



Enbridge Line 3 could have big impact on area  
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Redvers' Sydney Hill pursuing hockey dream at elite college  
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# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

December 2016 • Volume 9, Number 12

## Wind farm proposed for Kennedy-Kipling area

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

A wind farm is being proposed for the Kennedy-Kipling area.

Samit Sharma of Gaia Energy, who was instrumental in getting the Red Lily Wind Farm built at Moosomin, is involved with the proposal for Kennedy.

Sharma said in an interview last week that he is in the preliminary stages of putting together a plan for the Kennedy area.

"In Saskatchewan, power is controlled by SaskPower, and from time to time they show their interest in new power generation projects. We are looking at a project in the Kennedy, Kipling, Hazelwood area," Sharma said.

Sharma said the project isn't being planned in response to a specific request for proposals from SaskPower, but from an indication that the utility will be looking for more sources of renewable energy.

"They did not send out a special request for proposal but if you recall last year, in November, Premier Brad Wall had announced that they will have 50 percent of the power coming from renewables by 2030. I think that has nudged the utility into action so they have made some indication as to their plan in terms of soliciting renewable energy. We are essentially trying to develop this project to cater to that proposal."

Sharma said Gaia Energy is working now on a proposal to be ready to submit something in 2017.

"We are anticipating that the proposals will be due some time next year," he said. "It will be a competitive process. They will essentially look at each power proposal—what is the cost structure that each project has—and essentially the project which has the lowest cost structure and can provide power at a reasonable price—that is the one that gets approved."

He said at this point he is looking at the wind resource in the Kennedy area. "We are looking at the project sites to figure out if there is enough of a resource base to put together a competitive proposal," he said.

Sharma noted that the wind farm is in the same region as other projects Gaia has developed.

"It is near to the existing projects we have previously developed," he said. "You have the Red Lily Wind Farm at Red Jacket. We were also successful on a project near Grenfell. For that project, we have all our plans in place and we are hoping to start construction next year on that one."

Sharma said more research has to be done before he has a precise location for the new wind farm.

"There is a substation (where the wind power could be connected to the grid) in that area, but it doesn't necessarily have to be next to the substation," said Sharma. "In the project planning stage, lots of inputs go in. For example we need to be near a good wind resource, we have to look at what are the environmental issues, are there lands with sensitive animals or plants, are there heritage issues or things of that nature? Then, after public consultation and community consultation, you end up looking at the location."

He said there is no shortage of good locations for wind projects in Saskatchewan.

"Overall in Saskatchewan, the province is blessed with a



Samit Sharma, who successfully built the Red Lily Wind Farm near Moosomin, above, is exploring the possibility of a wind farm in the Kennedy-Kipling area.

good wind resource generally speaking so most of the areas have a good wind resource," he said.

What makes the difference for a successful project is community support, he said.

"The number one thing we look at is what is the community support? Is there good municipal support behind it? Do the land owners have good support for the project? Number two is how is the connectivity? Because you may have the best resources or the connectivity, but if the people don't support it nothing happens.

"The number one thing is the support we have, so we try to see if there is enough landowner and municipal leader support for the project. Number two is how the project is connected to the grid. Number three is what is the underlying surface? Are we looking at something in an environmentally sensitive area or is it something which is on cultivated land which has already had an impact—those are things we look into before a project."

What size of project does he envision for the Kennedy area?

"The project size depends upon where the connectivity is," he said. "If you start looking at your project, when you spread your cost among a large number of units, it is more competitive. Sometimes the connectivity is not possible. You may be next to a substation or a power line but they may be already loaded, so you may not have enough capacity to hook up the project. The size of the project is determined by what you can connect to the grid."

"When we are developing a project we do something called an integration study with the province or the utility and in that process they come out and say if you connect this much, this would be the cost, if you connect this much, this would be the cost. At some point the cost becomes more than the benefit of the size of the facility. So that basically spins out of the process."

What stage is the Kennedy project at?

"We have been talking to the community leaders," said Sharma. "My approach is always to seek out the guidance of the community leaders first. You saw that in (the RMs of) Moosomin-Martin—we spoke to (reeves) Sinclair Harrison and Mark Bateman first to see what the community leaders thought of the project."

"On this project, we have had some good feedback on it and we have been in touch with some of the people previously, so that is where things are at. We have established contact and have had some good progress and we hope to make it a success story just like Moosomin."

Sharma said he plans to be in the area in January, and to hold a public meeting to explain the proposal.

"I am planning to be in the area," he said. "The plan is to have some kind of a public meeting likely in the later part of January."

"Every time the province announces they are going to do something, you have a whole bunch of people who become active trying to do this and that. Our approach is to meet the community and give them some information, answer their questions so that everybody is listening to the same information, so everyone is making an informed decision."

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# Poltava Dancers

The Poltava Ensemble Ukrainian dance group wowed its audience with a performance in Moosomin on Nov. 18. The group was brought in by Bethel United Church as a fundraiser for restoring the stained glass windows in the church. Their performance followed an authentic Ukrainian supper cooked by members of the local Ukrainian community.

The show sold out, with 350 tickets sold well in advance. The dancers stunned the audience with their incredible moves and beautiful costumes, and received a standing ovation at the end of the show.

See more photos on pages 29 and 31.



Kim Poole photos

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One lucky winner will win the \$15,000 grand prize on Dec. 21 in the World-Spectator Christmas Giveaway but there are dozens of smaller prizes that are being given away too. From a margarita machine, to a shop vac, to a drone, to a Guess purse, one shopper from every participating business in the giveaway will win a prize.

Shown here are World-Spectator publisher Kevin Weedmark, and associate publisher Kara Kinna with some of the prizes being given away on Dec. 21.

**Crescent Point to boost production 10 per cent**

Canadian light oil and gas producer Crescent Point Energy Corp (CPG.TO 1.65%) said it will increase its 2017 capital budget 31 percent from this year to \$1.45 billion and boost production by 10 per cent.

The Calgary-based company, which has core operations in southwest Saskatchewan, the Williston Basin and the Uinta Basin in the United States, expects to finish 2017 producing 183,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Crescent Point previously set a preliminary 2017 budget of \$1.4 billion.

The updated guidance is the latest sign of cautious optimism among Canadian oil and gas producers after more than two and a half years of weak prices and aggressive cost cutting.

"We've had a very successful 2016 operationally and are ahead of our budgeted December exit production of approximately 167,000 boepd," Scott Saxberg, Crescent Point's president and chief executive officer, said.

The company plans to drill 670 wells next year and has allocated 51 percent of its budget to the Williston Basin, which spans the U.S.-Canada border and is Crescent Point's largest producing area.

Twenty-five percent of capital expenditures are earmarked for southwest Saskatchewan, while 18 per cent of the budget will be spent on the Uinta Basin in Utah.

The remainder of the budget will cover infrastructure and seismic investments in its three core areas, Crescent Point said.



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The Enbridge Line 3 route across Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A short section of Line 3 east of Cromer has been replaced already. The rest will be replaced as part of the new project.

# Enbridge Line 3 could have big impact on area

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Ottawa gave the green light to Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline and Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement, while it rejected the Northern Gateway Pipeline.

Line 3 runs from Hardisty, Alberta, cuts across southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, and runs to Superior, Wisconsin.

The \$7.5 billion replacement plan is to replace the 50-year-old pipeline with a new line

Line 3 is presently operating at about half capacity after the company voluntarily reduced pressure because of reliability concerns. Enbridge says the replacement pipeline will restore the original capacity, which was 760,000 barrels of oil per day, compared to the current 360,000.

In making the announcement, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said oil production is increasing, and current pipeline infrastructure will soon be at capacity.

"The decision we took today is the one that is in the best interests of Canada," he said. "More oil is going to be transported by rail if we don't build pipelines. That is less economic, and more dangerous for communities, and is higher in terms of greenhouse gas emissions than modern pipelines would be."

The Line 3 replacement project would be a significant construction project in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

While pipe is stockpiled at Fairlight in anticipation of the Line 3 construction going ahead, Todd Nogier of Enbridge said the Canadian approval doesn't necessarily mean the project will go ahead immediately.

Line 3 runs across the Prairies and continues into the United States. American approval is still pending and, unlike the Canadian system, is not based on a specific timeframe. "While we have received approval today for the Canadian portion of the pipeline, we still require regulatory approval for the U.S. portion," said Nogier. "What we're doing is aligning the construction schedules to ensure that both sides are done in a timely fashion."

"We don't have any specifics at this point in time on when construction will begin on the Canadian portion of the line or specific to your area, but we still are focused on a 2019 in-service date. At this stage unfortunately we don't have the clarity on when construction would begin, given the regulatory process in the U.S."

What timeline is the regulatory process in the U.S. on? "It's undetermined at this moment," says Nogier. "We're winding our way through the process at the moment. There isn't a lot of clarity on exactly how long it will take. It's a situation where it will take as long as it takes. We're following through with that process now."

Could the Canadian replacement move forward if the American work isn't approved?

"I don't think we've made a decision on that," said Nogier. "We're still hopeful that we will get a timely approval in the U.S. so we can move forward on beginning work on both sides of the border. At this stage we just don't have that kind of clarity."

The Line 3 expansion project would take 24 to 36 months to complete.

At \$7.5 billion, Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program will be one of North America's largest pipeline infrastructure programs.

According to Enbridge, the program will create thousands of jobs, generate hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue, and contribute billions to the GDP of Canada and the United States via direct, indirect, and induced benefits.

Over the approximately three years it will take to re-

place Line 3, about 44,400 temporary full-time equivalent jobs will be created—25,900 in Canada and 18,500 in the U.S. This includes:

- 24,275 direct jobs in Canada and the U.S.;
- 10,958 indirect jobs in Canada and the U.S.;
- 9,183 induced jobs in Canada and the U.S.

Labour income generated is estimated at \$1.828 billion in Canada and \$848 million in the U.S.

Economic modelling predicts that the project will result in estimated tax revenues worth \$514 million to Canadian federal and provincial governments, and \$300 million to U.S. federal and state governments during the construction phase.

Four provinces and three states will directly benefit from this project.

The Line 3 Replacement Program will contribute \$2.873 billion of GDP generated in Canada, and a further \$1.2 billion generated in the U.S. through the design and construction phases.

The impact on the Saskatchewan economy is estimated at \$1.065 billion, and on Manitoba is estimated at \$391 million.

According to Enbridge, local economies will benefit from the Line 3 Replacement Program through additional employment opportunities and spinoffs for goods and services required to support construction and ongoing operations. