

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Little girl and her family ready for the next step

BY MONIQUE MCKAY

Jayla Singleton is perched in her high chair in her mom's tidy, warm kitchen. She's munching on granola bars and potato chips and drinks huge glasses of whole milk. She looks like a porcelain doll with her deep, pond-blue eyes, auburn curls, and rosebud lips. The four-year-old Carlyle child weighs a mere seventeen pounds.

"She's so tiny!" one can't help but exclaim.

Jayla whips around with an impish grin.

"But I'm cute!" she signs.

"We started teaching her sign language when she was about three," says Jayla's mom, elementary school teacher Amy Singleton.

"She was getting so mad. She didn't actually cry until after her first birthday. She didn't really have a voice."

Jayla does have some words, and she also communicates with about forty signs.

Jayla, who faced severe physical developmental challenges as an infant (see sidebar) is progressing.

"Yesterday was the first time she pulled herself up to standing without support," said Singleton proudly.

Although the fear for Jayla's survival has subsided, the Singletons are still living a very intense life.

"We have lots of doctors' appointments," smiles Amy, brushing back her thick, dark hair. Her small hand is adorned with a simple band of gold.

"We go to Wascana Rehabilitation Centre once a month. For physical and occupational therapy, sometimes we see a dietitian."

Jayla's condition still requires follow-up with a variety of medical specialists.

"She grows in height but not weight; she's only 17 pounds, sometimes 18. It fluctuates."

Jayla knows she's being discussed. She lifts up her heart and flower bedecked shirt and shows off her scars.

Two look like puckered bullet wounds, an incision has healed down the middle of her tiny belly, and she cranes her delicate neck to show where her feeding tube used to exit.

She smiles again, and rearranges her clothes. It's amazing how positive, resilient, and empowered this little girl seems.

"It's still hard," confesses Amy. "It's



Monique McKay photo

Four-year-old Jayla Singleton smiles for the camera as she plays in her family's Carlye home

hard on me."

"I get really proactive; I run around and I try," she says of pursuing an answer to the question of Jayla's weight gain, of continually advocating for her development. "Then I say, 'Let's just live for a while.'"

Amy has begun to reach out to other mothers with similar stories.

"Just this Christmas I connected with a Manitoba mom who's dealing with her baby. This spring we're going to get to-

gether and hang out. The other mom I did know . . . her child passed away with RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)."

Amy is quiet, and looks at the floor.

"We almost lost Jayla a couple of times in the unit. It's hard to talk to that mom now. I feel guilty."

"This past year has been the best," Amy continues. "She can go overnight at my parents', spend the day away."

Travis and Amy Singleton have never

got a clear answer on just what the future holds for their daughter.

"We just don't know. She's just such a unique case," says Amy.

Unlike many parents of children with delayed development, the Singletons have never been told what Jayla won't do. The future is still wide open for this tiny, determined little girl.

"We've had a lot of support, especially initially," continues Amy. "Gifts from family and friends. My husband drove to Winnipeg thirty weekends in a row. She's very well known. There's always people asking how she's making out."

"It's definitely a long-term thing," says Amy.

"We're at that stage where we're trying to decide if she's strong enough to handle a pre-K program."

Amy had returned to work for a short period after Jayla's last surgery. Amy was burnt out from all of the doctoring and needed some space of her own. However, Jayla's development ground to a dead halt after she went into day care.

"Not one new thing," says Amy. So she came back home.

Jayla is sitting on the floor in the downstairs playroom. A hundred colorful toys are strewn about the rug, and Jayla plays contentedly with her mother. Upstairs, the front door opens, and Jayla looks up in mischievous anticipation.

"Who's that?" teases her mother as Jayla scrambles to hide from her dad.

The Singletons own OK Tire in Carlyle, and Travis makes it home most days for dinner. Jayla crawls into her dad's arms.

Jayla has orthopedic shoes, leg braces, and a custom-designed standing brace to help strengthen her muscles for standing and walking.

"It'll be a whole new set of things she can do and play when she can run around. She started scooting around in January and February," said Amy. "We got pregnant in March."

Travis and Amy's infant son, Ryder, sleeps contentedly in his bassinet.

"As soon as we saw the first ultrasound, and we saw the esophagus, the stomach . . . Amy's voice trails off.

"I just can't believe how easy it is to go places now! You forget how intense it was, now that she's getting better," Amy laughs.

"We used to take suitcases; clothes, medical supplies, diapers. It was just a procedure! Now we just take a diaper bag for the two of them!"

## Jayla's story so far . . .

Jayla Singleton was born two months prematurely on May 7, 2006, weighing only two pounds and ten ounces. She was sixteen inches long.

Her parents, Amy and Travis Singleton of Carlyle, had been sent to Winnipeg because an ultrasound in Regina had detected a blockage in their baby's esophagus. There was no fluid in her stomach and she wasn't swallowing.

After being delivered by c-section, Jayla went straight into the neo-natal unit in Winnipeg. It would be her home for the first five months of her life.

Jayla was born without a fully developed esophagus; her mouth did not connect to her stomach. There was a five-inch gap. Two tubes were inserted into her tiny throat; one for feeding and another to keep her lungs clear of saliva. Naturally, Jayla gagged on the tubes so she spent

most of May and June mildly sedated to control her gag reflex.

Amy and Travis almost lost their daughter, their first child, several times as her heart rate dropped and breathing slowed. Nurses resuscitated her.

In late July an operation was performed which brought Jayla's esophagus out to the side of her neck so she could swallow without needing the suction tube in her throat.

The operation was successful but Jayla's heart rate was still dipping. An explorative process called a bronchoscopy revealed that her trachea was weak and easily collapsible.

At the beginning of August, when Jayla was about three months old, an aortapexy was performed. Her trachea was attached to and supported by a section of her heart, the aorta.

After this operation, Amy thought she might

be able to finally bring her baby home. She had been staying with Travis's aunt and uncle in Winnipeg, and Travis had commuted every weekend from Carlyle to be with his young family.

However, Jayla's heart and breathing problems persisted. Further tests determined that Jayla was suffering sleep-related seizures. Every time she fell asleep she would seize and her heart rate would crash. The condition was managed with medication, and after Jayla experienced three weeks of stability, she and her parents were united in their Carlyle home on October 14, 2006.

Jayla was tube fed until she was over a year old. Since she couldn't swallow, she had choking fits and at least once a day and vomited easily. It was difficult for Travis and Amy to get any respite from the intense level of care Jayla required, because people were intimidated by her 'blue spells' and scared of the feeding tube. Jayla often pulled the



Jayla Singleton, just a baby, in Winnipeg's N.I.C.U., May 2006.

tube out, and it had to be reinserted right away or the opening would close.

In June 2007, a medical team rebuilt her esophagus by taking a piece of her large intestine and attaching one end of it to her stomach and the other end to where her esophagus had stopped developing.

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**Snowplanes draw curious crowds**

The Moosomin Regional Museum hosted a snowplane meet in Moosomin on Sunday, March 7. Snowplane enthusiasts from the Prairies and the United States gathered with their machines, and free rides were offered to the general public from noon until 4 p.m. A large crowd came out over the course of the afternoon to take pictures, see the machines, and take rides across a snow covered field. Snowplanes were used as a way to get around in the winter in the middle of the 20th century.

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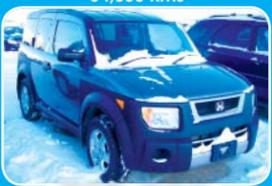
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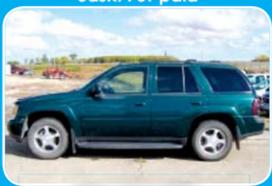
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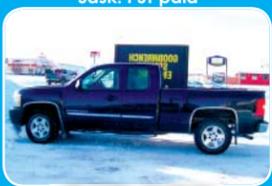
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# Tantallon seniors club reaches out to youth

BY HELEN SOLMES

With every year that passes, Tantallon seniors feel their small community in the Qu'Appelle Valley slipping away.

Each morning when they see the school bus pass through Tantallon headed to schools in Esterhazy, they are painfully reminded of how much less they share with the young people of Tantallon than in the recent past.

But Tantallon has always been a close-knit community and, with a little effort, the seniors are convinced that they can hold on to what they still have, to draw the youth out and nurture good relations between the young and the elderly simply by spending time together.

The Silver Threads Senior Club in Tantallon has gone out of its way to draw Tantallon youth to the club house on Sunday afternoons by investing the club's New Horizon grant money in audio-visual equipment and the ever-so-popular Wii game system in hopes that young people will gather to play the interactive games with other young people and be willing to teach the club members how to play.

While many young families own their own Wii systems, the popular interactive programs are "always more fun with friends" said Silver Threads president Lillian Goodman who hopes that the club-owned equipment will attract young people from the community to spend time at the club house with seniors, playing the Wii games with the seniors, and building friendships, understanding and mutual respect.

The Wii games have been well received, but, much to the seniors' surprise, it's the old standby—shuffleboard—that has captured their attention. The young people are eager to master the game, opening the door to exactly what the club had hoped for. Whereas the Wii games are new and awkward for the seniors, the shuffleboard . . . well, stand back, kids, and let the pros show you a few tricks.

Unknowingly, the Silver Threads Seniors Club is practicing exactly what educators and other professionals are advocating as a society-wide approach to fostering healthy, well-adjusted, interactive youth. The more positive relationships that a young person has with adults—with their parents and more importantly with other adults—the more assets they will carry with them into their adult years.

Churchbridge Public School principal Alisa Leidl first introduced the concept of asset building to the Esterhazy area following her Masters studies at Minot State University. Leidl wrote her thesis based on the American-based Search Institute's Developmental Assets model.



Lillian Goodman photo

Tantallon youth take to the shuffleboard during a Silver Threads Senior Club Sunday afternoon of games for seniors and youth.

"The Search Institute is a non-profit organization that, through research, collected a list of specific, positive experiences that should be provided to youth," Leidl said. "This list is called The Forty Developmental Assets."

These positive experiences, skills, opportunities, qualities and values are best provided through relationships with caring, responsible people—both adults and young people themselves."

The list includes items, or assets, that many adults assume are being nurtured, but when young people are surveyed, the results suggest differently. The assets include a caring neighborhood, relationships with adults other than parents, a commitment to learning, personal restraint, sense of purpose, and a positive view of the future. The Development Assets model stresses the importance of showing young people that they have support, and teaching them skills that will empower them to achieve, to make healthy decisions, and to be a contributing member of the communities of which they are a part.

