holidays are easier than others. Anyone that has a loved one who isn't with them, whether they've been taken away by circumstances outside of our control that can be death, kidnapping, that could be trafficking, that could be addiction, holidays tend to a little bit harder, and some holidays are just easier than others," she said.

"It just happened to be when I was booking the flight, his birthday fell in between. I didn't get my son for Christmas, but I did get to be with him on his birthday. We did spend it together, it wasn't how I liked, but such is life and I take what I can get."

## Communities and schools need to help out more, says Lawless

Lawless said she thinks if youth and students were



Throughout the years of continuously going to Chilliwack, B.C. to help homeless people, there have been many people who told Lawless how grateful they are for her kind services.

taught more about drug prevention, then it would help stop a lot of people from becoming addicts.

"There's a major gap within the education system, we're not educating our children on prevention for drug addiction and sex trafficking as well, just because I see such an overlap in those," she said.

"If we could prevent it we can save money in the long-run. Prevention is key, education is power, and we're not educating our kids."

"How are they supposed to know that one hit of meth can get you hooked? How are they supposed to know that fentanyl is deadly, that the size of a grain of salt can kill you."

"To me, it's very serious because I don't want people to have to experience the end I'm on. The children are our future, we're doing them and their families such a disservice by not educating them."

There's a lot of misconceptions about people who are struggling with addiction, said Lawless.

"People think that they want to be out there, that it's their choice. I would say that is one of the biggest lies or misconceptions because if you talk to any of them who are out there, they don't want to be out there. They want help, they want off. No one says I'd like to be a drug ad-

dict when I grow up."

## How can people help?

Throughout the year, Lawless purchases supplies and necessities in preparation for returning to Chilliwack in the summer.

"I've put money aside for this. I buy all of the backpacks, I buy all of the body washes when they come on sale," she said. "I want them to use the stuff and for them to know that someone put a lot of thought, time, love and care into making each backpack."

Currently, Lawless has funded almost everything on her own for Backpacks for Chilliwack. She has been trying to work towards becoming a recognized non-profit charitable organization, but has had no luck.

"I've been in the process of trying to become a non-profit organization so I can provide tax receipts for people because sometimes people want that option if they're donating," she said.

"I can't apply for any donations from large companies or corporations without one, they simply refuse. I'm looking for a lawyer or firm that would be willing to complete the legal part of that process, pro bono. I felt like the money I would spend on a lawyer was better put towards backpacks."

People who are interested in donating can reach out to Lawless through her Facebook page—Backpacks 4 Chilliwack. She has also set up a Conexus bank account to accept monetary donations if people wish to donate anonymously.

Although visiting her son in Chilliwack has been challenging, Lawless refuses to give up on helping him and others who are living a similar lifestyle to his own.

"A lot of people may think it's this loving welcome when I do see my son, it's not. He doesn't want me there," she said tearfully.

"It's extremely hard, there's a lot of tears that are shed. I wouldn't have chosen this journey for myself, for my family, but this is the journey that we're on and so, we're not going to waste the opportunity that is there."

"I get to see my son, I get to be in his presence and that has to be enough to sustain me until the next trip, because I always go with the expectancy that, this could be the trip that my son gets freedom, and that he gets delivered from this addiction. That this, might be the trip."

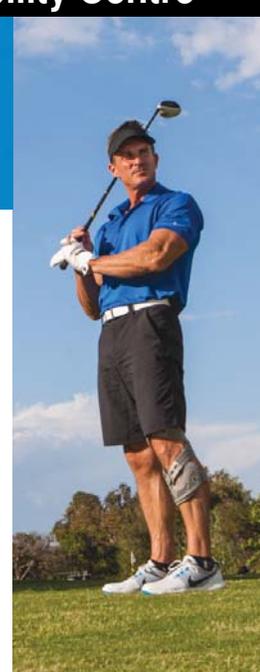
"You know, it hasn't been that trip yet. It's difficult sometimes coming back and processing everything that happened, to realize that wasn't the trip. That maybe it will be next time."

"That's hope, love in action. Love is an action word, love endures all, love conquers all, love never fails, love always wins."

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# Rocanville Lucky Lottery: \$86,000 donated to rec facilities



Volunteers working the phones during the final push for ticket sales at the end of the Lucky Lottery.

BY KARA KINNA

A total of \$86,000 has been donated to recreation facilities in Rocanville after the town resurrected its Lucky Lottery in the summer and fall of 2022, to help raise money for a major pool upgrade, as well as for the other recreation facilities in Rocanville.

In the end, the Lucky Lottery brought in \$69,949. A 25 per cent grant back from SLGA came to \$17,063, bringing the grand total raised for rec facilities to \$87,012.

The Lucky Lottery board will be keeping \$1,000 for Lucky Lottery startup costs in 2023, with the remaining \$86,000 being donated to the town's rec facilities.

Of that \$86,000, the pool received \$60,308, the rec centre received \$8,564, the skating rink received \$8,564, and the golf course received \$8,564.

Rocanville Rec Director Andrea Logan, who helped resurrect the lottery, says she was happy with how the lottery went.

"I was happy with that number. It was kind of an overwhelming experience," she says. "It was a bit scary to get the lottery going again because there are a lot of bills associated with the lottery, and there was a point in time where I was worried we wouldn't make anything. So to make that amount felt pretty good."

"It was definitely worth all the hard work. We've learned a lot from this first one, and I think we will do better this year."

Even though the pool upgrade was one of the major factors in getting the lottery going again, Logan says it was important to make sure all of the town's rec facilities received some of the lottery proceeds, and in future years, proceeds will continue to be divided up among the facilities based on need.

"For this year the idea to do the lucky

lottery came about because of the pool, but we wanted to make sure we were including all of the facilities," says Logan. "The pool is getting the largest portion this year, but that doesn't mean that's the way it's going to stay for upcoming years. It will change based on what we feel is needed."

How much work went into running the lottery? "A lot," says Logan. "We had a volunteer Lucky Lottery board that had nine board members. And then we had around 40 people helping with the phone blitz, and then we had all kinds of groups out helping to sell tickets—groups like the swim team and minor hockey and the seniors team and the golf club."

"So we had a lot of volunteers. It was a pile of work, but anything that is going to have a big reward is going to be a pile of work."

"Facilities cost money to run and they are all going to be requiring things. With the rec centre for example, we are converting that building from a curling rink to a rec centre, so that money is going to be put towards renovating it and making a better rec centre."

"The golf course could definitely use it. They purchased a new clubhouse and they are doing stuff out there all the time. The skating rink will be doing some renovations to the showers, and bathrooms in the dressing rooms, and then obviously for the pool upgrade it will be really helpful."

Logan says aside from the proceeds, one of the other benefits of the lottery was watching how it pulled the community together.

"It was actually really fun to do it. Seeing the community working together for the greater good of the community, it made it fun," she says. "It wasn't just one group trying to raise funds, but people

and groups working together to raise a big amount of money to benefit the entire community."

She says plans have already started for the 2023 Lucky Lottery, and she hopes to see the lottery become an annual event, although that will depend on factors such as available volunteers.

"We are going to do it again this coming year. We will be applying for our lottery license again right away," she says. "It will be decided year by year. We'll see how many volunteers we have, because it takes

a lot of manpower to do it, and see how it's being received and go from there. I'd like to see it sticking around for a long time."

"We've had a couple of meetings already just to talk about things we want to do differently this year, and when we want to get started, and we have picked our dates."

"I think if people purchased a ticket last year, they will be thinking of purchasing again this year. I'm hoping it will be just that much better and every year it will grow."

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# Citizenship the end of a long road for Santos-Cardoza family

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

It was the end of a long road for the Santos-Cardoza family Wednesday as the family gained their Canadian citizenship.

The family fled Honduras for Canada and applied for refugee status in Canada.

Their refugee claim was rejected, and the family was slated for deportation in 2017.

The community of Moosomin rallied around them, and on the day of a massive community rally for the family, an extremely rare ministerial order was issued to stay the deportation, the family's visas were extended, and they began a new application for residency in Canada based on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. That was accepted, and Victor, Lesi and Victor Junior became permanent residents in 2018. The youngest in the family, Edward, was already a Canadian citizen as he was born in Canada.

On Wednesday last week, the rest of the family became Canadian citizens.

The ceremony was virtual, over Zoom, but friends and supporters were there with the family in the Moosomin Legion Hall, with the ceremony projected on a screen, as they took their oath.

Victor Junior spoke for the family when he addressed the crowd.

"Today, February 1, 2023 will forever be a special day to us and to you as we celebrate our journey to citizenship and unlike many, we are privileged enough to share this very special moment with all of you, a whole community behind us," Victor Junior said.

"Today we want to thank God for giving us this opportunity to finally obtain our Canadian citizenship. This is a new beginning for us, a new chapter in our book and now we are happy to share the same rights and responsibilities and call this place home.

"Thank you to all of you who have been with us on this long journey, from the start or halfway through, wherever or whenever you heard about us—we owe our lives to you, since none of this would be possible without you nor God. Finally we are at the end of this citizenship process and at the start of our new life as citizens.

*Continued on Page 15*



On Feb. 1, the Santos-Cardoza family, Victor and Lesi and their two sons Victor Jr. and Edward, celebrated being Canadian citizens with the community at the Moosomin Legion.



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The primary focus of this traditional house is to provide a comfortable and happy home that supports the "Aging in Place" concept. This gives residents the comfort of knowing they never have to look at alternative living arrangements as care needs change. The Cobblestone House provides residents with a home that adapts to their needs, so residents never have to leave their community, their families or their friends. The goal is to keep community members part of their community at every stage of life.

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Assisted living (level 1 and level 2) is best suited for the second floor of TCH where meals and housekeeping duties are provided. Additional personal care is available as resident care needs change. As one's care needs increase to level 3 & 4 the resident would have an option to move to House 1 or House 2 on the first floor where their care needs can be better monitored. That is the aging in place concept that we strongly believe benefits our resident and families the most.

