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Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Along with the \$15,000 grand prize, there are 63 other prizes valued at more than \$10,000 as part of the World-Spectator Christmas Giveaway. Everything from a smoker to gift baskets, tools, a camping chair, and gift certificates are included in the draw this year. At left are Kara Kinna, Joey Light, and Sunnette Kamffer with some of the prizes being given away.

\$15,000 grand prize and \$10,000 in other prizes from local businesses

\$15,000 giveaway is on now

Local businesses are getting together to give away more than \$25,000 in prizes in the World-Spectator's 2023 Christmas Giveaway. More businesses than ever before are part of the draw this year.

The main prize is \$15,000 to be spent locally, to reward one lucky shopper for shopping locally this Christmas season.

The winner will receive a chequebook and can spend their prize money at any of

the participating businesses.

The draw will be made on December 20 and the winner will get the good news just before Christmas.

In addition to the \$15,000 prize, there are also 63 other prizes valued at more than \$10,000 in total to be given away in the World-Spectator's 2023 Christmas Giveaway. Shoppers can enter at 88 locations in 17 communities across the area.

Proud of local business community

World-Spectator publisher Kevin Weedmark said he is proud of the local business community for stepping up and supporting the promotion.

"This promotion has always been about rewarding local shoppers for supporting the local businesses, and the fact that so

many local retailers and other businesses decide to take part in this promotion shows that they are working hard to serve their customers," he says.

"The first year we held the draw, we had no idea if we could do it or not. We threw the idea out there to businesses in the area, and the response was overwhelming."

Continued on page 3

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\$15,000 grand prize and \$7,000 in other prizes from local businesses

\$15,000 giveaway on now

☞ *Continued from front*

"In no time we had enough support to be able to offer a substantial prize, which shows the incredible support from businesses," Weedmark said.

It's wonderful to see local businesses coming together to offer this kind of prize."

The promotion has evolved over the years from a draw for a car to the \$15,000 prize.

"The car draw was a success, but I think the way the promotion has evolved is even better. The grand prize winner each year receives a book of special cheques they can use at the participating businesses," says Weedmark.

"That will ensure that the money the winner receives will stay in the local area.

"There are all sorts of other prizes as well. It's really a great way of rewarding people for shopping locally."

Shoppers can enter with a purchase at any participating

business—there are 83 locations across the area in total where people can enter.

The winner can spend their \$15,000 any way they want at participating businesses.

They may choose to spend it at several different businesses, or spend the whole prize on a large ticket item like a quad, furniture, flooring for the whole house, or a lavish trip.

"The possibilities are endless," says Weedmark.

"Our winners over the last few years have spread their winnings around, spending the prize money on everything from trips to a family dinner to clothing to a garage package to electronics to furniture to jewelry.

"It's great to hand out the \$15,000 prize, and it's great to see our winners spend that prize at local businesses over the next few months and really enjoy it!"

Over the course of the promotion there will be a cen-

trespread running each week reminding readers of all the locations they can enter, and there will be a focus on several participating businesses each week.

"This promotion is both a way to reward people for shopping locally, and a way to remind people of all the amazing local businesses we have in our communities throughout the area," said Weedmark.

"We really are fortunate in our area to have an amazing range of great businesses. I hope people check out the local businesses between now and Christmas, find out what our local communities have to offer, and do their Christmas shopping within the area.

"These shops are local, they're there for you when you need them, they support your local community, they employ your neighbors and friends—and now they're coming together to offer you the chance to win an incredible list of prizes!"

Commits over \$900,000

Town ups funding for airport expansion

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The town of Moosomin has agreed to contribute a total of \$929,950 to help complete work on Moosomin's airport.

There has been a multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to expand the airport with a new 5,000-foot runway to accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, as well as commercial interests.

The new runway will be the third longest in the province, after Saskatoon and Regina.

So far, \$6,456,111.57 has been spent on the project, but the total cost including paving, lights, and navigation will be \$10,589,058.64.

Nutrien and the provincial government have each contributed about 25 per cent of the total cost.

The airport expansion committee was looking for local municipalities and local corporate donors to up their commitment to make up the \$4.2 million shortfall.

With a commitment of \$350 per capita, that works out to \$929,950 for the town of Moosomin, the largest share among local municipalities.

At Wednesday's town council meeting, council agreed to meet the full commitment.

The town previously contributed \$100,000 to the air-

port project and \$75,000 for the airport was included in the current year budget.

On Wednesday, council voted to increase the commitment this year to \$150,000, and to budget \$135,990 each year for the next five years to support the airport.

Councillor Ron Fisk even suggested increasing the commitment to an even \$1 million. "It would make a good headline, and it would help get all the other towns and RMs on board," Fisk said.

The idea was discussed, but council decided to just commit the amount that was asked for, noting that there may be further costs down the line.

Mayor Larry Tomlinson said the airport expansion is vital to the future of the area.

"The airport is really important, that and the CT scanner kind of go together so it would be nice if they could happen at the same time," he said.

"The medical side of it is important, being able to bring the air ambulance here, and if we can also get the CT scanner, that's a huge benefit for the whole area.

"Besides the medical side, there's economic development. There's potential for oil people or other businesses flying in and out.

"I know we brought in a paver to talk about next year's

paving and he was in Swift Current. He drove all the way here and he said, 'If you had a half decent airport, I would've flown here from Swift Current' because they have a plane.

"It's things like that, it'll just make it so much easier. There's no way that it won't—it has to and I think it will attract more business too, so it has to go."

Continued on page 11 ☞

Steven Bonk, MLA
for Moosomin Constituency

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Local Legion members participating in Remembrance Day services in Esterhazy, left, and Rocanville, right, in 2022.

Legions a large part of the community

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A mainstay in many communities is the Royal Canadian Legion—a group of people committed to making a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families, providing essential services in our towns and remembering the people who sacrificed for our country. With 1,350 branches across Canada, one is bound to find a local hall without difficulty.

As with other clubs and organizations, Legion membership numbers ebb and flow but there always seems to be a strong core that remain steadfast; ensuring the branch will stay afloat for future years.

“We’re pretty lucky here, our branch is doing really well,” said Brian Beckett of the Moosomin Legion, which has around 100 members. “It stands for something. We work for veterans and their families, so it’s a good thing.”

He described the Moosomin branch as

being quite active with a busy hall including evening events and regular Wednesday dart nights that attract around 30 people each week. Beckett also mentioned elections are coming up this month if there are any folks in town that may be interested in coming forward for the legion executive.

In fact, bringing new faces into the fold is something all Legions I spoke with would like to see.

“We’re getting pretty low,” said Max Krescy of the Kipling Legion. “Regular meetings are about eight to 10 people.”

A similar number was heard from Welwyn as Orville Harper of their Legion noted 14 members with five or six active locals.

“Even some of the big branches are challenged,” explained Allan Yung of the Rocanville Legion, with a membership of 32. As a number have moved away, the active roster is more like 16, but Yung’s enthusiasm—as with all branches I spoke with—

is electric.

“For a small branch, we found a way to make it work in Rocanville,” he explained. For the first time since COVID, Rocanville is back to a full Remembrance Day service this year.

Many longtime Legion members pointed toward the earlier years in terms of active involvement. Numbers today are good, but back then, they were great.

“We’ve got about 70 members now,” said Dave Moore of the Estherhazy Legion. “At one time in the heyday years in the 1950s, we had over 500. It’s sure different now than what it used to be.”

Another small but mighty group can be found in Whitewood, where membership was down to 20 people at one point, but is now experiencing an uptick. “It’s getting better, I was membership chair and we brought in about 10 to 12 new ones,” said Wayne Shepherd of the Whitewood Legion, adding they’re up to about 45

members now.

Legions over on the Manitoba side of the border have noted a consistent level of activity.

“Membership is holding its own, but our problem is trying to find executive committee members,” said Mark Sady of the Virden Legion.

Garth Mitchell in Elkhorn echoed that statement, noting about 60 members in their Legion.

“Our membership is remaining fairly steady,” he said.

Through all the Legions I’ve spoke with, Remembrance Day services will remain the same format as previous years. Every centre has their own variation and unique features, but no big changes to the usual plans are anticipated. The important factor is they’d love to see people attend the services, taking the time to pause and remember those who sacrificed for our freedom.

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PPCLI soldiers will be in Moosomin for Remembrance Day

PPCLI, Moosomin have a connection

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

There's been a long-time connection between Moosomin and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry of Shilo, Man., and central to that tie is Sgt. George Harry Mullin of Moosomin.

"As one of three PPCLI recipients of the Victoria Cross, Sgt. Mullin has a special place in Regimental history," explained Lieutenant-Colonel Jesse van Eijk, Commanding Officer at 2nd Battalion PPCLI in Shilo. "His actions at Passchendaele continue to provide an example to all Patricia's serving today."

Since the battalion moved from Winnipeg to Shilo in 2004, members of the PPCLI are much closer to Moosomin and able to attend special events such as Remembrance Day services.

min and able to attend special events such as Remembrance Day services.

"With the 2nd Battalion being stationed relatively nearby, we have a valuable opportunity to participate in an important community event, pay our respects to Sgt Mullin and all those Canadians who sacrificed for our nation, and provide soldiers from the Battalion an opportunity to reflect on the history of the Regiment," LCol. van Eijk explained.

Generally, PPCLI attendance at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Moosomin can be around 40 soldiers, depending on what tasks or commitments are occurring.

"It will be less when the battalion is deployed on operations, but we will always make every effort to have some representation," LCol. van Eijk said.

Sgt. Harry Mullin

Only 26 years old at the time, Sgt. Mullin was noted for his heroic actions in Belgium.

On Oct. 30, 1917 in the rural village of Passchendaele, Sgt. Mullin single-handedly captured a pill-box—a type of guard post equipped with loopholes enabling those inside to fire upon enemies.

The pill-box Sgt. Mullin stormed that day had been causing many casualties and withstood heavy bombardment.

A portion of the London Gazette dated Jan. 11, 1918 described Sgt. Mullin's actions succinctly.

"He rushed a sniper's post in front, destroyed the garrison with bombs, and, crawling on to the top of the 'Pill-box,' he shot the two machine-gunners with his revolver," it read. "Sgt. Mullin then rushed to another entrance and compelled the garrison of ten to surrender."

His clothes were described as "riddled by bullets," and his actions saved the situation as well as many lives.

The fearless maneuver also saw Sgt. Mullin awarded a Victoria Cross—the most prestigious decoration of the British honours system, awarded for valour in the presence of the enemy.

Born in Portland, Oregon in 1891, Sgt. Mullin's parents moved to Moosomin when he was two years old.

He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914, and 20 years later was appointed as Sergeant at Arms of the Saskatchewan Legislature.

The devoted husband and father of four also served as a captain in the Veteran Guard during the Second World War.

Sgt. Mullin passed away at age 71 in Regina, but was buried in the Legion Plot of the Moosomin South Cemetery.



PPCLI at Remembrance Day in Moosomin

A few scenes of PPCLI soldiers taking part in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Moosomin in recent years.

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Need for CT Scanners, MRI noted in Saskatchewan's Speech from the Throne

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

While a committee in Moosomin has been working hard on securing a CT Scanner for the community, and recently a donation came forward from an individual in Estevan to purchase an MRI there if the province will fund the staffing and training, both CT Scanners and MRIs were mentioned in the Speech from the Throne at the Saskatchewan legislature last week.

"Over \$7 million is dedicated this fiscal year to address wait times for diagnostic imaging," the Throne Speech noted.

"This funding will deliver:

• CT Services for an additional 10,500 patients;

• MRI Services for an additional 4,700 patients; and
• Interventional radiology for an additional 150 patients."

Based on patient numbers for existing CT Scanners, the numbers in the throne speech would mean two additional CT Scanners and one additional MRI.

Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk said the fact that the government acknowledged the wait times for diagnostic imaging in the throne speech is good news.

"It's great news because in Saskatchewan we're always in need of more medical services and anything we can do to help our citizens access medical care in the province, is always good

news," he said.

He said he believes it is important to add to the diagnostic imaging capacity in rural Saskatchewan.

"It's very important," he said. "As you see, there are some significant wait times for these services. So the more we can add to the capacity in our province, the faster the wait times will come down and the more rapid access to these services our citizens will have."

The World-Spectator published data earlier this year showing that the longest wait times and the longest wait lists for CT Scans are in the southeast corner of the province.

Sask sees surge in fatal collisions

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 25 of this year, a fatal collision occurred in Saskatchewan every 2.5 days, a staggering statistic, and a notable increase from the first eight months of 2023.

"Yes, the number of fatal collisions increased exponentially in recent weeks and yes, we are concerned," says Superintendent Grant St. Germaine, officer in charge of Saskatchewan RCMP Traffic Services in a media release. "Twenty-two fatal collisions and 26 deaths occurred in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction between Sept. 1 and Oct. 25 this year (14 drivers, nine passengers and three pedestrians lost their lives). This is a dramatic increase from the 36 fatal collisions and 38 deaths from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 2023."

Supt. St. Germaine explained that the fatal collisions happened all over the province with no one "hot spot" or common mitigating cause.

Impaired driving was found to be either a cause or at least a factor in 17 of the 58 fatal collisions this year.

Of those 17, four drivers were charged (or a charge was recommended for impaired operation of a motor vehicle) with three involving alcohol and one a combination of alcohol and drugs.

RCMP say eight drivers died with half of those investigations involving drug impairment.

Police are still investigating five collisions, and "multiple" fatal collision investigations are still ongoing.

Collision reconstructionists remain busy

Being such a large province, Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionists (five full-time and five part-time) spend a lot of time on the road.

"A rough calculation of the number of kilometres our reconstructionists traveled in the past two months to investigate fatal collisions is roughly 13,000+ km," shared Sgt. Jeff Burnett, Saskatchewan RCMP Collision Reconstruction in a media release. "To put things in perspective, the furthest travel time for one of our reconstructionists was 626 km one-way to conduct an on-scene investigation and, in contrast, another was 28 km. We may be battling adverse weather just to get to a scene—snow, rain, icy roads and more. After we arrive, it generally takes four to six hours to gather evidence, with the time dramatically increasing based on investigational complexity. This can mean road closures last for many hours for critical scene processing."

Worst part of the job

Perhaps the most difficult task bestowed upon officers is having to notify the next of kin that their loved one has died.

"Every traffic fatality is a tragedy and our thoughts are with everyone who's had a loved one die on Saskatchewan roads."

"The impact is great on our police officers as well, responding to and investigating fatal collisions. No one wants to, nor can anything prepare you for, delivering a next of kin notification," said Supt. St. Germaine.

He also noted the wide-ranging effect other entities responding to a collision scene encounter as well.

"Our officers are not the only ones on scene—there are emergency medical personnel and firefighters, who may also be local volunteers, as well as tow truck drivers, among others. Recognizing there are a multitude of factors related to fatal collisions, our message is to please drive safe on our roads. We want everyone to get home safe," said Supt. St. Germaine.

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4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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Moosomin wins Communities in Bloom

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The winners have been announced in the provincial Communities in Bloom Program and Moosomin has earned top spot in the 2,001-3,000 population category. Other communities in the same grouping include Outlook, Assiniboia, Pilot Butte and Maple Creek.

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association - the entity that runs the CiB program in the province - officially announced on Oct. 25 that Moosomin was awarded Four Blooms, plus a special mention for community/business support and volunteers. "It's pretty good to re-enter the program with four blooms," said Mike Schween, Director of Parks and Recreation with the Town of Moosomin.

He explained that the town had participated in CiB around 20 years ago—in fact, signage from those previous years still remains tucked away for safe keeping.

With 2023 being the first year back in the beautification program, earning such high praise from the start is encouraging.

Like so many successful endeavours, it took teamwork to make the dream work. The local CiB project was the culmination of a joint effort between the Town of Moosomin, the Pipestone Hills Golf Club and Moosomin & District Regional Park.

This would prove to be a trailblazing effort as this was the first time judges critiqued such a combination.

"I was very excited!" Carol Fawcett recalled upon hearing the news of the four-bloom decision.

Like Schween, Fawcett was another driving force behind the program. She found out the news while travelling home from Red Deer, stopping in Regina to visit her sister.

"I got a phone call, an email and a text all within two seconds," she explained. "As soon as I saw who they were from, I know the Communities in Bloom [decision] had come out."

Fawcett also pointed to the volunteerism from all groups as a key factor in this year's success.

"We're not a very big town, but it sure brought everybody together," she said, adding participating in the project expanded her vision of what CiB is about.

"Most people think Communities in Bloom is flowers, but there's so much more to it," Fawcett said, explaining how the judges also look at a community's landfill, water treatment plant and heritage features, to name a few examples. "It's just so much more - my eyes were really opened."

Schween spoke of the fine work over at the golf club and how it is a hidden gem in our area.



Alice Abrahamson and Pansy Taylor explaining the history of Dr. Davidson Park to the Communities in Bloom judges on July 18.

"I'd say it's the nicest nine-hole golf course in Saskatchewan," he said.

The praise didn't end with the illustrious Four Blooms. Moosomin also received Special Recognition Awards for Volunteer (McNaughton High School's Environmental Science Class) and Floral Displays (in Moosomin & District Regional Park).

The McNaughton High School Environmental Science class played a big part in the CiB program through May and June.

"They planted trees at Bradley Park as part of the community's 1,000 tree strategy and planted memorial trees at the Labyrinth," said the SPRA in a media release.

"The group helped with clean-up at the lake, planted flowers at Dr. Davidson Park, and helped with odd jobs everywhere such as cleaning up deadfall, painting, and landscaping."

Aside from helping to make these spaces brighter, the sweat equity of the students instilled a sense of community pride.

"Those kids worked. They planted trees, they raked and pulled weeds out at the Park," Fawcett said, adding she was quite happy to see them recognized for their work. "I was very proud of them."

As for the Moosomin & District Regional Park, the displays really impressed the judges.

"There are multiple flower displays throughout the regional park that people can enjoy," the SPRA said. "Most of the work done on these displays was completed by volunteers. There are four big displays, located at the entrance of the park, at the park sign, near the park store and across from the park store. These strategically placed

displays feature aspects of Saskatchewan and Canada, including a steel prairie lily, an old dock, water skis, an inuksuk, canoe, and others. The regional park embraced the colour purple throughout these displays."

As mentioned in those comments, the CiB project chooses a theme colour for each year.

This past year was purple, with orange announced as the colour for 2024.

Planning for next year

While snow blankets the region, thoughts of summer may also be under hibernation. Of course, much of the intense planning for the 2024 edition of Moosomin's CiB venture is months away, but one takeaway suggestion from the judges has gears turning. The idea of a tourist information centre along Highway 1 at the doorstep of the town is still in the brainstorming phase.

"We have a ton of history, but we maybe don't promote it that well," Schween said, adding that local history would be a key component of the proposed tourism information centre.

He estimates around 1.5 million vehicles drive by Moosomin each year, and catching even a small percentage of those motorists would mean a significant economic boost.

"If we could get between 50 and 100 cars stopping [per day], we'd be doing really well," agreed Fawcett. "It's halfway between Winnipeg and Regina, so it's a good place to stop. If we can give them a place to stop and go to the bathroom - maybe have a picnic lunch - I think we're going to get the people to stop."

Once those travellers pause, the hope is they will be lured into town and perhaps linger awhile—visiting local businesses and enjoying what Moosomin has to offer. "Certainly, we see a lot of opportunities on the horizon," Schween said.

Recently, the idea of utilizing the original McNaughton General Store as the tourist information centre was suggested, but that plan may not ultimately come to fruition. "No matter what it is, it's going to look like an old general store and the stagecoach from Bradley Park is going to go out there," Fawcett said. "And we weren't kidding that we're looking for a horse!"

Fawcett had mentioned the idea of a full-size plastic horse during the Oct. 17 Chamber of Commerce meeting. "People on holidays are looking for photo ops," she said.

There were 33 communities participating in the CiB program this year, evaluated on criteria such as community appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, landscape, and plant/floral displays.

The SPRA has coordinated the CiB program since 1997 in partnership with the national CiB Foundation. The CiB itself endeavours to foster community strength, involvement and continuous improvement.

They are big on environmental sustainability and enhancing green spaces and heritage conservation through municipal, residential, commercial and institutional spaces.



Greg Nosterud explaining the history behind Moosomin's Cenotaph Park.

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Big prizes drawn for in Rocanville Lucky Lottery

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Fundraisers are such a win/win scenario, and the second edition of the Rocanville Lucky Lottery was no different.

The big winners for both the 50/50 draw and that \$100,000 grand prize were announced Oct. 14 during the cabaret organized by Rocanville Minor Ball at the Nutrien Community Hall.

"They put on a heck of a cabaret. Very well-organized, incredible entertainment—it was really good," said Kirby Fowler, chair of the Lucky Lottery Board.

Entertainment featured Rocanville's very own singer songwriter sensation Lachlan Neville and the pride of Rockglen Tyler Lewis.

"His dad actually worked in the bank in town, and he lived in Rocanville for a bit of his life as well," Fowler said of Lewis.

The 50/50 prize ended up totalling \$39,330 and was won by Corinne Denis of Corman Park.

That big \$100,000 prize also went to the Saskatoon area as Leonard Kasahoff of Langham had the lucky ticket. Some of the prizes stayed local, though, as Candy Becker of Rocanville walked away with the \$10,000 early bird prize, drawn during the Sept. 15 steak night put on by Rocanville Minor Hockey.

While the 2,500 tickets didn't completely sell out—about 450 remained unsold—support for the fundraiser was still strong.

"We get incredible support from across the province," said Fowler.

"We've seen support right from the U.S. border all the way north up to Big River. East to west, too."

The fundraiser helps maintain Rocanville's recreation facilities, such as the Aquatic Centre, Curling Rink, Golf Course, Skating Rink, and Ball Diamonds.

Along with those happy cash prize recipients, the community can share in the excitement as all funds go back into Rocanville recreation endeavours.

This benefits everyone in the town and surrounding area, ensuring facilities are in tip-top condition.

"All the recreation facilities and groups in town have the opportunity to submit a request," Fowler explained.



The Lucky Lottery committee. Back row from left: Clayton Lawless, Kirby Fowler, Sherri Fowler, Kristin Walchuk, and Tracy Dupont. Seated: Payton Parker, Wanda Parker, Andrea Logan, and Pat Miskiman. Missing: Jade Tremblay and Roseanne Kelly.

"It's anywhere from a \$100 need to a \$10,000 need, or a million-dollar need, it really covers the full spectrum."

An example of where some of those fundraising dollars go include the Rocanville Rink, which needs upgrades to the dressing room showers and bathrooms, roof repairs and equipment maintenance.

Over at the Rocanville Curling Rink (which serves as the community recreation centre), various clubs and activities utilize the space throughout the year. It also needs upgrades to the bathrooms, lobby area and equipment.

The Rocanville Town and Country Golf Course is looking for patio furnishings for the covered deck, some course maintenance and upgrades plus netting for the driving range.

Perhaps the largest project is the approximately 50-year-old Rocanville Aquatic Centre.

There's a laundry list to items on that 'to-do' list—some major, but necessary fixes to ensure the facility is around for future generations to enjoy.

"That's probably the biggest project on the go, the swimming pool," Fowler said.

Organizers are already looking forward to next year's fundraiser, brainstorming on how to make the third annual Lucky Lottery even more successful.

"There's no sense taking your foot off the gas yet," Fowler said of the momentum.

He also credited the tireless volunteers who put in countless hours of legwork over the past nine months into the project.

"All the volunteers associated with this right from start to finish were awesome," he said. "Couldn't have done it without them."



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A rendering of the Moosomin Airport expansion once it's completed.

Commits over \$900,000

Town ups funding for airport expansion

Continued from page 3

At a recent meeting on funding for the airport, the town committed to increase its commitment to \$250,000, before agreeing at the council meeting Wednesday night to commit the full \$350 per capita.

"At that open meeting I had promised another \$150,000 to make it a quarter of a million (to date). As a council, we had to get together to make sure that we were going to go the whole way with the \$350 per capita to get it to the \$929,950, so at the last council meeting we did. Actually we were going to give them \$150,000 over two years and we're going to give them that in one chunk now which will give them a quarter of a million dollars and then we'll spread the rest over five years. Ron's idea was to just make it a million, which was a good thought, but we decided we need to just commit the \$350 per capita. I don't think that it's going to end there because there might be more costs down the road."

He said it's important that municipalities share part of the cost of the airport.

"As far as I can see to make this thing work, it's going to take an effort by everyone involved to get the airport finished."

The mayor said he believes the airport is vital to the future of the whole region.

"It's very important," he said. "Very important, first of all, for the mine, it will

keep them better connected, there's oil field companies, there's other businesses in town that I'm sure, rather than drive in here, they'd fly and they'd probably be here more often. It just has to happen. It'll bring more business to town, there's no doubt about it and it's looking good, and of course on the medical side there's no just no question how important it is."

He said the town has to be cautious with its finances as it has borrowed for the water treatment plant and the airport will also be a big cost.

"We're looking at everything very cautiously. We had to borrow three and a half million dollars for the water treatment plant but we worked it out so that the payment on the hospital is done this year, so now the payments going forward into the water treatment plant will take over where they left off."

"We weren't sure where we were at because we had to borrow \$3.5 million to cover our 27 per cent of the water treatment plant."

"It'll all work out without raising taxes through the roof. Once we got that straightened out and knew where we were going, then we made the commitment to fund our \$350 per capita. I hope all the municipalities do the same, because this airport is important to our future."

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Adam Herold Leadership Camp

Moosomin Minor Hockey hosts hockey camp with a higher purpose

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's the season of hockey camps, and kids in Moosomin got a chance to take part in a very unique type of training recently. The Adam Herold Hockey and Leadership Development Program came to town with its "pay it forward" approach.

The camp is part of the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation, established in honour of its namesake. Adam was not only an incredible young hockey player, but very much a community-minded, mature-beyond-his-years young man off the ice.

He had just begun a promising WHL career with the Prince Albert Raiders after a very successful Midget AAA season as captain of the Regina Pat Canadians when tragedy struck.

Adam was on his way to a playoff game in Nipawin on April 16, 2018 when the Humboldt Broncos' bus was involved in a major collision with a semi-trailer unit near Arborfield.

That devastating crash claimed the life of 16 members of the Broncos organization—including Adam.

As with so many others involved in the tragedy, the potential as to what this amazing young man could have achieved was cut short far too soon.

However, a part of this incredible young man lives on through the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation, and it is one these principles of community and physical development that the Leadership Development Program carries on his ideals to thousands of young people across the province.

This year, Moosomin Minor Hockey was one of three entities in Saskatchewan selected to host this unique opportunity, the first part of which occurred over the Oct. 21-22 weekend.

"It was quite an incredible experience for the kids," said Jesse McMullen, Development Director for Moosomin Minor Hockey. Of the more than 220 youth involved in the local program, 175 ranging in age from six to 18 took part in the two-day event.

"Moosomin was the largest association that the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation has ever been involved with," McMullen said, noting that the program typically caps attendance at the 140 mark.

This meant organizing four groups throughout the U9-U18 age groups, trying to assemble each as age-appropriate as possible.

Those attending participated in sessions on and off the ice through development and leadership training.

"The leadership training is an in-class portion," McMullen explained.

"They give a background on Adam himself, what he as involved in, and then it pushes our kids not only to become leaders on the ice, it actually pushes the kids to get involved in the community and take part."

"Adam not only was involved in hockey at quite a high level, he also was very active in his community," he continued.

An over-arching theme of teamwork intertwined the sessions, even through the base essentials such as power skating and skills development.

"Everything they did required a group of them to achieve their goal," McMullen said. "It was something they had to do together to make it work."

Leading the session were some of the top instructors around, each with impressive accolades and experience on their hockey resume.

Where else can you partake in a session with Mike Blaisdell, first-round draft pick of the Detroit Red Wings with more than 350 NHL games under his belt? Or Darrin McKechnie, who has a history with the SJHL's Yorkton Terrier and WHL's Regina Pats? These are just a couple examples of the calibre of leaders—people who would otherwise cost thousands of dollars just to bring in themselves, let alone a whole group of high-level instructors.

Oh, and the cost of this elite program? Free of charge.

Now that "no-cost" does come with an asterisk—Moosomin Minor Hockey worked diligently to host the event, plus provided meals, accommodation and the value of ice time.

There's also a fundraising component to ensure the program remains in existence for future generations.

"A camp like this would cost thousands and thousands of dollars," McMullen noted.

"In return, we'll fundraise to give back to them so they can continue to provide these camps year after year. It's all based off of donations and sponsorship is how the program stays afloat. It's an incredible program."

McMullen explained how Moosomin Minor Hockey has been applying to host this particular program for the past three years.

This year's application was sent in back in early March, and the association learned in June that they would be a host. That meant a long summer of planning, organizing and scheduling—laying the groundwork for a successful event.

"Once you get accepted, then you work with the program directors at the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation," he said. "They do the scheduling, and we organize our association to participate in it."

Part of the leadership training involves a bit of homework for the participants as well.

Each of the 175 kids has committed to donating 10 hours of service in the community, tracking the details of what they will do.

Continued on Page 19






Young skaters in on-ice sessions at the Adam Herold Leadership Camp in Moosomin on Saturday, October 21.



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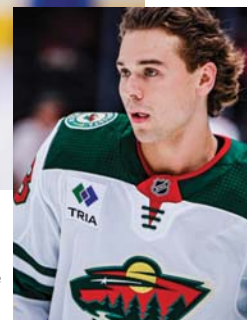


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NHL debut

Daemon Hunt, who grew up in Moosomin, made his NHL debut with the Minnesota Wild on October 27, as the Wild took on the Washington Capitals.

Daemon Hunt makes NHL debut with Minnesota Wild

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

Daemon Hunt was called up and realized his dreams of playing in the NHL October 27, when he got his first ice time with the Minnesota Wild.

A third-round draft pick in 2020, the 21-year-old from Moosomin played with the Iowa Wild of the AHL last season.

Hunt started Minnesota's road trip on standby after being called up, but by the second stop, he was added to the lineup.

His NHL debut came in the Wild's 3-2 shootout loss to Washington October 27.

He was on the ice for five shifts in that game, and skated four minutes, 13 seconds in front of his parents, Renee and Doug.

Thrilled to be called up and to play against Ovechkin

Hunt was thrilled when he got the call to join Minnesota for the road trip, and even more thrilled to have played the Washington Capitals, and NHL star Alex Ovechkin, in his first game. He says the experience was surreal.

"I got a phone call from my head coach in Iowa, and he said, 'you are getting called up.' Obviously, I was thrilled to hear that. I travelled up to St. Paul and attended the game, I didn't play. Then, I went on the road trip with the team, and we went to Philadelphia, Washington, and New Jersey. My first game was in Washington versus the Capitals.

"It was all surreal. Growing up, I always wanted to play in the NHL and I dreamt of it, but for it to actually happen to me, that was very surreal. I had to stay as focused as I could. It was so easy for my eyes to wander and get distracted so I was trying to stay focused playing against Ovechkin. I grew up watching him every day of my life and I was always playing video games with him in them, so to play against him was very cool.

"The whole experience was very good. I didn't play a lot, but just to be a part of it and get a couple minutes on the ice with some shifts here and there was awesome.

"I did play in New Jersey against the Devils as well. It was crazy."

Daemon says it is easy to become star-struck and it's a good challenge for him to try to match the other players' skills.

"You can get easily starstruck. I was playing against those types of players, but I think it was a good challenge for me to see how well I could match up with them and realize how big, strong, and fast these guys actually are. I thought I handled myself really well. There wasn't anything I couldn't handle. At the end of the day it is just hockey and I think I was right there with everyone. I do need a bit more time and experience playing, and I will just get

more comfortable as it goes.

"It was very cool to play against big hockey players, especially Ovechkin. It was just really fun and great experience."

Hunt says Sidney Crosby is who he is most looking forward to playing in the NHL.

"I have always looked up to Sidney Crosby as a Canadian kid playing hockey, and playing against him would make this experience even more special."

Hunt's parents travelled to see all the games on the Wild's road trip.

"My parents flew out. They came on the entire road trip. They were at every game and then I ended up playing in Washington and New Jersey."

