Plain & Valley Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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World-Spectator photos from last year's Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo at Kennedy.

At Kennedy: 80th Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo July 21-22

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

For one weekend each year, the population of Kennedy, Saskatchewan grows to about 10 times its normal size. Cowboys in campers pull into town, and rodeo fans from across Saskatchewan and Manitoba converge on the small community to watch those cowboys compete in the rodeo arena.

"I would say it is *the* event in Kennedy," says rodeo committee president Derek McMillan. "There are prob-ably 100 volunteers involved when you add them all up,

and between 2,000 and 2,500 people in the stands. "We're one of the few pro rodeos in Manitoba or Sas-katchewan. We're both CPRA and PRCA certified, so we get cowboys both sides of the border."

He said a lot of cowboys who compete at the Calgary Stampede follow up that event on the "eastern swing"

of pro rodeos in Saskatchewan and Manitoba-Maple

Creek, then Kennedy, then Morris, Manitoba. "We catch a lot of people going back to the States. Last year we had a lot of the top cowboys from the Calgary Stampede. We get a good turnout of cowboys and they're the cream of the crop." Kennedy is one of only four Canadian pro rodeos east

of Alberta, and it's one of the smaller communities to host a pro rodeo. "There are the three on the eastern swing, and later in the fall McCord has a pro rodeo," says Mc-Millan.

Kennedy is also one of the smaller communties to host a pro rodeo, and McMillan says a lot of competitors like the small town atmosphere of Kennedy's event.

"A lot of the cowboys tell me they wouldn't miss it for the world," he says. "The Calgary Stampede is one

thing, but a lot of the cowboys are from smaller places and they like coming out to a small-town rodeo after the stampede."

Hosting the pro rodeo for eight decades has made a name for Kennedy in rodeo circles, says McMillan. "I was in Cal-gary and said I was from Kennedy, and the response was, 'Isn't that the rodeo that's right after the Stampede? ' "

McMillan says it takes a lot of people to put on the huge event each year—from the rodeo committee to the volun-teers in the concession stand.

"There are about a dozen of us who are regular attend-ees of meetings, but there are a lot of volunteers past the board members. We're not an exclusive group—anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome to. We would have to be 100 people volunteering in one capacity or another." Continued on page 7 ☞



World-Spectator photos from previous Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competitions at Moosomin Regional Park.

At Moosomin Lake:

Third annual fireworks competition Aug. 5-6

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The skies will come alive over Moosomin Regional Park on the August long weekend as the third Liv-ing Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition lights up the skies for two nights of professional fireworks displays. The fireworks are shot

across the lake from the main beach at Moosomin Lake and the beach and surrounding area is always crowded with spectators for the event.

This year two compa-nies from Winnipeg will be competing for top hon-ors at the two-day event— Canadian Pyro and Canfire

Pyrotechnics. Janice Walker, secretary treasure of the regional park board, said she has talked to a lot of people who are looking forward to the show to the show

"These fireworks shows are awesome, they're breathtaking," she said. "There's no way to describe it if you haven't seen one. "I would say it's a must-see event. It's breathtaking when you see those

fireworks go off in that length of time filling the sky. We want it to be spec-tacular." The fireworks are so

popular that the regional park is setting up special overflow areas for all the

campers. "We're booked and we're in double overflow right now," said Walker. "The response has just been ex-cellent. We know we have people coming from the other side of the province." Last year's fireworks competition had to be can-

celled because of flooding, and Walker has heard from a lot of people who wanted to see the show last year who can't wait for this

year's show. "I think we'll have a huge crowd," she says. "We're hoping for 6,000 people a dar" day." Continued on page 20



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Plain and Valley

July 2012



Murray chosen second in 2012 NHL Draft

BY CHRIS ISTACE It appears National Hockey League Central Scouting couldn't have been more accurate.

While other scouting bodies and various prognosticators ranked White City's Ryan Murray third or fourth among young players eligible for the 2012 NHL Draft, Central Scouting seeded him at number two.

On June 22, Murray—the son of former Whitewoodarea resident Sharon (Sippola) Murray and former Wapella resident Brent Murray—was picked second overall in this year's draft of hockey prospects in Pittsburgh, Pa. The 18year-old was chosen by the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"It's all pretty exciting," Sharon Murray said from her home in White City, Sask. last week. "Columbus is fairly far away, but we're happy for him and he's very happy. We had a chance to meet the team's staff and coaches at the draft and they left a very good impression on us." The artice Aureray family

The entire Murray family attended the draft, which was held at Pittsburgh's CONSOL Energy Center on June 22 and 23. Alongside Murray were Brent, Sharon and his siblings. Also attending was his billet from Everett, Washington, where Murray plays in the Western Hockey League with the Everett Silvertips.

from Everett, Washington, where Murray plays in the Western Hockey League with the Everett Silvertips. Due to Murray's high ranking in the media and among hockey pundits, the family wasn't surprised that he was chosen so early, his mother said. In fact, it came as a bit of a relief. "As short as the time was before he was picked second, the draft seemed to be taking forever," Sharon said. "By reading the blogs and from what different groups were saying, he was rated second to something like 13th, so we knew he could possibly go anywhere in that range. It was a relief he was second, because he was done. We could move on from there."

Sharon has trouble remembering exactly what happened when her son's name was announced.

"The ultimate goal is to get drafted by an NHL team and for us, it was 'It finally happened," she said. "But when I try to think back to those first couple of minutes, it's all kind of a blur.

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He was sitting right beside me and he was really nervous. It was actually a relief to hear his name and he stood and gave all the family a hug."

stood and gave all the family a hug." In 2011-2012, Murray completed his third year with the Silvertips. Despite battling injuries, the six-foot, 201-pound, lefthanded defenseman led his team in scoring among defensemen with nine goals and 22 assists for 31 points in just 46 games. He was also the team's top-scoring defenseman the previous season, collecting six goals and 40 assists for 46 points in 70 eames

and to assist to to points in 70 games. Murray has been the Silvertips' team captain since 2010 when he was just 17. Although recognized for his smooth skating ability and his keen sense of managing the play both offensively and defensively. Murray is highly rated for his leadership, a role he has carried on every team since he was 10.

he was 10. Murray played his minor hockey in various communities. He played Pee Wee in Weyburn, then moved up to Bantam with the 'AA' Balgonie Prairie Storm. He then played a season with the Moose Jaw Midget 'AAA' Warriors before joining the Silvertips a year earlier than most players. This year, he also stepped onto the world stage with appearances in the International Ice Hockey Federa-

onto the world stage with appearances in the International Ice Hockey Federation's World Junior Championships and the IIHF World Senior Championships. On the senior team, Murray was the youngest player to join the roster since Paul Kariya in the early 1990s.

Sharon is level-headed regarding Murray's potential for cracking the Blue Jacket roster this season. She believes, due to their already strong defensive squad, there is a 60 per cent chance he will make the team in the fall. "Put L don't think he

"But I don't think he would be disappointed if he plays a season on Columbus's farm team



RYAN MURRAY

(the Syracuse Crunch in sa the American Hockey tic League)," she said. There na is a chance—should the NHL be delayed due to a ate labor lockout this fall—he th may return for a final season with the Silvertips, she pr

added. Sharon said her son's success in hockey only makes sense. All of his siblings play the game, which has become a family passion.