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**Above:** JJ Voss, left, and Lachlan Neville, right, performing on stage together in Moosomin. **Below:** The Bromantics performing in Maryfield.



### JJ Voss, Bromantics perform Feb. 4

February 4 was a busy night for entertainment in Southeast Saskatchewan, with JJ Voss and Lachlan Neville performing at a concert in Moosomin, and the Bromantics performing at the Maryfield Auditorium in Maryfield. JJ Voss impressed the audience in Moosomin with his roots country show, while emerging singer-songwriter Lachlan Neville from Rocanville opened for Voss. In Maryfield it was a full house at the theatre and a night of on-your-feet fun that had people dancing with the Bromantics' high-energy music from the '50s and '60s.

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# New Census numbers mean \$25,000 a year more for Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

New Census numbers for Moosomin mean at least \$25,000 more for Moosomin each year in provincial Revenue Sharing, or \$100,000 before the next census.

The provincial revenue sharing formula for 2022-23 includes \$212.90 per capita based on the 2021 census populations.

That works out to \$24,885.90 more that Moosomin would have received for the current year based on the now official census population of Moosomin, which is 117 people higher than the previous count.

Statistics Canada initially reported that Moosomin had a population of 2,675 in the 2021 census. The World-Spectator investigated and found that the number of households reported in the census were lower than the number of utility bills going out to households.

At the next Moosomin Town Council meeting after the World-Spectator's article, Mayor Larry Tomlinson suggested the town ask Statistics Canada to review the census numbers for Moosomin.

The town followed up with evidence that Statistics Canada's numbers are wrong.

Statistics Canada responded recently with a revised census number that is 4.3 per cent higher for Moosomin than the initial 2021 number.

"Statistics Canada has



undertaken a detailed investigation and has confirmed that the population and private dwelling counts were incorrect," Lise Rivais of Statistics Canada wrote.

The count of total private dwellings has been increased from 1,207 to 1,281 and the official census population has been increased from 2,657 to 2,774.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Government Relations told the World-Spectator it will increase Moosomin's revenue sharing grant in line with the higher population numbers.

"The results of formal Statistics Canada census reviews will be used for future year's Municipal Revenue Sharing calculations (2023-24 and on)," the ministry told the World-Spectator.

The department said it would not revisit the 2022-23 grant despite the fact that is based on what Statistics Canada now says are incorrect figures.

"The Town of Moosomin's 2022-23 Municipal Revenue Sharing grant will remain unchanged, since it was calculated on the official census count for the town at the time the grant was made," the ministry said. "That funding would remain the same whether the amended census number increased or decreased to avoid potentially clawing back provincial funding."

The 2023-24 Municipal Revenue Sharing estimates will be announced as part of the provincial budget in March.

The ministry told the World-Spectator it is ask-

ing municipalities to request a formal review of their census numbers if they feel there is an issue.

"The Government of Saskatchewan Municipal Revenue Sharing website reminds municipalities to request a formal review of their census numbers, if they believe an error occurred, and that the results of any formal reviews will be used for future years' Municipal Revenue Sharing calculations," the ministry said.

### Esterhazy numbers to be reviewed

While the review of

Moosomin's numbers has been completed and the census number revised, Statistics Canada will be reviewing Esterhazy's census number as well.

"Statistics Canada will first review our internal database, but may subsequently request additional documentation to help substantiate the error in the form of administrative records (e.g. assessment records, utility records, customer addresses, building permits, election lists or recent census counts), Derek Cheuk of Statistics Canada wrote to the town of Esterhazy.

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# Moosomin, Kipling receive TSS Grants

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
Moosomin and Kipling have both been approved for Targeted Sector Support grants.

The town of Moosomin will receive a \$25,000 grant for a feasibility study on a new community multiplex. The town of Kipling will receive a \$28,500 grant for a feasibility study on a new arena.

Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson said he is happy to see the TSS grant approved for the multiplex project. "Going forward into the future I think the multiplex is important," he said. "It's still a few years down the road, but if we get the groundwork done and if the feasibility study is done, that's a start and we can go from there."

"It's not going to happen quick, that's for sure, we're into the future with this, but it is important to get it started, and this will be the start of it."

He said he is happy to see the help from the TSS program.

"Absolutely this helps—it's a very good thing," he said.

"This is step one of the official process," Kipling Mayor Pat Jackson said. "We will be taking time to see how our community feels about it. This study will take a look at the location we have in mind. It's the next step in preparing the community for the next 60 years."

She said the RMs of Kingsley and Hazelwood are full partners with the



A basic rendering of what a new multiplex in Moosomin could include. The town of Moosomin will receive a \$25,000 grant for a feasibility study on a new community multiplex. The town of Kipling will receive a \$28,500 grant for a feasibility study on a new arena, which they have already started planning and fundraising for.

town on the project.

The current arena was built in 1967.

"Getting a new arena isn't going to happen in the next year, possibly not in the next several years, but you've got to start somewhere."

Government Relations Minister Don McMorris announced Friday 15 new municipal projects that will receive a combined provincial investment of more than \$500,000 under the TSS Initiative. The Moosomin and Kipling projects

account for more than 10 per cent of the total.

Other projects include developing a land use plan in the RM of Paddockwood north of Prince Albert, producing a shared policy manual for municipal officials in various west-central communities, and creating a regional emergency plan in the Lanigan area in central Saskatchewan.

"Our government is proud of its ongoing work and relationships with Saskatchewan's municipal associations to make

this initiative happen," McMorris said. "Together, we will help communities better serve their citizens by strengthening local governments across this great province."

Funding covers up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs.

"By investing in projects that foster good governance and encourage inter-community collaboration, the Targeted Sector Support Initiative is helping to strengthen Saskatchewan's hometowns and improve

the lives of our residents," SUMA President Randy Goulden said. "SUMA is proud to be a partner of this important initiative and we look forward to the benefits these new projects will have in our communities now and in the future."

"SARM couldn't be more pleased with the impact the TSS initiative is having in our communities," SARM President Ray Orb said. "We have experienced RMs using their grant to provide municipal governance training to not only their own elected officials, but officials from surrounding municipalities as well."

This is the fourth round of projects approved under the TSS Initiative, which is funded through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. SUMA administers this funding on behalf of the TSS Steering Committee.

TSS projects are funded under one of the following streams: dispute resolution and relationship building, capacity building, regional co-operation, and municipal transition.

All Saskatchewan municipalities are encouraged to apply for TSS funding in the next intake for applications, which is expected to open in early March.

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# Moosomin Census numbers don't add up

As Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson was speaking at the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week about the town's fight to correct the 2021 Census numbers, one woman said neither she nor anyone on the block was counted in the census.

"Neither was I," said the mayor. Case closed. Definitely people were missed.

Stats Canada admits that and is changing the numbers, adding 4.3 per cent to Moosomin's official count.

That's a start, but the official count is still low. And the more you look at the census numbers for Moosomin, the stranger they look.

The Census counts 280 Filipinos in the town of Moosomin under visible minorities, but it says only 160 people in Moosomin have a Filipino ethnic or cultural origin. Under visible minorities, the census lists 335 people as being part of a visible minority, but other than the 280 Filipinos, it lists zero under every other possible category. It says there are zero Koreans in Moosomin, zero South Asians, zero Southeast Asians, zero Central Americans. Anyone who has ever been to Moosomin can tell you that all of those are wrong.

According to the census there are only 20 people in Moosomin who speak Spanish, but I would swear our Honduran, Mexican and Cuban population is higher than that. But of the 20, Stats Can says ten are men and five are women.

The initial census numbers before the revision show 750 children in the community, precisely half of whom are boys and precisely half of whom are girls, 375 each. Strange that it would be exactly half, that looks like a formula has been applied, not an actual count, but I will concede that it's possible although extremely statistically unlikely. There is not a single grade at McNaughton High School today with the same number of boys as girls, and staff there say they can't remember there ever, ever being the exact same number of boys and girls in a single grade. At MacLeod Elementary School, of the 13 classrooms, one has the exact same number of boys and girls.

According to the census, 620 of those children are in two-parent families. Again, precisely half, 310, are boys and precisely half, 310 are girls. The statistical chances of that being accurate are astronomically low.

According to the census 125 children are in single-parent families. The number of boys and girls is identi-



Kevin Weedmark

cal, at 65 each, but add the two and you get 130, not the 125 total reported, and add the 125 to the 620 and you are a little short of the total of 750 children counted.

According to the census there were zero people 100 or over in Moosomin in May of 2021. I know that to be false. Looking at the Sask Health covered population numbers for June of 2021, I see one male at the age of 100. I know that to be true, and I know who that was. It shows one female at 101 and one female at 104. In a small town we all know those to be accurate because we know those people. Once again, Stats Can is simply wrong.

Those individuals who I can identify from the Saskatchewan Health numbers are among the 3,236 people that Saskatchewan Health covered who had a Moosomin address in 2021, a figure that had risen to 3,303 by June of 2022.

According to the census, there are 25 people in Moosomin whose first language is French, 10 of whom are men and 20 of whom are women.

If those numbers seem impossible, the census has another mind-bending factoid: there are zero people in Moosomin whose first language is a First Nations language, and five of the zero are men.

In one section, the census says only 150 people in Moosomin work in natural resource extraction (mining and oil) and agriculture, and all fields related to those industries.

But in the next section it says 130 work directly in mining and oil, and 75 work directly in agriculture, so 205 people work right in the mines, the oilfield or on farms, but only 150 work in those industries and everything related to them. Wow. This is the Twilight Zone of censuses.

According to the original census numbers for Moosomin there are 60 Baptists in Moosomin, only 10 of whom are male and 45 of whom are female. Pastor

Jonathan Shierman laughed when I told him there are 10 male Baptists in Moosomin—he gets many more than that at his Men's Bible Study, let alone at church on Sunday.