Looking to the future

Hunt is optimistic on his career in the NHL and will see what happens with his time in Minnesota.

"I am in Minnesota," he said Monday. "We play again this upcoming Thursday. I am honestly not too sure if I will play or not, but just going day by day and seeing. If I go down to the American League (AHL) again, it is what it is, but for now I am not looking too far ahead, just playing as much as I can."

A third-round draft pick by the Minnesota Wild in 2020, Hunt is in his second pro season.

Hunt recorded seven penalty minutes and four shots in four games with Iowa this season before being called up by Minnesota.

He had two goals and nine assists through 59 games with Iowa in the American Hockey League last season and was tied for first among AHL rookie defensemen with two game-winning goals.

Hunt also notched one assist while playing in two games during the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs. He owns 12 points (three goals and nine assists), 21 PIM, and 72 shots in 69 career AHL games over parts of three seasons with Iowa.

Hunt also played five seasons (2017-22) with Moose Jaw in the Western Hockey League, posting 94 points (33 goals and 61 assists), 81 PIM and a plus-3 rating in 163 games played while serving as the team's captain during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons and as an alternate captain in 2019-20. Hunt ranked fourth among WHL defensemen with 17 goals during the 2021-22 season and ranked second among WHL defensemen with eight goals in 2020-21. Hunt won a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2022 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships and tallied one assist and a plus-5 rating in seven games for Team Canada at the 2019 IIHF Under-18 World Championship.

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Adam Herold's legacy: a father's perspective

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

"He was always a mature kid. You'd think he was older than he was."

That's how Russell Herold of Montmartre fondly remembers his son, Adam.

The young man was one of 16 lives lost on April 6, 2018 after the bus carrying members of the Humboldt Broncos SJHL team was involved in a collision with a semi near Arborfield.

Rising from that tragedy was the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation - something to carry on not only the spirit of Adam's athletic prowess, but his strong passion for community engagement.

"I'm not sure on our own if we would've started the foundation if we wouldn't have got encouraged by Adam's coaches," Russell said.

With so many good things that Adam stood for, there needed to be something to carry on not only remember him by, but to pass on some of those ideals along to youth in general. Russell noted the Foundation needed to be a way to show young hockey players that they can be a leader and give back to their community the same way his son did.

It seemed as though Adam gained his drive for community involvement through osmosis; watching his parents and grandparents participate in local service clubs. Growing up in that environment of helping others naturally flowed into Adam's love for hockey, so the foundation established in his name just seemed like a natural evolution.

A large chapter in that foundation is the Adam Herold Hockey and Leadership Development Program, which came to Moosomin recently. This unique blend of skills and leadership training not only betters participants in their athletic endeavours, but instills a sense of civic responsibility at a young age.

"We just want to show the kids he's just like them," Russell said of Adam. "He grew up in a small town, he won a league championship in your very own rink. He did good things. We're just trying to show kids you can do good things, too."

Hockey camp with a difference

The hockey camp has been running since the 2018/19 season and has visited 18 communities across Saskatchewan to date. Word has spread about the program, and Russell says their committee sees about 15 to 20 applications from communities every year.

"Sometimes it's not an easy thing to pick because they're all good applications," he said, adding that it's common to see places apply multiple years in a row. Offered free of charge, the Adam Herold Legacy Foundation relies on sponsorship and community fundraising efforts to continue their work.

"It's not a business by any means, but it's still a lot of



Adam Herold was one of 16 lives lost on April 6, 2018 on the bus carrying members of the Humboldt Broncos SJHL team.

work," noted Russell, adding that the foundation runs on a volunteer board. "Without corporate sponsorship, we wouldn't be able to function."

For Russell, seeing the "community buy-in" to host the camp is a huge factor. To have that excitement drummed up with strong local organization is crucial.

"It's nice to have good organizers in the communities - that just makes it so much easier when you know you're dealing with somebody that's organized and you can trust that they will have the right facility when you get there," he said.

Now in its sixth season, the Adam Herold Hockey and Leadership Development Program seems to have found a formula that works. Russell noted there may be some future fine tuning (such as possibly increasing the program to four communities per year), but the overall delivery will remain the same.

"We're pretty unique, there's no other camp like us that I know of in Western Canada," he said, noting that the leadership component really sets this program apart from others. In fact, some minor hockey organizations have been requesting just the leadership component presentation for their members. Russell has even heard of a soccer group in England

that would like to adapt the program for their players, including presenting the video of Adam. As for expanding the hockey camp any further than its current form, that's simply not a notion the foundation is interested in.

"We don't want to make it a job for anybody," Russell reiterated. "It wasn't the purpose of it at all."

Memories remain

The program makes for long days physically, but it can also take a toll on the family as memories of Adam return while visiting various rinks.

"It's an emotional drain for us," Russell admitted. The hockey rink was Adam's second home growing up.

"He just was a natural skater and had natural balance. By three years old, he was starting to play," Russell recalled, adding that Adam would often play on teams a year or two above his age.

Perhaps one simple message the program promotes on and off the ice can also serve as comfort for those who miss a loved one.

"Work as a team—you can't do things on your own."

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly
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CFIB calls for CEBA repayment deadline extension

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A program designed to help small businesses and not-for-profits during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing loans has the deadline for repayment including partial loan forgiveness drawing near, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business says businesses will be hurt if the deadline is not extended.

Launched back in 2020, the Canada Emergency Business Account offered hope in desperate times in the form of loans of up to \$60,000 for those eligible.

If that loan is repaid by Jan. 18, 2024, the program offered a loan forgiveness of 33 per cent (\$20,000).

At the start of the program, CEBA loans topped out at \$40,000, but on Dec. 4, 2020, the maximum was increased and those who already had the primary loan could apply for the CEBA expansion.

While that plan looked good on paper, post-pandemic reality has many of those loan recipients looking ahead to the New Year with trepidation.

"That's what has many business owners stressed right now," said Brianna Solberg, Provincial Director of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the North.

"Obviously, CFIB has not been alone been calling for an extension and recently the federal government announced only an 18-day extension from Dec. 31 to Jan. 18, 2024.

Business owners found that overwhelmingly unhelpful—18 days isn't going to make much of a difference for those who are struggling to pull together the capital or secure the financing."

Back on Sept. 14, the federal government announced that any CEBA loans left unpaid by that Jan. 18, 2024 deadline will automatically become a three-year term loan at five per cent interest, plus access to the forgivable portion will be lost, so if businesses can't repay \$40,000 of the loan by Jan. 18, the entire \$60,000 must be repaid.

Businesses who apply to refinance their CEBA loan (again, before Jan. 18) will see the deadline to repay bumped to March 28, 2024 and will still be able to keep that forgivable portion.

Key issue missed in announcement

The final deadline for repayment of the entire CEBA loan was extended one year by the federal government to Dec. 31, 2026, but the CFIB called the Sept. 14 announcement a "big disappointment," explaining that it missed the most important issue for many small businesses—extending the deadline to keep the forgivable portion.

"I think the message is loud and clear from business



owners still that they would like a further extension to the deadline," Solberg said, adding that the CFIB is calling for an extension of the forgivable portion to December of next year.

"It's an extension, but still if you don't pay it back by Jan. 18, you don't get that \$20,000."

With rising interest rates, inflation and the cost of basically everything going up, it's a tough go for small and medium-sized businesses. Solberg noted that a large percentage of those owners will simply not meet the deadline as it stands.

"Business owners are basically struggling to keep their heads above water at this point and all the while they have to pay back this debt, it's definitely not going to be easy," she said.

"We have two-thirds of the business owners—65 per cent—expecting to have difficulties meeting that Jan. 18 deadline. That could force some businesses to simply close their doors. If they can't meet that deadline, they lose the \$20,000 (loan forgiveness) that they banked on. That could be the final nail in the coffin."

In Saskatchewan, around 29,000 businesses took out CEBA loans, amounting to over \$1.6 billion.

"It's a huge chunk of the economy, and that's a lot of businesses," Solberg said.

According to numbers from the Government of Canada, a total of 878,271 businesses were approved to receive CEBA loans with 571,851 approved for expansions. The total approved through these loans and expansions totalled \$49.2 billion.

Local business support needed now more than ever

Arts, recreation and hospitality sectors have been hardest hit according to Solberg, adding that those industries were viewed as "discretionary spending" by consumers.

They were also the slowest sectors to return from the COVID crunch, with people spending less on average even today.

"During COVID, it was great to see the communities rally behind local businesses and there were 'shop local' campaigns," Solberg said.

"Now, I think people maybe have a misconception that the greatest deals they can find are at the big box stores or online. They've shifted their purchasing behaviour that way."

An important consideration for supporting local business is how the economy in a community is affected. A CFIB report found that 66 cents of every dollar spent at a local business remains in that community—compared to 11 cents that remains in town from each dollar spent at a big box store.

"You can find great deals at your local businesses as well," Solberg said.

The CEBA loan program saw many changes after its introduction with several businesses who applied deemed ineligible at first. This left many business owners scratching their heads, unsure where to turn.

"They don't have huge Accounting or HR departments to help them with this," Solberg said "The government is definitely not making it easy for small business owners."

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Moosomin Chamber of Commerce:

Sunrise Community Futures now in Moosomin

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new business service is available in Moosomin.

Leanne Porter, Business Development Officer with Sunrise Community Futures, has just opened up an office in Moosomin, on Broadway Avenue beside the Cork and Bone Bistro.

The Moosomin area has always been in the area served by Sunrise, but office have been in Weyburn and Estevan, 200 km away.

"When I applied for the job, they thought it would be interesting to have somebody out in this region," Porter said during a presentation to the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 17.

With 13 regions in Saskatchewan and 267 across Canada, Community Futures has been helping entrepreneurs realize their dreams since the 1990s.

The main pillars of Community Futures are providing loans, advice and support for rural entrepreneurs. Their mission is to support the development of our regional economy, and are funded by Prairies Economic Development Canada.

"We do startups, expansions, purchases—we're not limited by the age of the entrepreneur," Porter explained.

Even finding a place to start for those curious about entrepreneurship can be a challenge, something Porter is more than eager to help with.

"Advice is free for so many things, but mine is good advice!" Porter said. "It's a great place to start

for people to ask questions."

Whether the challenge is drafting a business plan, finding assistance on how to flesh out a business idea, or regarding marketing and general operational systems, Porter has answers via a wide range of services offered by the organization.

"Basically what we like to call ourselves is a developmental lender," she said.

Porter also noted Sunrise Community Futures has a regional economic development coordinator based in Redvers.

Christina Birch has done a lot of work in the Moosomin area, and is actively seeking what current needs are present and how best to address them. Her expertise in strategic planning is well-known throughout the area.

Online resources

Porter also spoke about the Sunrise Community Futures website, which she said has valuable resources for entrepreneurs. Detailed instructions on how to draft a business plan and pitch a business idea are but a couple of examples.

"We do webinars and presentations cover a wide variety of topics to better educate those interested in launching their business idea. Other topics include grant writing, how to engage volunteers, and succession planning. A webinar series is also about to begin, providing valuable information and advice."

"Every month, we have a virtual 'how to start a



Business booster now in Moosomin

Leanne Porter, a Business Development Officer with Sunrise Community Futures, has recently opened an office in town. She explained what Community Futures can do for entrepreneurs during the Oct. 17 Chamber of Commerce meeting.

business," said Porter. "So I quite often will direct people to that."

The purpose of off the these features is to best prepare entrepreneurs; setting them up for success.

"I think sometimes people get excited, they order business cards and they're ready to go, but there's quite a few things that they need to think about before that," Porter said.

According to a report on performance results for the 2021-2022 year, people in the southeast are accessing Sunrise Community Futures as 600 participants took part in business training sessions.

The team provided 342 business advisory services during the same time frame, and were involved in 31 community-based projects. Lending in that time - still in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic—had a dollar value of \$323,796 with 15 loans and 28 jobs created as a result.

Show me the money

Perhaps the first association for those who do know about Community Futures is the fact that they provide loans when other entities might turn someone away. Biz Start and Biz Boost micro-loans of up to

\$25,000 can get an idea off the ground, or bring the top-up funds to an existing project.

With an interest rate of prime plus two per cent, no principal payments for six months and no penalty for an early payout, such lending options are an easier reach for small businesses.

For those requiring access to more funds, Community Futures has loans up to \$150,000 and beyond.

Loans are reviewed by a board comprised of members from across the region.

This is a huge benefit as these members often have valuable personal knowledge of the applicants that may sway a crucial funding decision.

Another interesting

source of funding is the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities grant.

A small boost of \$750, Porter noted that the grant covers "anything that impacts you day-to-day."

It could be used for someone living with anxiety, for example, or any other disability.

Some creative uses for the funding include mentorship, bookkeeping advice and specialized training.

Getting the kids involved

Another exciting program from Community Futures to spur the minds of young entrepreneurs is the YouthBiz program, open to students from Grade 6-12.

"YouthBiz is in its 17th year, we've had 3,000 students participate in it and given out \$30,000 worth of prizes," said Porter of the mainstay project.

Through YouthBiz, students create a business—real or fictitious—and go through the process of creating a business plan, building a webpage and captioning the digital promotion of their company.

Tech help

Porter pointed out GO Digital Sask program, which offers assistance with the online world.

"Pre-pandemic, we did some surveys and we found out that there was a need for more online presence," Porter said.

GO Digital Sask can provide assistance with online presence in many ways, from websites to social media.

The Moosomin Community Futures office is now open at 806 Broadway Avenue.

Adam Herold Leadership Camp hosted by Moosomin Minor Hockey

Continued from Page 14

A second one-day development session will take place on Jan. 10, and the participants will hand in their community service progress forms.

Some of the kids had an extra point of pride with the luck of sharing a special number on their backs.

"Adam always wore the number 10," McMullen said. "We had kids after saying how lucky they were to already be wearing the number 10 because then you're just like him. It's a great experience that these kids will take away for a long time."

As for the "meat and potatoes" of what the kids and coaches learned, on-ice topics included: power skating, puck skills, offensive skills and shooting, defensive skills, and read and react skills. Other areas explored were coaching development, team building, mental training, leadership and social impact support.

Moosomin was the first community to host the Adam Herold Hockey and Leadership Development Program this season, with Midale/Lampman and Bruno lined up

for 2023/24. The program has been running since the 2018/19 season, with 13 previous minor hockey associations throughout the province benefiting.

The Moosomin Minor Hockey Association is currently thriving, comprised of not only local participants, but those from surrounding communities of Rocanville, Wapella, Whitewood and Wawota—to name a few. McMullen also pointed to the growth in the female programs within the association, last season being the first time joining the female league with a U13 and U15 team.

"This year, with the added increase of the female capacity that's coming our way, we had another U15 team and this year we have two female U13 teams as well," he said, adding that at least a third of the association is currently made up of female players.

With the highly unique experience of the Adam Herold Hockey and Leadership Development Program, these fortunate players in Moosomin Minor Hockey will have new skills that set them apart—on the ice, and in their future as community leaders.

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New sports store opens in Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

A new sports store—Moosomin Sports Excellence—has opened its doors in Moosomin. Located at 903 South Front Street, in the former Sask liquor store location, the store carries clothing, footwear, and sporting goods.

Operated by Angela and Chad Hales, in partnership with Keystone Sports Excellence out of Portage la Prairie, both Chad and Angela said they knew the town needed a sports store when their daughter ruined a running shoe one day and they had to drive to the city to get her new shoes.

"How it all really got started, we moved back from Okotoks, Alberta and our daughter Jayda blew a pair of sneakers, and we couldn't get sneakers in town," says Chad. "So we had to load up that Saturday because she needed them for Monday for school and we drove to the city and I said 'this is crazy, there should be a place where you can buy sneakers.' And the same with hockey sticks. Jayda's in hockey and if she breaks a hockey stick you have to order it online.

"So that's what we are trying to bring is more accessibility to the community for that kind of stuff. You break a stick at the rink, you just drive down the road and pick one up. Same with ball equipment. Same with Angela's curling broom, she needed a new curling broom and we had to go out of town to get a curling broom.

And winter boots. We ordered a pair of boots last year for the girls and they were the wrong size because we ordered them online so now you have to send them back or you keep them until they grow into them. At least this way you can put a pair on and make sure that they fit."

Angela says the couple knew they wanted to start a sports store, but it wasn't until they were approached by someone wanting to partner with them that they were able to make it a reality.

"We had a partner come to us and we had kind of kicked around the idea of a sporting goods store but we weren't in the position to start one ourselves," says Angela. "So when it was brought to our attention, I was asked if I wanted to manage a sporting goods store, but I had the Urban Market at the time so I was like 'Well, I don't know. I'll have to think about it.' Then we discussed it and thought it was a great idea. We wanted to find a partner with a sporting goods store as well, and Chad grew up with Kelly Funk and Ryan Harrison, the owners of Keystone Sports Excellence in Portage, and it all



Angela Hales, the manager of Moosomin Sports Excellence, in front of the new store.

started to come together."

"We did our research and the best way to get started with a store would be to partner with somebody that's already in the business," adds Chad. "So with me knowing Kelly, and I went to school with Ryan too, I called Kelly and we had a few conversations back and forth and then we kind of got the ball rolling. The building was available so Ryan and Kelly came out for a visit, and how the store was laid out was kind of what they directed us towards, because with them having a store in Portage, they kind of knew what it should look like and so that's pretty much what we went with."

Kelly Funk, one of the owners of Keystone Sports Excellence, says Moosomin has been on their radar for a while.

"We came to Moosomin, took a little drive and looked around. We actually looked at Moosomin 10 years ago as an expansion idea. We just didn't have the manpower, so it was always in the back of our minds. I don't think we even told Angela and Chad that, but we did a little research on Moosomin, and with everything that's going on here, it could be a little hot pocket. There are great opportunities happening in

Moosomin, it appears to be a great community and that made this decision a lot easier.

"Moosomin is a busy community, it's a country community, and usually country people are loyal to you, so you can make some relationships and, ideally, Moosomin owners are going to be very successful down the road. We have no idea how long Portage will be involved, but we'll be involved until there's no need for us."

Funk says having a mix of clothing, shoes and sporting goods seems to work well in the business.

"Our store in Portage is set up with 65 per cent clothing and footwear. The sports will bring people in to a certain aspect, but the clothing and the footwear is where we have a bigger opportunity to get bigger sales and the bigger audience that are involved in more activities. Right now, true sporting goods stores are having a tough time because they need some clothing and footwear to move people in and out of the store.

"Our store is 10,000 square feet, so it's just about triple the one in Moosomin, but it would be almost identical to what's here.

"Right now wholesalers are looking to expand again—we're out of Covid and it's a positive environment for them. So we're hitting the floor with the most competitive prices, and in today's world we're competitive with absolutely everyone because everyone is shopping, our competitors are on the internet, so our prices have to be there—and we are there."

Angela says people in the area have been looking forward to seeing the store open.

"Everybody's pretty excited. I keep hearing, 'When are you opening?' So there's been a lot of interest in the last little bit waiting for us to open. We're getting questions like, 'When are you open because I need hockey stuff for my children?' They don't want to go to the city if they don't have to, which is fantastic. We will get a lot of community support which is amazing and Moosomin is definitely good for supporting local."

"We want to be here for the community," says Chad. "So if someone doesn't see something in our store and that's what they want, we want to try to bring it to town."

"It's amazing," adds Kelly, "because most of this business was leaving the community. Things like the jersey business was going to Brandon and now we've brought that back into the community."



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New grocery store planned for Moosomin

Borderland Co-op has announced it will build a new 30,000 square foot grocery store in Moosomin. Construction will start within weeks, and the building should be completed in late 2024 or early 2025.

\$16 million, 30,000 square foot store planned:

Co-op plans new grocery store for Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Borderland Co-op plans to start work soon on a new 30,000 square foot food store in Moosomin, with work to be completed in late 2024 or early 2025.

By comparison the current food store is 17,000 square feet, the Home Centre is 25,000 square feet, and the Co-op food store in Harbor Landing in Regina is 40,000 square feet.

The new store will be built on the site of the existing food store parking lot, so the current store can remain open while it is built, but will be oriented in the opposite direction, with the front facing Gordon Street.

"The new building will feature a larger sales floor with more variety in all categories, new product programs and larger production areas to enable us to add in-house produced products at all our food stores across the Borderland geography. This combined with daily delivery cycles to all locations (currently being piloted in Rocanville) will give members in all communities access to the entire selection of dry and fresh food products Borderland has to offer," Borderland said.

"Our goal with this project is to not only replace an aging asset that has become too small for the demand, but also use it as a tool to enhance what we can offer in all of our food stores," said Borderland Co-op Board President Lawrence Swanson.

"We now have technology tools that we have never had before, like click and collect, that opens up the possibility to give our members access to our entire catalogue of product delivered to their home Borderland Food Store."

Jason Schenn, Borderland CEO, said he sees this project as a key piece in maintaining operational stability with a workforce that is changing.

"It is a reality that specialized skills in all production areas are difficult to recruit in rural communities," he said.

"Many young people are not pursuing careers in the food trade like meat cutting, baking and commercial cooking."

"Those that do are attracted to larger urban centers for various reasons," said Schenn. "The capability for us to do centralized production in a larger location with a larger population base gives us the ability to consistently supply in-house produced items in all our Food Stores and support smaller locations when key positions are vacant."

Schenn said he is very happy to be able to get to the point of making the announcement, after several years of planning.

He said lots of considerations were weighed to get to this point.

"There were so many things to consider," he said. "All of the projects in the stream, the needs of all of the communities that we serve and food sustainability coming out of Covid was a big thing. How do we continue to develop sites that we need to develop without sacrificing our branch operations? So a lot of this project is built around the idea of how can we support all of the communities that we serve, not just exclusively Moosomin. The site is going to have a lot of impact on our branch locations as well, to help enhance what they offer."

"Right now we're actually doing a pilot project with it in Rocanville and the way that it's working there currently, we're only onto the click and collect portion of it which is the online ordering. So individuals can order online for the whole catalogue of everything we have and we bring it to the Rocanville store today and the customer can pick it up there and pick up the fresh produce and things that they want off of the regular sales floor there. So it's trying to expand the access to everything we have virtually through our branch locations as well."

He said the Moosomin store will add production capacity, and products can be shipped to other Borderland locations.

"It's expanding production capacity along all of our lines. We need more warehouse space for grocery, more freezer space, you name it—all of the different things that we bring in that are frozen product, more produce space for prep and for storage, more bakery and deli and meat cutting. We're already producing for two of our branch sites where we haven't been able to find cutters in the community, so we've already been doing that for several years and we anticipate that when our current guys retire, there's probably not going to be a lot of cutters that are going to be in behind them to take those roles. So we want to be prepared to be able to continue to provide in every community and just scale everything up so that we can operate big scale to serve everybody."

Schenn said Borderland is looking at options of what can be added with the new space.

"There will be access to a lot more programming," he said. Square footage limits a lot of what you can do in any store, so having the ability to lay everything out and put some new things in there—there's lots of different programs but we haven't nailed them all down yet. We'll be expanding ethnic sections, and there's not really anything in there that's not getting affected to some degree by getting expanded space and more variety."

Largest Borderland project ever

Schenn said the new food store is the largest project Borderland Co-op has ever undertaken.

"The budget for this project is \$16 million. So it's the biggest project that we've undertaken in terms of dollar value," he said.

There has been a lot of work over the last few months to finalize the planning.

"Really the biggest piece was just getting a contractor lined up and making sure that the scope of the project could fit within our budget," said Schenn. "That's been the big thing and fortunately the general contractor that we selected was the same GC that was working with us on our DQ project in Whitewood and they performed fantastically through that. There was a good relationship built so we're going to carry that forward into this project."

"There are the final things—the building permit and I think there's a foundation only permit that we're going to be getting first so that we can get started right away. We'll finish off the rest of the design and the second stage of the permit will come as we're building the foundation."

Construction will start soon

Schenn said construction should start within weeks.

"We want to get going as soon as possible. We want to get piles in the ground before it freezes up. We're not far away from that but there are things that need to get done first—right now it's just getting the final foundation drawings and then I think the building permit can be dealt with. I think everything else is sorted out with Municode, so it's just some closing details in the final drawings to be able to present to the town for the building permit and then we should be able to get going."

The work should wrap up in late 2024 or early 2025. "Ideally it would be nice to be open for Christmas of next year, but given the nature of construction and still some long lead times on things like refrigeration—and we're looking at a lot of those things being 40 weeks—so a lot of that stuff is already getting ordered today in order to be here in time. Rooftop units is another sketchy one. If we can get that done within 12 months, that would be fantastic but the realist in me is saying that it's probably going to be early 2025."

Downtown site preferred

Schenn said Borderland considered building on the highway near the C-store

site, but feedback indicated most people preferred a downtown location.

"We had a lot of discussions and conversations with people and there was a huge desire for it to remain downtown and central to the community, because the other option for us was going out to our C-Store site, and at the end of the day here, from what we're hearing, talking with seniors and people that are generally on foot, the center of the community was generally preferred."

"We really don't have any other sites that it would have been able to be done other than the one we have, so that's basically how we got to it."

He said the current grocery store is just too small for a community like Moosomin.

"When we built it in 2003, it was pretty big for a town of our size, and now the community has grown, which is fantastic, and we've grown along with it. This site and its sister site in Fort Qu'Appelle are the two highest sales sites in the Co-op system in that square footage category which indicates that once you're at that particular point, where you're generating the maximum amount of sales per square foot, that it's time to do something with it."

"We've been wanting to do this for awhile here now, but between other projects that became a priority like the home centre when North American Lumber burnt down, it kind of put that one to the front of the line."

"Then things like the amalgamation and other priority projects like the DQ and some of the other things that we did in other communities as well with some renovations, and then Covid took two years out of us because we were getting close to being able to go with it. Covid put us back a couple of years so we wanted to sit back and see what exactly the world looked like and what kind of changes we'd have to make to our floor plan between pre-Covid and post-Covid. The reality is that we had to make a lot of changes. Covid changed a lot of things, so it impacted the design of what we're going to end up with here in the end."

Construction is expected to last 12-14 months during which time onsite parking will be limited.

"Our Food Ops team has developed a Member Care plan to minimize disruption during construction. This will include click and collect (online order with pickup or delivery), shuttling to and from off-site parking and enhanced carryout support," COO Jeff Haurbach said about the upcoming project.

Borderland operates six food stores in Moosomin, Rocanville, Kipling, Whitewood, Broadview and Grenfell.

Whitewood's Reese Hamilton named to Canada U17 roster

Hockey Canada has announced the 44 players who will compete with Team Canada Red and Team Canada White at the 2023 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, Nov. 2-11 in Charlottetown and Summerside, PEI.

Amongst those chosen is Calgary Hitmen defenceman Reese Hamilton who will be representing Team Canada Red.

Hamilton, a product of Whitewood, SK, played the 2022-23 season with the Saskatoon Blazers U18 AAA before making the 2023-24 Calgary Hitmen Roster. The 6'0", 170-pound defenceman finished his previous season with 31 points (8g, 23a) in 39 games and currently sits with seven points (2g, 5a) in 12 games with Calgary. The 2007-born defenceman was drafted in the first round (4th overall) by the Hitmen in the 2022 WHL Prospects Draft. Hamilton was a part of Hockey Canada's Program of Excellence which took place this past summer.

The players chosen to represent their country were selected by Byron Bonora (Brooks, AB), U17 head scout, and Dave Brown (Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON/Erie, OHL), U17 lead with the Program of Excellence management group, with assistance from regional scouts Rob Simpson (Ontario), Pierre Cholette (Quebec), Darren Sutherland (Atlantic) and Darrell Woodley (Ontario).

"This summer we took the first step in introducing 66 young athletes to our Program of Excellence, which included preparations for short-term international competition," said Benoit Roy (Sudbury, ON), senior manager of hockey operations with Hockey Canada. "We are grateful for the commitment and input from our support staff to ensure our teams are ready for competition starting Nov. 2. We couldn't be more excited for the 44 players we have selected to represent Canada at this prestigious tournament and believe they will give us the best chance to compete for a gold medal."

The Canadian squads are in action on opening day, Nov. 2. Canada White hosts Czechia at Credit Union Place in Summerside at 12 p.m. AT, followed by Canada Red facing Finland at 7 p.m. AT at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown. Red and White will meet in the lone all-Canadian matchup in the preliminary round on Nov. 3 in Summerside.

More than 2,000 NHL draft picks have suited up since the inception of the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge (previously known as the Quebec Esso Cup) in 1986, including 16 first-overall draft picks since 2001 (Ilya Kovalchuk, 2001; Rick Nash, 2002; Marc-André Fleury, 2003; Alexander Ovechkin, 2004; Erik Johnson, 2006; Patrick Kane, 2007; John Tavares, 2009; Taylor Hall, 2010; Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, 2011; Nathan MacKinnon, 2013; Aaron Ekblad, 2014; Connor McDavid, 2015; Auston Matthews, 2016; Jack Hughes, 2019; Alexis Lafrenière, 2020; Owen Power, 2021).



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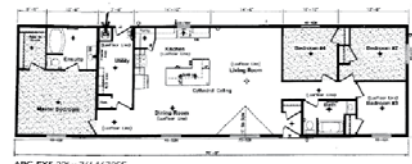


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Caught at the border

Some of the items seized by North Portal CBSA during a recent vehicle search. Image courtesy CBSA via Twitter.

Restricted weapons seized at North Portal

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Officers at a busy Saskatchewan border crossing thwarted two attempts to carry loaded and restricted weapons into Canada recently.

On Oct. 25, the CBSA said a commercial driver attempting to enter Canada at the North Portal crossing was found to have the items in their possession. The incident occurred on Oct. 17 when CBSA officers found a disassembled Armament AR-15

.223 rifle along with a silencer, a pair of over-capacity magazines plus eight simulation flash/smoke grenades.

The driver was charged \$1,500 and sent back to the United States.

On the same day, CBSA officers also found another person trying to cross into Saskatchewan with an undeclared, loaded and restricted Springfield 1911 handgun. That person was fined \$1,000 and denied entry into Canada.

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Kevin Weedmark photo

Scenes from the 2023 harvest day for Harvest of Hope north of Moosomin, the largest Saskatchewan growing project for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Harvest of Hope wraps up 2023 harvest

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's been another successful year for the Harvest of Hope in Moosomin with the labours of many volunteers helping the ultimate goal of feeding the world. Harvest on the 275-acre project north of Moosomin wrapped up recently, and as the last bits of grain made their way into the bin, flakes of snow soon followed.

While there are still bills to be paid such as fall rent and fertilizer, an estimated \$84,000 was generated in gross revenue so far.

"There is an amazing community of farmers and agricultural businesses here in Moosomin, and they've stepped up to partner with us to say 'we'd like to take all bite out of the issue of food security,'" said Kyle Penner, co-ordinator of the Harvest of Hope growing project. "As we wrap up the year, we will be putting the whole list together. I don't want to miss anyone right now."

Funds raised locally go to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which are then eligible to be matched by the government of Canada. With this support, the Foodgrains Bank (through 15 member agencies) can leverage donations from individuals, churches and businesses up to a 4:1 ratio. This means up to \$25 million each year devoted to food assistance in the developing world.

"The incredible impact of charity work

like this is why I stay involved," Penner said.

Some amazing statistics from the Foodgrains Bank illustrate the continued need for food security. The overwhelming majority of people experiencing hunger (98 per cent) live in developing countries. Ironically, many of those experiencing hunger produce food for a living (70 per cent). War is also a factor as 60 per cent of those who are hungry live in countries affected by conflict.

While thoughts turn to images of famine or drought as a root cause for this hunger, a better explanation would be when people do not have enough nutritious food over a long period of time. An estimated 783 million people simply do not have regular access to nutritious food; 20 per cent of those are under the age of five.

This is the impetus behind the Harvest of Hope—to help feed the world through a local response.

The Harvest of Hope project is the largest growing project in Saskatchewan for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

As the farmers and volunteers gathered for the harvest, staff from Conexus Credit Union prepared lunch for the volunteers.

Harvest of Hope and other growing projects in Saskatchewan play a major role in supporting the Canadian Foodgrains Bank mission of alleviating world hunger.

Rick Block, Regional Representative for Saskatchewan of Canadian Foodgrains

Bank, said the province alone contributed \$2.7 million last year to the non-profit organization.

"In terms of this past fiscal year, the Foodgrains Bank brought in a total of just over \$21 million in donations," said Block. "That's by individuals, that's by businesses, and also numerous growing projects and community events in Canada."

"There would be approximately 200 growing projects and community events across Canada. In Saskatchewan we have more of the community events, as well, we have just over 40 of these growing projects."

Funds raised from growing projects and community events are donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The organization then provides food assistance for people in need around the world.

The federal government matches donations to the Foodgrains Bank, allowing the help to go further.

"Of that \$21 million of donations, Saskatchewan raised \$2.7 million of that total, and of that \$2.7 million, about \$1.2 million came from growing projects and a few community events," Block said.

"We're definitely just about that 45 per cent mark, and we reflected that in Saskatchewan."

"It might go down to 40 per cent if you look nation wide, but really that is a significant bulk of our donation income that really comes from the concept of people

working together saying, 'hey, we're better off working together to help alleviate hunger.'

"That's really been a blueprint of the Foodgrains Bank since day one, you even see it in the structure throughout the organization. All of these organizations that say 'if we work together, we're able to accomplish a lot more than if we were each an individual agency doing its own thing.' That's then reflected down to the community grassroots level. Harvest of Hope is a great example of that."

One of the growing projects in the province that contributes to Canadians Foodgrains Bank locally is Harvest of Hope in Moosomin. Harvest of Hope is the largest project in Saskatchewan.

Last year, Harvest of Hope brought in revenue of \$130,000 and after input costs, an estimated \$70,000 was donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

For this year, there are close to 35 growing projects in Saskatchewan.

"There's 33 registered projects, two of them are in limbo, but one of the projects, which is called Grow Hope Saskatchewan, has six locations," said Block.

"It's a bit of a network of farm families that offer acres. There are 37 field sites that are part of Foodgrains projects."

"Harvest of Hope in Moosomin really represents all the pieces of a traditional growing project."

Continued on page 45



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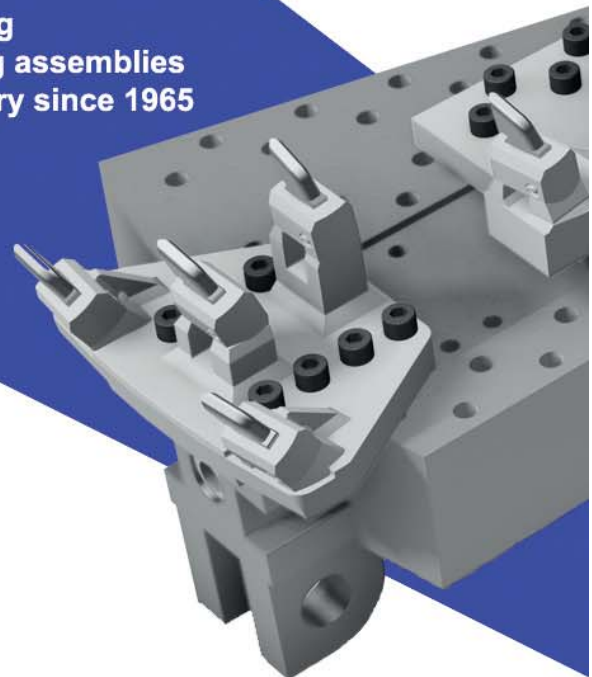
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Reynolds speaks on community relations



Chris Reynolds, EVP and President of Nutrien's potash business unit, at an event in Moosomin recently.

Chris Reynolds, EVP & President of Nutrien's Potash business unit was recently interviewed by Mining Journal Intelligence for its Global Leadership Report 2023 and discussed topics including industry shifts complicating community relations, successful engagement strategies, industry reputation repair and automation's impact on community relationships—all under the overarching theme of social license.

The interview, provided by Mining Journal Intelligence, is below.

In its 2023 Global Leadership Report, Mining Journal Intelligence focuses on trends and best practices in community relations, or social license to operate—which was identified as one of the industry's biggest challenges in earlier editions. Key trends under discussion include how societal shifts are complicating community relations efforts and the industry's response to this increasing complexity, including proven strategies and tools for keeping local residents onside, and spending levels. Other standout themes include how mining's global reputation is influencing local opinions about the industry, whether community challenges are creating 'no-go' zones for mining companies, and how automation will affect the delicate relationship between the industry and communities in the future.

Has maintaining a social license to operate become more difficult in recent

years—and if so, what has driven this trend?

When you've been producing potash in a province in Canada for close to 60 years, you get fairly good at knowing what works and what doesn't.

I'm sure that Saskatchewan people are the same as people around the world that have strong mining industries in them. They can see pretty quickly if you're not being genuine and authentic in your engagement, and if you're doing something that in their mind is not contributing to the community or adding value.

I'm not just talking about dollars, I'm talking about adding value to their way of life, or if you're polluting and not being a good neighbor. Even before the advent of social media, they would find ways to let you know or let governments and regulators know.

Over 60 years, we've always had this as part of our strategy as a company. Now it has become more difficult in the context that investors are scrutinizing [community relations] metrics a little more closely. There are consultants coming up with all sorts of acronyms that we need to measure and benchmark. We welcome that, and because we've been doing it for so long anyway, now we're just formalizing it. Now investors are more inquisitive and curious, saying, we see your bottom line but what are you doing in the communities in which you operate? Are you adding value apart from the numbers on a balance sheet?

What strategies or tools have been most successful in maintaining good relations with communities?

If I had to drill it down to one strategy that we've found most successful, it's being authentic in engagement.

Companies can throw money at causes and splash their name across brochures and think that's enough, but you have to be authentic. What I mean by that is we

would always pair a cash donation with boots-on-the-ground participation from our employees.

When we sponsor an event, we encourage our employees to get out and participate, to volunteer at that event, and get to areas and channels where they can listen to what's going on in the community and be genuine participants. When employees volunteer, we provide them with credit for those hours.

So, again, when you pair a philanthropic donation with actual participation by employees out there wearing Nutrien T-shirts and really being part of the community, that's been the most successful strategy for us.

Otherwise, people will be quick to say, thanks very much for your cash donation, but we didn't see you after that. There's an

authenticity there that is almost as valuable or maybe more so than the cash donation itself.

Past failings, including deadly environmental disasters and the destruction of sacred sites, have damaged the mining industry's reputation. How does this affect your dealings with local communities, and what are you doing to repair the industry's reputation on a local level?

I don't think we have changed course in light of those events. We have always taken what we do in the community very seriously, how we look after the environment, the communication we have with our neighbors at all mining sites, and genuine on-the-ground interaction with those neighbors.

Continued on Page B17

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Supreme Court strike down federal Impact Assessment Act

5-2 decision finds federal government overstepped authority and should be more "co-operative" with provinces

Saskatchewan's provincial government says it welcomes the Supreme Court of Canada's (SCC) 5-2 ruling against the federal government's environmental Impact Assessment Act (IAA), formerly Bill C-69.

"This decision is nothing short of a constitutional tipping point and reasserts provinces' rights and primary jurisdiction over natural resources, the environment and power generation," Justice Minister and Attorney General Bronwyn Eyre said. "It should also force the federal government to reassess other areas of overreach, including capping oil and gas production and electrical generation. The IAA has stalled everything from Canadian highway and mine projects to LNG facilities and pipelines. It has thwarted investment, competitiveness and productivity across the country. This major decision will correct course."

The IAA received royal assent in 2019. In 2022, the

Alberta Court of Appeal (in a 4-1 majority) held that the IAA was unconstitutional, violated the division of powers between Ottawa and the provinces, and took a "wrecking ball" to exclusive provincial jurisdiction under Section 92 and 92A of the Constitution Act, 1867. The federal government appealed the decision to the SCC.

Last March, Saskatchewan was part of the constitutional intervention, along with seven other provinces, before Canada's top court, arguing that the IAA had exceeded federal jurisdiction. The majority recognized that the IAA is a clear example of federal overreach. Specifically, the Supreme Court majority held that the IAA's designated proj-

ects scheme, by which federal authorities could permanently put a project on hold, was an "unconstitutional arrogation of power by Parliament" and "clearly overstepped the mark." The majority also found that the Act "grants the decision-maker a practically untrammelled power to regulate projects qua projects."

In 2023, Saskatchewan passed The Saskatchewan First Act to counter the federal government's attempts to interfere in matters of provincial jurisdiction. The Act came into force on September 15, 2023.

Sask third in the world for mining investment attractiveness

For the third year in a row, Saskatchewan has ranked first in Canada and in the top three in the world for mining investment attractiveness.

"Saskatchewan continues to be a standout jurisdiction to invest in because of our outstanding resource potential and strong policies that support mineral exploration and development," Energy and Resources Minister Jim Reiter said.

The Fraser Institute's 2022 Annual Survey of Mining Companies measured 62 jurisdictions around the world on two main areas - mineral potential and policy perception - to come up with an overall attractiveness ranking for investment.

Overall, Saskatchewan ranked third in the world for investment attractiveness in this year's survey.

Nevada ranked first, and Western Australia second. Saskatchewan also ranked second in the world for mineral potential.

"It is no surprise that Saskatchewan remains the best jurisdiction in Canada for mining investment attractiveness and one of the top jurisdictions globally," Foran Mining Executive Chairman and CEO Dan Myerson said. "A business-friendly government and world class geology allows companies like Foran to build multi-generational, infrastructure-type sustainable mining assets and provide the world with the critical minerals needed for global electric revolution."

"The potential is here and largely untapped," Reiter said. "Since this survey was done, we've announced additional tax and exploration incen-

tives, along with a critical minerals strategy to drive new investment. These will all positively impact the industry in the province."

In this year's budget the Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration Tax Credit was increased from 10 to 30 per cent. The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive was also expanded from \$750,000 to \$4 million annually and applied to all hard rock exploration drilling across the province. In addition, a further \$2.4 million of new funding was committed to improve access to geological data by explorers.

In 2023-24, the Government of Saskatchewan will also review environmental exploration permitting in the province to ensure timely and efficient processes for explorers and developers.

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Nutrien GM speaks about upcoming capital investments

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Sept. 19, Nutrien Rocanville general manager Justin Young gave a presentation at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Young spoke about the capital investments at the site over the next few years.

"I always get asked what's happening at the mine. With underground, in the next five years you're going to see a major expansion," he said.

"It's not going to be an expansion like when we did the new mill, and sunk the Scissors Creek shaft. It would be a major expansion where we're moving from our existing workings to the west and to the northwest.

"We're going to see an addition of 49 main line conveyors, each one of those mainline conveyors is one mile. You can do the math to how much further we're getting out, which will equate to 31 additional conveyors, as we will decommission some of the old areas of the mine.

"When we did Rocanville's last expansion, which was a very large spend for us, we only built 26 (conveyors) in eight years. In the next five years we're going to be building 49, just to put it in perspective of how big our footprint is getting.

Young showed a map of the parameters for how large the mine is right now, and explained how much larger it will expand with-

in the next five years.

"Our mine workings are getting further and further from the Scissors Creek shaft," said Young.

"By 2027 we'll already be further away from Scissors Creek to our new mine workings, versus Rocanville to Scissors Creek.

"We only have three of our 13 miners that are in production that will be mining from our old areas. The Rocanville West Expansion, is almost mined out already.

"We usually get a question on self-gen, about when we're going to start producing our own power. I wish I could say I knew when.

"We're going through the commissioning right now. We're looking late this year or early next year that it should be commissioned.

"It won't provide all of the power to the Rocanville mine site, and Scissors Creek will still be on the grid. This is specifically for Rocanville, it will provide 72 megawatts and we need at peak capacity, when we're running both mills, all the hoists, all of the lights turned on, about 90 to 95 megawatts."

"We'll still require 25 per cent of the power at the Rocanville site from SaskPower."

At the meeting, Young was asked how many contractors are expected to come this year, based on the capital investment for building more conveyors at the site.

"In our turnaround, we'll probably see up-

wards of 1,000 contractors on site," he said.

"On any given day we probably have 100 to 200 contractors working throughout both facilities." The turn around date for this year is on Oct. 22.

"Originally it was Sept. 19, we pushed it back only because we're having some supply chain issues," Young told Chamber members.

"Some of our vendors delivered some of our critical materials that probably would've got there just in time. but we have a rule where if it's not there a month before, then it's not there. We would hate to take the mine down and not have your materials to be able to do your turnaround work."

Shortage of housing and accommodations a concern

Currently, the mine employs about 900 people at the Rocanville mine site—in addition to the number of contractors who are hired occasionally.

"For us for the number of jobs we have out there are upwards close to 900. We have 245 staff employees and we are a unionized workforce out there too, where we're close to 600 unionized employees," Young told Chamber members.

"We use contractors to backfill as required. If we get into situations like turn around and we don't have the resources to do



Justin Young, general manager of the Nutrien Rocanville mine site spoke at Moosomin's Chamber of Commerce meeting on Sept. 19.

anything, we hire a large contractor contingency to come and support us.

"You probably recognize that in the community, when you see our turnarounds and our hotels are full, when you see cars parked in the parking lots with people sleeping in their cars, because they can't find hotels."

Due to a lack of available housing in Moosomin and

Rocanville, Young said employee retention has been a challenge at the mine for the last couple of years.

"I wasn't joking about people sleeping at the parking lot of Scotiabank. I would say accommodations are a problem," he said.

"Losing our campground north of town didn't help either because a lot of these folks camp

when the hotels are filled. People aren't really interested in renting a room for a month from rental properties, so it is a challenge.

"That's why we started staggering our turnarounds with Mosaic, that has helped, but it's still a challenge."

Young said Nutrien has collaborated with Mosaic to try and tackle the housing and accommodation issues.


"That (accommodations) is one of the challenges that we have seen, especially if our turnaround lines up with Mosaic, you can see upwards of thousands of people coming to the area on any given day," said Young.

"I don't see that changing. We have been working with Mosaic to make sure we try to align the timing of our turnarounds, that way they'll go down a little bit sooner than us."

"It will be interesting to see what happens next year because BHP is forecasting 2,600 contract employees at their site. It will be a war on labour that's for sure.

"It's no different for our full-time employees. We have seen some people migrate back to the city or to BHP.

"Our young engineers go to university in the city, come to Rocanville or come to the Moosomin area and it's not the same night life, they don't have the same ties to the community. We do see, unfortunately, a few of them migrate back.

Continued on page 30 



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Nutrien GM speaks about upcoming capital investments

Continued from page 29

"If they have a connection to the area, those that are from here have family here, have a partner here, we see those folks stick around, but unfortunately we are having a hard time retaining people, especially some of those technical types of individuals."

Kevin Weedmark of Moosomin Chamber of Commerce asked if there is anything the community can do to help with the retention issue.

"If you look at what the younger generation is looking for it is activities outside of work," said Young.

"I think you have to look at places to eat, you have to look at other extracurricular activities, maybe grocery stores, maybe not enough places to live is a challenge. I think we would have more people live in Moosomin if we had more of those places available."

"That just comes from conversations with some of the recent new hires that we've had, wanting to move to Moosomin and not being able to find what they want, recognizing it is a small community, and you're not going to get everything that you had in the city."

Another member at the meeting asked if recruitment and retention is an issue specifically for Nutrien, or if it is a general concern for others in the industry as well.

"I would say the two sites farthest from the city, us and Lanigan, have very similar issues, and I don't know about Mosaic. I'm guessing they are having the

same issues too," said Young. "Lanigan does have a little bit of an upper hand because they have a lot of people that drive from Saskatoon, which is about an hour and 15 minutes away."

"Demographically our location being away from some of the major centres hurts us, but what we have for the upper hand on Lanigan is we don't have BHP right next door."

Importance of potash to communities, and the world

With potash being used primarily for fertilizer to support plant growth, Young spoke about why potash is so important on a global level.

"If you picture the world and you compare that to an apple, if you were to take that apple and cut it into quarters, and you set three quarters aside for oceans, that leaves one quarter, which would signify the land mass," he said.

"You can't grow anything in water so we have one quarter left. If you cut that into half and take half aside, that's swamped areas so we can't grow anything. Then, you're left with about an eighth of the apple remaining."

"Then you cut that again into quarters, that signifies cities, towns, areas that are too hot or too cold to mine or produce agriculture, and if you peel back the peel, that is what the remaining topsoil in the world is."

"So why do we need potash? Well, if you look at the population and how it's growing roughly 1.8 million people per



General Manager of the Nutrien Rocanville Justin Young mine site spoke at Moosomin's Chamber of Commerce meeting on Sept. 19.

day. I read a stat the other day that was based in the United States only, that the arable acres in the U.S. is declining about 2,000 acres per day because of urbanization. The world's population is growing and you see less and less acres growing food."

"We have a growing population, and we're estimating by 2050 you'll see the primary of food go up by 70 per cent. We're seeing people go up, the food requirement going up, and we're seeing the arable acres for agriculture decreasing."

"That just shows the importance of increasing our production with the arable acres that we do have, and that's where potash comes in."

Nutrien's contributions to the community

Young mentioned that Nutrien has donated about \$40,000

to Moosomin year-to-date, and close to \$30,000 to Rocanville.

"A couple of things we've invested into the community this year, is we have a career fair and community information session. This is very well received in Moosomin," he said.

"We were at the Chamber of Commerce parade in Moosomin in July, we matched the donations made for the Smile Cookie Campaign, and on Miracle Treat Day we matched donations there as well."

"We spent some time at Ochapowace Nation's pow wow, that was a very good event."

Young also spoke about the volunteer incentive programs that Nutrien offers.

"A couple other stats that we're spending, or potentially could spend—this is a pitch for anyone who works at the mine—is we recognize all of our communities are ran by volun-

teers," he said.

"At Nutrien we have a volunteer program where we will pay you up to \$500 a year, \$20 per hour to go volunteer in the community."

"Once you have put your hours in and it's confirmed, we simply write a cheque to a charity of your choice. If you wanted to donate it to your local hockey team you can do that, if you wanted to donate it to the Town of Moosomin people have done that in the past years, church, band, whatever it is."

"That's definitely something that is under utilized. Last year we only spent \$8,000 on that. If you had every employee at Rocanville volunteer their total hours, it could equal about \$450,000."

"If you have a partner that works out there, please encourage them to go online and fill it out."

Applications being accepted for targeted mineral exploration incentive

Companies can now submit applications for Saskatchewan's expanded Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive at Saskatchewan.ca.

The Incentive provides financial assistance as a grant to exploration companies that undertake eligible drilling activities. The program was expanded in the 2023-24 Budget to drive additional exploration activity, particularly for critical minerals. The changes put forward raise the total funding available to \$4 million annually and make the incentive applicable to all hard rock exploration projects at any location throughout the province.

Eligible companies can now receive a 25 per cent rebate on drilling costs up to \$150,000 per company and up to \$50,000 for uranium drilling. All regulatory changes required are now complete and applications are being accepted.

"I encourage any company that wants to invest in a stable, secure jurisdiction to apply for the program," Energy and Resources Minister Jim Reiter said. "Exploration is

the key to unlocking the mineral potential in our province, which we already know is world class."

Securing the Future: Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Strategy, set a goal to increase Saskatchewan's share of Canadian mineral exploration spending to 15 per cent by 2030. Mining is a key pillar of the provincial economy and contributes up to 12 per cent of Saskatchewan's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive was introduced in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Over the life of the

program 41 successful applications have been completed with more than \$40 million of expenditures.

You can find more information at saskatchewan.ca or by emailing tmei@gov.sk.ca

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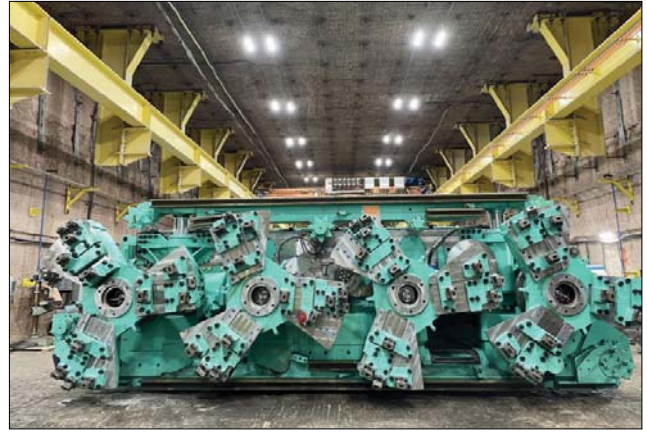
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Thank you for the continued support of Mosaic and Nutrien!



Today, the underground footprint of K3 is about four times the size of the City of Yorkton. By 2025, the mine will be double the size of the City of Regina. What is more incredible? Wi-Fi is also accessible throughout the entire underground to power the extensive digital footprint.



Thirteen automated miners complete the underground fleet at K3. The 13th miner officially joined the fleet in July 2023.

Mosaic company's flagship potash operation in Esterhazy is now the world's largest

After a decade long journey and nearly \$3 billion invested, Mosaic's expansion project in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan is complete. The massive mining complex now holds the title of the world's largest potash operation after externally verified results confirmed it can produce 7.8 million tonnes of potash.

The project was first announced in 2009, followed by shaft sinking in 2011. By early 2017, the first ore was uncovered. Two massive headframes were constructed to house powerful hoists and skips that bring the valuable ore to the surface. Construction was completed on a conveyance system to transport the raw ore to Mosaic's two mills that sat next to the original K1 and K2 mine shafts. As surface infrastructure took shape, while underground, new mining machines fabricated in Saskatchewan were expertly assembled using a modular approach—meaning they could be partially put together above ground then carefully lowered down the shaft to save shop time and get them into production faster.

"At the time, this project was the first of its kind in the province in nearly half a century," says Dustin Maksymchuk, Esterhazy's General Manager. "It began during a market up-swing, but with the

time it takes to build a new potash mine, much of the work was completed during depressed markets and a global pandemic. We accelerated our timeline several times and delivered the project well ahead of the original timeline and on-budget. This project is a true testament to our team's persistence and endurance. This is a 50 plus-year investment for the company—and a generational commitment to Esterhazy and Saskatchewan."

Mosaic added 13 automated mining machines, often called "miners" to its underground fleet, which cut through ore beds left behind in the Cretaceous period. The automated miners are controlled by professional operators housed in the new Integrated Operations Centre (IOC).

Innovation and technology power Mosaic's Esterhazy complex

Esterhazy's new IOC uses the latest technology in cameras and sensors to monitor and operate the mining machines and the conveyance system that moves potash to surface and then over 11 kilometers of enclosed conveyors to reach one of two mills for processing.

"The IOC streamlines the flow of information and optimizes our operation from end-to-end," says Dustin. "It's revolutionized how we work, and that's a good thing. This is the future of mining—it offers improved safety and empowers our people to make the best decisions faster and with real-time information."

Owning the ground

Automation has improved safety for employees because they can monitor most aspects of the operation from a safe distance, while also increasing productivity with 24/7 run-time.

Mining at K3 is 150 to 300 feet deeper than Mosaic's previous two underground mines, which impacts what is called ground conditions by the industry. Underground personnel must be always aware of the conditions above their hard hats and below their work boots.

Mosaic introduced a specialized "Own Your Ground" program to make ground condition checks top of mind on every shift.

"Safety is at the forefront of every decision we made when building every part of this project," says Kelly Strong, Vice President, Mining, North America. "The team was intentional with its design and when transitioning our workforce into a new environment. You must adapt your processes and policies to fit a modern-

ized underground operation with different conditions."

Esterhazy keeps on crushin' it

Crushin' It became the slogan for Esterhazy as the team ramped up production to prove its new operational capabilities.

Today, strategic investments are underway in the K1 and K2 mills to relieve operational bottle necks and provide even more product flexibility.

"K3 has been Mosaic and Esterhazy's future for the past decade—and I'm proud to say the future is finally here," says Dustin. "This is a rural community in Saskatchewan, that's now home to the largest potash operation in the world. That's huge for us, and it's a big deal for the local area and the entire province."

"The magnitude of this project is hard to truly comprehend. As a company, our mission is to help the world grow the food it needs," says Kelly. "We take that responsibility seriously. The world is counting on us every day, and now we're ready to deliver 50 more years of potash from the world's best reserves to farmer's fields so they can grow food that feeds us all. What an incredible story for us to tell."



The IOC system is constantly evolving with feedback from employees operating the system and those working underground.



K3 came fully online in 2022, and its design and technology make Mosaic's Esterhazy facility the world's most advanced and largest potash operation. The early development of K3 started in 2009, with the sinking of the shaft beginning in 2011, and crews successfully reaching ore level in 2017. The cost to build K3 was \$2.9 billion.

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Reynolds speaks on community relations

Continued from Page 27

We hold forums in local communities to tell them what we're doing in case we have any major turnarounds that come up, which may increase some sound or steam coming out of the sites to make sure they're aware of what's going on.

We've found that almost over-communicating is the better strategy in engaging those communities.

Have we learned from some of the incidents around the world? Sure, we've looked at them closely and gone back to our own operations and tested ourselves about whether there is anything that could happen to us or is there something we're missing in terms of safeguards, but whether it's the environment or relations with First Nations indigenous communities, we have a strong track record in all of those areas.

There is no finish line. This is something we continue to work hard on every day, and really that's the nature of relationships.

The advent of the internet makes information much more widely available, and we've had questions at community events about, for example, our tailings management areas, and the safeguards we have in place around these areas.

We're always happy to share information about tailings management and what we do to safeguard the environment and our neighbors to make sure they're not impacted.

We've worked very closely with provincial and federal regulators, which closely watch a lot of what we're doing and we're proud that we would exceed those regulations in terms of the safeguards that we put in place. Communi-

ties are interested and so we engage in conversations and talk about those safeguards in place.

Looking to the future, many new mines will be needed to meet the demand for critical minerals—but increased automation will reduce onsite jobs for local. Is this a recipe for growing community conflicts? How will you approach this challenge?

We've embarked on quite a bit of new technology in all of our mines and this has been through a lens of safety.

That was what really drove a lot of these initiatives that we embarked on over a decade ago, in terms of how we remove individuals from high-risk areas of the mine, and we've done that through remote mining.

As we removed those people from those machines, we took them to a place that was much safer, above ground. We still need someone to operate that mining machine, whether they're sitting on the machine itself 1,000 meters underground or in an air-conditioned office with easy access to restrooms and coffee facilities.

They found it a much more exciting environment than just physically sitting on the machine. As that technology advances it will mean different skills, and we're going to offer retraining to make sure we can still employ those people in the future.

It's been the opposite reaction to what we thought because this technology has enabled more inclusive environments. We've got some gaps where we want to continue to make our workforce even more remote than it is today, and by creating work environments that are a little

more pleasant we can change the perception of mining.

If you walked over to the University of Saskatchewan and asked, what's your vision of mining? The first thing they would think about wouldn't be sitting in front of a screen toggling a joystick. That's where we have to do a little better as a company, and as an industry, to change the perception of mining. As we look at this trend from fossil fuels to a clean energy future, we as a population,

we can't do that. We need more mining of the critical minerals that are needed for that transition, the rare earth minerals, many of which are here in Canada.

We can't make that transition without mining so we're going to need more people to come into the industry and get excited about the career opportunities. This is not going to be a story of reducing employment in our business. We're going to need more people involved. This is a challenge for the mining industry.

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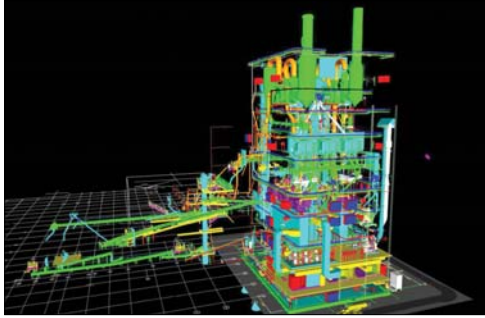
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Left: Design and development are underway for a third compaction circuit that will be added at Esterhazy's K1 mill to increase blend-grade production capacity. When operational by the end of 2023, this third circuit will provide additional production flexibility to meet varying market demand for different potash products.

Right: Esterhazy's mining machines are assembled in underground shops before being moved out into production areas to begin mining potash ore. Commissioning of a twelfth four-rotor mining machine began in January, and a thirteenth is expected to be complete later this year.



Mosaic Esterhazy now running on all cylinders

Now running on all cylinders, Mosaic's Esterhazy operation is one of the largest, most competitive potash mines in the world. Both shafts at K3 have been in operation for more than a year, and production continues to ramp up towards full hoisting capacity of more than 72,500 tonnes per day. A new daily hoisting record of 63,180 tonnes was reached in September 2022.

Having both shafts in production removes historical ore handling constraints at Esterhazy and ensures capacity for additional ore supply as more mining machines are assembled underground and put into production. Commissioning of a twelfth four-rotor mining machine began in January, and a thirteenth is expected to be completed later this year.

All machines in K3's fleet can operate autonomously in fully developed production areas—which reduces risk for the mine's employees and eliminates downtime, as they can be safely operated 24/7.

Integrated operations: Operational visibility and real-time information

K3 is built on technology and innovation. It is designed to provide annual production of 6 million tonnes, which is about 60,000 rail cars full of potash. This means moving 17-19 million tonnes of ore per year.

Much of those operations are now being monitored and run from a technology-enabled pilot Integrated Operations Center, or IOC, on the surface at K2. Cameras and sensors monitor allow employees in the IOC to view the entire 12-kilometer conveyance system that transports ore from where it is mined 3,350 feet underground, up through the shafts, and across the surface to the K1 and K2 mills for processing.

"The goal of this IOC is to improve production capabilities and increase reliability by integrating our operations from when the ore is mined to when product is loaded on railcars to ship out to our customers," said Dustin Maksymchuk,


General Manager Esterhazy. "This provides our employees with the operational visibility and information they need,


and they are empowered to act on that data in real-time." *Continued on Page 39* ^{ES}




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Kevin Weedmark, Sunnette Kamffer, and Sierra D'Souza Butts from the World-Spectator took a tour of the Nutrien Rocanville Potash mine on July 27.



One of the workers at Nutrien Rocanville Potash welding underground in the mine.



Above: Potash from the Nutrien Rocanville mine. **Right:** The view of the entire mine site from the top of the salt pile—which is 60 meters high—at the Nutrien Rocanville Potash mine site.

A whole world underground at Nutrien Rocanville

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Nutrien Rocanville Potash mine—Nutrien's largest site—produces 20,000 tonnes of potash a day, and employs about 900 people.

The process for mining potash, to milling, to it then being loaded and shipped is an extensive process.

Terry Daniel, Mill Operations Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville, explained how the facility loads the potash in their storage buildings.

"Inside there's a drop point and it drops down onto a belt," said Daniel. "There's belts everywhere; there's a belt that goes to the rail load up and from there it can go to our truck load up."

"We can load, I think our record is 265 cars in a day. That's easily 20 to 30 per cent more than we can make, and when we're down, it's sort of 180 cars a day."

"A 100 tonne car of potash at \$30,000 a car, but 200 of them together, it doesn't take long to tell you how many millions that train is worth."

"Our trains go out in the neighbourhood of 225 cars right now. They'll go bigger if they have to, but 225 cars in a row times that much is a lot of wealth going in and out of this site."

Daniel has been working at the mine for 26 years. He spoke about the changes he has seen made at the mine over the years.

"When I got here in 1998 there was just one mill. We probably

produced, in a good day, in the neighbourhood of 7,000 product tonnes, 70 rail cars," he said.

"Today we kick out about 200 rail cars, 20,000 product tonnes a day, depending on what we get from the underground."

At the mill, there are two warehouses dedicated to storing the finished potash product.

"In our two big product storage houses we'll store cumulatively 500,000 tonnes, half a million tonnes," said Daniel.

"That's basically a month's worth of production, but we're so full. It's been three months since I've seen the back end of a couple of those barns."

"Our two product storage barns, if you Google it you're going to see they're big on the map. The stainless steel roof really makes them shine from the statelittles."

"These are the first and only stainless steel buildings for salt storage that we know about. It's better than a wood storage facility."