"I think it comes from our roots growing up in a small town where the rink is the centre of town," she

n said. "Having the kids participate in the sport comes natural."

Murray will be immediately getting to work for the Blue Jackets when he participates in a Columbus prospects camp this week. While there, he will get an opportunity to meet the team and its coaching and training staff. Ryan Murray is the grandson of Whitewoodarea residents Wes and

Ryan Murray is the grandson of Whitewoodarea residents Wes and Wendy Sippola and Wapella resident Elaine Hamilton

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SaskPower planning new power line

BY TODD GERVAIS

SaskPower has eyes for the area as plans are under-way to build a new 230kV transmission line from Peebles to Tantallon, and are considering the possibility of building a power plant at Peebles as well.

These two projects were the subject of a Sask-Power open house held in Windthorst on Thursday, June 28, where the Crown

Corporation sought public input into the projects. "We're looking at four possible locations for the power plant, and four pos-sible routes for the transmis-cion lines" available Remia sion lines," explained Bernie Bolen, Supervisor, Environ-mental Issues Management for SaskPower. "Right now all four locations and all four routes are open for public input as part of our

development process." The transmission lines are the one project that will un-doubtedly be affecting the area, as all four routes run

saskPower is considering Swift Current, Wolverine, and Condie in addition to Peebles as possible locations

Peebles as possible locations for the power plant. Ryan Ducyk is a member of the transmission line plan-ning group with SaskPower. "The transmission line project has to do with the

demand increase around the Yorkton area," Ducyk explained, showing a large-scale map of major transmission lines in the province. "At present, we have just one major transmission line coming into that are, and if anything goes wrong with it, the lesser lines will no lon-ger be able to carry enough

power to meet demands." "The Peebles-Tantallon line will effectively provide that back-up line, and at 230kV, it will be able to meet the demand should the pri-mary line fail."

The four proposed routes for the transmission line can be broken down into two major lines, one running in a straight north-east diagonal from Peebles to Tantallon, the other running due east from Peebles past Kipling along the 709 to due-south of Red Jacket, where the line would turn due north all the way to Tantallon. The other two proposed



Peter Goode of Stantec Consulting (left) and Sarah Klein Peter Goode or Stantec Consulting (lett) and Sarah Klein Bentley of SaskPower (centre) speak with a producer whose property would be crossed by one of the proposed routes for a new 230kV transmission line that is to run through the region from Peebles to Tantallon.

> put from the public on this project, because it will cross such a considerable stretch of land," Bolen said. "We

> have here a few of our land

officers to answer questions

about right-of-ways and easements, and to discuss

compensation for produc-ers whose lands would be affected."

The compensation for-mula takes many different variables into account to de-

termine what kind of pay-ment would be available to landholders.

landholders. "The towers themselves have a relatively small foot-print," said Palmer of the proposed support structures for the line. "The cross-beams are quite high up, and the base of each of the supports only takes about two feet in diameter."

"The towers are gener-ally 235 meter to 250 metres

apart," Palmer said. "So it's generally only six or seven

structures every mile." "They don't really take up

a lot of space once the con-struction is completed." The final path the trans-mission lines will follow will be determined some-

Will be determined some-time later in the year accord-ing to Bolen. "There are a lot of factors that go into the final deci-sion about where we will be running the line," Bolen crid. "Crotc. Lead beloader

said. "Costs, landholder concerns, environmental concerns, and a number of

other factors will come into

routes are both short dog-legs on the aforementioned paths.

"For power lines to be cost effective, we like to have them run in straight lines wherever possible," said Steve Palmer, an engineer with Stantec, an Alberta-based consultancy that has been hired to do environ-mental assessments for the project. "Every time it has turn, you need addition-

to turn, you need addition-al towers and supports, so straight lines are the ideal." The four options on the table for the power line routes would see a stretch of between 100 and 135 km of 230kV double-circuit line placed

placed. "All four routes are as likely as any of the others to be chosen at this point," said Troy Zimmer of JD Mollard and Associates, a Saskatchewan-based con-sultancy involved in the project. "Our initial survey work went into these four proposed routes, and they all have an equal number of good things and bad things about them " about them.

"We don't want to cross soil that is too sandy, or areas that are too wet, for example," Zimmer said. "We want to run the line as straight as possible, and avoid any environmentally sensitive areas along the way

Way. Because the lines would cross producer's lands on any of the routes, Bolen said the open houses are an important step in narrowing down the final corridor for the transmission lines. "We definitely want in-

play when we make the final decision.' Construction on the pro-

posed transmission line is due to begin in the winter.



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Health care needs assessment to be done for Moosomin area

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region will conduct a needs assessment to determine if the health needs of the Moosomin area are being met or if changes to facilities or services are

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needed. The board met with the Moosomin and District Health Care Foundation Wednesday to hear the health care foundation's arguments that a needs assessment is warranted. Regina-Qu'Appelle Health Region CEO Dwight Nel-son told the World-Spec-tator that the region will move forward with a needs assessment. "Their bottom line re

"Their bottom line re-quest was to say we think it's time for a needs assess-ment, and I completely agree," Nelson said. "I will ask my staff to come up with the who, the what, and the when to do an assessment I will ask

an assessment. I will ask our folks to bring forward

a detailed proposal." He said that population growth in the area and the growing importance of Moosomin as a centre of medical care both support a needs assessment.

"There are two things that support the idea of a needs assessment—the growth going on in your area for one thing, and secondly because of the

our maintenance department.

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medical staff situation you are providing services to quite a range outside of Moosomin.'

Nelson said the needs assessment could get un-der way in the fall and will take four to six months to

"I'll ask our folks to put something together, and I hope we can start the assessment process in early fall," he said. "If we re-ally do one of these assess-ments thoughtfully, we have to look at data regard-ing population, we have to have focus groups in Moosomin and surround-ing communities. Most times we would hold one or two community forums so people can raise con-cerns or suggestions."

He cautioned that people shouldn't prejudge what the needs assessment may determine. "It might lead to more beds, or it might lead to saying we need more home care," he said. "We don't want to start from the assumption that the answer is more beds. That may be part of the solution, but often needs assessments lead to other

solutions as well." Nelson said the assess-ment will take into account the larger area served by Moosomin since other health facilities have lim-ited services. "It's crystal balling into the future, but you already see where people come into Moosomin for medical services, and where you've got a core of good medical expertise and a good facility it makes sense to build it up knowing that other communities will continue

to go there." If the needs assessment does show a need for ad-ditional beds, the proposal

would go to the province. "If it shows need for new beds, we would make a submission to the provin-cial government for those beds. We would have to have the provincial government's approval as they're the funding partner." Nelson said he was im-pressed by the presentation

by the health care founda-tion, and thought the meet-

"I thought it went very, very well," he said. "There was some good discus-sion back and forth. The members of the health care foundation are really good community leaders. They are connected to their communities."