Now what I want to see is what attributes Statistics Canada applies to the 117 people it is guessing live in the 74 households it admits it missed. What religion, language and income will it apply to them to make the numbers add up? Perhaps it will add some to the Anabaptist (Hutterite or Mennonite) column. According to the census there are 10 of them in Moosomin, but zero of them are men and zero of them are women.

Statistics Canada used to know how to conduct a census, as government agencies have done very accurately for hundreds of years.

Censuses used to be accurate. I can look up the 1911 Census of Ireland and see one of my grandmothers listed, Rebecca Crumley, nine and a half years old, able to read and write at that point, a member of the Church of Ireland, and listed with her eight siblings and parents. At age nine and a half her occupation was listed as 'scholar' along with the other school-age children.

I can see in the census which house they lived in, in Moross, Rosnakill, County Donegal. I can see that they had quite a few outbuildings on their farm, with a stable, a barn, a 'cow house' and a separate 'calf house,' a piggery, a 'fowl house,' a 'potato house,' granaries, and sheds. And I can look at the 1901 Irish census and see the family at that point, and know that it is all correct, and I can see the family in the 1916 and 1921 Canadian censuses once they came to this country.

Somehow they were able to count people accurately in 1901 in rural Ireland, and in 2023 Statistics Canada appears to not have that ability at all. I can see a glimpse of reality in those Irish census numbers. And, as much as Saskatchewan Health says its count of active health cards is not a census and cannot be used as such, I see reality in those numbers. I know that 100 year old man they reported. We took a picture at his 100th birthday, and his 101st. I know those other Centenarians in Moosomin.

But Stats Can says there is no one in that age group in Moosomin.

I do not see Moosomin's reality reflected in StatsCan's numbers. I see an impossible mishmash of numbers that just don't add up.

## Incentive Packages for Healthcare Workers



The Government of Saskatchewan is offering one of the most generous incentive packages in Canada for healthcare workers who fill hard to recruit positions in rural and remote areas. Packages ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 will be paid over a three-year period with a matching Return-of-Service agreement.

These packages will be designated for certain positions such as: Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and many other professional areas.

For more information on location and eligibility visit:

[saskatchewan.ca/HHR](https://saskatchewan.ca/HHR)

## Minister will ask SaskTel to look at prioritizing border areas

New cell technology should make it easier to cover an area up to the border without crossing it

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

After becoming aware through the World-Spectator of poor cell phone reception along the provincial Sask-Manitoba border and it affecting residents' access to emergency services in rural areas, the minister responsible for SaskTel, Don Morgan, stated the crown corporation will be looking into the matter.

Many people living along the Manitoba border area complain of limited cell service the closer you get to the border.

SaskTel said that problem is the federal Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission does not want SaskTel signals bleeding across the border into Manitoba, as SaskTel licenced to serve only Saskatchewan.

The company says current technology is imprecise, so the signal cannot go too close to the border without creating a danger of the signal bleeding into Manitoba.

Communities like Welwyn, Fleming, the RM of Moosomin, Fleming and Maryfield have been experiencing cell-phone reception.

According to one first responder in Welwyn, coverage is so bad that calls to first responders' cell phones often do not go through, or messages come through on the cell phones hours later.

Some people have had trouble making 911 calls from along and near the border, as the calls are continually dropped.

SaskTel says that should be partially fixed by new cell technology which allows a more precise signal footprint.

The technology is being rolled out across the province, on 1,000 cell towers, over five years.

In an interview with the World-Spectator Thursday, Morgan was made aware of the issues along the border and said he will ask SaskTel to see if the new technology can be rolled out as soon as possible in border areas with cell coverage issues.

"If we've got gaps, those are gaps that we can look at on an individual basis," he said.

"There is an issue immediately close to the border areas in the province.

"The licences to SaskTel do not allow us to broadcast out of the province and so, as you're approaching the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, the signal will drop off."

With SaskTel's plan to invest more than \$1.5 billion to expand its 5G network across the province in the next five years, Morgan was asked how the government prioritizes which locations are worked on first.

"SaskTel prepares a list. They focus on where traffic is and the amount of subscribers there would be in a given area," he said.

"If you're in an area where there's a small town close to the border, they are more likely to have a large scale tower. If you're in an area where it comes up to the border and there's no traffic, then all you have are the towers that go along the highway.

"SaskTel 5G will have huge bandwidth where you have coverage."

Morgan said 5G may be a solution for border areas. "The



Minister responsible for SaskTel Don Morgan says he will ask SaskTel to look at poor cell phone reception in rural areas along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border due to safety concerns.

signal itself does not go any further than a 4G signal, but it may well be able to be controlled better, and maybe they want to look at whether they need to put up another tower or are able to control it," said Morgan.

"If I know the areas that are there, we can certainly go back to SaskTel and ask them to look at it."

"Based on your request for the interview, we asked SaskTel to have a look at where it is at on provincial border areas," Morgan said. "What I can do is, I'll have SaskTel give us some answers for the area that's immediately around where the concerns are." A point that SaskTel can make is probably very accurate, that you can be more precise with it. We'll have a discussion with them and see if we can re-configure on it."

"Right now we've got over 1,000 towers that need to, I don't have a specific time frame for Maryfield and Welwyn, but those are ones we're going to have to ask them to look carefully at."

"We will not be able to service grid roads or something that's off the major highways, but we would be able to cover all of the major highways in and through the province.

"We've got relatively good coverage on those, we've also started to move into smaller towns and business communities.

I know SaskTel is moving ahead with fibre network into those areas because they have to have the fiber infrastructure that goes out to the 5G towers.

"But, if there are areas that have a gap, then we need to well look at and address them as well.

"We're also looking at some issues of coverage in the north.

"Along the Hanson Lake Road, we're looking for the federal government to partner with us on some of those things. We are working on those initiatives."

Morgan spoke about why it is a conflict if SaskTel networks go across provincial borders under Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) requirements.

"It's how the licensing works. The licensing is done by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and it's a prohibition," he said.

"We can't do it because it interferes with whoever the competing provider is on that side of the border.

"Bizarrely enough on the south side of the border, where we enter to the U.S., if you drive close enough to the border in the Estevan area, you'll get three to four miles into Canada and get an email saying you're now roaming in the U.S. because that's where our signal (starts) running out, and the U.S. has no such limitations.

He spoke about how upgrading SaskTel networks to 5G will improve internet speed.

"It's an increased amount of bandwidth. If you have a connection there you'll be able to download a game, newspaper, or movie, whatever else, almost instantaneously. It is blindly fast when you have the coverage," he said.

Morgan was asked if he heard about poor connectivity issues happening on the Sask-Alberta border, and if residents were having safety concerns as well.

"I'm not aware of it on that side. I'm aware of it on your side as a result of this call," he said.

"I know we would like to have better coverage in a number of places. The good thing is as our province grows, there's a growing demand for more bandwidth. People are using their devices more and more which makes it a better financial option for us to try and increase coverage more, by adding more capital to it."

Aside from upgrading SaskTel networks across the province to 5G, the crown corporation also invested an additional \$100 million in its Rural Fibre Initiative to expand its infinet program.

There are six phases of the program, with communities for Phase 6 still being finalized but expected to be fully constructed by the project's deadline of March 2025.

Morgan spoke about what SaskTel is prioritizing at this time.

"Two to four years ago, they spent several hundred millions of dollars upgrading the cell service across the province. They added a number of internet towers and that is where we got up to the 1,000 towers that exist in the province now," he said.

"We're doing towers everywhere where there was a major highway going through, and they've been going back to add towers where there are gaps.

"If there are gaps near the border than that's something we're going to have to work with them on, to try and get covered off.

"If you have someone who has got a coverage issue on the major roads, I ask you have them call my office and we'll have a look at it."

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# Construction for apartment buildings in Moosomin will start spring, developer tells Chamber members

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
On Jan. 24 at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting, Evan Keller of Keller Developments introduced himself to members, and gave an update on where the company is at for building two apartment buildings in town.

"It's a good opportunity for us to come out and meet the community. I want to thank Kevin, Mayor Tomlinson and the town council for being so supportive as we started this whole journey probably a year ago," said Keller.

"Our intentions are to start construction on the project this spring. We are a pretty vertically-integrated company. We have a lumber store, an electrical company, all those things in house, but we're very open to working with local contractors."

Based in Brandon, Manitoba, Keller said he is looking forward to working with the community in Moosomin.

"We're thankful for all of the support. There's been many open doors as we came into the community. We met with some business owners and sort of got a feel for it over the last little while," he said.

"I was here, about seven or eight years ago, with RBC. I worked as a commercial account manager so there's some familiar faces in the room.

"If anyone has any questions please reach out. I brought along my general



Evan Keller of Keller Developments spoke about his company's plan for building two apartment buildings in Moosomin, and how excited he is to be working with the community.

manager from our lumber store Jace, to get a feel for the community and see what's going on here. It's pretty cool to see how filled this room is, I can definitely sense there's some good energy out here."

Kevin Weedmark of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce asked Keller why he chose Moosomin to build the apartments in.

"I think there's lots of positive things happening here," said Keller.

"We sort of sensed it, I guess. Even in Brandon you can sense what's going on out here. We see the housing need, we sort of

have had a success in that multi-residential world, it just seemed like a natural fit to look down the highway.

"We have done projects here in Moosomin before, we did frame the hotel next door."

The two 12-unit apartment buildings will be built on South Front Street between Ogilvie and Albern.

"The apartments will be for rent, we are going to put the buildings in the market. That's just our mode of operation as we don't keep everything, we keep about 50 per cent of what we do,"

said Keller. "We are prepared to keep what we are going to build, but if there's local investors that want to buy it and have us manage it, we're 100 per cent open to that."

He said Keller Developments is planning to build mostly two bedroom and three bedroom units, as of right now.

Construction is expected to start in May or June of this year, and should be completed around the 12 month mark.

## EECOL Electric opens in Moosomin

The manager of EECOL Electric in Moosomin, William Schnellert, informed members about the opening of his new business in town.