"We all want our children to become smart, confident and healthy adults," Leidl said. "The good news is that all members of our community have the power to encourage our youth to thrive."

Good relationships are key, Leidl stressed. She commended the Tantallon seniors for recognizing the risk they faced in losing contact with their young people, and for taking that important first step, for reaching out and drawing young people back into their lives.

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# Manitoba budget to be introduced March 23

Last week, Finance Minister Rosann Wowchuk announced that the 2010 provincial budget will be introduced March 23, when the fourth session of the 39th Manitoba legislature resumes.

"Following numerous pre-budget public meetings and consultations with business and community leaders we are working towards moving forward with a budget that is steady, focused and reliable for Manitobans during a time of global economic recovery," said Wowchuk. "Manitobans can count on our government to continue investments in vital government services including health care, education, public safety and economic stimulus."

The minister also released the third quarter financial report, noting the province is projecting a shortfall of \$555 million

for the 2009-10 fiscal year, compared to \$592 million forecast in the second quarter report released in December.

The 2009-10 summary shortfall results from pressures facing the government including:

- a decline in revenues since Budget 2009, primarily due to reduced corporate income taxes and lower federal revenue because of the timing of infrastructure projects and a reduction in Manitoba Hydro profits by \$136 million;

- unexpected costs of \$90 million related to planning and mitigation for the H1N1 flu, which will be excluded from the balanced budget calculation, and costs for the 2009 spring flood which together total \$146 million; and

- a continuing commitment to maintain services important to Manitobans including health care, child

protection, services for people with disabilities, income assistance and justice, as reflected in a recently approved \$304-million special warrant.

"We are working to manage spending during these difficult economic times," said Wowchuk. "We're also taking this time to urge restraint while we look to rebound from this economic downturn."

The third quarter financial report includes key indicators showing Manitoba's economy is outperforming the Canadian average. The report projects a positive summary balance of \$253 million based on the four-year average of net results prescribed under the Balanced Budget, Fiscal Management and Taxpayer Accountability Act.

The third quarter financial report will be available at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/index.html).



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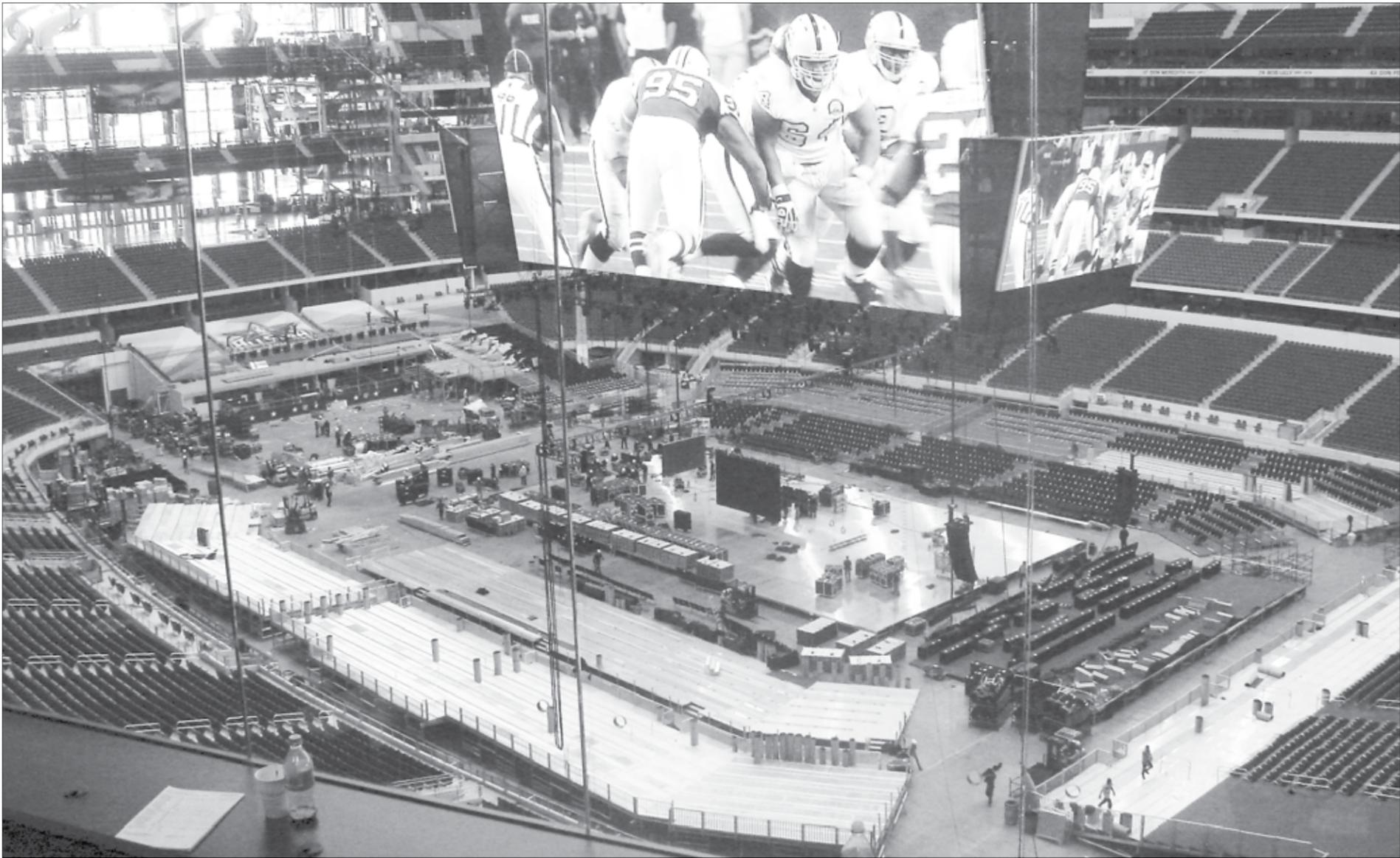
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The interior of Cowboys Stadium from the press box with the world's largest video screen hanging at mid-field.

## Cowboys Stadium in Texas:

BY CHRIS ISTANCE

The debate over the most effective new home for the Saskatchewan Roughriders has begun in earnest.

Should a proposed project in Regina include a covered facility? If so, would the dome be retractable? Or should any prospective new stadium remain outdoors, open to the elements of the unpredictable Saskatchewan weather?

Then there is a third option: renovating Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field to give it 21st Century accommodations and atmosphere. Is the 30-year-old configuration of the facility sustainable with these improvements?

The conversation about what direction the City of Regina should take exploded on March 1 with the release of a seven-month, \$1 million feasibility study into an all-season (covered), multi-purpose entertainment facility for the downtown area of the Queen City. The study was commissioned in July of 2009 by the City of Regina, the Province of Saskatchewan and the federal government. It focussed only on the construction of a domed version of the proposed stadium.

The feasibility study suggested that the facility have a capacity of 33,000 seats, with the capability of expanding to 45,000 seats for major events like the Grey Cup, and 53,000 seats for concerts.

All told, the project would cost an estimated \$386.2 million for a domed complex. Add an additional \$45 million and the City of Regina would have a domed stadium with a retractable roof, a popular feature in similar facilities built in the last 20 years.

Meanwhile, a group of 10 independent Saskatchewan First Nations have thrown their own ball onto the field. They—with a substantial investment by the American Seminole Tribe out of Florida, owners of the Hard Rock chain of restaurants and several casinos—are proposing a \$1.2 billion complex for Regina which would include a hotel and a casino alongside the indoor complex.

While illustrations of the government-proposed facility show a structure that is both traditional yet state-of-the-art when it comes to sports stadiums, the First Nations group offers a far more artistic approach. Designed by renowned Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal—who also designed the home of the First Nations University of Canada in Regina—their proposed stadium follows the theme of the rolling Prairie landscape, with curved lines and a bulbous, one-piece retractable roof.

The Saskatchewan and American Seminole First Nations seek to pay for and own of both the hotel and casino, while the stadium would be built with the help of other interested partners.

The multi-government proposal currently doesn't have a source of revenues for the project. Despite spending \$1 million to see if such a facility is worthwhile for both Regina and the province, no level of government has committed to funding its construction. One may suspect they are betting that there is substantial interest among private entities willing to invest in the project. While the Regina Hotels Association has already committed \$10 million to the new stadium, Canada's history of less-than-enthusiastic private and corporate participation in such projects



**Reporter Chris Istace** recently had a chance to visit Cowboys Stadium in Texas. He gives us his insight on this state-of-the-art facility and what lessons it could hold for Saskatchewan's proposed domed stadium.

does not bode well for that belief.

This country is not like the United States, where there is a more fertile climate for private investment. The new home of the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys is an example this.

Cowboys Stadium replaced Texas Stadium beginning in 2009. Although the City of Arlington, Texas—located between Dallas and Fort Worth—forwarded more than \$300 million toward the \$1.4 billion facility, the brunt of the cost was covered by Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his partners.

It would be foolish to think that Saskatchewan could ever muster the capacity to build such a gargantuan structure—Cowboys Stadium is the largest indoor sports facility in the world—but a tour of the Texas complex gives some insight into what high-end, contemporary sports facilities include to be effectively entertaining and profitable.



A giant white star lights the path the Dallas Cowboys take to and from the field. Fans can purchase tickets to a club that surrounds the entrance, allowing them to cheer the players as they go to their bench.

It's a sunny but cool Texas morning on Feb. 15—the President's Day holiday in the U.S.—with the temperature hovering around five degrees Celsius. Driving west on Interstate 30 from Dallas, you can see the ballooning white roof of Cowboys Stadium from miles away. It's a giant white beach ball half buried in the horizon.

The facility dwarfs even Rangers Ballpark, the home of Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers, which sits about a kilometre east of the football stadium and is unnoticeable from the major highway.

Walking through the main entrance, the Cowboys Stadium lobby is a striking and surprising sight, with its marble floors and glass with stainless steel highlight walls. The room is spotless, despite the fact that the National Basketball Association had the previous night broken the world record for hosting the most spectators at an indoor sporting event with its league all-star game. Almost 109,000 people were in the 80,000 seat building to watch the NBA's best players face off.

There were still a few signs of the game in the Cowboys Pro Shop, located through a door on the left side of the lobby, including a sparse selection of NBA All Star replica basketball jerseys.

The store is a testament to the commercialization of the American sporting culture; especially football in Texas, where it is cliched to say the sport is a religion. Covering 18,000 square feet, the pro shop is as large as a typical outlet sporting store in Canada. However, instead of a wide variety of sporting equipment, apparel and footwear, this store has countless items with only one theme; the Dallas Cowboys.