He said he is im-pressed by the work of the Moosomin and District

Health Care Foundation "The foundation has raised in total \$13 million over the years and that's remarkable for the popu-

lation " he said "I've said to people in Regina that if they supported health care proportionally the way Moosomin does, it would

be amazing." Nelson said the issue of designating the Southeast Integrated Care Centre a regional hospital is a mat-ter for the provincial gov-ernment, not the health

"That particular desig-nation isn't a regional des-ignation—the provincial ignation—the provincial government determines that. They would want to have a look at the information—is this now or likely turning into a regional fa-cility? That would be the next step assuming the growth continues and the range of services continues to grow." If Moosomin's facility is

designated a regional hos-pital, the health care sys-tem will cover the cost of 24-hour physician cover-age at the facility. Current-ly, physicians are on call to provide coverage for the facility.



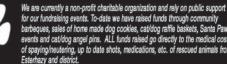




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At Kennedy:

80th Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo July 21-22

Continued from front

McMillan says the rodeo is a good fundraiser for the community, and proceeds are always returned to the community. "I remember one year we made more than \$10,000 and gave the bulk of it to the health foundation. Last year we put in a new arena, this year it's new chutes, so we've spent some money on infrastructure, but we've also given money to some clubs in the area, we've put money back into the rink—we've helped where the help was needed."

was needed." Why does he volunteer for the rodeo each year? "Some-body's got to do it," says McMillan. "Whether the rink or the rodeo, somebody did it when I was a kid, and those things were there for me. Now it's my turn to make sure that these things will be there for the future. It's an op-portunity to give back. "In the end, it's ingrained in you. I don't think you make a conscious choice to do it. It's just the cloth you're cut rerm—row're either interested in doing things file this or

from—you're either interested in doing things like this or you're not. But when you're involved, and you work hard to make sure it's the best it can be, and the cowboys say 'this is a great town, you people are so friendly, this is awesome' it really feels good. Dingi Berglund is one person who wouldn't miss this year's Kennedy Rodeo for the world. Berglund is 80 years old, and figures she has been to Kennedy Rodeo.

"I remember lots of rodeos, and I've probably been at them all," she says. "It's changed quite a bit. The first are-na had no fence—just cars parked around.

"The first rodeo was started by a United Church min-ister. He was sort of a rodeo-minded preacher," she says, coining a phrase that could only be coined on the Prai-ries. Rev. Bill Gourlay organized the first rodeo in an area known as Shackleton Flats, and acted as rodeo announcer. making the announcements with a megaphone from the back of his horse. After he moved on from the community, Gourlay would return to Kennedy to help organize the rodeo.

Berglund said early rodeos were very informal. "They butchered a steer and handed out free meat to everyone," she says. "There were little fires around the arena where everyone was cooking their meat."

And the count to eight seconds may not have always been precise in the early days. "One old guy was the time keeper," says Berglund, "He would hit a plowshare when they hit eight seconds, but sometimes he got interested in

the ride and left them riding for a while."

Berglund literally grew up around the rodeo. "My dad was a member and I was a horse-crazy kid. They made me a rodeo member when I was 16 but I wasn't allowed to go to meetings. In the 1960s I was the secretary, but I still couldn't go to the rodeo meetings, because it was just men

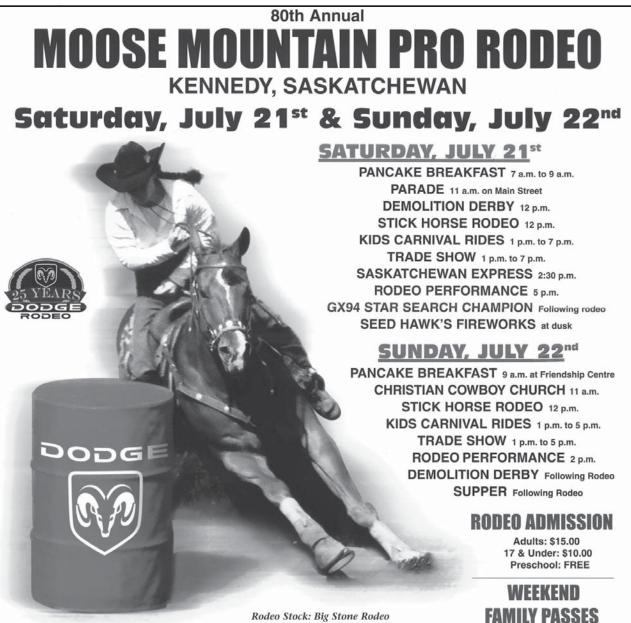
Early rodeo stock was of a different standard than to-day's professional stock. "We just went around and gath-ered up horses that would buck," says Berglund. And occasionally events were thrown together on the

spur of the moment. "I won the first barrel race in Kennedy in 1958, savs

Berglund. "The Kincaid boys came back from the Calgary Stampede and said there's a new event for girls called barrel racing. We didn't know what we were doing but we barrel raced anyway. I went around the second barrel twice because I thought I went around the wrong way. It

took me a whole 28 seconds and I won." Berglund says she has enjoyed every Moose Mountain rodeo she has attended. "I've never seen a bad rodeo— some are just better than others," she says. The 80th annual Moose Mountan Pro Rodeo is set for

Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22.



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White's Ag purchases **Morris Sales and Service**

BY DONNA BEUTLER Whitewood ag dealer, WS White's Ag Sales and Service Ltd. of Whitewood has announced its acquisi-tion of Morris Sales and Service Ltd., Yorkton. The sale is expected to close on July 16, 2012.

White's Ag will keep the existing employees of Mor-ris at the Yorkton location and will be undertaking a massive renovation project as well as a large capital expansion that will include large service shop. The Yorkton business has been in operation at its current location since 1968.

"The addition of the second location is a direct result of our focused product support and dedication to the success of our custom-ers," says Walter White, Dealer Principal. "While we are expand-

ing, we will proudly con-tinue to be independently owned and operated. This gives us the flexibility to make decisions that best fit the needs of our cus-tomers. And finally, it is an honor to be able to do business in the heart of the parkland.'

Morris CEO Casey Davis says. "We believe this sale represents a way for farm-ers to grow and succeed. The WS White's dealer-ship will offer a full line of equipment that will include tractors and harvest equipment as well as seeders. Davis says that the sale



Walter White, owner of WS White's Ag Sales and Service in Whitewood has purchased Morris Sales and Service in Yorkton.

will also benefit the Morris equipment line. "White's is a specialist in retail, and this expertise will enhance marketing opportunities for our product line," he says. "This realignment is a natural fit for Morris Industries as we continue to add value for our customers

White's Ag was founded in 2005 and offers a full agricultural product line of tractors, combines, hav forage tools, sprayers, equipment, seeding, tillage,

implements, and related implements, and related replacement parts. White's Ag represent products from Challenger, Massey Fer-guson, Rogator, Terraga-tor, Spray Coupe, Willmar, Versatile, Seed Hawk, Mor-ris, MacDon, Schulte, and Public Tha compute alea Buhler. The company also offers retail financing from AGCO Finance and FCC (Farm Credit Canada).

According to Morris In-dustries Ltd. there are no plans to sell the Morris Sales and Service dealership in Virden, MB.

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Land solutions holds grand opening

BY TODD GERVAIS The recent grand open-ing of the new Lampman offices of the Calgary-based Land Solutions shows the company is committed to continuing its involvement in the region, and also its expectations for the future.

The Lampman office fo-cuses on land acquisitions and related areas of ne-gotiations, like surface or

mineral rights. First established in the region in 2006 with the opening of the first Land Solutions office in Lamp-man, the company has seen nothing but contin-ued growth and success from the area.

"Right now, our Lamp-an office represents man about 20 per cent of our total business in the land acquisitions and related aracquisitions and related ar-eas," said Land Solutions President Chad Hughs. "It is pretty considerable, considering the size of the office and the area of cov-

erage." While growth for the location over the past two years has been relatively slow, it has continued to grow nonetheless. "The Lampm

Lampman fice hasn't seen as much growth over the past cou-ple years as previous," ex-plained Shawn Howard, the Senior Land Manager for Land Solutions' Cal-gary office. "But the first few years we were here, the business was doubling, than doubling again, yearover-year." On June 7, Land Solu-

tions held a public brunch and ribbon cutting for their new Lampman location. Located on Main Street,

the building was the first new business structure constructed on the thor-oughfare in 20 years, ac-

cording to some accounts. "The new building has about 2,200 square feet of space on each of the two floors," said Randy Fleck, floors," said Randy Fleck, the Manager of the Lamp-man location. "We're just on the one floor right now, and we're renting out the second floor, but if things continue to grow, well, we'll have the space available if things get too smuc" snug.

Land Solutions opened shop in Lampman origi-nally in a one-bedroom

To contact Plain and Valley, or to place an ad in the next issue, call us at 306-435-2445 or email world_spectator @sasktel.net

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apartment, which was out-grown within two years. In September of 2008, Land Solutions had acquired a former church to relocate into, which suited the needs of the business until recently, until the move into the new build-

"The old church had something like 1,600 square feet of space," Fleck said. "It was great for a while, but eventually, we

while, but eventually, we just filled it up." When discussing busi-ness with Fleck, he speaks enthusiastically about his company's client busi-nesses, as well as the land holders who he and his toff offer act as intermedi staff often act as intermedi-aries with during lease and rights negotiations. "We definitely

have carved ourselves a place in the local area," Fleck said. "We're established enough now that we'll get landowners coming to us now saying that they have so-and-so mineral rights, and would like to find a compa-ny that might be interested in coming onto their land and working with them. "The staff has a lot to do

with our success too," Fleck continued. "Our business is a lot about relationships and being able to deal with different people on their different people on their terms, and we definitely have the people who are able to do that.

"I think the goal for us moving into the future is diversifying our business more. The oil and gas business has been good to us, and we will continue to see

Hughes, Candace Frecon, and Shawn Howard. Behind are Josh House, Leighton Schroeder, Randy Fleck, and Patrick Dobbyn. a lot of business from that

new offices in that community on June 7. The ribbon cutting, pictured here, was done by Land

Solution staff and management. In front, from

left to right are Tyler Lyne, Char Pouliot, Chad

sector, but the oil and gas markets can swing a lot.

markets can swing a lot. "We're looking forward to expanding into some new areas as well. Wind farms, potash, and geo-thermal which is a new market that is growing right now, are all potential areas where we can help our clients with their busi-nesses." nesses

Fleck added that Land Solutions had already been involved in a wind farm project in Manitoba. The grand opening event,

which was moved indoors due to poor weather, drew around 50 members from the community, and guest speakers included Saskatchewan Speaker of the House Dan D'Autremont, Moosomin MLA Don Toth as well as representatives from Lampman and the surrounding Rural Munic-

ipalities



On June 7 LandSolutions LP held its Grand Opening in Lampman showcasing the brand new office located on Main Street.

Around 90 people showed up for the Grand opening including several local politicians. The politicians opened the event with speeches and gave us a warm welcome into the community which was very nice to hear. The digitaries that spoke were:

• Don Toth - MLA Moosomin Murray Rossow - RM of Moose Creek #33

- Reed Gibson RM of Moose Creek #33
- Dan D'Autremont MLA
- Trini Piché Town of Lampman
- Pius Loustel RM of Browning #34
- Malcolm Herman RM of Benson #35
- Christa Duttenhoffer Businessmen's Association of Lampman

The ribbon cutting followed the speeches and then we served hot juicy burgers and salad. After lunch everyone mingled and toured the new office space looking at how we designed the office both upstairs and down. Before everyone had left we started drawing names for the door prizes. The winners were: Amanda Fleck - won the bomber jacket: Len Ferchoff won the golf wind breaker; Steve Smith - won the GPS.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the grand opening and helped make this a great day for us at Land Solutions. We are very happy to have the town's support as well as the municipalities and look forward to conducting business in Lampman for a long time to come

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Todd Gervais photo





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2011 GMC K1500 Ext 4X4 Nevada 4.8L V8, ACT, PW, PL, 40/20/40, AU0, UK3, NZZ, G80, Z82 Black, 40,206 kms.

.....\$24,995

2011 GMC K1500 SLT Ext 4X4 5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, Htd Lthr, PDD, PDF, UD7, AP3, 18" alum, steps, JL1, Blue-green, 37,155 kms. \$34,995

OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED SUVS

2010 GMC 1500 EXT RWD SLE

2010 GMC 1500 EXT RWD SLE 5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PDG, 17" alum, AP3, G80, 282, JL1, White, 84,270 kms.......\$21,995

2010 GMC K2500 SLE Crew 4X4 6.0L V6, ACT, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, PDD, PCM, AP3, 17"alum, JL1, 282, Steel Gray, 23,303 kms

.....\$38,995

2006 Chev Avalanche LT 271 4X4 5.3L V8, ACT, PW, PL, PS, BUCKETS, CF5, STEPS, AU0, 17"alum, 6CD, Z82, Red, 158,883 kms 2011 GMC 1500 SLT Crew 4x4

5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, Lift Box Cap, Black, 55.612 kms. \$31.995

2011 GMC 1500 SLT Crew 4x4 6.2L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 18" alum, Red, 29,847 kms

\$38,950 2010 GMC 1500 SLT Crew 4x4 5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Nav, 18" alum, White, \$34,995

2010 GMC 1500 Denali Crew 6.2L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 20" alum, 6" ovals, White 100.454 kms \$33.995

2009 Chev Avalanche LT 4x4 5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, 17" alum, Blu Granite, 88,908 kms. \$26

- \$26,995
- Otamic, 00,000
 2009 SMC 1500 SLE Ext 4x4

 5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 40/20/40, 18" alum, Carbon

 Black, 61,702 kms
 \$23,995

Black, 0 1, 702 mills 2009 GMC 1500 SLE Crew 4x4 5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 18" alum, Buckets, White, 53 106 kmc. \$30,995

2011 Chev K1500 LTZ Crew 4X4, 5.3L V8, ACT, PW,



OPTIMUM PRE-OWNED TRUCKS

2006 GMC 1500 Ext 4x4 Special Edition 4.8L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, 40/20/40, 17" alum, Tubes Black, 116,261 kms......\$1

2008 Buick Enclave CX AWD, 3.6L V6, ACT, PW, PL, PS, 7 pass buckets 18"alum AP3 UD7 CD CJ2, Red Jewel, 144,798 kms.....\$21,995

2011 Chev Suburban LT 4x4 5.3L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, 8 Pass, Lthr, 17" alum, White, 26,500 kms. \$40,995

2010 Chev Equinox LT1

2009 GMC Acadia SLE

2008 Buick Enclave CX

2006 Pontiac Torrent

109.951 kms

\$68.399 . .

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Udin university in the second second

\$27 995 2010 Chev Cobalt LS Sedan, 2.2L 4cyl, 5 speed, Buckets, CD, Silver, 44,774 kms\$11,995

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2008 Buick Allure CX Sedan, 3.8L V6 ACT, PW, PL, PS, Buckets, Keyless, Alum wh Chrome pkg, Silver, 110,173 kms\$13,995 2007 Ponitae G6 SE Sedan, 3.5L V6, ACT, PW, PL, Buckets 17"alum, SE performance package, CD Keyless, Blue gold, 159,420 kms......\$8,995 2009 Chev Cobalt LT Sedan 2.2L 4cyl, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, Buckets, 16" alum, XM, Silver, 94,200 kms \$10,995 2009 Pontiac G6 SE Sedan 2.4L 4cyl, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, Buckets, Keyless, 17" alum, CD, Dark Grey, 82,578 kms 2008 Buick Lucerne CXL 3.8L V8, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Leather Bench, 17" alum, XM, White Diamond, 121,430 kms 2007 Buick Lucerne CXL

3.8L V6, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, PS, Htd Lthr, Bench, 17" alu Convenience & Comfort Pkg, Gold, 139,205 kms **\$12,** 2007 Ford Focus ZX5 SES Hatchback 4cyl, AC, Cruise, Tilt, PW, PL, CD, Red, 136,886 kms

July 2012

Right: Pamela, Geoff, Jade and Taq MacDonald near the end of Qu'Appelle River at St. Lazare, Manitoba. ie.Δnn Kroeker nhoto



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Canoeing across Canada

Pamela and Geoff MacDonald, along with their son Jade and dog Taq have been canoeing across Canada since 2007 and were recently spotted cruising down the river outside of St. Lazare last Wednesday.

The duo began in 2007 and are hoping to finish in

Ontario—but with a new-born baby back in 2010 (Jude is now 2 years-old), the timeline is flexible and the end date for the journey is up in the air, "We're in no rush," said

Pamela from the canoe last week. "We're not doing it for anything, we just like to

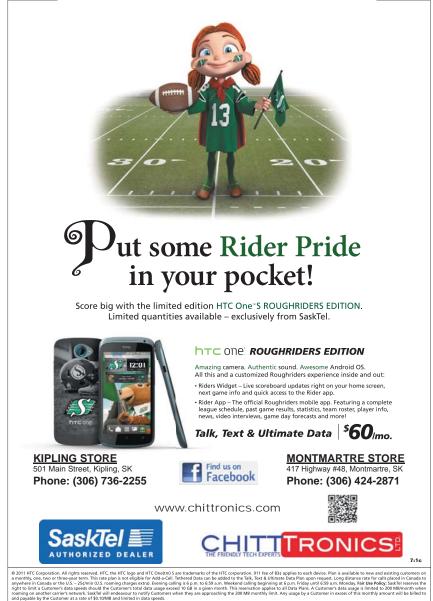
canoe," said Geoff when asked if they are canoeing for a cause. The couple's friends from Germany joined them on the current leg of

the trip as they made their way into Manitoba after a brief stint in Tantallon.

The couple said they are enjoying the Sas-

katchewan and Manitoba scenery and are looking forward to the high cur-rents in the Assiniboine River as they make their way east.

Interested readers can check out their web site at canoeacrosscanada.ca for more information about their journey.







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Lazare farmers search for answers BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER

Angelo Fouillard looks out over his once vibrant crop of canola nestled in the valley at St. Lazare and sighs.

His crop is now under three feet of water streaming out of the Assiniboine River.

The crop, which could have provided good returns, will have to be written off, and he will be looking to the Manitoba government for compensation.

But doing so may prove to be difficult, as many farmers in the Assiniboine Valley are struggling to be compensated for last year's flood. Many have yet to receive anything at all.

While flooded-out farmers have not been compensated for last year's damage, a new growing season has brought with it another flood, the third one in three years for Angelo. But not being paid compensation for last year's flood makes him nervous as to what

this year will bring. "Last year, I went to EMO (Manitoba's "Last year, I went to EMO (Manitoba's Emergency Measures Organization) and they said keep track of your hours and get it all cleaned up. I had to push three feet of water off the fields and got it all filled in. My bill came to \$16,000 on one part and on an-other \$11,000. Out of that \$27,000, I received only \$852. I fought all winter for that," says Angelo. "I took it as an insult."

He has sent in his claim four times. The first three times, he was told by Manitoba EMO officials that they lost his paperwork.

"They've sent two adjustors out here. The first one didn't send in the right information, that's what they claim. To me, they're just playing stupid and figuring if I get fed up with it I'll give up."

Connie Fouillard, who also farms in the Assiniboine Valley near St. Lazare, finds himself in a similar situation.

He says that last fall, workers from Disaster Financial Assistance said they would compensate him for the work he put into restoring his land destroyed by the flood.

"I did all the paperwork as per what they said. I cleaned all the mess up and got my land all ready for this year. Now I'm in an-other flood, and I haven't seen a penny from them yet."

Connie says that, like Angelo, he has been told by EMO officials that his paperwork was lost.

"They lost my paperwork. They lost the cheques. When the guy came in to do the in-vestigation we took him down, showed him

all the pictures, showed him town, showed him . . they apparently lost all the copies of the cheques for the rental equipment . . . it's a joke," says Connie.

"It's been a whole year now since I've made my claim, and I'm flooded again. There is no program yet for this year. According to them, there is no flood yet." Marcel Fouillard has farmed in the valley

for many years, taking care of his own land as well as that of neighbors. He also says he has received little help from EMO. Several of his forms have been

sent back to him, citing improper paper work

"By delaying it and frustrating (all of us) eventually we get to the point where we want to give up. And that's exactly what they want us to do so it's less compensation to pay out. I went through the same thing. Five months of arguing with them. I called in and they always said I filled in a form wrong . . . that held up my claim for a whole month. It's constant delay. It's frustrating," says Marcel. Marcel says the constant struggle to get

the money they were promised is slowly wearing the Valley farmers down.

wearing the Valley farmers down. "My neighbor is a nice guy but he gets frustrated quick. So I know what he's go-ing to do, he's just going to quit and won't bother putting the claim in. That's \$5,000 to \$10,000 that they've saved because he's to frustrated to go with the claim." He doesn't think they're being taken care of the way they were prepried

of the way they were promised. "It's frustrating every year. It's like see-ing a garden in a desert, you hope you can recover something from it or something will happen. Every year we get a good crop and think this will be our year. "Our valley land should be our best land

but it's not anymore. Since '95 we'd be lucky to get four or five decent crops that haven't been affected by water.'

Compensation waiting on report

The Shellmouth Dam Act was introduced in the Manitoba legislature in 2008 and be-



Angelo Fouillard looks over his flooded land in the Assiniboine Valley

came law in 2010. The act promises 100 per cent compensation for economic loss caused by "artificial" flooding—any flood caused by man-made overflow over the Shellmouth Dam

Built in 1972, the dam was intended to control flooding in the Assiniboine Valley. But in the last three years, the flood waters have risen above the 390,000 acre-foot capacity and spilled into the outflow. Last year's flood was the first time the

farmers who have land in the valley could be compensated under the act.

However, no compensation has been paid as an engineering report to determine whether the 2011 flooding was natural or man-made has not yet been released.

"As long as they say it's natural flooding, we're not allowed any compensation under the Shellmouth Act, we have to go to Disas-ter Financial Assistance," said Marcel. "It's a lot more difficult that way. If this is determined to be an artificial flood we get money. But the government doesn't want that—if they say it's a natural flood they don't have

to pay us. "Calling it natural saves their bacon. They don't have to pay as much compensation, it goes to EMO."

Keith Pearn farms outside of Virden with his sons. He is in an appeal process with the Disaster Financial Assistance for his 2011 damages, and like other farmers is waiting on the engineering report to see if the flood will be declared manmade, triggering compensa-tion under the Shellmouth Act. "We won't see any money until the 2011 flood report," he said. "It should have been over and done with at Christmas time. Now they're saying they're waiting for engineering reports.

While waiting on compensation for last year's flooding, he has lost 2,000 acres of his canola in the valley this year.

Rowat doesn't understand delay

Leanne Rowat is the MLA for Riding Mountain. She said she doesn't understand the delay in determining the cause of the flooding in 2011.

"The report would identify if it was natu-ral or unnatural flooding and once that's determined then the stakeholders can ne-gotiate what type of assistance they can get. Here we are into another year of flooding and they haven't had any decision made by the government on the first year's flooding. This is concerning because it's ongoing and people are confused about what type of pro-

gram will work for them," says Rowat. She says she has tried to set up meetings with representatives from EMO to explain why the report is late, but was told it would be considered premature. "It's not premature if you're trying to ad-

dress the flood from last year. They're saying the flood is not done from last year but it is in a sense and you have to draw a line," says Rowat.

She says she has heard the concerns of the farmers in her constituency about back claims and lost forms, along with the grow-ing concern over the delayed engineering report. She says having so many programs in place makes it difficult to make the proper claim for some farmers and many are losing

"I talked to a lot of producers who say "I talked to a lot of producers who say "I'm not a quitter, but I just can't do this any-more." How sad is that? You're blindsided by the flood, losing your income and livelihood

and maybe in some cases losing your home where you live and that's stressful enough. but when the government says 'We're going to help you' and then says 'No, you don't qualify' or 'No, that's not the right form,' how frustrating (is that?) To me, it's not the way it's supposed to be," says Rowat. "I don't know of many people who have had their files cleared. I heard about two

residents that are side by side. One qualified (for compensation) and one didn't, on the exact same site and land.'

Flood after flood

While farmers in the Assiniboine Valley are still waiting to receive their claims from last year, high levels in the Shellmouth Reservoir in the middle of June this year sent the reservoir into overflow and many of them are once again under water. Connie Foulliard has already lost 500 acres

of canola because of the flooding, which he

He does have crop insurance, but this is the third year he has claimed it.

"After three years in a row, my average is dropping," says Connie. What makes it worse this year, says An-

gelo, is the fact that they were able to seed a crop and now have to sit idly by and watch while it is destroyed.

"It's pretty much affected all our valley land. We've lost 80 per cent of the farmland down there. Last year, I didn't get any acres in, but this year I seeded it all. I seeded every acre and now I'm pretty much losing it." Many of the 100 farmers who belong to the

Assiniboine Valley Producers feel the high water levels could have been prevented if the water levels at the Shellmouth Dam, which is located north of Russell in the Assiniboine Valley, would had been lowered earlier in the year.

On June 18 water levels in the Shellmouth Dam stood at 1,411.55 feet above sea level. The goal for the summer months is to have the water sitting at 1,402.5 feet, which means

it was dangerously over the operating level. This significant rise in the water levels sent the water three feet over the spillway and the outflow increased to 3,690 cubic feet per second. A flood warning was put into ef-fect for farms downsteam of the dam.

Once it gets over the overflow you have no more control," says Angelo. "It's like not having a dam."

The province of Manitoba says the overflow is due to the intense amount of rainfall

A provincial spokesperson told the World-Spectator in a written statement that "The Shellmouth Dam reservoir does not guaran-tee against flooding in heavy precipitation events. In April to June more than double the average amount of rain (or more than 200 mm) fell in the watershed area—and even mm) fell in the watershed area-and even with a lower draw down of the reservoir, flooding would have still occurred."

But Angelo, Connie, Marcel and Keith be-lieve that if levels were lowered, rain or no

rain, their land could have been saved. "If they would've dropped it three feet, we may have been able to control this water." said Angelo.

said Angelo. The province of Manitoba says that dam operations are based on the weather and hy-drological conditions, operations guidelines and potential water released from the Souris in the United States and the Qu'Appelle Riv-er in Saskatchewan. It also states that all op-erations of the dam have always been done in annuther the Shellmearth Lisiane in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison

Committee

The committee represents municipalities and conservation districts on the reservoir and downstream

Farmers feel their voices not heard

Stan Cochrane is chair of the Assiniboine Valley Producers as well as a member of the Shellmouth Reservoir Regulation Liaison Committee. He says many of the farmers in the Assiniboine Valley Producers voiced their concerns back in March and April in conference calls about lowering the water levels to avoid flooding. He says they were ultimately silenced by other members of the committee,

who wished to keep the gates closed. The province of Manitoba says "due to the prevailing dry patterns, the Shellmouth Liai-son Committee deemed it prudent to initiate operations to meet summer target level.

But the decision still leaves the Valley Pro-ducers feeling like their opinions were over-

looked. "The thing you have to understand is that the liaison committee is an advisory com-mittee. At the end of the day . . . (Manitoba Infrastructure and Highways) makes the decision," says Cochrane.

"When they're making the decisions, there is lots of pressure to make sure there is lots of water for the City of Brandon and Portage La Prairie, irrigation, recreation . . . there are lots of people who want water. At the end of the day they chose to have more water. Now there is lots."

Cochrane has called the Infrastructure and Highways department a number of times to continue to voice the concerns of the Valley Producers. "I told them, 'You people should get into

an airplane, fly over the Assiniboine Valley and look at all the really nice crops that are growing there. Decide whether you're going to do anything about compensating those people.

Rowat agrees with the farmers and be lieves there is a better way to manage the dam

"Why not rely on the expertise of locals? she asks. "I think that, again, there is a dis-connect between the government and the people who have lived there for generations

"Every one of these sectors have different concerns. That to me is not acceptable. The Assiniboine Valley Producers have a spe-cial situation where they have perfectly fine farmland, and a dam was put in and it has affected the producers in the last few years in a negative way."

Opinion not taken seriously

Keith Pearn's family has been involved with farming in the valley since 1906 and wishes his expertise would have been taken more seriously in the decision to open the dam. He too is a member of the liaison com-mittee. "There's no vote, so how can you say mittee. "There's no vote, so how can you say we've all agreed? We're deeply upset about the lack of respect they show towards us . . . I think we know what's happening in the valley. You have to live in the valley to know what's happening in the valley. I don't care how many letters you have behind your name," says Pearn.

As Assiniboine Valley Producers continue As Assimboine Valley Producers continue to fight for compensation from the 2011 flood, they're saying this year's flood will further confuse their claims, piling them with more paperwork and little to no hope. Peam says year after year of failed crops are becoming a big burden on big litedi

are becoming a big burden on his livelihood.

"We've planted our crop, we put our in-puts in, we sprayed it, the canola is flowering and now it's under water. That's about as big

a hurt as any farmer can get," says Pearn. Angelo would agree. As he shakes his head over his lost crops, he wonders if it could have all be prevented.

"The only difference between Manitoba Water Stewardship and God, is that God doesn't think he's Water Stewardship."

No comment from minister Ashton

Plain and Valley tried to arrange an interview with Manitoba Minister of Infrastruc-ture and Transportation and the Minister responsible for Emergency Measures, Steve Ashton.

Ashton's staff initially indicated he would be available for an intervie, but the interview couldn't be arranged.

Canada happy about COOL ruling

CP—An international trade referee has sided with Canada in a long-running dispute over labelling beef and pork products produced in this country. In a decision welcomed

by industry officials and politicians, the World Trade Organization has decided U.S. rules that force country-of-origin labels on Canadian "It's been a long wait.

"It's been a long wait. It's been an expensive wait. But we're very pleased with the decision and hope that we'll be able to move along quickly from here," said Ray Price of the Canadian Meat

Price of the Canadian Meat Council, which represents the packing industry. While he acknowledged that Friday's ruling found flaws in the American rules, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk suggested his country is unwilling to com-pletely abandon some form of labelling. "The Obama administra-tion zmains committed to

tion remains committed to ensuring that information on the origin of all food prod-ucts covered by (country-of-origin labelling) is available to American families so they can make informed purchas-ing decisions," he said in a release.

an appeal of a WTO ruling

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SHOTGUNS

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made last November. At that time, the body found American rules on mandatory country-of-origin label-ling of meat products failed to live up to that nation's ob-ligations under international trade law.

Those laws have been criticized on both sides of the border—as well as in Mexico—for disrupting an industry that has come to depend on easy movement of live animals and processed meat products back and forth across the border. They have been blamed for raising prices in the U.S. and damaging Canadian producers

Canadian government figures say shipments of Canadian cattle into U.S. feedlots declined 49 per cent by

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2009, a year after the regulations took effect. Exports of slaughter hogs declined 58 per cent.

In its ruling, the appeal panel wrote the U.S. does have the right to require that consumers be provided in-formation on the source of their food.

However, it decided the American regulations do so in a way that severely discriminate against Canadian and Mexican producers. It found only a small part of the data that non-U.S. producers were required to collect was actually passed on to consumers, while American producers did not have eep such records.

"The (country-of-origin labelling) measure has a detrimental impact on im-

ported livestock because its record keeping and verifi-cation requirements create an incentive for processors to use exclusively domestic livestock, and a disincentive against using like imported livestock," says the panel's

ruling. Martin Unrau of the Canadian Cattleman's Asso-ciation said the extra paperwork required to comply with the U.S. regulations cost Canadian producers \$25 per animal. He said his organization has spent over \$2 million in its fight against country-of-origin labelling. "It's an important victory for Canadian producers," he

said Hog producers were similarly jubilant. Jean-Guy were

Vincent of the Canadian Pork Council said country-of-origin legislation has cost Canadian hog exporters \$1.4 billion.

"(The council) will be working with our Ameri-can counterparts and others who are U.S. stakeholders to help find an effective and

to help find an effective and timely legislative end to this irritant," said Vincent. Federal Agriculture Min-ister Gerry Ritz said he hopes Canadian producers will start to see better prices for their animals soon. "I think there's been an etiticade charge already" ha

attitude change already," he said. "I think producers will expect buyers on the American side to start to honour this relatively quickly. 'The change that's re-

quired in legislation will take more time than that we're in an election cycle in the U.S.

The U.S. has up to 15 months to implement the decision.

'We're hopeful that it will be happening sooner than that," said Ritz.

that," said kitz. Price agreed Canadian officials and producers will have to keep the heat on in Washington to ensure regu-lations actually change.

"We don't believe the work is entirely done yet," he said. "We believe the rule is there and we look forward to working with whatever organizations and officials that we can to ensure the rule is changed and working in the way that it should."



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This 1930's photo of Montmartre, Sask. shows farmers picking up food relief that came via train. Contents of the boxcar shipments included fish, cheese and apples.



Montmartre History Book Committee chair Marrianne Couckuyt (right) and vice-chair Sandra Brown (left) have received many words of thanks, and some hugs, for the time they devoted to bringing the history of Montmartre and area to life.

Over 50,000 hours spent writing history book

Provincial archivist says book is one of the most comprehensive in Saskatchewan

BY CHRISTALEE FROESE After 50,000 hours of re-

After 50,000 hours of research, writing and editing, a group of Saskatchewan volunteers has produced a 1,500-page history book that is unlike any other in the province. The three-volume tome

The three-volume tome written about the history of Montmartre, Kendal, Candiac, Moffat, Mutrie and Carry the Kettle Reservation was released this spring after more than four years of volunteer work.

Frank Korvemaker, an appraisal archivist with the Saskatchewan Archives Board, said Montmartre: History of the Village and RM 126 is one of the most comprehensive Saskatchewan community history books he has ever read.

"They're almost like an encyclopedia because you can thumb through and find all kinds of interesting things that you weren't expecting," he said.

Korvemaker said the book

set is also unique because of its extensive coverage of the Assiniboine Reserve No. 76 (Carry the Kettle First Nation). Of the hundreds of community history books Korvemaker has read, he has never witnessed one that has been so inclusive of a First Nation community

"If you pick up this book, "If you pick up this book, you'll be able to read about First Nation's history in a way that you just haven't done before. It's refreshing, and very surprising, to see that kind of story being told in a regional history book."

Marianne Bast, a Montmartre History Book Committee member, was responsible for researching and writing the Assiniboine Reserve section. She conducted interviews with elders and collected many personal photos in order to construct a history of the Assiniboine Indians that dates back to 1640.

The box set of three books takes readers back in time to 1893 when eight families from France established their homesteads in Southeast Saskatchewan's RM 126.

The book begins with a documentation of the trials and tribulations experienced by the French settlers who came to Saskatchewan believing they were coming to a scenic land where log cabins, food provisions, livestock and farm equipment would be provided.

"No log houses awaited them, no trees broke the rolling grassland seen below them from the hills; there was no river in sight. They spent their first night under the stars being eaten by mosquitoes..." It beook reads. The History Book Committee was aided by community members who submitted family histories, as well as information about everything from churches to schools and sports teams to businesses.

Fascinating tidbits about daily life in the communi-

ties can be found in sections titled "We remember," "Did you know?" and "Memories." The following memory was written by Jim Lynch: "It was around Christmas 1918 whon my crandfether

was written by Jim Lynch: "It was around Christmas 1918 when my grandfather, Mr. John Lynch Sr., decided to move a wooden grain bin a half mile in the dead of winter to Latham School, to host the Christmas dinner."

host the Christmas dinner." The History Book Committee included Marrianne Couckuyt, Sandra Brown, Marianne Bast, Andre Perras, Gail Leippi, Wanda Eberle and Colleen Fink.

The chair of the committee, Marrianne Couckuyt, spent four and a half years working on the book, and "living" at the Saskatchewan Archives for the first year.

Couckuyt said many stories in the book stand out, particularly those dealing with the hardships that the first settlers endured. One family history recounts the death of a child on a train

and a burial that had to occur while the locomotive was in motion.

was in motion. "We hope when people read the book that they have a sense of pride in all the things people endured and all the things that were accomplished," said Couckuyt, a semi-retired farm wife who didn't grow up in Montmartre, but came to adopt it as her home when she and her husband bought land in the area

area. Sandra Brown, vice-chair, researched every land title document for properties in the Village of Montmartre. This resulted in a supplemental book titled *A Century* of *Ownership* which was released at the community's centennial three years ago. A similar book outlining the ownership of every quarter section of land in RM 126 will be released in the future.

Brown, a retired teacher who established roots in the community in 1975, said she appreciates all the work done by the committee members and community volunteers who dedicated thousands of hours to ensure the history of the area was as comprehensive and as accurate as possible. "It was a labour of love,"

"It was a labour of love," said Brown. Korvemaker said the book

Korvemaker said the book is one that should be read by anyone interested in prairie history and everybody living in a 50-mile radius of the communities covered.

communities covered. "It's just a great book," said the provincial archivist. "Even if you don't read it from beginning to end, you can flip through over and over again and you can always find something interesting."

Anyone wanting more information or to purchase a copy of Montmartre: History of the Village and RM 126, can contact the Village of Montmartre office at 306-424-2040.

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Third annual fireworks competition Aug. 5-6

☞ Continued from front Other events planned around the weekend include sup-

The skies will come alive over Moosomin Regional Park on the August long weekend for the third annual Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition.

pers both nights, a pancake breakfast Sunday morning, a flea market Sunday, a dance both Saturday and Sunday nights, activities for children ranging from a sand castle building contest to an inflatable midway. There will also be a "Living Skies Idol" contest for as-

piring singers to show their stuff.

"We've already had a few people calling about the idol contest" says Walker. "A lot of people are very interested in that."

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Proceeds of the event will go to improvements at Moosomin Regional Park, which is located 10 km southwest of Moosomin. The park offers camping, swimming, boating, and hiking. It is located in the Pipestone Valley and is nestled on the shores of Moosomin Lake.



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It's summer!

It was perfect summer weather last week for lakegoers like these children, who enjoyed playing in the sand on the beach at Welwyn Lake near the village of Welwyn, Sask. Clay Fletcher photo



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Storm chasers drawn to Sask

BY JENNIFER GRAHAM

THE CANADIAN PRESS The wind picks up and clouds begin to swirl omi-nously as a funnel cloud

nously as a furner course starts to form. This isn't kansas and Dorothy isn't about to be swept away to a magical land called Oz. It's a field in Saskatchewan, which storm chasers say is becomwhich ing an epicentre for prairie tornadoes this year.

"Storm chasers are going to go wherever the storms are," said Greg Johnson, a man dubbed the tornado hunter.

'People are saying, 'So why is everyone com-ing to Saskatchewan right now?' Well, because this is where the storms are. The jet stream is positioned cor-rectly so that storms are go-ing to happen in Saskatch-wan."

Johnson, who lives in Regina, usually chases storms in the United States in states such as Oklahoma and Texas, where there are more opportunities for se-vere weather for a longer period of time. But this year, his home turf has been the hot spot. Johnson and his team intercepted two tornadoes

in rural Saskatchewan on Tuesday. Last week, on June 26, they caught anoth-er tornado near Moose Jaw. The chases are streamed live on his website tornadohunter.com.

"This season in particu-lar has been really busy in Saskatchewan. We've had more tornadoes than aver-age," he said.



Tornado season is underway in Saskatchewan and storm chasers have descended on the province. This funnel cloud was spotted near Wilkie recently.

"Having said that, last year was extremely below average for tornadoes in Saskatchewan. We only had three recorded last year and on average Sas-katchewan has 10 to 12.

"This is the thing about weather: it's fickle." Johnson noted that Sasatchewan has had its share of tornadoes

Share of tornadoes. On July 2, 2010, an F3 tornado hit the Kawaca-toose First Nation, 200 kilometres southeast of Saskatoon. The tornado de-stroyed more than a dozen homes on the reserve and in the nearby community of Raymore.

Environment Canada said the twister was about 500 metres wide, cut a path 45 kilometres long and may have been on the ground for as long as one hour. There were no fatalities. "The reality is that they happen in Canada," said

The Weather Network, usually looks for tornadoes in southern Ontario or heads stateside. But the Toronto-based

meteorologist made his first chase in Saskatchewan last week and loved it. "We actually almost have

like two tornado alleys in Canada—one in southern Ontario and the other part is Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. And in a big way, Saskatchewan is sort of becoming sort of the epi-centre for the Prairies chas-ing," said Robinson. "It's

really an amazing spot." Robinson said a lot of chasers don't realize that Canada is a tornado hotspots, but better radar and data is drawing them to Saskatchewan. In some

to Saskatchewan. In some ways, it's even better than chasing south of the bor-der, he said. "In the states, especially down in Kansas, the roads down there are almost made of dust. And when they get water on them they turn into this real thick, clinging, pudding-type mud and it's just hor-rible," he said. "But up in Saskatche-

"But up in Saskatche-wan, the roads are all that solid gravel . . . and it's a beautiful grid pattern, so you can just sort of go wherever you need to go to get close to the tornadoes and get close to the storms. I was amazed at that and sort of went, 'Wow, this is incredible.' "Add on top of that it's

beautifully flat . . . and you can see these storms for miles."



23



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pened over the past little while, so we still have to finish the confirmation process, but we'll probably be over 12.'

Johnson. "They're equally as dev-

astating, equally as danger-ous and, frankly, equally as elusive. It's just as hard to

catch a tornado in Kansas as it is in Saskatchewan."

Tornado season in Sas-katchewan typically runs until the end of July before tapering off in August, Cragg said. Meteorologist Mark Rob-

inson, a storm chaser with



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