"We're the electric distributor throughout western Canada. We have branches throughout Ontario all the way to Moosomin, to Alberta and B.C.," said Schnellert.

"It's exciting for the new traffic now that we're open in Moosomin. We're looking to support the electrical contractors that are currently in town. As well as the mines and other businesses that need electrical products, we are here to support you too."

"We're hoping to be a part of the community and help you guys with growth in the future."

Chamber members wel-

comed Schnellert to town. The new business is located on 1815 Celebration Drive in Moosomin. This is

the company's sixth location in southern Saskatchewan.

Continued on Page 19

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Above: The horse drawn wagon rides were packed full of people.

# Winter Wonderland

Moosomin Regional Park hosted its second annual Winter Wonderland event on Sunday, Jan. 22. The day included horse-drawn wagon rides, dog sled rides, skating on Moosomin Lake, and hot dogs, roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate. With warm winter temperatures that day, hundreds of people came out to enjoy the event.



Above left: Lenox Nosterud gets a push on his sled. Above right: Hunter Flaman helping to chop wood.



Left: Armie and his daughter Primrose Visperas getting a ride on the dog sled.



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# Cenotaph Centennial celebration in 2024

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting on Jan. 24, Brian Beckett told members about the Cenotaph Centennial committee's plan for arranging a huge anniversary event in June 2024, in celebration of 100 years for the town's cenotaph.

"I've been elected as the chair for the Cenotaph Centennial committee. The committee had its first meeting in September 2022 to start planning the celebration for the cenotaph in Moosomin," said Beckett.

"The focus of the committee at this point has been on selecting a list of dignitaries, designing the invitation, and getting addresses and emails.

"The dignitaries we are inviting, and hope they show up, is we're starting at the royal family and working our way down to local level politicians. We've got some high ranking military officials we're going to invite too. PPCLI from Shilo, Manitoba will show up, and of course some First Nations officials.

"The date we have picked is June 8, 2024. That's a few months before the actual anniversary date, but the end of August is just not the best time to try and do anything, with the long weekend and everything else happening.

"Once we've done all the invitations, we'll start to concentrate on the itinerary of events for the day. That will depend a lot on what



dignitaries will come, as to what protocol and security issues we'll have to have."

Moosomin's Cenotaph was constructed in 1924 and dedicated to the memory of those in the Moosomin and District who died in the Great War 1914-1918. Later, names were added commemorating those who died in the Second World War and the Korean War.

"We've had some discussions about holding a grand event just like how the armory centennial event was held, back in 2013 I believe," Beckett said.

"On the committee we have about seven people sitting, but we want to get as many organizations,

service clubs, and as many individuals as can be involved in this project.

"One thing about this town, is that most organizations have put on big events so this committee is really hoping that groups will come out and say, 'we'll look after supper,' or 'we'll look after getting hotel rooms for dignitaries,' whatever we need to do. Any help is greatly appreciated.

"When it comes to funding, we're applying to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Last Post Fund for grants, which can only be used at the cenotaph. I will be talking to Mike (Schwean) and see what

else we can come up with."

Beckett said he is proud to be working with the committee in preparation

for this big event.

"I am a Legion member, but this is not a Legion thing, this is a town event.

We should be very proud of the cenotaph we have, it's one of the handful of cenotaphs in all of Canada to have a bronze statue, most of them are cast or just granite.

"Any assistance offered will not be turned down, and if we can accomplish half of the plans we had discussed, it will take a lot of help. If you would like more information you can talk to myself, Jack Thompson, Kayla Duke who is our protocol officer. As well as Garry Towler, Greg Nosterud or Kevin Weedmark.

"The next 18 months will be very busy and we'll be looking forward to working with all of the volunteers. I just want to thank the Chamber for letting us tell you what's happening."

In 1924, about 3,000 people came out at the opening for the cenotaph at Moosomin.

Beckett said the committee would be happy if they received about 1,500 to 2,000 to come out next year for its celebration of 100 years.

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# Citizenship the end of a long road for Santos-Cardoza family

Continued from Page 5

"We want to give a very heartfelt thank you to Ralph Goodale, Dr. Robert Kitchen, Russell and Yvonne Slugoski, Kevin and Kara from The World-Spectator, Sinclair Harrison, Devona Putland, Bill Thorn, Mario Zavala and Roselyn, Murray Gray, Larry Tomlinson and the rest of the Town Council, and all the communities in Saskatchewan that were involved in different ways throughout our process."

"Thank you Canada for allowing us to live in this beautiful and blessed country," Victor Junior continued.

"Thank you Moosomin, Saskatchewan for believing in us, for welcoming us and for taking us in with open arms. We are proud to be part of this community and more importantly, proud to be Canadians.

"God is now starting to reward us all throughout these troubling 12 years we have spent battling it out. God sees your support and your kindness, therefore will give back to you all that you gave for us. Your actions do not go unnoticed.

"We want to confirm this as an act of perseverance and persistence. Everything is possible in this life if you believe in yourself. We learned many life lessons throughout this process and today we want to share them with you.

"We not only want to show our gratitude, but be an inspiration to other immigrant families who are on their path to citizenship. No matter how hard the end result may be, just know that all things are possible with hard work, persistence and a little bit of faith, because if you truly desire it, all things come to fruition.

"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude."

In an interview following the ceremony, Victor Senior said he is breathing a sigh of relief now that the family are officially Canadian citizens.

"It's a big relief," he said. "I feel more peaceful, with less stress. It's a relief off our shoulders for sure."

Lesi said there were times when the family wasn't sure they would ever get to this point.

"There was one time when Victor said, 'No, no more. We'll just give up. We can't do anything else,' because we had no choice, we couldn't apply for anything else. Then some friends from the community, part of the small Spanish community, they knew that Victor had said we were going home. So they all gathered together, brought us some money, and they said, 'We have this money. You can contact your lawyer and tell him that you want to continue with another process.'

"There was another process, like a humanitarian one, and we could still apply for it for a third time. So I said ok, we'll see. But I said to Victor, 'You can ask the lawyer what we can apply for or what we can do.' The lawyer said, 'Yeah you have this option that you can continue.' It was at that time that we decided to go ahead. But I remember that there were times where we thought it was impossible to continue with the process because immigration kept saying no. We didn't have many options left, only that one option."

Lesi says the family has always felt at home in Moosomin.

"Especially here in Saskatchewan, in Moosomin, we feel at home because the people are so friendly. I remember when we came here the first day, we came from Toronto to here and we were driving through Moosomin and everybody was saying Hi. We were like, 'Oh how do they know us? This is the first time we're here.' Then Victor said, 'Wow the people here are so friendly.' Since then we've felt like we're at home. We can go anywhere and we don't have to worry about anything like our safety.

"We could've landed anywhere else but Moosomin just felt like the right destination. Especially with the people here like we mentioned previously. For example, Mario Zavala and Roselyn were the ones who encouraged us to move here and take that step, or rather that leap of faith to come here and try to apply all over again. I think it was well worth it, well worth the risk because now we're reaping the benefits of our risk and we couldn't be happier."

"We owe a lot to the people in the community who helped us out," says Victor Junior. "We owe this victory to everyone involved no matter how big or small their impact was, we owe it all to them and we're truly thankful for the hospitality and kindness that we've received from them."

Victor Senior says he wants to help others, to pay forward the kindness they received.

"If we see something. If we see problems and someone who needs help, we're going to be here for them to help," he said. "If they need anything or even something like advice, we are here to help. If anyone is in trouble and needs help, we are here for whatever we can do."

The family is well settled in the community now, with Victor Senior working at the mine, Lesi working in health care and taking classes so she can move up in the health care system, and Victor Junior apprenticing at Mario Z Construction and considering a future bid for Moosomin town council.

Victor Junior sums up what they learned through the whole experience.

"It's perseverance and persistence. Not giving up no matter how hard the goal may seem. Ultimately trusting in the community too, to help us out along the way, and taking their help. Realizing that this can't be done alone. You do need those good people along the way, like yourselves Kevin and Kara, and the rest of the community that has helped us. It couldn't have been done without them so I think that's what we've really learned here. It was a community effort."



Scenes from the citizenship ceremony, including local supporters and Chief Cadmus Delorme.



## Chief Cadmus Delorme speaks at oath ceremony

Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nation spoke about why he felt it was important to show up in support of the ceremony.

"This is Treaty, this is a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Canadians," Delorme said.

"When the Town of Moosomin asked me to come I said yes, absolutely. We have to make sure we're present as First Nation leaders and, today to watch this family take their oath, to know all of the struggles they've been through, to now be proud Canadians.

"To be a proud Canadian today comes with joy, but also comes with responsibility. I was here to show them my appreciation on sharing this beautiful land and how we look forward to building it together."

Delorme was asked what it felt like to see the citizenship ceremony take place.

"The oath was very impactful. You can just hear it in the oath on how passionate someone can be about Canada," he said.

"Being here my whole life, I've never recited the oath, I just take it for granted that I'm a Canadian and I'm First Nations.

"Just to watch them today, just to see the joy and to see the town come together like this, I don't think this family will ever forget this day just because of how the community



came to support a mother, a dad and their sons."

Cadmus was asked what he thinks people may take for granted as Canadians.

"Our beautiful land, our economy needs more Canadians and new Canadians, and it's going to happen in the next 50 years," he said.



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Above and below: Some of the delicious burgers that were on offer during last year's Burger Blitz.

# Sharpe's Burger Blitz is back Feb. 13-18

BY KARA KINNA  
 Sharpe's third annual Burger Blitz is back from Monday, February 13 to Saturday, February 18, and this year the week-long event will include even more restaurants than last year.

There will be 10 restaurants involved in the burger blitz, including the Red Barn, Cork & Bone, Witch's Brew, Fleming Windsor Bar & Grill, Moosomin Dairy Queen, Nutrien Sportsplex, TJ's Pizza, The Crate

House, Blueberry Kitchen and the Rocanville Town & Country Golf Clubhouse.