Within its walls lay a multitude of merchandise emblazoned with the the Dallas Cowboys emblematic star. There are sections for men's, women's and children's clothing and a wall for Cowboys themed vehicle accessories, such as mudflaps and bumper stickers.

Throughout the store is a smattering of other objects—some useful, others mundane, many useless—featuring, of course, the hometown NFL club. The list includes footballs, keychains, beer and coffee mugs, neck rests, hats, toques, pet clothing and accessories, dolls, framed photos, posters and more.

On this day, about 50 people mill around the store's aisles, some loading a few items in their arms for purchase. Others simply wait in a line at the back of the store for the start of their tour of the stadium. These tours—especially popular on Feb. 15 due to the national holiday—occur every 15 minutes from Monday to Friday. For \$15, one gets an almost, all-access pass to the facility, leaving out only the suite held by owner Jerry Jones himself.

The hour and a half tour begins by climbing a flight of stairs in the pro shop to the second level concourse. This is where the most notable feature of the stadium is first encountered; a \$40 million, 160-foot by 72-foot, 30 million LED light video screen that hangs at centre-field. It runs from the 20 yardline at one end of the field to the opposite 20 yardline, totalling 60 yards. It is the largest video screen in the world.



After more than seven years of planning and construction, the Dallas Cowboys began play in their new home last season.

## Lessons for Saskatchewan

The imposing structure—which shows highlights from the Cowboys' 2009 season—hangs above various crews cleaning up the basketball court and accessories related to the NBA All Star Game held the previous night.

Once the 15 members of the tour group enter the concourse, tour guide Bob Modlin—a senior-aged, enthusiastic employee at the Cowboys Pro Shop—guides the group to some spectator seats in a section straight up from the 50-yardline. It is here that Modlin introduces himself and the world's largest domed sports facility.

Cowboys Stadium, which took five years of planning and three years and two months to construct, covers an area of three million square feet. Its roof is supported by two arched beams reaching a quarter of a mile long each. A portion of the roof is retractable. Once opened, it grants those inside the facility a three-acre hole to the sky. The retractable portion—half of which moves east and the other west—takes about nine minutes to move into place.

Overall, the stadium contains a total of 80,000 seats, with other areas called "Party Zones," standing areas where spectators can take in the action on the field below.

Besides football and the recent basketball game, the stadium has and will also host concerts, mixed martial arts events, bull-riding events and motor sports events, says Modlin.

After a 10-minute-long introduction, the group is guided up behind the seats to one of eight large club rooms, which contain various concession stands and bars. Two of the clubs cover an area of 59,000 square feet, while 15 other smaller clubs are also located within the facility.

The decor is, of course, Dallas Cowboy themed. The marble floors and counters were specially purchased from a quarry in Ontario, where the rock contains a Cowboy-blue tint. The ceiling lights are shaped to represent the lacing in a giant football formation. The club area has a sheen to it that presents an aura of class and sophistication befitting the high priced tickets required to enter.

And fans rarely miss the action on the field while inside one of these clubs. There are 3,250 flatscreen televisions located throughout the stadium.

Further around the second tier concourse is the 300-seat press box, which stretches around one corner of the field. Inside are various work stations, with three levels of desk-ing 100 seats long facing out onto the field through tall panes of thick glass windows.

In place of the usually-centre-field press box are suites containing tables, chairs and stadium seating looking out over the field. A total of 310 suites ring the facility, all with the same thick-glass windows, which can be removed leaving only a short wall blocking a four-storey fall to the floor below, in some cases.

Moving on, Modlin takes the group through a glass-walled office area containing the headquarters for the Cotton Bowl, one of many college football championships held throughout the U.S. A recent agreement has committed the game to be played at Cowboys Stadium for the next 30 years.

On the glass wall to the main lobby of the Cotton Bowl office are "x" and "o" drawings of famous football plays

There are lessons to be learned from such a tour. A few of the ideas within the angled walls of Cowboys Stadium would be impressive additions to Regina's football facility.

performed through the history of the championship. On the opposite wall, the helmets of the teams who faced each other in the annual bowl game run vertically up to the ceiling. The area denotes both the popularity and history of American college football.

Down in the depths of the stadium, just off a giant, curving hallway that runs at field level, is the Dallas Cowboys' locker room. The lockers are made of dark, hardwood, with each one tagged for the player who sits there. On a wall at the centre of the room are two 42-inch televisions.

Down the hall is the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders locker room. While far smaller and far less ornamental than the team's room, the cheerleaders prepare for events in lockers below giant photos of themselves. One is surprised by its plainness considering the team is the most well-known cheerleading squad in the world.

Down from the dressing rooms just behind the home-team bench is the field level entrance to the playing area. Here sits the Miller Lite Club, where fans can sit at tables near a bar under a giant start shaped light and cheer on the Cowboys as they enter and leave the field before and after each half. Should club ticket holders want to watch the game live, they walk through the field entrance and sit at specially designated seating just above the club behind the players bench.



Tour guide Bob Modlin shows the 300-seat press box overlooking the playing field at Cowboys Stadium.

Modlin guides the group onto an elevator and back to the stadium's main entrance where the tour ends.

Walking back into the Texas winter sunshine, it feels like you've been spit out of the mouth of a giant. The stadium's daunting shadow forces you to turn and see just how large this mammoth really is.

If Jerry Jones has succeeded in one thing with the creation of Cowboys Stadium, it is how overwhelmingly expensive the facility is and how it makes one feel they have exited an icon to the game of football.

•••

There are lessons to be learned from such a tour. A few of the ideas within the angled walls of Cowboys Stadium would be impressive additions to Regina's football facility.

But the main lesson is in the cost of the Arlington, Texas facility. Originally, the facility's price tag came in at about \$800 million. Before the tour, Modlin suggested that Jerry Jones's "improvements" to the earliest plans for the stadium pushed the cost of the stadium to \$1.4 billion, or nearly 60 per cent higher than expected.

One may suggest otherwise. A structure of that magnitude must have gone over-budget not due to additional improvements, but from the general progression of costs through the seven-year period it took to go from architectural drawings to total construction.

In the Cowboys Stadium's case, Jerry Jones was there to back the mounting costs of the project.

In Regina, there appears to be only the City of Regina, the Province of Saskatchewan and the federal government, should the First Nations' proposal be denied. It appears it might. One of the conditions to the First Nations proposal is the sale of both the Casino Moose Jaw and Casino Regina, which the provincial government has already ruled out.

If the facility forwarded by the feasibility study goes only 30 per cent over budget—half of what was encountered in Arlington, Texas—that would be an extra cost of \$131 million required to come from somewhere.

Most likely, that is the taxpayers supporting the three jurisdictions of government. That is us.

Although Cowboys Stadium is a far grander example of what is proposed for Regina, many residents are hard-pressed to invest that much money into a facility that really benefits one city in the province.

Would it be wonderful to watch the Saskatchewan Roughriders indoors, especially as an instantaneous thunder or snow storm brews over the city? Of course.

Could an outdoor stadium or renovations to Mosaic Stadium sustain the needs of the city and province for another few years? Probably. The facility we have served us well the past 30 years.

Until a decision is made, the debate will rage on the radios and televisions and in the newspapers of Saskatchewan.

Building a giant idol to the sport of football like Jerry Jones may not be Saskatchewan's style.

Arguing about what a much smaller facility for Regina would entail is.

# When small towns take matters into their own hands

A skating shack adorned with black and yellow stripes.

Tables with white linens lined up in a row as far as the eye can see.

A main street whose buildings are painted red ('paint the town red' was never taken so literally).

A tourism trail based on the 'butter tart' (yes, the butter tart).

These were just some of the inspirational ideas I discovered while attending a gathering of small-town folk in rural Alberta. Having been invited by one of rural Saskatchewan's great champions, Monica Knight (formerly Coneys), the two of us set off on a "magical mystery tour" which reinforced my belief that small towns are indeed masters of their own destinies.

As I pulled my chair up beside Echo Chandler and Sharon Fisk of Scandia, Alberta, I could feel the vibrational energy pulling me into their "hive." These two energy-filled women are the "bee" ladies of Scandia. With Scandia Honey being the main employer and central business in this miniscule town of 125 residents, the town decided to capitalize on its bee power.

Within days of being inspired by Knight's speech on community development, Echo and her merry group of "busy bees" painted the town's skating shack black and yellow. Shortly after, they decided to develop Bee Mine Weddings. After all, Sharon is a marriage commissioner, and Scandia has a park and a hall, so why not host weddings? The town already has several bookings, with local folks coming out of the woodwork to do the catering, arrange the flowers and take the photos.

In the works for Scandia is also a catering business and trailer to sell and promote local foods, and bee products, of course.



**Christalee Froese**

And take the tiny town of Rosemary (pop 388), which held a long lunch down the centre of its main street for 100 residents and visitors. With white table linens, fine china, glass wine goblets and waiters from the high school, this town put on an outdoor meal that celebrated the community's spirit and featured food from local producers.

In Tilley, Alberta, they're painting the town red—literally. One building at a time, the Tilley CATs (Community Action Team) are rejuvenating this town's main street. Having visited one of Saskatchewan's most inspirational small towns, Mortlach, the Tilley CATs decided that a little paint, and a lot of enthusiasm, would go a long way in promoting the town. With a railroad theme as the driving force, the search is now on for a caboose (which will undoubtedly be painted red).

The Butter Tart Trail idea comes from just outside of Toronto where several small towns were tired of being by-passed. The communities within the Township of Wellington North decided to pool their resources and create a driving route which would attract butter tart lovers (now there's a massive market), and peace seekers. The trail includes a detailed map featuring antique stores, artisan studios, bakeries (with butter tarts in every shape, size and flavor), B&Bs, parks, greenhouses and farm-gate

producers selling honey, flowers, maple syrup and more. Businesses along the Butter Tart Trail report that sales have increased by 40 per cent since the caramel tart became the piece d' resistance.

Maybe it's just a can of paint (in black, yellow or red). Maybe it's just some linen table clothes and a buffet of local delicacies. Maybe it's just a six-pack of butter tarts. Maybe that's all it takes to create communities that are inspirational, and sustainable.

May-bee!

Christalee Froese welcomes comments at [lcfroese@sasktel.net](mailto:lcfroese@sasktel.net) or visit [www.westwords.net](http://www.westwords.net).

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## Saskpower selects carbon capture technology for Boundary Dam project

SaskPower has chosen SNC Lavalin-Cansolv to provide the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) capture system for the Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Demonstration Project.

SNC Lavalin-Cansolv's proposal was selected after a rigorous evaluation of three proposals shortlisted by SaskPower in February 2009. The evaluation was undertaken by SaskPower and an independent consultant, Stantec Engineering.

Should it proceed, the carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) project would transform an aging unit at Boundary Dam Power Station near Estevan into a reliable, long-term producer of 115 megawatts of clean baseload electricity, while enhancing provincial oil production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"SaskPower determined that SNC Lavalin-Cansolv was best able to deliver a carbon capture system with the lowest cost and acceptable risk, on time and on budget," Minister responsible for SaskPower Bill Boyd said.

The two companies involved in the partnership bring a significant amount of experience and skill to this project. With the innovative technology developed by Cansolv and the project management prowess of SNC Lavalin, SaskPower can take the next step in developing an innovative project that would ensure Saskatchewan has a reliable, affordable and clean supply of electricity for many years to come.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to be a partner in this project with a \$240-million investment that will advance Canada's leadership in CCS technology, creating high-quality jobs for Canadians and helping to protect the environment," said David

Anderson, Member of Parliament for Cypress Hills-Grasslands.

SaskPower will make a final decision on whether to proceed with the Bound-

ary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Demonstration Project later this year. There remains important work to do in the areas of finalizing proj-

ect cost estimates, securing customers for the captured CO<sub>2</sub>, and making an assessment of the timing and extent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions regulations.

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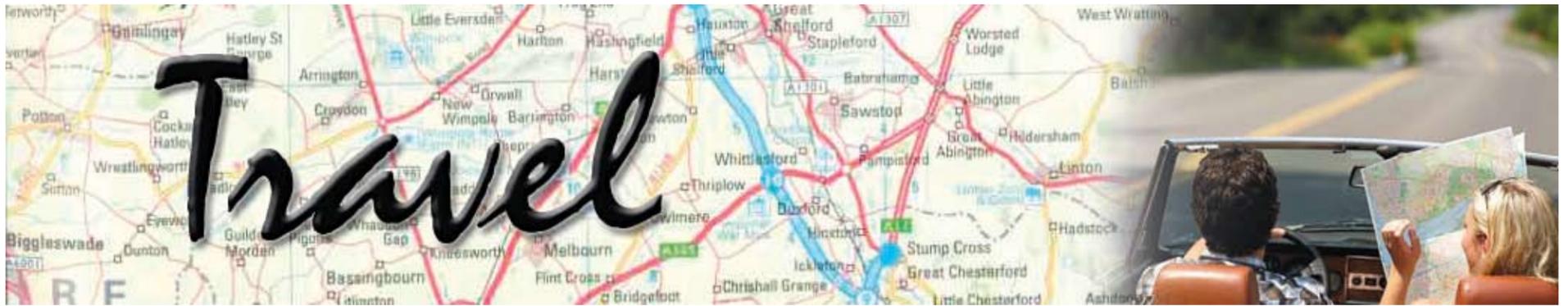
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Kara Kinna photos

Rooftops at Cannes, France against the ocean and Maritime Alps.



The London Eye overlooking the Thames and houses of parliament in London, England.

# Introducing Europe, from head to toe

Few places pack the punch of Europe—a historical, cultural and geographical heavyweight that squares up confidently to any other continent on earth.

From its northern lights to its southern shores, this drama queen keeps on thrilling, surprising and confusing with her extraordinary wealth of sights, sounds, peoples and parties.

Whatever your connection to Europe—whether descendent of one or more of its peoples, a current inhabitant or future visitor—be prepared for sensory overload as your eyes, ears and tastebuds take the trip of a lifetime through a part of planet earth that never fails to dazzle.

Of course, for many Europe is all about history, and oh, what a history! Even buffs will be astonished to find the layer cake of ancient and modern that Europe presents visitors with at every turn. As well as the birthplace of democracy in Athens, the Forum of Rome, the renaissance buildings and art of Florence, the graceful canals of Venice and the Napoleonic grandeur of Paris, there's always the less expected sites such as the Moorish palaces of Andalucía, the remains of one of the Seven Wonders of the World in Turkey, the majesty of a second Venice in St. Petersburg and the haunting buildings of Auschwitz in Poland.

While Europe revels and takes pride in its extraordinary heritage, it is certainly not one to be limited by it. Indeed, the continent leads the world in fashion, art, music, architecture and design; just see the street styles and music scenes of London and Berlin, the ground-breaking design in Antwerp, Copenhagen and

Stockholm or the amazing displays of contemporary art, well, just about everywhere, to confirm that.

If glorious scenery is your thing you'll not be disappointed either—check out the awesome fjords of Norway, the stunning scenery of the Scottish Highlands, the volcanic dramatics of Iceland, the breathtaking Alps of France, Switzerland and Italy, and the lesser-known mountains of Spain, Slovenia, Southern Poland and Slovakia. For beach life you can fight for some sand on France's Côte d'Azur, Spain's Costa Brava or Portugal's Algarve, or—far more enjoyably—discover your own pristine beach in Albania, Bulgaria or on the gem-like islands of Greece and Croatia.

Of course, travel in Europe is not always about the dazzling sights and world-famous museums. Perhaps the single biggest pleasure of travelling this incredible continent is the range of different people of all nationalities you'll meet along the way—whether fellow travellers or locals. However cosmopolitan your background may be, there's nothing quite like strolling the streets of Venice with a Venetian, taking a banya (steam bath) and being beaten with birch twigs by a Russian, or just kicking back, watching live music and drinking Guinness in a pub with a Dubliner.

Hassles? There'll be a few, inevitably. While Europe has to be one of the easiest and safest places on earth to travel, you'll find your money won't always go very far (especially in London, Paris and much of Switzerland—ouch!) and that in the summer months hostels can be booked up weeks ahead, making creative bed finding and flexibility key. A sense of humor

is needed for many places. Whether it's another strike by French railway workers when you really need to get somewhere, or the greediness of petty bureaucrats on the make in Belarus or Moldova, just remember that it can be these challenges and dramas that end up making the best stories of the trip.

Europe today is a continent more united than ever, with the European Union (EU) stretching from the frozen Arctic to the tip of Africa, and a single currency now used in the majority of European states. But don't let these facts fool you—with centuries of parochial development bringing about unique cultural values and traditions, the globalising sheen of the EU has little day-to-day effect on the continent's myriad nationalities, all of whom retain their idiosyncrasies and fiercely guard their independence. Indeed, there are few places in the world where you can pass through so many countries in such a short span of time and witness the striking differences between each one so markedly. Beyond the EU, this is even more noticeable of course, whether in old-timer refusenik Switzerland, for whom neutrality remains sacrosanct, or the pariah state of Belarus—"Europe's last dictatorship" and a place where time has seemingly stood still since the end of communism.

Wherever you go on the continent you'll find that the subject of the EU comes up again and again—whether from the arch-federalist Benelux countries that passionately support the growth of the union, to your more cautious Brits, Danes and Swedes who, while in the club, still can't bear to give up their cen-

turies-old currencies and hand over economic decisions to Brussels.

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# Sostorics will celebrate for months

BY CHRIS JASTER

Colleen Sostorics' had one of the most memorable moments of her life on Feb. 25 when she won her third Olympic gold medal with Canada's women's hockey team.

Amid all the celebrations on the ice, it didn't take long for Sostorics to remember her family. Her parents and her husband were in the stands at Canada Hockey Place and she wanted to share her moment of glory with them.

"My parents have been there since Day 1 and my first hockey practice in the Kennedy rink," Sostorics said while waiting for an airplane to take her back to her home in Calgary. "I can't imagine them not being there for a moment like that."

Sostorics' parents, Lanny and Jean, weren't just in Vancouver for the gold medal game. They were there for 15 days enjoying the Olympics with the other parents of Canada's hockey players, largely thanks to the Ladies First Hockey Foundation putting up all the family members in one location.

After going around on the ice celebrating Canada's 2-0 triumph over the United States with her teammates, Sostorics, who's originally from Kennedy, turned her attention to finding her family in the crowd.

"I was just looking in the stands to find everyone who supported me," said Sostorics, who stayed on the ice for at least 45 minutes after the game. "I found one friend and mouthed for him to find Ken, my husband. He called him and said 'Colleen says to get down to ice level so she can find you.'"

"Then I eventually found my parents who were crying and I'm motioning them to come right down to the glass so I could show the medal to them and they eventually did. I was trying to get my flowers to them, but I couldn't because of the mesh over the glass. So I skated to the other side of the rink and chucked them to a regular gentleman who said he'd give it to them and a few minutes later he shoved his way through the crowd so my mom could have my flowers.

"People were just so generous and so proud of our team and so nice to us. It's amazing."

The fans were just as generous to Team Canada during their games at the Olympics. The vast majority of the people in the stands were dressed in red and white and wholeheartedly cheered on the Canadian team throughout the entire event.

The fans went crazy every time Canada scored and even cheered when Canadian players touched a puck in the offensive zone and when players made a good defensive play.

The cheering was so intense, the team had the players meet with a sports psychologist to make sure

they weren't too affected by the fans' support.

"We did have to have a meeting with our sports psychologist to talk about that so that we didn't get ourselves too pumped up in the dressing room because the moment you got close to the ice you could hear the fans and you're going to get that higher level of excitement," said Sostorics. "And if you get too high then you can't play. You have to stay focussed."

But it wasn't just the fans inside the hockey arena that were wild and crazy.

"The one opportunity I had to go to downtown Vancouver at the beginning of the tournament, it was crazy then," she said. "All the Canadian pride just showing on everyone's faces and in their voices. It's kind of unbelievable and amazing. I just can't wait to get out into the world and getting into that instead of getting confined into the village."

"I think as athletes we did something special, but as a country it was pretty special. The Canadian pride I saw on news clips it's just amazing. We're all very humble and modest Canadians, but it's nice to shout Go Canada from the rooftops."

Life in the athletes' village was also about patriotism. Sostorics and the other Canadian athletes gathered together in the athletes' lounge and became friends and fans there. They were also given phones that allowed athletes to watch broadcasts of the games.

Whether they were on the bus going to a game or in the locker room after a game, the Canadian women's hockey team always knew how the other Canadian Olympians were faring.

"We were in the dressing room after one of the games watching Joannie (Rochette) skate and that was sort of an emotional thing," said Sostorics. "I can't imagine what she was going through to pull off a performance like that. That was something that was very special and the whole team was chanting 'Joannie, Joannie.'"

It didn't take long for all the patriotism to sink in with Sostorics. She almost lost her voice while cheering on both of Canada's curling teams in their respective gold medal games and the men's hockey team in its overtime win in the gold medal game.

Strangely enough, Sostorics found it more difficult to sit in the stands cheering on other Canadian teams than it was to play in Canada Hockey Place.

"It's almost more nerve-racking to be in the stands to watch Canadians compete for gold than it is to be on the ice," she said.

If she had any nerves on the ice, Sostorics didn't show them. She was on the ice for 89 minutes and seven seconds during the



Colleen Sostorics celebrates winning her third Olympic gold medal by skating around Canada Hockey Place with a Canadian flag.

Olympics and recorded six points, which included the first and only goal of her Olympic career so far.

Although she kept that puck, Sostorics is more proud of her third Olym-

pic gold medal than that puck.

"Some of the people reading this paper saw me play and know I'm not really known for my goal scoring," said Sostorics, who finished the

tournament with a +13 rating. "I'm known for my defensive capabilities, so getting a goal was just a bonus. But I like to help my team win a gold medal in an offensive type of way."

"I was happy with my performance. I think that final game played to my style of hockey. I was happy to be able to contribute in the penalty kill and do things that I do well. But I would have been happy with half of that ice time as long as we won the gold medal. I was just happy to be contributing in any way."

Sostorics was also happy for every one of her teammates. She was so filled she joy she made sure she hugged each player, which is a rarity for her.

"I was just happy for all of them," said Sostorics, who also had a fan toss her a Canadian flag to celebrate with on the ice. "I was so happy. I just wanted to have that moment with each and every one of my teammates."

Sostorics returned to her home in Calgary after the Olympics in search of some much needed sleep.

She is, however, planning to return to Kennedy to celebrate her success in Vancouver.

"I know there's going to be lots of celebration," she said. "I know I'll be back in Kennedy in March or April or sometime soon to share it with the folks back there because I know everybody was watching and they're all very, very proud. I just want to come back and celebrate with them."

"As for my long term goals, I'm going to think about that after I'm done celebrating because I have a lot of people to celebrate with in the Kennedy and area and in Calgary. It's going to be a fun few months."

Kennedy already has a party planned to honor Sostorics' accomplishment.

The village will be "Welcoming Home the Gold" on Friday when it hosts a potluck supper at the Kennedy Community Hall at 6 p.m. Anybody who is interested in the event is welcome to attend and celebrate Sostorics' accomplishment with her and her hometown community.

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<p><b>3-PIECE AMANA SUITE PACKAGE \$1,737</b> AFTER \$200 INSTANT REBATE</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Amana® 18 cu. ft. Top-Freezer Refrigerator*</b> <b>\$599</b></p> <p><small>2 Clear Crispers with Humidity Control 2 Full Width Adjustable Spillmizer Glass Shelves Gallon Door Storage</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Amana® 4.8 cu. ft. Electric Freestanding Range</b> <b>\$799</b></p> <p><small>Glass Ceramic Cooktop Self Clean Oven Delay Bake Setting Extra-Large Oven Window</small></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Amana® Tall Tub Dishwasher</b> <b>\$539</b></p> <p><small>MasterClean™ Plus Wash System Twice as Nice™ Silverware Baskets 4 Options, 3 Cycles</small></p> </div> </div>	
<p><b>INSTANT REBATE SAVE \$200†††</b> On the purchase of any 3-piece Amana® kitchen suite See in-store for details</p>	

\* Dealer prices may vary. Dealers have sole discretion to set retail prices.  
 \*\* \$1,450 total savings based on the following calculation: \$1,250 Maytag® rebate value based on maximum combined rebate amount on purchase of qualifying Maytag® appliances and Laundry 1-2-3™ from a participating authorized Canadian Maytag® appliance dealer.  
 †† See in-store sales associate for details.  
 ††† On the purchase of any 3-piece Amana® kitchen suite purchased from February 15 to March 31, 2010.  
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# SHUTTLE RUN SERVICE

Maryfield, Redvers, Manor	Weyburn	Estevan	Moosomin, Whitewood	Gainsborough, Carnivale, Carnduff, Oxbow, Alameda
April 6, 13, 20, 27	April 7, 8, 21, 22	April 1, 14, 15, 28, 29	April 2, 16, 30	April 9, 23
May 4, 11, 18, 25	May 5, 6, 19, 20	May 12, 13, 26, 27	May 14, 28	May 7, 21
June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	June 2, 3, 16, 17, 30	June 9, 10, 23, 24	June 11, 25	June 4, 18
July 6, 13, 20, 27	July 1, 14, 15, 28, 29	July 7, 8, 21, 22	July 9, 23	July 2, 16, 30
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	August 11, 12, 25, 26	August 4, 5, 18, 19	August 6, 20	August 13, 27
September 7, 14, 21, 28	September 8, 9, 22, 23	September 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30	September 3, 17	September 10, 24
<b>Pickup Times</b> Maryfield 9am Drop In Centre	<b>Pickup Times</b> Weyburn 9am City Centre Mall	<b>Pickup Times</b> Estevan 9am Shoppers Mall	<b>Pickup Times</b> Moosomin 9am The Uptown Bar	<b>Pickup Times</b> Gainsborough 9am Happy Hours Club
<b>Redvers 9:40am</b> Triple LC Convenience	This shuttle returns home from the casino at 4:00pm	This shuttle returns home from the casino at 4:00pm	<b>Whitewood 9:30am</b> The Cam Am Travel Shop	<b>Carnivale 9:10am</b> 309 Railway Ave Golden Years Club
<b>Manor 9:55am</b> Manor Family Restaurant			This shuttle returns home from the casino at 3:00pm	<b>Carnduff West End 9:20am</b> Convenience
This shuttle returns home from the casino at 3:00pm				<b>Oxbow 9:35am</b> Mick Stop & Shop
				This shuttle returns home from the casino at 3:00pm



All passengers who ride the shuttle will also receive \$10 coin when they arrive at the Casino.

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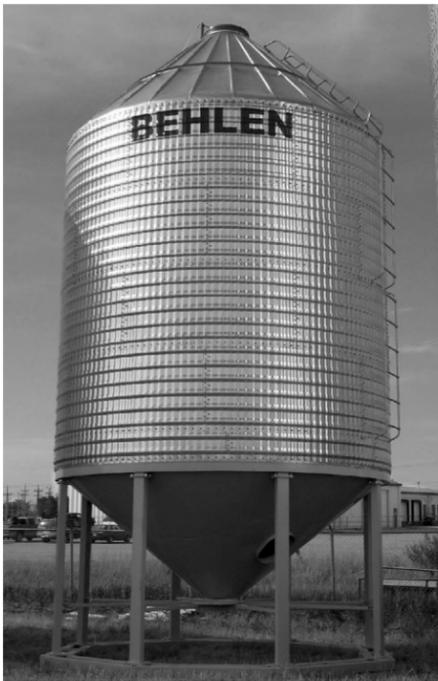
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23-1c

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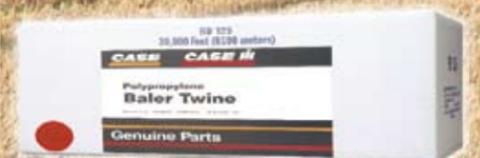
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28-1c

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**2007 Chevrolet 2500HD LT Crew**  
4x4, 6.6L Duramax, auto, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, leather buckets, keyless, 16" alum. wheels, keyless entry, trailer pkg., 70,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$35,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$36,995**

**2008 Chevrolet Avalanche LT**  
4x4, 5.3L, V8 auto, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, buckets, remote start, 17" alum. wheels, rear park assist, assist steps, STW controls, 56,500 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$31,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$32,995**

**2007 Chevrolet Avalanche LT**  
4x4, 5.3L, V8 auto, loaded, leather buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, remote start, 20" alum. wheels, rear park assist, power pedals, 73,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$26,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$27,995**

**2007 Ford F-150 Lariat**  
4x4, supercab, 5.4L, V8 auto, heated leather front bench, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, keyless entry, step tubes, alum. wheels, 60,100 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$22,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$23,995**

**2007 GMC K2500HD SLE Crew**  
4x4, 6.6L, V8 Duramax, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, buckets, keyless, sunroof, camper mirrors, Bose stereo, 16" alum. wheels, 59,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$36,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$37,995**

**2006 Chevrolet Equinox LT**  
3.4L, V6 auto, front buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, keyless, sunroof, 16" alum. wheels \*2 to choose from

**STARTING AT:**  
**\$18,495**

**STK#3455**

**2007 Volkswagen Touareg AWD**  
V6 auto, front buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, htd. steering wheel, keyless entry, 5-disc changer, alloy wheels, 92,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$24,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$25,995**

**2007 Toyota Tundra LTD Crew**  
4x4, V8 auto, loaded, htd. leather buckets, keyless entry, alloy wheels, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, step tubes, front & rear park assist, 39,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$33,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$34,995**

**2007 GMC 2500HD SLT CREW**  
4x4, 6.6L, V8 Duramax, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, leather buckets, keyless, 2" lift, camper mirrors, locking diff., 127,200 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$33,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$34,995**

**Chevrolet Impala Sedan**  
auto, buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, alum. wheels, keyless entry \*11 more to choose from!

**STARTING AT:**  
**\$6,995**

**STK#100433**

**2003 Audi A4 Quattro AWD**  
3.0L, V6 auto, front buckets, leather, htd. front & rear seats, sunroof, keyless, alloy wheels, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, 131,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$17,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$18,995**

**2008 Mazda CX-7 AWD**  
2.4L, 4 cyl. turbo, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, buckets, keyless, alloy wheels, STW controls, 59,800 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$23,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$24,995**

**2009 Pontiac Vibe AWD**  
2.4L, 4 cyl auto, front buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, keyless, 17" chrome wheels, 44,200 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$16,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$17,995**

**2005 Mazda Tribute GT AWD**  
3.0L, V6 auto, loaded, leather, sunroof, alloy wheels, front buckets, keyless, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, 132,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$11,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$12,995**

**2006 Chevrolet 1500 LS Ext.**  
4x4, GFX, 5.3L, V8 auto, 40/20/40 bench, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, step tubes, keyless, 103,700 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$17,495**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$18,495**

**2006 Chevrolet 1500 LS Ext.**  
4x4, 5.3L, V8 auto, 40/20/40 bench, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, step tubes, keyless, 84,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$18,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$19,995**

**2009 Pontiac G8 Sedan**  
3.6L, V6 auto, front buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, sunroof, remote start, 18" alum. wheels, 6-disc changer, 17,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$26,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$27,995**

**2008 Buick Enclave CXL AWD**  
3.6L, V6 auto, htd. leather buckets, A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, 19" alum. wheels, 2nd row captain seats, keyless, 79,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$31,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$32,995**

**2005 Cadillac CTS Sedan**  
3.6L, V6 auto, htd. leather buckets, sunroof, 17" alum. wheels, keyless, 6-disc changer, Bose stereo, 143,000 kms

**FINANCE PRICE:**  
**\$14,995**

**CASH PRICE:**  
**\$15,995**

**2009 Chevrolet Suburban**  
4x4, 5.3L, V8 auto, loaded, htd. leather, 8 pass., A/C/T, PW/PL/PS, sunroof, remote start, 17" alum. wheels, power pedals, 23,000 kms

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# SARM pleased government addressing competitiveness in Canadian cattle industry

The federal government last week announced new funding to help make the red meat sector more competitive. The Slaughter Improvement Fund is receiving \$25 million dollars for plants that handle cattle older than 30 months. It costs more in Canada to slaughter these cattle than it does in the United States because of the Specified Risk Material (SRM) disposal requirements.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is pleased

that the federal government is pursuing ways to make Canada's livestock industry more competitive.

"SARM has always taken the position that Canadian cattle producers must have a level playing field compared to their American counterparts. We are pleased that the government has recognized this problem and is addressing it," said SARM President David Marit.

"SRM requirements have impacted not only our pro-

ducers but also our packing plants."

The federal government will also be investing \$40 million in new technologies for dealing with SRM removal and disposal. This announcement includes exploring potential revenue sources from SRM.

"SARM has always maintained that there must be some value-added component to SRM removal as there is in the United States. This will help move us in that direction," said Marit.

## Upcoming Ritchie Bros. Auctions

...more information can be found at [rbauction.com](http://rbauction.com)!



### Regina Auction Site

Rouleau, SK • March 30, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Regina Auction Site: 306.776.2397  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



### Kevin Spate

Morse, SK • April 1, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kevin Spate: 306.629.3345 (h), 306.629.7601 (c)  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



### Norman & Brenda Cote

Cadillac, SK • April 6, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Norman Cote: 306.773.8680 (h), 306.774.3158  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



### RL Wolfe/Taylor Bros Farms

MacGregor, MB • April 7, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chris Woodward: 204.871.5174  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



### Eugene & Morris Nickolayou

Insinger, SK • April 7, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Eugene: 306.647.2451, Morris: 306.647.2682  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Lorne Campbell: 306.421.9766



### Saskatoon Auction Site

Saskatoon, SK • April 9, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Saskatoon Auction Site: 306.933.9333  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Jordan Clarke: 306.539.1882



### Randy & Sandy Clark

Rockglen, SK • April 10, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Randy & Sandy Clark: 306.476.2734 (h), 306.476.7704(c)  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Darren Clarke: 306.529.5399



### Ziolkowski Farms Ltd.

Yorkton, SK • April 10, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Warren Ziolkowski: 306.782.5838 (h), 306.621.7292 (c)  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Lorne Campbell: 306.421.9766



### Benson Consignment Sale

Benson, SK • April 12, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Estevan Office: 306.634.9909  
Ritchie Bros. Manager – Daryl Martin: 306.421.5066



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COMBINES				
0% FOR 12 months on selected units - OAC				
YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	SOLD
2009	MF	9895	duals, MAV, autolube, leather, 16' swathmaster, loaded, warranty to 2011	\$349,000
2006	MF	9790	chopper, cs, swathmaster, 382 hrs, warranty	SOLD
2003	MF	9790	MAV, lat tilt, swathmaster	\$164,900
1999	CaseIH	2388	chopper, spreaders, swathmaster	\$109,500
1997	NH	TX66	Chopper, pu	\$64,500
1994	MF	8570	Chopper, cs, swathmaster	\$48,000
1986	Gleaner	R50	PU, chopper, spreaders	\$22,500
1983	MF	852	Chopper, pu	\$2,500

COMBINE HEADERS				
2009	MF	5100	36', U2, fore/aft, transport kit, adapter	SOLD
2003	Case IH	1010	30' rigid, PUR, fore/aft	\$14,900
1995	Case IH	1020	30', flex, PUR, fore/aft	\$14,900
1996	NH	973	30', flex, PUR	\$12,500
1994	MF	9700	30' PUR	\$11,000
1991	MacDon	960	25' PUR	\$10,000
1994	Gleaner	400	25', PUR	\$9,500
1987	Gleaner	330	30', batt & air reel	\$7,500
1983	Gleaner	324	24', batt reel, fits L3	\$2,500

HAY TOOLS				
0% FOR 12 months on selected units - OAC				
2008	MF	1756	5x6, auto tie, demo	BLOWOUT
2002	Hesston	856A	5x6, full auto Mesh wrap	\$22,900
2001	Hesston	856A	5x6, Full Auto	\$19,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6	\$13,900
1999	Hesston	565A	5x6, auto tie	\$14,900
2000	NH	688	5x6 baler	\$15,500
2008	MF	9125	18' hay hdr, loaded	DEMO
2006	Hesston	9040	16' hay hdr, advanced double	\$19,900
2007	MF	1476	16', s/s rollers	\$26,900
2002	Hesston	1275	16' s/s, reverser	\$20,900
1999	MacDon	5000	16', s/s rollers	\$12,500
2005	Bale King	3100	rh discharge, fine cut	\$10,900
2004	Morris	1400	Hay Hiker	\$21,000
2008	MF	3743	manure spreader, 430 bu.	MUST GO

SWATHERS				
0% FOR 24 months - on selected units - OAC				
2007	MF	9435	36', U2, skid shoes, gauge wheels	\$94,900
2005	Hesston	9240	30', U2, gauge wheels	\$74,900
2000	MF	220 II	30', p/u reel, gauge wheels, sch drive	\$48,500
1999	MF	220 II	26' DS, PU reel, sch drive	\$46,500

TRACTORS				
2010	Versatile	435	435hp, ps, metrics, loaded	Call
2005	Fendt	818	180hp, 730 hrs, front 3pt/pto, 755 loader/grapple, loaded	Call
2003	Fendt	926	260hp, 750 hrs, 855 loader, loaded	Call
1988	Case IH	7130	173hp, fwa	Call
1986	JD	4450	140hp, powershift	\$31,900
1989	Deutz Allis	9130	135hp, fwa, 18 sp ps	\$18,000
1978	Case	885	72hp, 3pth, new rubber	\$6,500

SEEDING & TILLAGE				
1999	SEED HAWK	357	44', 12" spacing, onboard seed and fertilizer, shedded	\$72,500

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MISCELLANEOUS				
	Farm King	1050	10" x 50" swing auger	\$4,800
2010	Sakundiak	TL10-1200	10" x 39.5' belt drive	Call
2010	Sakundiak	HD8-1400	8" x 46' auger, 27hp, SP kit, loaded	In Stock
2009	Spray Air	4385	13" x 85' swing away	In Stock
2009	Farm King (Conveyair)	6640	grain vac	Call
2003	Bergen	3600	header trailer, torflex	\$3,500



Whitewood, SK.



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# Regina man licks cakes to check for freshness

• The last couple of columns were a bit dated as I had to get them done early because the wife and I headed off on the first winter holiday of our 32 years together. Funny what you can do when the kids are gone.

• Hopefully our flight to Hawaii to spend a glorious week with good friends was not bothered by any terrorists. Wendel Potter reported that Al Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing of that U.S. flight (by the Underwear Bomber) on Christmas Day. "Now Homeland Security is saying, 'See! We told you it wasn't our fault!'" wrote Potter.

• "You'd think that our airport security wouldn't stink," noted Neil Berliner, "considering that those T.S.A. guys have all of our mouthwash, toothpaste, and deodorant over three ounces."

• "I've just started hitting the weights again," said Frederic C. Schultz, Esq. "Gotta look good for when I'm strip-searched on my next flight!" As I wrote this before my trip, I was wondering about the scanners. I should have worn my Speedos . . . that would serve them right for peeking!

• And one more in honor of our traveling. "If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip." That was definitely me as we reached mid-winter. I'm just not too sure how relaxing it would be. Too many things to see and do.

• Starting in March, 2008, the Cathedral of Christ the King in Phoenix has been ringing its bells every half-hour, 24 hours a day. The neighbors are outraged, and the church will have a showdown with City Hall. Meanwhile in Britain, Martina Rabess, 52, was sanctioned by the Magistrates Court after neighbors complained about her loud, continuous recitations of the Lord's Prayer in early morning hours around her apartment house.

• Alexander Dwight Rodrigue, 23, was arrested in Regina after hanging around in the bakery section of a supermarket and reportedly "opening cake boxes, touching them and then licking the cakes." When the staff approached him, he explained that he was checking for freshness.

• Hayley Price, 42, received the proverbial slap on the wrist in British court. She pleaded guilty to forging an uncle's checks to the tune of \$65,000. She was fined all of \$8, given a suspended sentence and ordered to do com-



**Gene Hauta**

munity service. The judge's reasoning was that Price was broke, having already spent the money she stole.

• The White House ordered banks to freeze \$30 million that is owed to online poker winners. "Poker is a game where good lying skills are richly rewarded," said Argus Hamilton. "You'd think politicians would leave them alone out of professional courtesy."

• A Chicago judge has ruled that former firefighter Jeffrey Boyle is entitled to his \$50,000 annual pension even though he had pleaded guilty in 2006 to eight counts of arson, and confessed to a dozen more. Boyle is known locally as "Matches" Boyle to distinguish him from his brother, John "Quarters" Boyle, who is now in federal prison for bribery following the theft of millions of dollars in state toll-gate coins. Judge LeRoy Martin Jr. reached the conclusion that Matches' arsons had nothing to do with his career.

• As an educator I find this really hard to believe. The Berkeley (Calif.) School Board has started the process to eliminate science labs from its curriculum. The reasoning to me is mind-boggling. Since the classes mostly serve white students, less money is available for programs for underperforming minorities. Berkeley High's white students do far better academically than the state average; black and Latino students do worse than average. Five science teachers will lose their jobs.

• Because of the recession and increasing cigarette taxes, more smokers are reportedly struggling to keep their habit. "It's almost like there is some sort of conspiracy to make them live longer," opined Jim Barach.

• A jewelry store burglary in Conroe, Texas, was not very smooth. To begin with, the lookout could not deactivate the alarm. The two men inside the building had no idea that the alarm had sounded and found police waiting for them when they came out. To rub salt in

their wounds, their getaway driver was found sleeping nearby. The perps were charged with burglary as well as engaging in organized criminal activity.

• Diane Lyons, 31, was shocked and disappointed when her six-year-old daughter stole a \$3.11 pack of stickers from the Discount Drug Mart in Carrollton, Ohio. So Lyons called police on the girl. An officer took the girl to the police station, but soon released her to her mother. It all sounds like good parenting, until Lyons applied for the \$30 reward offered by the store for anyone who turns in shoplifters. She did decide against taking the money because she was afraid people would think she set it all up.

• Mark Weinberger, a plastic surgeon in Merrillville, Ind., was able to convince many patients to undergo expensive surgical procedures. However, he either took the money and did nothing, or he botched the procedures. The 46-year-old doctor fled to the woods, prepared to hide out, avoiding the hundreds of patients and insurance companies claiming fraud or malpractice, more than \$5 million in debts, and his wife. Five years later, Italian police found him hiding in a tent at 6,000 feet on Mont Blanc. Shortly after he was arrested, the doctor tried to slit his own throat, but missed all crucial spots, not surprising considering his lack of knowledge about the human body. He will be extradited to the U.S.

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



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# AGRICULTURE BRIEFLY

## CWB to reduce operating costs

As the federal government mounts a renewed effort to end the Canadian Wheat Board's marketing monopoly, the board is making a major effort to reduce its operating costs.

Spokeswoman Brita Chell says administrative costs were up \$3.3 million in the most recent crop year, partly because of restructuring.

Total operating costs reached \$79 million.

She says the board is examining all aspects of its operations, including how inventory is managed and the most efficient way of moving grain to port.

In the last crop year, the board paid farmers a total of just over \$7 billion, the second-highest payout ever.

## Cattle industry could turn

A Manitoba cattle buyer says 2010 will be a year of transition for the Canadian cattle industry.

Rick Wright with Heartland Order Buying Company says the industry is moving out of the bottom of the price cycle.

He says there are signs of a complete turnaround in the cattle business by 2014.

Wright says he understands some producers are

reluctant to get their hopes up after potential price runs in the last decade consistently hampered by bad luck.

He believes, provided there isn't any abnormal

market activity such as an outbreak of BSE or more country-of-origin labelling laws, that there will be significant improvement in the cattle business in the next few years.

## Organic sector gets a boost

The federal government is giving the organic food sector \$170,000 in aid.

The Organic Trade As-

sociation will receive more than \$118,000.

The money will be used to participate in international trade shows, develop promotional materials and build a long-term international strategy for the organic sector.

The Canadian Organic Growers Association gets

almost \$50,000 dollars to develop a strategy for determining how current on-farm food safety can best meet the specific needs of organic agriculture.

Five organic commodities will be chosen for the project in consultation with organic farmers across the country.



"Lookit that, Snodgrass—they put out a bounty on coyotes an' ev'ry twogunslinger in the west shows up . . ."

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- 2009 CIH DX-55** Cab, fully loaded, Compact Tractor, 3pth, left h and reverser Complete with LX 360 Loader, Joy Stick 53 one owner hrs,
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- 1994 CIH 1688 Combine** specialty rotor, new sieve, with pickup head, chaff spreader, fore and aft, 30.5 x 32 Tires, topper, 1456 engine hours, \$12,000 Spent on recent red light. Serial #122537
- 2006 Harvest Pro Harvest Swather** Turbo, Big Hubs, w/Macdon 972 head, pickup reel, serial # 158696 only 275 one owner hrs.
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# Continued enhancements for 2010 crop insurance program

Recently Agriculture Minister Bob Bjonnerud announced details of the 2010 Crop Insurance Program, which includes reduced producer premiums and additional crops eligible for coverage.

"Our government has worked extensively with producers and industry groups to improve Crop Insurance," Bjonnerud said. "The new features introduced today build on the last year's enhanced program and will help to address the needs of our producers as agriculture in Saskatchewan continues to evolve."

New Program features in 2010 include coverage for camelina, soybeans, navy beans and honey. In addition, the Contract Price Option has been expanded to include flax, lentils and alfalfa seed.

All of the new initiatives

introduced in 2009 as a result of the Crop Insurance Review will also continue.

Yield cushioning will now be a permanent feature of Crop Insurance, after being a pilot program in 2009. This feature limits the impact of consecutive poor growing seasons, such as a prolonged drought, on a producer's level of coverage.

"Crop insurance is an important tool Saskatchewan farmers can use to protect their bottom line," Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said. "We're proud to partner with the Province of Saskatchewan to fund crop insurance and make sure it works for producers on the ground."

Producer premiums are decreasing by 16 per cent, on average, because of above average crops over the past several years and lower crop prices this year. Due to these lower crop prices,

coverage is decreasing by 10 per cent, on average, in 2010. However, this is still the third highest coverage level per acre ever offered by Crop Insurance.

"The addition of soybeans and navy beans to the program, as well as lentils to the Contract Price Option, will help our industry continue to grow in this province," Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Chair Murray Purcell said. "We commend Crop Insurance for working with us and recognizing the value of these program improvements for pulse producers."

"SARM is pleased to see Crop Insurance build on the program improvements made in 2009, which have worked well for producers," SARM President David Marit said. "The implementation of yield cushioning as a permanent feature and the

addition of new crops to the program will help producers manage their risk, diversify and compete in the global marketplace."

"We appreciate the inclusion of honey in the Crop Insurance Program," Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association President Calvin Parsons said. "This coverage, coupled with the previously announced compensation for bear damage, will help beekeepers manage their risks and attract young people to this important industry."

The deadline for customers to apply for, make changes to, or cancel their 2010 Crop Insurance contract is March 31. Detailed program and contract information is also available at any customer service office, at [www.saskcropinsurance.com](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com) or by calling 1-888-935-0000.

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## Tried and True Recipes

by Sandra Johnson



### Laurie's Coffee Cake Muffins

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/4 cup brown sugar, firmly packed | 1 1/4 cup milk            |
| 1 Tbsp. flour                      | 1/2 cup margarine, melted |
| 1 Tbsp margarine, softened         | 2 1/2 cups flour          |
| 1 tsp cinnamon                     | 1/2 cup sugar             |
| Muffins:                           | 3 1/2 tsp baking powder   |
| 1 egg                              | 1 tsp. salt               |

Combine first four ingredients and set aside. Beat egg in large bowl, blend in milk and margarine. Add dry ingredients, stir until just moistened. Spoon 1/2 of batter into greased muffin tins. Sprinkle 1 Tbsp brown sugar mixture over each, top with remaining batter. Bake at 400°F for 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Makes 12 muffins.

### Chicken and Vegetable Combination

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 6 to 8 chicken breasts, cooked and cubed     | 1/2 tsp. ginger                              |
| 1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced                | 1 clove garlic, minced                       |
| 3 ribs celery, cut diagonally                | 1 cup water                                  |
| 2 cups broccoli flowerettes                  | 4 heaping tsp chicken bouillon               |
| 6 green onions, cut diagonally               | 4 tsp soy sauce                              |
| 4 Tbsp oil                                   | 2 Tbsp cornstarch                            |
| 1 small onion, cut into wedges and separated | 1 - 15 oz. can baby corn, drained and rinsed |

Heat 2 Tbsp oil in wok or wok skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, celery, broccoli, onions and garlic, stir fry for 2 minutes. Blend together water, crumbled bouillon cubes, soy sauce and cornstarch. Add to vegetable mixture, stir until mixture boils and thickens. Add chicken and baby corn; stir until heated through. Serves 4.

# Riparian tax credit application deadline nears for producers

Manitoba agricultural producers with land bordering a waterway are once again eligible to apply for the Riparian Tax Credit, Finance Minister Rosann Wowchuk and Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick announced.

"Last year, we doubled the Riparian Tax Credit and simplified the rules for cattle producers," said Wowchuk. "Our government believes that during these times of economic recovery it's more important than ever to continue offering programs like this one that put money back into the hands of Manitobans."

"Manitoba producers are known for being good stewards of the land and the Riparian Tax Credit recognizes those producers and encourages others to join in these best practices," said Melnick. "Studies have shown that taking care of riverbanks and lakeshores by allowing ground cover to grow back, while limiting livestock grazing and watering, helps prevent erosion and ultimately improves water quality."

The Riparian Tax Credit requires producers to make a five-year commitment to specific conservation practices on their land, in exchange for an annual property tax reduction.

The basic Riparian Tax Credit ranges from \$100 to \$140 per riparian acre spread over five years. If riparian areas are sloped 10 per cent or more toward the water, producers can receive a 30 per cent bonus on the basic credit. On former grazing lands, the program provides up to \$1,000 extra for an off-site watering facility for livestock. Amounts are limited by net property taxes paid by the landholder.

The ministers encourage those who have had land

in the program since 2005 to reapply and extend their participation for five more years.

The deadline to apply for the 2010-14 program is June 30. For more information, contact the Manitoba Tax

Assistance Office at 1-800-782-0771 or visit [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/riparian](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/tao/riparian).

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# Yorkton's youth to be ticketed for good behavior

Yorkton law enforcement is on the lookout for food behaviour.

SGI, the Yorkton Alliance of Asset Champions and RCMP are launching the Positive Ticketing program in an effort to continue building positive relationships with young people in Yorkton.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, SGI puts a strong emphasis on activities that provide lasting benefits to youth," Minister responsible for SGI June Draude said. "Posi-

tive Ticketing will build relationships between youth and Yorkton community leaders, which in turn will lead to a healthier and safer city."

The program's main goals are to engage youth, increase positive interaction with law enforcement and develop future community leaders.

Local enforcement will give out tickets to youth in the Yorkton area for practising good behaviors. Positive tickets can be given out for things like

"Positive Ticketing by police is getting back to small town policing and it helps youth see police officers as a source of support, instead of just stern enforcers of the law."

—Yorkton RCMP Corporal Wes Heuchert

attending school regularly, wearing a helmet when riding a bike or using a seatbelt while driving.

The tickets will include free passes for swimming, movies or sporting events as well as for food and

other treats.

"SGI's support enhances our community alliance approach to developing

positive relationships," Yorkton RCMP Corporal Wes Heuchert said. "Positive Ticketing by police is getting back to small town policing and it helps youth see police officers as a source of support, instead of just stern enforcers of the law."

This project was developed by the Yorkton Alliance of Asset Champions, which is supported by 20

Yorkton community agencies and business leaders.

"Our organization is committed to cultivating a shared community vision," Yorkton Alliance of Asset Champions Co-Chairperson Andrew Sedley said. "We plan to help young people develop through positive relationships with the police and the community as a whole."

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# Where do computers go when they die?

The irony of it all! I set out last week to tell you all I know about recycling old computers, and I did on my Dell laptop. However, as luck would have it, my laptop—my old faithful, dependable, go-anywhere buddy—crashed just as I was putting the finishing touches on the piece.

Without a word of a lie. It gave me no warning. No hint of trouble.

Esterhazy's computer wizard was able to retrieve my files and photographs, but, alas, the laptop itself is finished. Gone. Kaput.

There is a commonly used euphemism to describe a fried computer, but the term "end-of-life electronic waste" comes up short of fully describing how I feel about my heap of junk.

Few of us have great emotional attachment to our old computers, less so if we parted on bad terms, which never till now had been my experience, but which is, I hear, most often the case, especially when the newer, faster, splashier unit has been installed before the old one vacates the premise.

When you think of how a computer enriches our lives, of that incomparable link to the world, of the speed, the efficiency, and the ability to receive, collate, and store a lifetime of information—computers are simply amazing. Mind-boggling. Until the newer, faster, more reliable version comes along and casts a shroud of contempt for the old version.

That's when the truth hits us: A computer is not much more than a heap of steel, aluminum, glass and plastic with the odd bit of gold, lead and mercury. So, I say, good riddance to my outdated heap of junk.

The not-for-profit Saskatchewan Waste Electronic Equipment Program (SWEEP) is three years old this month. To date, 4.4 million pounds of those outdated heaps of junk have had their innards torn apart and their parts sorted and categorized and shipped off to places yonder in hopes that someone can make good and safe use of them.

Saskatchewan's electronic recycling program has been



**Helen Solmes**

highly successful. Remember, success in the recycling business is not measured in terms of profit. We tend to forget that recycling is not a money maker. Recycling costs money. Currently with every new computer we buy, we pay an eco-fee to offset the cost of recycling our old computers. The eco-fee helps to pay the cost of collecting, the wages paid to those who disassemble the units, and the cost of shipping the recovered aluminum, steel, copper and stainless steel to Westland Metals in Regina, the circuit boards and cables to Falconbridge in Rouyn-Noranda, Que., the plastics to Teck Cominco in Trail, B.C., and the glass to Pottery in Moose Jaw.

The first law of recycling, according to Ken Homenick, SARC Director of Operations, is this: Recycling is not a full-cost-recovery mechanism. On the income side of the equation, the value of an end-of-life computer is a paltry \$4-6. On the expense side—Homenick estimated the labor costs to disassemble a computer and sort the components to be \$20.

The real value of recycling electronics is measured in terms of ironically, the alternatives. By recycling computers, we are in the short-run, freeing up space in our landfill sites and extending the lives of the landfill sites. In the long run, we are hopefully reducing the environmental clean-up that could follow years of dumping hazardous wastes in the ground.

SARC administers the SWEEP program through its member and affiliate SARCAN depots. Computers are enough of a hazardous waste commodity that SARCAN employees have had to be trained to handle them.

Televisions fall under the SWEEP program. Televisions and computer monitors, due to their cathode ray tubes and lead dust, are not disassembled on site. They are shipped to E-Cycle Solutions in Airedale, Alta.

Printers are disassembled on site, despite the small amount of mercury they might contain. Circuit boards and cables are removed and shipped out intact. Keyboards, mice, and disc burners, are disassembled down to the bare components.

It boggles the mind, Homenick said, just how many end-of-life computers and television sets SARCAN depots continue to see. He expected a real housecleaning of attics, basements and office storage rooms in the first year of the recycling program. Yet SARCAN continues to receive old televisions and computers, but they are also receiving the newer flat-screen televisions, high-definition televisions, and more current computers. The volume grew from the first year of the program to the second year by 16 per cent, and in the third year, another 12 per cent.

The past three years have not been without some growing pains. Before SWEEP, the private sector had access to as many end-of-life and working computers as it could handle. The private sector was not totally happy to see SARC's members and affiliates in the waste electronic equipment business. Homenick stresses that the SARCAN depots pay a minimum wage to the individuals with disabilities whom they hire, and that the electronics are disassembled and recycled and not refurbished, nor resold. He is quick to say that all of the disassembled components are sent to buyers in North America and not to developing countries where the handling of hazardous products standards and environmental controls may not be as advanced as they are in North America.

Good enough for me. My dearly departed is headed to the Esterhazy SARCAN depot, but first, a trip back to Kevin at 501 Audio to wipe the hard drive clean and to double check, as a precaution, that I am not leaving any personal information in the computer.

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# The gambler

In the past three weeks we'd white-knuckled over the Monida Pass, won and lost a bit of money at various casinos (penny and nickel machines), visited a number of rustic saloons, were awed by at least four or five gunfights and visited with a gaggle of supremely spoiled burros. We'd gone south.

Resisting all attempts at admitting that our Alberta winters were getting to us, it finally came down to "well, okay we'll just take the van and go visit our friends who appear to all now be in Arizona this winter." And so it came to pass. Dear-at-Heart and aw-shucks-if-we-have-to-go loaded up the little Montana clear to the roofline (after all, we were going away for three weeks) and pointed it south.

Timing was everything. A storm was brewing in Montana and delayed our departure by three days. Strategically gauging the weather we were soon on the road. A major blizzard awaited us at the summit of the Monida and the next 50 kilometers or so seemed to take most of the day. My stress level was reaching epic proportions.

Anyhow we were soon in nicer conditions. The slot machines beckoned. And quickly gobbled up our modest "investments." The only plus here for us in the casinos were the inexpensive rooms and meals. But it was fun and our gambling spirits weren't completely



Ron Montgomery

dashed.

Near Bullhead City, we visited a town where wild burros roamed about free and unmolested. Some vendors sold carrots there. For the burros. They would get quite aggressive if you happened to be in possession of a bag of these goodies. We noticed one lady soundly smack an overbearing burro on the nose, which did briefly get its attention. These blighters were obviously spoiled silly.

In the midst of all this a gunfight erupted. It looked mighty serious and all us tourist types got caught up in the excitement. Bodies soon littered the smoke-filled street. We were impressed. The burros were bored and only sought more carrots.

Tombstone was a highlight. Being an old time cowboy and gunfighter myself for a period between five and ten years of age, this was mighty exciting. Good gosh there

were gunfighters strolling about everywhere. And history abounded about the individuals that became deceased on this or that corner. Boot Hill was filled with grave markers that read of the various people's violent endings. This was serious business.

We decided to eat lunch at one of the saloons. This was the real McCoy. A western singer serenaded us from his nearby perch. Saloon girls strolled about in what would have been the attire of those wild times. Their wares were on display.

One of the gals at the bar with an open bodice had her tip money opportunely and uniquely displayed. Hmmm - those guys on the barstools were certainly brave, since I don't think she'd put the money there. As such, I briefly contemplated extracting one of the five dollar bills from her unique storage site and replacing it with five ones, but remembered that line from Kenny Rogers famous song. "know when to walk away and know when to run." Dear-at-Heart only smiled at this timid old gambler as we left Tombstone.

*Ron Montgomery, a freelance writer originally from Wapella Sask., now residing in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta has also published four books. Visit [www.ronmontgomery.ca](http://www.ronmontgomery.ca) for further information.*

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# It's on the tip of my tongue . . .

How often has this happened to you?

"So I was talking to . . . to . . . oh, you know, that guy, the one in the head office, big hair, bad teeth, only listens to Perry Como records . . . geez, why can't I remember his name? It's on the tip of my tongue!"

It's a common phenomenon, and it's not just names. Sometimes you can't think of the name of a place, or a food, or a car, or . . . just about anything. You can feel that the information is in your head, but you can't shape it into a word.

It may be a well-known phenomenon, but it isn't well-understood. However, new research may have shed a little light on the mechanism involved.

One leading explanation for tip-of-the-tongue torment is that when we're trying to think of a specific word, some other, similar-sounding word pops up in the brain instead and blocks our ability to access the correct one. This is called "phonological blocking," and it was that idea that the new research was designed to test.

Interestingly, though, the researchers didn't turn to people who speak with their tongues, but people who speak with their hands: fluent speakers of American Sign Language.

Karen Emmorey, director of the Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience at San Diego State University, is interested in the similarities and differences between signed language and spoken language. Other of her recent research has shown, for example, that when a gesture is used for sign language, a different part of the brain is activated than when that same language is used for pantomime: in other words, the brain distinguishes



Edward Willett

between a gesture that has linguistic meaning and a gesture that's just a gesture.

Emmorey knew previous research has shown that bilingual people have more tip-of-the-tongue moments than unilingual people do. The phonological-blocking explanation of this would be that those with two languages in their heads have twice as many words to get in the way of other similar-sounding words.

She reasoned that if that explanation were correct, then the general rule that bilingual people have more tip-of-the-tongue moments shouldn't hold true for those who were bilingual in both English and sign language, because obviously half the words in one language not only don't sound the same as the words in English, they don't make a sound at all!

In sign language, tip-of-the-tongue moments are called tip-of-the-finger moments. Just like tip-of-the-tongues, tip-of-the-fingers occur spontaneously, often involve proper names, and frequently include partial access to the word. In speakers, the frequently means you can remember the first sound of the word but not the less of it. In signers, that may mean they can remember the sign's hand shape,

location and orientation, but not its movement.

Unfortunately for the phonological-blocking contingent, Emmorey discovered that those bilingual in English and ASL had tip-of-the-tongue . . . or, in the one case, tip-of-the-finger . . . incidents pretty much as often as people bilingual in English and Spanish.

That would seem to indicate that phonological blocking is not the mechanism underpinning tip-of-the-tongue moments at all.

If you're going to throw out one explanation, you need to suggest another one, and Emmorey has done so. She believes tip-of-the-tongue/tip-of-the-finger moments are due to forgetfulness, brought about by infrequency of use. In other words, the less often you use a word, the harder it is for your brain to come up with it when needed, she suspects.

That would explain why all bilinguals, whether they use two spoken languages or one spoken and one unspoken, have those moments more often: all the words they know are used less frequently than the words known by someone who only speaks one language.

It's just a possible explanation at this point, of course. To see if it holds water, there'll have be additional . . . um . . .

Oh, you know, starts with "r," that thing scientists do in laboratories, involves experiments . . .

Research! That's it.

Now why couldn't I remember that?

*Edward Willett is a freelance writer in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.*



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