Daniel said much of the product that comes from the Rocanville site goes mostly to U.S. buyers.

"This site in particular, by proximity we get the U.S. market," he said.

"We don't produce any specialty products, our number one product, 80 per cent of it is granular, and of that, 70 to 80 per cent of our sales goes directly to the U.S."

"In general day-to-day, 80 per cent of our product, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 60 per cent

of our volume goes directly to the U.S."

Overall, Nutrien has the capacity to produce and distribute over 20 million tonnes of potash a year from the company's six low-cost mines in Saskatchewan.



Jacob Burton of Nutrien Rocanville mine speaking about the miner that breaks down the potash in different phases.



Above: Nutrien Rocanville mine site General Manager Justin Young explaining how the mine works to Sierra D'Souza Butts and Sunnette Kamffer of the World-Spectator.



Above: Editor of the World-Spectator Kevin Weedmark sitting in the grizzly miner underground at the mine site in Rocanville. The grizzly is one of the original mining machines at Rocanville.



Above: The Assembly Shop inside Nutrien Rocanville mine.



Inside one of the warehouses at the Nutrien Rocanville Potash mine, where the finished potash product is stored. The mine produces about 20,000 product tonnes a day, it is also the largest mine among Nutrien's six potash mines.



Mill Operations Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville Terry Daniel and Editor of the World-Spectator Kevin Weedmark looking over the Nutrien Rocanville mine site.



Above: Sunnette Kamffer, Terry Daniel and Kevin Weedmark talking about the process of mining potash.

Right: Sunnette Kamffer and Sierra D'Souza Butts at the top of the salt pile at the Rocanville site.



October oil & gas public offering adds \$11.05 million to provincial revenues

The Government of Saskatchewan's Crown petroleum and natural gas public offering, held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, has raised \$11,049,882.97 for the province.

Of the 157 parcels posted for this sale, 107 parcels received acceptable bids. These bids covered 18,870.845 hectares.

The Kindersley area generated the most cashflow, bringing in \$5,811,151.08 for 20 leases and two exploration licenses totalling 7,591.560 hectares.

Bids for leases and a license in the Lloydminster area brought in the next-highest amount, \$2,703,203.64. These bids were for 33 leases and one exploration license totalling 7,222.166 hectares.

Acceptable bids in the Estevan area generated \$2,516,328.95 for 47 leases covering 3,668.270 hectares.

The Swift Current area generated



\$19,199.30 in acceptable bids.

Millennium Land Ltd. made the highest bonus bid for a parcel—\$4,244,502.88 for an exploration license on a 2,788.785 hectare property. The land is in the Kindersley area, west of Kerrobert.

Regina-based ROK Resources Inc. submitted the highest dollars-per-hectare bid, \$3,153.15 per hectare for a 33.3 hectare lease in the Estevan area, south-west of Stoughton.

After four of six public offerings this fiscal year, the province has received \$48,233,785.29 in revenue. At this time last fiscal year, oil and gas public offerings had generated \$34,188,370.54 in revenue.

The next scheduled date for a public offering in Saskatchewan is December 5, 2023.



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Mosaic Esterhazy now running on all cylinders

Continued from Page 23

Integrating operations has also allowed Mosaic to build management systems and governance processes that help them operate efficiently, effectively, repeatably and sustainably. It also provides new opportunities for employees.

"Employees helped us design the IOC, and their input will continue to be crucial as we move forward," said Dustin.

New roles were created to support integrated operations, including IOC Coordinators responsible for managing the daily operations plan. There are also training and developmental opportunities available for employees to learn about and help refine automated mining controls and systems.

Leveraging the full capacity of K1 & K2 Mills

With both shafts at K3 up and running, operations at Esterhazy are no longer shaft-limited and can leverage the full capability of the mills. In addition to the IOC and implementation of new processes like Short-Interval Control, which helps employees maximize production by improving coordination and optimizing runtime, there is other work underway to improve operational reliability of the mills and ensure they are utilized to the

fullest capacity.

At the K1 mill, a third compaction circuit is being added that will improve our ability to convert standard tons to granular tons. This means more blend-grade product, which gives us additional production flexibility to meet market demand for specific products. This project is underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

At the K2 mill, a project was recently approved to add a hydrofloat circuit that will increase K2's overall production capability by 400,000 tonnes—80 per cent of which will be natural crystal granular and the remaining standard product.

Staying focused on delivering on commitments

Throughout the K3 ramp-up and as we look ahead, the Esterhazy team has remained focused on delivering on their commitments and providing the products their customers need to feed the world.

Over 100 risk reduction projects were completed in 2022, each one an employee idea that helps reduce safety or environmental risks. The K1 and K2 mills operated without a recordable injury for the entire year. They are also making considerable progress improving the safety

culture across the site by focusing on employee awareness of ground conditions at K3 and heightened daily inspections in all immediate work areas to identify and address potential hazards.

"Our talented workforce is looking to the future and finding new ways to increase safety, efficiency and connection across our immense operating footprint—building a 'digital mine' to power us into the future," said Dustin.

"Employees are leading innovative, technology-enabled improvements that will help ensure we have the operational capacity, reliability and flexibility we need to meet the changing needs of our customers. We're also remaining focused on safe, responsible operations and investing in our team and local communities."

This includes Mosaic's commitment to partnering with local Indigenous communities and building a diverse, inclusive workforce and culture.

"The sustainability of our business and our communities are indelibly linked, and we're proud of the progress we're making in these areas," said Dustin.

"We're taking action to strengthen local communities and ensure Mosaic is a place where all people feel welcome, safe, valued and respected."



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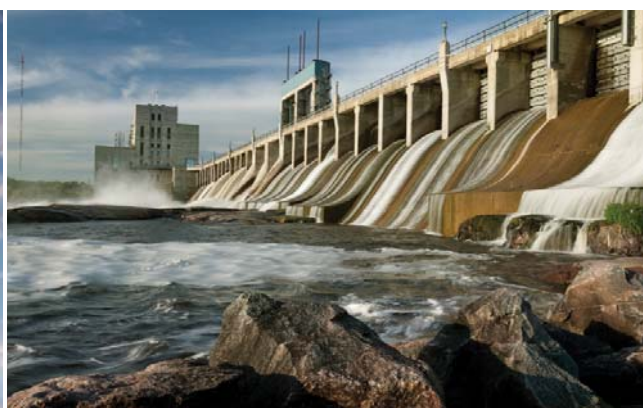
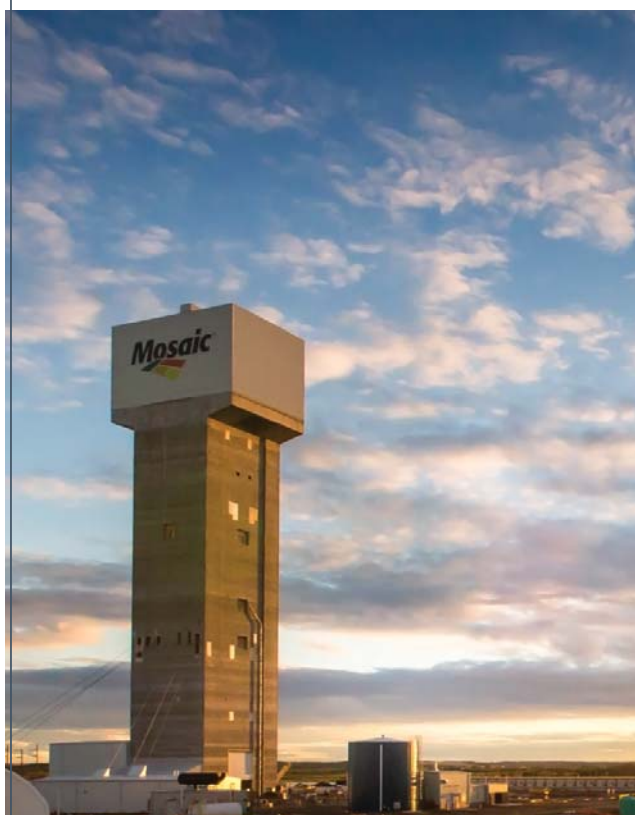
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Canola 4R Advantage provides funding for fertilizer best management practices (BMPs).



Experiment with three soils tests from one field

BY WARREN WARD

Want to take your fertilizer management up a notch? Here is a low-cost test that could provide some valuable insight into field variability: Choose an under-performing field and submit soil samples this fall from three target areas—hill tops, mid slopes and low spots.

The most common soil testing method is to submit one sample per field. The sample is based on 10 to 20 cores collected from mid-slope “average” areas, often split into 0-6” and 6-12” or 6-24” depths. Mid-slope areas are usually the most consistent, yield-wise, and account for most of the acres. So if farms are collecting one composite sample per field, this practice provides a good baseline fertilizer rate.

However, these mid-slope samples miss low-performing or inconsistent-performing hill tops and low areas. By spending a couple hundred dollars to collect and analyze two extra samples from one field, farms will gain new insight that could change the way they manage the farm.

For example, if soil analysis shows that hill tops are low in sulphur, farmers could spread extra sulphur on a few hills, since canola is a crop with relatively high sulphur requirements. Use those test hills as check strips, and see if they show a difference in next year’s combine yield map.

Consult with an agronomist to help decide how to use the results and whether targeted applications or check strips make sense.

Even if these extra two tests for one field don’t inspire a change in approach for 2024, they will provide some real numbers to quantify nutrient and soil variability. With that discovery, farms can start to see how, or if, that field variability might be enough to justify investment in

a variable-rate system.

The best time to soil test

Soil sampling just prior to seeding provides the most accurate measure of nutrients available to the crop, but fall soil sampling can be almost as accurate and has various advantages:

- Less time pressure to get samples collected and analyzed
- More time for fertilizer planning
- Potential to buy the right amount of fertilizer at a lower price

The best time for fall sampling is after soil has cooled to at least 10°C. Cool soils reduce the microbial activity that can mobilize nutrients. Soil samples collected after this activity slows down will more closely reflect spring soil nitrate content.

Get funding for soil testing

Canola 4R Advantage provides funding for fertilizer best management practices (BMPs). The program can reimburse growers up to \$20,000 for soil testing and, if growers choose, another \$20,000 for consulting services to develop field zone mapping for variable rate nitrogen.

To participate, growers are required to have a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plan developed and verified by a 4R designated agronomist that covers the BMPs included in the application.

The application deadline is November 30, 2023. This intake will cover expenses invoiced and paid by growers between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. Visit canolacouncil.org/4r-advantage/ for program details, eligibility and the new application portal.

Warren Ward is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. Email wardw@canolacouncil.org.

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Racing the weather to get our crop in the bin

It was exactly two months less three days from the day we had started harvest 2023 that we finally had it wrapped up and there was no sweeter picture than that of those combines that night, dumping the last of their canola into the semis. We would have loved to run more than a few consecutive days at a time but that was not how this harvest worked out. As I sat from the warm interior of my half ton and watched the augers unloading that final night in the field, it very nearly made me feel a tad sad to think harvest was over. That lasted only six seconds though and I was good!

For whatever reason (there are theories but I am not so into them), some of the canola just did not want to ripen this fall. So the guys did some desiccating. And when that, after a couple of weeks of waiting, didn't quite seem to do the trick, they swathed it. And even then it seemed like we waited and waited until we could finally bring it in. It was certainly the year of switching from straight cut headers to pickups and back again, and then yet again.

After several days of sitting, right at the end of September, we finally got a day we were able to go and when those three machines started up on some standing canola, they just kept marching along all day long and our truck driver I swear never got a minute's rest, running from one truck to the next and getting it into the bin. Even supper in the field that night was served not from the tailgate but in to-go plates with cutlery taped to the top, handed up to the combine operators. How's that for a subtle hint to just eat on the go.

Hours later, after dark, as the men moved from one field to the next, the women and kids moved vehicles and transported truck drivers and combines to wherever it was they needed to be transported to. And wonder of wonders, after weeks of too-wet-to-combine-in-the-evening type weather, it stayed dry late into the night, or shall we say into the early hours of the next morning.

For me though, I was settled back into my camper on the farm by 9:30 p.m. that night, doing dishes and melting Toblerone for the farm kids to eat with their strawberries. One of the twins (12) was lounging on the couch with his cell phone in his hand. Yup, I thought to myself, kids and phones, imagining the snapchatting or whatever-ing that kids do these days.

I no sooner had the snapchat thought when Reid set his phone down, ran outside and right back in, grabbed another strawberry to dip into his bowl of chocolate and said, "Humidity's only 60%. Grass is dry. Should be able to get a few more hours in tonight." And so it was! The young man with his eyes on the weather app was excited that the combines could keep rolling. And roll on they did. I could hear trucks as they came and went and I knew Mr. Truck Driver had to be wearing thin. I should maybe have given him a bigger supper plate!

As the dutiful farm wife that I am (after walking the grounds to the main house that night), I turned all the lights on in the camper so that when hubby eventually came in from the field, it would be a welcoming sight from afar. Or at least from the bins that sit 150 feet from the camper. And then I sat in the comfy recliner determined to remain awake until Wayne climbed the steps of the RV later that night. By 10:30 I put my HGTV magazine down, cranked the furnace up a notch or two and popped a movie into the dvd player in the bedroom and laid down, clothes on in case I got a 'get to the field call.' And then I proceeded to wind down. By 11:30, I crawled under the covers. It was getting a tad chilly in there. And the furnace was no longer running. We were obviously out of propane. Die hard that I am though, I remained clothed and at the ready for a mad dash trip to a field to get somebody or something.

By 12:30 or perhaps 1:30, I was looking for an extra quilt and rolling over into a deep sleep when I heard the semi coming into the yard. Why oh why is the clock in the living room an hour behind time and the one in the bed-



room an hour ahead, because when you are half asleep, you really don't remember which one is which. Even my Fitbit wasn't telling the truth—in fact it was deadlier than a doornail. Regardless, it was late, I was tired and cold and the guys had to be ready to call it a night.

Just then, the camper door opened and what did I hear: "Why are all the lights on? Why is it so cold in here?" Clatter, bang, clunk and hubby has the propane tank switched out. Soon the furnace warmed our tiny home back up and hubby crawled into bed. After a 12-second conversation that went something like this: "Did you finish that field?" I ask. "Yeah. Moved to the Funny Farm," he answers. "How many acres did you get done at the Funny Farm?" I ask. "Not many," he says and his next breath is a snore. As I ponder how someone can literally come off a combine after 12 or 14 hours, essentially turn the lights off in the house and crawl into bed and be sleeping in 12 seconds flat, I climb out of bed to change out of my clothes and I crawl back into bed. (By way of explanation, every field has a 'name'. Yes, they have numbers too but we use names and while most are called by the name of their previous owner, the Funny Farm's name has stuck for years and years and not even I remember exactly why anymore.)

As hubby rapidly drifts off to sleep, the very tired me whose sleep has been interrupted now knows without a shadow of a doubt that if I had been combining for the previous 12 hours, I would be wound up like a rubber band and it would take me an hour to unravel. As I lay there, now frustrated that 'he' is sleeping and I am not, I plump the pillows, get them in just the right spot, curl up just so and then re-plump and re-arrange a few more times. Eventually I fall asleep, trying to remind myself to set the clocks in the camper to the correct time in the morning.

Earlier than usual the next morning, after the combines were greased and readied for another day in the field, the guys started up again only to be stopped for three hours

because of a teeny-tiny rain shower. The afternoon turned into evening and eventually the combines and trucks had to call it a night. Our hope was for a third dry day in a row. Alas, not only did it rain, but the thunderstorm that began around supper time with a great show of lightning in the skies, also brought damaging golf-sized hail to the farm—vehicles and canola alike. Who would ever have thought we would have an Oct. 1st hail storm?

With the end of harvest came the final clearing out and closing up of our harvest-time home. We have spent the better part of four months in there this year and there's a teeny-tiny bit of nostalgia for me as I pull the slides in, knowing winter is on its way. But like every season, you just have to let it go and get ready for the next, some with more anticipation than others. But the moment I pull the last slide in, I finally remember—I never did change the time on those clocks.

With harvest all behind us now, all our guys (and the women and kids as well) can take a well-deserved break (no pun intended for the operator who only got four days in before he broke his leg—what a way to skip out on harvest!) We have the best crew, one that saw all sorts of family step in to help. Sometimes when I left the field knowing who was in each combine, by the time I returned there had been a change in operators. One day I fed my brother his lunch only to find, when I went to hand him his supper plate, it was my nephew. You never turn down a good hand though. Even the twins (12) put some time in driving combine. As for the truckers, they remained pretty constant, likely because no one else willingly relieves them.

And so to all you grain farmers out there—here's hoping you got your crop in the bin without too much stress and that you are now relaxing in your comfy chair, enjoying a good cup of coffee and doing next to nothing. Okay, I hear you, I know you are moving grain and cleaning combines and repairing machinery—all in a mad dash to beat the turn in the weather, which by most forecasts shows that by the time you are reading this, we will have had a taste of winter. Until next time...

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Limited availability pushing farmland prices higher

Limited availability of farmland for sale is continuing to push land values higher, according to the mid-year farmland values review by Farm Credit Canada (FCC). In the first six months of 2023, the national average growth rate of farmland was 7.7 per cent.

The highest farmland value increases over the last six months were reported in Saskatchewan (11.4 per cent) and Quebec (10.6 per cent). Ontario and Manitoba saw nearly identical increases, with farmland values in Ontario increasing by 6.9 per cent, and Manitoba by 6.4 per cent. Alberta had a more modest increase of 3 per cent, while the average price of farmland stayed unchanged in British Columbia. Fewer sales were available in Canada's Atlantic provinces to fully assess mid-year farmland values.

"Limited land for sale has been driving farmland values higher over the last six months," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief economist. "With higher interest rates, elevated farm input costs and uncertainty regarding future commodity prices, producers are being cautious with their investments and capital expenditures."

Farm cash receipts are anticipated to increase 6.6 per cent in 2023. But as farm operations exercise caution in spending, farmland value appreciation is anticipated to slow until the uncertainty over the current economic environment vanishes.

"Purchasing farmland is a very strategic decision for

producers," said Gervais. "They need to assess whether they can earn enough from the larger land base they've acquired and if not, whether other areas of the operation generate enough income to pay for the land. Monitoring farmland price trends can assist in making the best decisions for individual operations."






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Oat cuisine: How AAFC science is powering up an ancient grain

Oats are an ancient and important cereal crop. Along with wheat, barley and rice, they make up a key group of staple foods that are essential to global food security. In recent years, oats have seen an increase in popularity and are poised to become even more important to the global effort to feed a growing world population with sustainable and healthy food.

At Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Ottawa, Brandon, and Saskatoon Research and Development Centres, research scientists Dr. Nicholas Tinker, Dr. Wubishet Bekele, Dr. Yong-Bi Fu, and their research partners are helping bring this climate-smart crop to the next level, and recently announced a breakthrough: the creation of the world's first reference genome for oats, and its implication for oat breeding.

A unique crop

In addition to being delicious, oats have an outstanding nutritional profile. The star of the show is a unique compound in oats called beta-glucan, a type of soluble fibre that has been shown to manage cholesterol, improve heart health, and avoid causing a large spike in blood sugar levels when eaten. As if that weren't enough, oats are high in protein, gluten-free, and keep us feeling full for a long time.

But despite its superfood status, it took a while for oats to get the attention they deserve. For centuries, oats were grown mainly as fodder for animals, and only rarely as a human food.

Fast-forward to the present, and it's a completely different reality. Chefs can choose from a wide range of prepared oat products from rolled, to quick, to steel-cut and beyond. Fitness influencers share their favorite recipes for "overnight oats" on social media, and baristas in coffee shops prepare vegan lattes topped with foamy oat milk.

There's no doubt that oats are on a roll—and it's Canadian research and farming savvy that have helped make it happen.

Superfood sequencing

Working with an international team of researchers, AAFC scientists Dr. Tinker, Dr. Bekele, and Dr. Fu published a landmark study in the journal *Nature* announcing that they had successfully sequenced and characterized the entire oat genome. In a companion paper, Dr. Tinker and Dr. Bekele led an AAFC team in demonstrating some of the implications of this new reference genome in oat improvement. This is of tremendous value to plant breeders who can use this genomic map to improve their breeding programs. But how does this work?

The practice of plant breeding is as old as farming itself. In its simplest form, it means saving seeds from the best-performing plants in the hopes of increasing the quality of the next harvest. Today, plant breeders rely on complex genetics work that allows them to speed this process up drastically. For example, researchers can take a tissue sample from a plant and test its DNA, to measure with a kind of "point system" that shows how likely the offspring from that plant can meet the high standards required for a new plant variety: useful traits including better yields, higher protein content, or the ability to withstand drought and disease. In addition to its speed, this



Oat seedlings

method of genomic selection is also more reliable than using only the physical appearance of the plant to judge its quality. When it comes to how a plant will ultimately perform, looks can be deceiving. But to achieve marker-assisted selection, researchers must first be able to create genetic profiles using genome-wide snippets of DNA.

That's where Dr. Tinker and Dr. Bekele come in. Working together with their AAFC counterparts across the country, as well as with oat researchers around the world, the team worked for years testing and evaluating thousands of oat varieties and cataloguing their genetic profiles. Using powerful sequence analysis software, they developed a consensus linkage map for oats: a crude blueprint of the 21 oat linkage groups (chromosomes). This map was then instrumental in assembling and ordering the sequences into 21 oat chromosomes of the cultivar "Sang" for the *Nature* publication.

This discovery puts a powerful new tool into the hands of plant breeders, who can use it to speed up the development of new and improved oat varieties. The average breeding cycle for cereal crops lasts up to 12 years and involves a painstaking process of evaluation that slowly refines each generation of plants until only the best-performing variety is left standing. For example, a researcher or breeder interested in one particular disease-resistance gene controlled by a few genes can develop diagnostic molecular markers for that gene in the chromosomal re-

gion. Researchers will now be able to test the DNA for these markers in each variety at the outset of the process, returning the best candidates to the top of the breeding pipeline while the variety continues in the process of being developed for use by farmers. This can shorten the breeding process by a year or more, but more importantly, it can allow breeders to reliably select for specific or future agro-climatic environments at a stage in the breeding program when it is not possible to grow all seeds in those environments.

"As we have shown in the *Nature* and the companion paper, I am excited by the opportunity opened up by the availability of the reference genome sequence to understand the level of large-scale chromosomal variations in oat germplasm. Such information will guide our future genomics-assisted optimum parental selection procedures," says Dr. Wubishet Bekele, Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The achievement at the AAFC Ottawa Research and Development Centre is even more significant because the oat genome is extremely complicated, and nearly four times as large as the human genome. It is also a rare example of a "triple genome" that evolved from multiple wild relatives combining to form a massive genetic string. This means the sequencing process is like doing three large, complicated jigsaw puzzles at the same time with the pieces from all three boxes mixed together! The oat genome also has an unusually high degree of genetic variability, meaning that it easily tolerates rearrangements of genetic material among its chromosomes, again a result of oats crossing naturally in the wild for millennia.

"I have spent most of my career studying genetic variation in oats, but the level of genome diversity that we can now see in cultivated and wild oat is beyond what we expected. Together with an International team of scientists, we are now knee-deep in analyzing 30 wild and cultivated oat genomes from around the globe as a follow up to the *Nature* publication," says Dr. Nicholas Tinker, Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

A boost for global food security

This discovery is a step forward in the race to feed a growing world population with nutritious and sustainable food. In addition to being very healthy, oats have been proven to be very filling (this is called having a high "satiety" in food science terms). A big part of the challenge of feeding an estimated global population of 9.7 billion people by 2050 is the ability to produce more food from the same amount of farmland, so a crop like oats that help feed us as efficiently as possible is a real benefit.

It also represents an opportunity for Canadian agriculture to become an even bigger driver of our economy. Canada is the world's leading exporter of oats, with most of that production coming from the Prairie powerhouse of Saskatchewan. Demand is rising for healthy food that is produced using sustainable farming practices, and Canada is ready to deliver. Put Canadian oat growers together with the cutting-edge research being done at AAFC, and you have the makings of a cereal dream team that can help boost the economy for years to come.

Continued on Page 47

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Volunteers help take off the crop for Harvest of Hope.
Joey Light photo



Harvest of Hope wraps up 2023 harvest

Continued from page 25

With Harvest of Hope being the largest growing project in the province, Block was asked how it compares to other projects.

"You see a great cross-section of people that are involved, businesses will step up. For example whenever we are going out there, the Credit Union will say let's provide lunch, Borderland Co-op will provide fuel, companies are saying we'll bring machines, along with individuals who are offering the use of their machines and their time.

"One of the things that's very unique with Harvest of

Hope is its size. It is the largest growing project in Saskatchewan.

"There are a few larger across Canada, but only a few—my guess is it would be in the top five in the whole country. Harvest of Hope is at 288 acres, farming two quarter sections.

"At 288 acres, that's a lot of input. Often we see projects that are 80 acres or 100 acres, they can get a lot of their inputs often covered, but at 288 acres, that's going to require a good amount of partnership building and also some financial management.

"I really credit the Moosomin Harvest of Hope for the

way they've done that. They have done that very successfully.

"Alongside growing projects, there are individual farms and farmers that continue on an annual basis. It might not officially be registered as a growing project, but they're providing grain donations on an annual basis, it almost acts like a growing project.

"We're in our 40th anniversary year, and there's always new people coming to the table to support our work, and there's people who have been doing it for 40 years."

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FCC supports cattle producers across Canada

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is announcing a new FCC Replacement Heifer Program to help Canadian cattle producers in maintaining or expanding their herds.

The Canadian beef cattle inventory was pegged by Statistics Canada at 10.3 million head earlier this year which is a decline by four per cent since 2017. The cattle sector is an important part of the agriculture industry, that contributes over \$24 billion annually to the economy and plays a critical role in maintaining the health of grasslands. FCC wants to ensure Canada's cattle ranchers have access to the financial levers they need to plan for the future.

"The drought conditions this summer affected a large cattle producing area in Western Canada and right now ranchers are making decisions about how to best manage their herds," said Sophie Perreault, FCC's chief operations officer. "The Heifer

Replacement Program will help reduce cash flow pressures for those who want to maintain or grow their herd."

The program consists of a loan with a maximum two-year period of interest only and a maximum life of seven years. For this loan, variable interest rates will be capped at prime plus 1.5%, and loan processing fees will be waived.

"FCC is here to partner with customers in coming up with financial solutions that will continue to support the well-being and longevity of Canadian cattle herds," Perreault said. "If ranchers have other needs beyond heifer financing, I invite them to contact the FCC team."

"The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association appreciates FCC's response to the current needs of livestock producers," said Garner Deobald, SSGA president. "This FCC program will help producers rebuild or maintain their herds after con-

secutive years of drought."

Beef producers are encouraged to contact their FCC relationship manager or their FCC livestock Alliance partner for details. Producers can do this by contacting their local office or the FCC customer service centre at 1-888-332-3301.

FCC is Canada's leading agriculture and food lender, dedicated to the industry that feeds the world. FCC employees are committed to the long-standing success of those who produce and process Canadian food by providing flexible financing, AgExpert business management software, information and knowledge. FCC provides a complement of expertise and services designed to support the complex and evolving needs of food businesses. As a financial Crown corporation, FCC is a stable partner that reinvests profits back into the industry and communities it serves. For more information, visit fcc.ca.



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AgriRecovery details announced for Saskatchewan

On October 20, Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of Saskatchewan's AgriRecovery Program, now referred to as the 2023 Canada-Saskatchewan Feed Program. Starting next week, producers can begin to submit applications to the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

"I've had the opportunity to meet with farmers and producers from across Western Canada and they've shared just how challenging this growing season has been for their operations," said MacAulay. "With a federal investment of \$219 million through AgriRecovery, we're helping them recover so they can continue to feed Canada, and the world."

"The livestock sector is a significant contributor to our provincial economy," Marit said. "It is important we are there for producers through the current challenges. The program will provide some financial relief to livestock producers, helping them to maintain the breeding herd by providing funding to address extraordinary costs caused by the drought."

This program covers 70 per cent of extraordinary costs related to feed and freight, incurred after May 1, 2023, through to the application deadline of March 1, 2024. Program funding will provide eligible producers an initial payment up to \$150 per head to help maintain the breeding herd in the drought regions. Based on available funding, additional payments will be issued to program participants. Eligibility is area specific, guided by the Canadian Drought Monitor. Producers will need to submit their receipts or appropriate documents for the extraordinary expenses. Eligible extraordinary expenses include purchased feed, self-hauling or transportation costs for feed or breeding animals, and/or land rented for additional grazing acres or additional feed production. Eligible animal species include beef cattle and other grazing animals, limited to bison, elk, deer, sheep, goats and horses. This program is designed to help retain breeding stock. Breeding animals include females and males of the reproductive age of the species. A Saskatchewan Premises Identification (PID) is required to be eligible for the program.

Online application form will be available at scic.ca. This application process assists producers to determine if they have extraordinary expenses on their operation, including an Extraordinary Cost Assessment. The submitted application needs to indicate the number of breeding animals on hand, as of August 21, 2023, intended to be kept until January 31, 2024.

On August 18, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture announced the province has already committed up to \$70 million to assist impacted producers. Federal cost-share funding for Saskatchewan's AgriRecovery Program is up to \$77 million. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from disaster situations. AgriRecovery initiatives are cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the federal government and participating provinces or territories, as outlined under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

This announcement is part of a larger disaster response totaling \$365 million in federal-provincial cost-shared funding under the AgriRecovery Framework to help farmers and ranchers in British Columbia, Alberta and



Saskatchewan with extraordinary costs due to this year's extreme weather conditions. Producers already have access to a comprehensive suite of business risk management (BRM) programs that are the first line of defense for producers facing disasters, including AgriStability, AgriInsurance and AgriInvest. With joint funding from the federal government and provinces, these BRM programs provide protection against different types of income and production losses. The federal government also announced an initial list of designated regions in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba where Livestock Tax Deferral has been authorized for 2023 due

to extreme weather conditions.

"On behalf of Saskatchewan's cattle industry, we thank the provincial and the federal governments for providing this much-needed funding for our producers who have been impacted by this drought," Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Keith Day said. "We appreciate the provincial government's recognition of the urgency of the situation, as was demonstrated through their funding announcement in August. While today's announcement is later than we had hoped, it will be a help to many producers that have already and continue to incur extraordinary expenses to ensure the wellbeing of their herds."

"SARM appreciates this announcement," Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities President Ray Orb said. "These measures are needed as farmers and ranchers are dealing with significant challenges in Saskatchewan, we are thankful for the contributions from both senior levels of government."

"We greatly appreciate this much-needed provincial and federal support, as many producers continue to deal with consecutive years of drought," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Garner Deobald said. "Improved BRM programming will require highly-collaborative and forward-thinking industry-government teamwork, as ownership of risk is shared and response time is critical. Producers outside the eligibility areas are also hard-hit, so we are hoping there will be some flexibility for those operations in need too."

How AAFC science is powering up an ancient grain

Continued from Page 44

Thanks to the hard work of dedicated AAFC researchers like Dr. Tinker and Dr. Bekele, Canadian farmers can benefit from new oat varieties that are better suited to a changing climate, require fewer inputs like water and fertilizer, and boast improved nutritional profiles. And in the best tradition of AAFC research, this discovery was immediately made available to researchers around the world free of charge, who can now use this genetic reference map in their own breeding programs. The end result of all this complex science is simple—more and better oats. That's an achievement worth toasting with a glass of milk and an oatmeal cookie!

Key benefits

The research team at the ORDC worked closely with their counterparts at the Brandon Research and Development Centre and partners around the world to create the world's first genetic reference map for oats. This has further cemented Canada's status as an innovator and global leader in sustainable agriculture.

The genetic reference map will enable oat breeders to speed up the process of their research projects and produce results much faster. This has the potential to increase investment in the crop by increasing the number of projects which can follow a standard 3- to 5-year research cycle.

In Canada, oats are an \$8 billion industry with a product that is recognized around the world for its superior quality. Canada is the world's largest exporter of oats and is ready to benefit from increased investment in this key crop.

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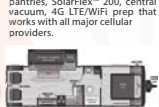


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