Sharpe's Crop Services started its burger blitz in 2021 as a way to promote Canadian agricultural products, timing it to coincide with Canadian Ag Day each year.

The event was a hit with over 2,000 burgers sold at local restaurants the first year, and 2,600 burgers sold last year.

It also gave Sharpe's a way to support the local restaurants while promoting the

ingredients used that come from Canadian agriculture.

People who try the burgers will also get a chance to vote on their favorite burger, and fill out a Burger Stamp Card for a chance to win \$500 in a draw for every four burgers they purchase.

"It started as something different to do for Canadian Ag Day," says Lori Yeske with Sharpe's who is helping to organize the Burger Blitz this year.

"It exceeded our expectations. We didn't expect for people to sell that many burgers, and now we are expanding into other communities."

Yeske says the restaurants and customers seem to look forward to the burger blitz.

"I get a couple restaurants that ask if we are doing it again each year. They are definitely excited for it to happen every year."

*Continued on Page 19*



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# Construction for apartment buildings in Moosomin will start spring, developer tells Chamber members

Continued from Page 11

## Idea for opening a rural package pickup business in town

At Tuesday's meeting, Matthew Pister discussed his idea for setting up a building in town, for rural residents to have easier access to picking up delivered packages.

"We want to support people who live here and outside of town who do not have access to any sort of courier or PO Box deliveries," said Pister.

"We want to have a building that's available 24/7 that couriers have access to, where they can drop off the package and not have to worry about the location of it.

"The courier would arrive, drop it off, and the person will receive a notification on their phone through text or email, saying the package has been delivered. They'll also have access codes to enter the building, which will be available 24/7.

"It's to serve the rural community, and to have access to couriers for people who live out of town. It will also serve people in town if they want to secure packages and be able to pick them up whenever."

The goal for the rural package pickup building is to give people easier access to getting parcels delivered and picking them up, especially for people who live outside of town on a farm or in a surrounding rural community.

Pister is currently in the process of working on the administration details for developing the business to be in Moosomin.

"After getting a little more exposure, I'm still in the feasibility stage, but so far it's been a positive interaction," he said.

"Hopefully after another month or so, of sending post-cards, Plain & Valley ads, Facebook ads, we'll gain more support."

An individual at the meeting asked Pister if he has a location in mind for the business.

"I don't have a building selected. I have some options with the buildings in town that are available," he said. "There are some buildings that would work, it's all looking feasible as of right now, but we're still deciding."



**Left:** William Schnellert manager of EECOL Electric in Moosomin told Chamber members about his first week being open for business. **Right:** Matthew Pister shared his idea of having a dedicated building in town for rural route package pickups.

# Sharpe's Burger Blitz is back Feb. 13-18

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"It feels good. It always seems like it's talked about lots—when winter hits people asks when Burger Blitz is happening. It's nice that it has taken off and the last two years it has grown each year for burger sales.

"And it will be interesting to see what happens this year with a few businesses from out of town joining. It's nice to involve other communities in the area.

"It's about Canadian Ag Day and helping support the local businesses too. We've had a few thank yous for them saying it's a really good week for them and they really do sell lots. And I think it gets different people into their businesses that typically wouldn't maybe go there all the time."

Yeske says it's not just rewarding for the local restaurants and customers, but for Sharpe's as well.

"It helps to get our name out there and help out the local businesses. It's rewarding. As much as it's not as much work on our part as it is for the local restaurants making the burgers, we do still feel quite rewarded by how well it does."



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**Firefighters take water rescue course**

Twenty firefighters from Redvers, Carn-duff and Carievale participated in a water rescue course on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29 in Redvers. Above are a few firefighters training in -23 C weather. The team was out there all day learning and training.



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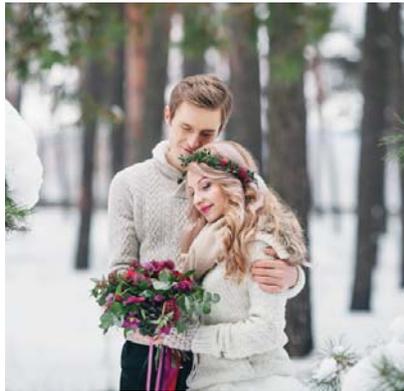
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**Tim Kristoff**

kristoff.mmp@gmail.com  
 306.631.4369





## 5 tips for planning a successful wedding

Did you recently get engaged? Are you planning your wedding? If so, follow these five tips to ensure your big day is a success.

### 1. Arrange accommodations

If your reception is taking place in the countryside or you have guests attending from out of town, consider making arrangements with nearby hotels. This way you can ensure people attending your wedding will have somewhere to stay.

### 2. Be prepared for any weather

It's important to be prepared for any weather on your wedding day, especially if your ceremony or reception will take place outdoors. You should think about what to do if it rains, how to keep your guests warm in the evening and if there's a need to ward off bugs.

### 3. Set and keep a budget

Wedding costs can escalate quickly, so it's essential to keep an eye on your budget. Consider placing all your important documents and bills in a binder and only using one credit card to pay for your wedding expenses.

### 4. Determine if kids will be involved

Decide if you want to invite little ones to your wedding. If children are welcome, specify whether they must be under parental supervision or if child-care will be provided.

### 5. Keep a list of contacts

You must co-ordinate many different people and services on your big day, including the caterer and DJ. Therefore, it's a good idea to keep all important phone numbers on hand leading up to and during the wedding.

If you want to make sure you don't forget anything on your big day, consider working with an experienced wedding planner.

## 5 fresh bridalwear trends for 2023

What you wear as you walk down the aisle is one of the most significant decisions for your wedding day. Do you envision yourself in a classic bridal gown, or do traditional styles feel confining to you? To help you express your unique personality on your big day, 2023 has plenty of fresh design trends to inspire you.

### 1. Something blue

An alternative to classic white, blue is the darling of bridal dress designers for 2023. Look for gowns in shades like periwinkle, ice blue and cornflower.

### 2. The little white dress

If you have a playful spirit, a daring cocktail dress provides ease of movement so you can kick up your heels. Bridal designers offer an array of white party mini-dresses embellished with ornate details befitting the classic bridal gown.

### 3. Bridal pantsuits

Do you want a look that's less fairy princess but doesn't compromise on the drama? Bridal fashion is making huge strides with

striking white heirloom separates. These immaculately tailored suit pieces will easily integrate with your post-wedding wardrobe. You may consider adding romantic flourishes like lace, bows or a tulle train.

### 4. High slits

Picture the classic bridal gown with a flash of femme fatale. An elongating glimpse of the leg can balance the fullness of your dress's silhouette. Wear a delicate strappy sandal to extend your leg line.

### 5. Conscious choices

If you want to express your values in your gown choice, look for a brand that uses sustainable fabrics or repurposed antique lace. Some designers also contribute portions of their earnings to support environmental and social justice efforts.



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- Stage risers for head table
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# Farm pride, from one generation to the next

With a healthy ground cover of snow in our area and a whole lot of days of hoar frost (how beautiful was that?), we have our fingers crossed for good moisture levels come spring seeding. In the meantime, all this snow means all sorts of fun for outdoor enthusiasts. My favourite is sledding. While I personally leave the 'going down the hill' to the kids in an effort to keep the new hip in tip-top shape, I love when the grands get out with their sleds and calf sleighs to ride the hill.

Such was the case a week or two ago when I took my youngest grandson (eight) to a hill in Regina. What an incredibly beautiful day it was—blue skies, trees hanging heavy with hoar frost and temperatures just perfect for an afternoon of outdoor fun.

"Did you toboggan when you were little?" Hayden asked as we walked home. "Absolutely, I did," I told him. And the young man of many questions continued on. "Did you like to wake up early in the morning like I do?" he asked. "Oh yes, very early," I said. "In fact, I would make four snowmen some mornings before the school bus came to take me to school," I continued.

And that's when he asked why I didn't just watch YouTube when I got up in the morning. He totally got that I didn't have YouTube when I was his age but what really brought a quizzical look across his face was when I told him we had one channel on our black and white TV. Now there was a concept that seemed almost impossible to imagine.

And so as time goes marching by, technology expands almost at a rate that's hard to comprehend.

When it comes to farming and all the advances that have been made in the production and operation of equipment, it can be mind-boggling. For those closing in on retirement (like moi), there are some things I will leave to the next generations to tackle, but one thing will

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



never change no matter our age and that's our love and respect for the land and the livestock.

I was road-tripping across Kansas last week, down secondary highways and through lots of smaller communities and it almost felt like I was home on the Saskatchewan prairies instead of the flat southern plains of Kansas. Everywhere I looked, there were bins, augers, tractors, combines (parked of course at this time of year) and machinery dealerships with their lots full of balers and sprayers and equipment of every kind.

With the exception of the corn headers on the combines, the acres of corn stubble and the large number of feed lots in the area I was traveling through, so much of it felt the same. I felt a deep familiarity with the folks of Kansas because I understand the efforts of their jobs. I also understand the reward and I have to tell you, I felt a deep sense of pride in the agri-industry that is so much a part of who I am and what I do.

While I wasn't particularly people-watching (okay, maybe I was), one day during a quick Walmart stop to

stretch my legs and walk around during my Kansas trip, I noticed an elderly gentleman walking towards his wife who was at the till next to the one I was at. He was dressed in well-worn work overalls and walked slowly along, holding onto his cane for support. His old tan-colored cap surely had been through the washing machine a time or two, so softened and out of shape it was. It was obvious he was dealing with pain but as he approached the counter, his leathery, line-ridden face lit up as he talked to his wife and the lady at the till. I don't know what he was saying but his smile just warmed my heart and I watched as he and his wife walked slowly away. She offered him a portion of the cart to hang on to while the other remained on his cane and together they walked outdoors. My guess—he is or was a farmer but whatever this gentleman in rural Kansas had done in his life, it was obviously something that was still dear to his heart for he dressed the part.

And this is what always speaks to me about farmers. There's a genuineness to them that goes above and beyond the call of duty—whether for their family, their land, their livestock or their neighbour. And that totally warms my heart!

And speaking of warming my heart, I love when I see the twins on the farm, currently busy with calving, so in love with all things farm. Yes, they intersperse their way of life with curling and hockey and snowmobiling and sledding and so much more, but these two are part of the next generation of farmers. And it won't be many years before they are talking about a new piece of machinery or technology and how it works and I'll be wondering what the heck they are talking about.

So here's to the young generation of farmers—I know our farmers are passing along their skills and their knowledge to the up and comings in the ag industry, and that is something we can all be proud of!

## FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP  
129 Souris Street  
P.O. Box 397

Melita, Manitoba R0M 1L0  
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

### PROPERTY:

- SE 1/4 17-7-26 WPM EXCLUDING MINES AND MINERALS (148 ACRES - PASTURE) Quarter section contains yardsite, house (only 30 years old), quonset, bins, and heritage barn
- THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 8-7-26 WPM EXCLUDING MINES AND MINERALS (155.75 ACRES - CULTIVATED LAND)
- THE NW 1/4 8-7-26 WPM EXCLUDING MINES AND MINERALS (151 ACRES - PASTURE)
- THE NE 1/4 17-7-26 WPM EXCLUDING MINES AND MINERALS (149 ACRES - SOWED TO ALFALFA)
- SW 1/4 17-7-26 WPM EXCLUDING MINES AND MINERALS (146 ACRES - PASTURE)

Tenders can be submitted for multiple or individual quarter sections.

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2023 in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque per quarter section payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Successful tenderor will allow Vendor to continue occupying the house, buildings, and yardsite on SE 1/4 17-7-26 WPM until no later than August 30, 2023. Vendor will pay insurance, utilities, and taxes on the buildings until he vacates the property.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be April 14, 2023, on which date the Vendors shall provide a registrable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2023 for farmland.

For further information contact Bob Forder at 522-0710.

**MH** Meighen Haddad <sup>LLP</sup>  
LAW FIRM

2-1c

## LAND FOR LEASE TWO-YEAR LEASE

Sealed, written tenders to lease: Land within the Municipality of Pipestone:

### WILL LEASE OR SELL

- NE 1/4 18-7-26 WPM
- SE 1/4 18-7-26 WPM

Presently pasture. Fenced with a dugout, good water supply. However could be turned back into grain land. (Located next to number 2 Highway)

### WILL LEASE

- SE 1/4 1-7-28 WPM
- SW 1/4 1-7-28 WPM
- NW 1/4 1-7-28 WPM House with metal quonset 40x35 and 5x2800 bushel flat bottom bins
- NE 1/4 2-7-28 WPM
- SE 1/4 2-7-28 WPM

Collectively there are 650 cultivated acres with the remaining 150 acres wetland, dugouts, and trees. This land is fenced with a five strand barb wire fence also has a frost free cattle watering bowl installed and a well located on NW 1-7-28 WPM.

Note: Could work to facilitate feeding cattle in the winter months.

Located close to Reston, Manitoba

### Land within the Municipality of Two Borders:

#### WILL LEASE

- NE 1/4 33-4-29 WPM – 110 cultivated acres and 60 pasture acres
- NW 1/4 33-4-29 WPM – 120 cultivated acres
- SW 1/4 34-4-29 WPM – 140 cultivated acres

Note: Cultivated acres are in one block consisting of 230 acres and could be rented separate from the pasture. The cultivated land was summerfallow in 2022. The SW 1/4 34-4-29 WPM – 140 cultivated acres and was green feed barley in 2022.

All references to cultivated acres are approximate. The Landowner makes no representation as to the amount of cultivated acres and will not be bound to reduce the rent amount unless agreed to in writing. Some grain storage may be available and is negotiable as a term of the lease(s).

Tenders can be for all of the available land or for individual quarter sections.

Tenders to be submitted to:

Meighen Haddad LLP, Box 397 Melita, MB R0M 1L0

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on any representations made by or on behalf of the Landowner.
- Tenders must be received on or before February 28, 2023 and shall specify the land and if interest in cultivated and/or pasture acres. Please specify rent for cultivated acres and for pasture acres on separate lines.
- Rent shall be payable by one installment May 1st 2023 Tenants shall pay GST on each installment.
- Tenders can stipulate the term they wish to have and it will be taken into consideration by the Landowner. The Landowner will not be bound by any length of term suggested unless agreed upon.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- New tenant to be given possession each spring provided May 1st payment is made prior to equipment operating on the land.
- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete a formal lease agreement to be prepared by the solicitors for the Landowner and possession shall not be granted until the lease agreement has been fully executed.

For further information or an appointment to view, contact Doug Burnett 204-686-2211 (h) 306-840-8017 (cell) dougjn@hotmail.com (email)

**MH** Meighen Haddad <sup>LLP</sup>  
LAW FIRM

See Plain & Valley online any time at [www.plainandvalley.com](http://www.plainandvalley.com)

# USask Awarded \$14 million to support innovative crop research

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has been awarded \$14 million through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), with \$7.2 million of the funds allocated to operating the Crop Development Centre (CDC) for the next five years.

Nineteen USask researchers were awarded \$6.8 million to support 29 innovative crop-related projects, ranging from using plant-derived ethanol and biodiesel to reduce plastic waste, to developing nutritionally balanced milk using pulse and oilseed protein, to tackling a root rot problem in lentils, a key export for Saskatchewan.

"I am grateful for the investment in crop research at USask by the provincial and federal governments, and industry partners that recognizes the tremendous economic and social contributions of our researchers," said USask Vice-President Research Baljit Singh.

"Their innovations help deliver on USask's commitment to addressing global food security and creating value-added products that make Saskatchewan a world leader in agriculture."

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 percent federally and 40 percent provincially/territorially, with a \$388-million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture.

## CDC a world leader in plant breeding

Plant geneticist and wheat breeder Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), a professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources and CDC director since 2020, stressed the importance of support from the Ministry of Agriculture since CDC's inception 52 years ago.

"We are grateful for this significant ADF funding to support CDC's operations. It speaks to the province's commitment to the CDC's mission, which is to improve the profitability of Saskatchewan and western Canadian growers," he said. "This support is invaluable to achieving our vision of being global leaders in the area of plant breeding, pathology, and quality of the grain crops that we grow in Western Canada."

The operating funds support the work of eight CDC scientists, grain quality testing, and field operations.

Pozniak said CDC has developed more than 500 crop varieties across 40 different crop types over the past five decades, noting that high-yielding productive varieties are fundamental to a sustainable agriculture production system. Thanks to



Christina Weese photo

Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), a professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources and Crop Development Centre director.

CDC's innovations, Saskatchewan is now the world leader in exporting peas, lentils, and chickpeas to fast growing markets such as India, Bangladesh, and northern Africa.

An economic assessment of the CDC showed that for every dollar invested in the CDC, there was a \$12 return to growers, he said. If one considers just pulse crops alone, such as lentils and peas, that return is a substantial \$44 for each dollar invested.

"Over the next five years, we will continue our work to be globally recognized for research and crop development and build our capacity in terms of people and infrastructure so that we can expand the important work that we do at CDC," said Pozniak.

## Developing MAGIC lentils to fight root rot

Dr. Sabine Banniza (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, was awarded \$421,000 in ADF funding as well as additional support from the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association to develop a multi-parent advanced generation intercross (MAGIC) lentil population to explore resistance to two soil-borne pathogens that researchers believe are the main problems for root rot.

Root rot affects the below-ground portion of the developing plant, leading to poor performing pulse crops. Once root rot has set in, nothing can be done to reverse it.

Surveys between 2015 and 2017 indicate that 48 to 99 per cent of lentil and pea fields had moderate to severe root rot in Saskatchewan, and complete yield losses were reported in heavily infested fields in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Banniza's team will use four "elite"

lines of lentils that are close to being varieties that could be commercially grown and intercross them with four close wild relatives that have known resistance to the two pathogens, called *Fusarium avenaceum* and *Aphanomyces euteiches*.

"We will do an intensive crossing program to generate loads and loads of crosses—resulting in about 400 lines—that combine the genes of those two lentil groups as much as possible," said Banniza. "Then we will evaluate them in the phytotron (controlled environment facility) for resistance to these two pathogens."

Banniza is hopeful that her four-year project will identify resistant lines that can be developed right away into commercial varieties or are just a few steps away from that.

## Using Saskatchewan ethanol and biodiesel to reduce plastic waste

In a world confronting a steadily growing mound of plastic waste that is polluting land and water alike, Dr. Martin Reaney (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, has been



Christina Weese photo

Dr. Sabine Banniza (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

awarded \$360,000 to develop technology to degrade plastics to reusable forms by using Saskatchewan-produced biodiesel and ethanol.

Continued on page 28

## Employment Opportunity

THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LIVING – VIRDEN, MB BRANCH

### Executive Director/Administrator

The Association for Community Living – Virden Branch is seeking an Executive Director/Administrator to provide leadership for an organization that provides services to people with intellectual and physical disabilities.

The Executive Director/Administrator is responsible for the overall management of the organization, alongside the volunteer Board of Directors. The Executive Director/Administrator will be responsible for the day to day administration, hiring and dismissal of personnel and financial oversight. A full job description is available upon request.

#### THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- Education in business or non-profit administration, or education in working with people with developmental disabilities. Comparable education will also be considered, at the discretion of the Board.
- Experience working with clients with developmental disabilities.
- Experience working in a supervisory role.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively supervise employees.
- Demonstrated ability to work within a unionized setting.
- Ability to work with a volunteer board of directors
- Good inter-personal and communication skills
- Good technological skills, including working with Microsoft Office (or similar programs)
- Self-motivated
- A clear criminal record and vulnerable sector check, as well as an Adult Abuse Registry Check is required to be hired into the position.
- Following hiring, the incumbent will be expected to hold a Manitoba class 5 driver's license (or equivalent), and to work towards their CPR/First Aid level C certification and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training.
- The incumbent will be required to be "on-call" for urgent needs outside of regular business hours Monday to Friday, and at least every third weekend. This time will be compensated according to the policies of the organization.

#### COMPENSATION:

\$26.00/hr for 40 hours a week, plus compensation for "on call work" that may arise.

#### TO APPLY FOR THE ROLE, PLEASE FORWARD A COVER LETTER AND RESUME TO:

Fr. Matt Koovisk – Chair, Board of Directors  
 Association for Community Living – Virden  
 Box 1957, Virden, MB R0M 2C0  
 Ph: 204-748-1444 | E-mail: recruitment@aclvirden.org  
 Applications will be accepted until February 28th, 2023.  
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Visit Plain & Valley online at [www.plainandvalley.com](http://www.plainandvalley.com)



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#### Contact us

At Plain and Valley, we want to hear from you! Email [world\\_spectator@sasktel.net](mailto:world_spectator@sasktel.net), call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or write to us at Box 250, Moosomin, Sask, S0G 3N0.

#### Advertising options

Plain and Valley reaches households across southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba. We also offer classified and display advertising in the weekly World-Spectator, career and classified advertising across Saskatchewan, and blanket classified advertising across Canada.

#### Printing services

From business cards and brochures to hockey programs and event programs, to vinyl banners, coroplast signs and ACM signs, we can print it all!

#### Deadlines

Deadline for the Plain and Valley is 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following week's issue.

#### Online access

All issues of Plain and Valley are available online at [www.plainandvalley.com](http://www.plainandvalley.com)

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# Crown land grazing rates adjusted for 2023

The Government of Saskatchewan is freezing the 2023 rate charged to producers who lease Crown grazing land. Additionally, for 2023, lessees who must reduce their stocking rates on Crown land due to ongoing dry conditions will be eligible for a rent reduction to a maximum of 50 per cent.

“Saskatchewan’s livestock sector is facing increasing costs of production in addition to successive years of low precipitation in many areas of the province,” Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. “Keeping this year’s grazing rate at 2022 levels and implementing reductions for Crown grazing lands hardest hit by drought, will assist producers through the current challenges while supporting the continued stewardship and productivity of the land.”

Saskatchewan’s Crown grazing rates are established annually using a formula based on fall cattle prices and the long-term stocking rate of each parcel of land. This year’s rate freeze will apply to all grazing leases across the province.

A 2023 rent reduction will apply in situations where an individual lessee or pasture association must reduce the number of animals grazing Crown leases by 20 per cent or more, compared

to the approved long-term carrying capacity of that land. The 2023 rate reduction will match the reduction in carrying capacity, ranging from a 20 per cent rate reduction up to a maximum of 50 per cent.



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**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Valid Class 5 driver’s license.
- Previous experience a operating motor grader.
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**Schedule:**

- Monday to Friday, 10-hour shift, April to November

Wage Range \$24.00 - \$35.00 per hour. Full benefit package available after eligibility.

Please visit [www.rmofpipestone.com](http://www.rmofpipestone.com) for a more detailed posting and job description. Please contact Danny at 204-761-5121 for further information.

**Applications will be accepted until February 24th, 2023**

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# Manitoba announces \$10 million to support new Prairie Innovation Centre at Assiniboine Community College

The Manitoba government will invest up to \$10 million to support the development of the Prairie Innovation Centre at Assiniboine Community College (ACC) in Brandon, Premier Heather Stefanson announced here today as part of her address at the 46th annual Manitoba Ag Days.

"As our economy emerges into a new era of growth, our government is working collaboratively with industry, the business sector and our post-secondary institutions to ensure we attract our youth to the jobs of the future, and provide the training and skills necessary to be successful," said Stefanson. "I want to commend ACC and their leadership for spearheading this expansion project, along with their donors and community members who are keen to see this centre come to life which will provide innovative programming and support the growth of the local community and economy."

As part of ongoing collaborative efforts to align education and training to meet evolving labour market needs and foster competitiveness and growth, ACC aims to significantly expand its programming to address labour shortages and high-demand jobs, specifically in the agri-

culture sector, the premier noted.

"This investment represents a significant step forward for Assiniboine Community College to help support new programs for labour market development, applied research and industry engagement in the agriculture, environment and processing sectors," said Mark Frison, president, ACC. "We have seen great enthusiasm from the community, industry and donors for the project. It's great to see Premier Stefanson and the Manitoba government respond in such a significant way by providing up to \$10 million to assist the college in moving this project forward to the next stage of development."

ACC has proposed 16 new or expanded educational programs and supporting infrastructure on its North Hill Campus. The college projects the new centre would increase enrolment by approximately 600 students, to nearly 900 from the current 300, in such high-demand fields as agriculture, agriculture extension, environment and technology programs, the premier noted.

The \$10-million commitment will support the initial planning phases, including exploration of facilities and

land development needed to support the design and development of the new centre. Assessment of the proposed educational programs and associated supporting infrastructure is slated to begin early this year, the premier said.

## Manitoba government collaborates on ag issues at North Americas Summit

From Jan. 6 to 8, Agriculture Minister Derek Johnson represented the Manitoba government at the Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit, hosted by the State Agriculture and Rural Leaders group in Charleston, S.C., and collaborated with other state and provincial leaders on agricultural issues and trends experienced by other jurisdictions.

"I am pleased and energized by these discussions with my colleagues from across North America on issues facing the world of agriculture and to represent Manitoba's agricultural sector internationally," said Johnson. "Manitoba has many commonalities with other jurisdictions in the issues faced in modern agriculture, including food security and climate change. I am proud to have represented our province in these discussions and look forward to bringing solutions back to Manitoba."

The Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit is a non-partisan meeting for elected officials held to discuss agriculture and hear from speakers who share expertise in identifying problems and solutions. The annual event,

first held in 2002, has been providing educational opportunities for state and provincial elected representatives with a focus on agriculture and rural communities, and how different jurisdictions can connect and collaborate on solutions to shared issues.

"Our government continues to advocate for Manitoba agricultural producers and industries, and has positioned our province as a world agriculture leader. Manitoba is always developing creative solutions to agricultural issues, which I was happy to showcase at the summit to my colleagues," said Johnson.

Initiatives such as the Manitoba Protein Advantage Strategy, the Water Management Strategy and the review of the Agricultural Crown Lands Program demonstrate the Manitoba government's focus on driving agricultural innovation and research forward, the minister noted.

"I look forward to bringing the results of our discussions at the summit home and using what we learned to drive new developments in the sector," said Johnson.



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- FEBRUARY 2023 -		
15	Wednesday	Presort Sale 10 a.m.
18	Saturday	"February Classic" Bred Cow/Heifer Sale 12 Noon
22	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale/Show List 9 a.m.
		Feder Cattle followed by Cows & Bulls
27	Monday	Special Butcher Cow & Bull Sale 9 a.m.
- MARCH 2023 -		
1	Wednesday	Presort Sale 10 a.m.
7	Tuesday	Bonchuk Simmental Annual Bull Sale
8	Wednesday	Regular Feeder Sale/Show List 9 a.m.
		Feeder Cattle followed by Cows & Bulls
10	Friday	83 South Simmental Bull Sale Open House
15	Wednesday	Presort Sale 10 a.m.
18	Saturday	March Madness 12 Noon
		Bred Cow/Heifer Sale
20	Monday	Special Butcher Cow & Bull Sale 9 a.m.
22	Wednesday	Regular Sale 9 a.m.
		Show List Feeder Sale
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29	Wednesday	Presort Sale 10 a.m.

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- Successful medical examination

#### Schedule:

- Monday to Friday, 10-hour shift, April to November

Wage Range \$24.00 - \$35.00 per hour, 100 hours bi-weekly  
For more information about this position or for a job description please contact Danny at 204-761-5121.

#### Applications will be accepted until February 24th, 2023

Mailed to: Box 99, Reston, MB, R0M 1X0

Emailed to: hrpipestone@rmofpipestone.com

Or faxed to: 204-877-3999

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted. Disability accommodations available upon request.

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## \$6 million invested into livestock and forage research

A total of \$6 million in funding was announced in January by Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit for livestock and forage research activities.

Provided through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), funded under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, this will support a total of 34 new scientific projects for 2023.

"The work of Canadian scientists is helping to make our agricultural sector the leader it is, both in terms of productivity and sustainable development," said Bibeau. "Our government will continue to invest in this vital research to support the success of our producers."

"Scientific research is the engine that drives innovation and competitiveness, and helps keep Saskatchewan's world-class agriculture producers doing what they do best," Marit said. "These investments enable researchers and institutions to do the work that helps position our producers to meet the global market needs of tomorrow. Research drives sustainability in the livestock sector."

This year's projects, which are submitted annually and awarded funding on a competitive basis, focus on topics such as developing water quality test kits for agricultural ponds in Saskatchewan, developing economic thresholds and sampling plans for lesser clover leaf weevil in red clover, and development of an effective, multivalent vaccine to control foot rot in cattle.

In addition to the federal-provincial ADF funding, a

total of \$288,530 for 12 livestock and forage projects was contributed by seven industry co-funders:

- Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission
- Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association
- Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission
- Sask Milk
- Alberta Milk
- Results driven agriculture research

"Investment in research is a cornerstone for the growth of our industry," Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Arnold Balicki said. "Saskatchewan beef producers value projects that focus on priorities such as increasing the nutritional value of forage or better managing their herd's health, which leads to more profitability on their operations. We are pleased to see both the federal and provincial governments partnering with us and ensuring this essential research is adequately funded."

"A sustainable forage seed production system helps Canadian livestock producers have a consistent, reliable and affordable supply of high-quality feed, and Saskatch-

ewan's production of red clover seed used for sowing supports Canada's position as the number two exporter of this seed to the European Union and the number one exporter to the United States," Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Executive Director Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein said. "Determining economic thresholds for timely control of the lesser clover leaf weevil—the first research done on this pest—is a crucial project. Our growers are grateful to the ADF for this support to help ensure sustainable red clover seed production in Saskatchewan and its use for planting as a good component in livestock grazing mixtures, or as a cover crop to improve soil health and fix nitrogen."

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories, including a \$388 million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture. The CAP ends on March 31, 2023.

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# USask Awarded \$14 million to support innovative crop research

Continued from Page 24

Biodiesel is a diesel fuel substitute made from plant oil or other renewable material.

Reaney said his team some years ago developed an "incredibly efficient" and very inexpensive catalyst using vegetable oil and salt water to make biodiesel, with glycerol as a byproduct. Researchers learned that they could add hydroxides of sodium, potassium or even lithium to the glyceride, with the resulting glycerol alkoxide crystallizing into a cheap catalyst.

When a catalyst is combined with ethanol and added to plastic materials, such as PET (polyethylene terephthalate, used to make water bottles etc.), or PLA (polylactic acid, used to make plastic film, etc.) plastics, or plastic powders from drinking water bottles, it reacts quickly to release monomers, which are the original materials used to create the plastic.

Another common source of non-biodegradable plastic waste is polystyrene, which is often used as an expanding foam in appliances or for moulding. This type of plastic can easily be dissolved in biodiesel, which is a fuel created from oils. The resulting mixture can then be utilized in various products, like concrete additives and sealants.

"I think if you combine this technology with some other innovations, such as laws requiring plastics be designed to be reaggregated back into pure plastics, this could be revolutionary," said Reaney.

### Nutritionally balanced milk from pulse-oilseed proteins

The non-dairy milk market is growing rapidly, with a predicted global worth of more than \$3.7 billion US by 2026. Dr. Mike Nickerson (PhD), professor and acting head of food and bioproduct sciences at USask's College of Agriculture and Bioreources, has been awarded \$305,000 to develop a more nutritionally balanced milk alternative.

"We want to mimic more of the three-and-a-half, four per cent protein level of milk whereas some of the other plant-based milks tend to be lower in that amount," said Nickerson.

He also noted that many alternative milk products, especially legume-based products such as soya milk, have a "beanie" flavour.

"We want to develop a gluten-free, plant-based milk with that complete healthy fatty acid profile, and also pay attention to flavour and try to improve the flavour profiles of these milk products," he said.

The key technology his team is developing is the blending of proteins, Nickerson said, making expansion into other products such as ice cream and yogurt attractive.

The technology brings several advantages to Saskatchewan agriculture producers, he said, with value-added opportunities for more plant proteins and expanded market segments for those ingredients, as well as higher demand for crops.

### Other ADF funding recipients at USask are:

- Bishnu Acharya (Engineering), \$201,333 for valorization of canola meal by developing canola meal extract as a microbial media for fermentation; and \$175,000 for investigating the feasibility of agricultural biomass power generation in Saskatchewan.

- Yongfeng Ai (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$208,500 for investigating the use of infrared heating to improve functional and nutritional attributes of pea flours in prototype food products; and \$359,400 for the development, characterization, and food use of novel whole-cell flours from Canadian pulses.

- Sabine Banniza (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$225,950 for exploring the diversity of *Fusarium solani* and *F. Oxysporum* infecting pulse crops.

- Jonathan Bennett (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$411,699 for identifying microbial inocula to increase salt tolerance in barley.

- Kirstin Bett (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$129,361 for identifying genetic tools to ensure Saskatchewan dry beans are protected from anthracnose.

- Maryse Bourgault (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$433,964 for investigating livestock re-integration in cropping systems for soil health improvement.

- Won Jae Chang (Engineering), \$550,853 for development of economical salinity remediation strategies for agriculture water using innovative desalination minerals.

- Anas El-Aneed (Pharmacy and Nutrition), \$153,625 for commercializing green extraction technology of phytochemicals from canola oil waste stream.

- Supratim Ghosh (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$210,000 for developing pulse protein-based whipped cream with healthy vegetable fat as a high-value dairy

alternative.

- Pierre Hucl (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$96,527 for increasing the efficiency of canary seed breeding and enhancing herbicide tolerance; and \$99,983 for combining higher anthocyanin levels, enhanced quality, and improved disease resistance in the purple wheat.

- Darren Korber (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$262,500 for investigating commercially ready vegan protein-based entrapment systems for probiotics for inclusion in plant-based foods.

- Randy Kutcher (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$173,823 for developing an accelerated disease phenotyping system to select wheat germplasm resistant to FHB and stripe rust; and \$208,150 for evaluating flax-chickpea intercropping for disease management - fungicide regime and variety selection.

- Curtis Pozniak (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$195,001 for marker-assisted pre-breeding for alternative semi-dwarfing genes and anther extrusion in durum and bread wheat.

- Sean Prager (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$226,500 for examining potential threats from pea seed-borne mosaic virus and developing PSbMV-based tools to study legume seed development.

- Martin Reaney (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$260,000 for investigating vegan soft cheese and yogurt replacement products from pulses.

- Jeff Schoenau (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$102,789, for straw harvesting strategies to provide feedstock while maintaining soil and environmental quality.



Dr. Martin Reaney (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioreources.



Dr. Mike Nickerson (PhD), professor and acting head of food and bioproduct sciences at USask's College of Agriculture and Bioreources.

- Jafar Soltan (Engineering), \$45,000 for investigating potential and feasibility of ozone treatment processes for the reduction of off-flavours and improvement of colour of plant proteins.

- Takuji Tanaka (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$218,000 for development of applications of legume protein enriched fraction derivatives: combinations of proteolysis and conjugation.

- Tom Warkentin (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$270,250 for developing soybean cultivars for profitable, sustainable prairie cropping systems; and \$278,875 for increasing protein-yield in pea using nested association mapping; and \$155,747 for the development of SNP markers for marker-assisted selection of pea for water use efficiency and micronutrients.

- Albert Vandenberg (Agriculture and Bioreources), \$225,000 for breeding high value lentils for future consumer trends; and \$250,000 for 3F2B - fast forward faba bean breeding.

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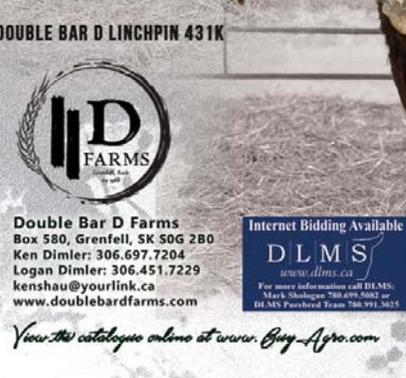
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# WGRF commits \$2.7 million to 22 new research projects

Through a continuing co-funding partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture - Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, and other producer commodity groups, WGRF has announced up to \$2.7 Million of new funding for 22 crop-related research projects.

"Producers remain committed to investing in agricultural research," says WGRF Board Chair, Dr. Keith Degenhardt. "Since we began this funding partnership with ADF in 2012, WGRF has invested almost \$30 million dollars to more than 220 research projects that have undoubtedly improved agricultural systems, technology and agronomic practices for western Canadian farmers."

WGRF is co-funding 15 projects with ADF and other producer groups. WGRF is also co-funding an additional seven projects exclusively with producer commodity groups. The projects include research into improved varietal resiliency to environmental stresses and disease for wheat, canola, canary seed, pea and barley varieties, as well as research into key agronomic challenges including surveillance and mitigation strategies for diseases such as Fusarium and club root, research into insect population dynamics, and new strategies and inputs to improve crop production.

"WGRF is excited to be supporting these 22 new promising research projects," says WGRF Executive Director, Wayne Thompson. "These projects are being led by some

remarkable researchers, not only here in Saskatchewan but across western Canada. ADF provides a great forum for producer groups to collaborate and co-fund in agri-

cultural research."

A full listing of projects will be posted on the WGRF website once research contracts are in place.

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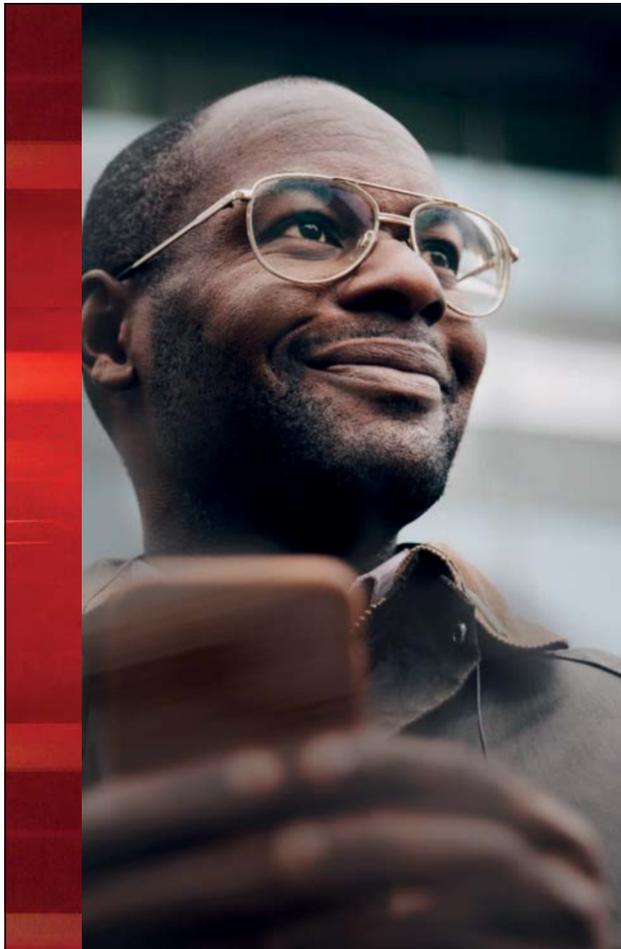
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### SUNDAY

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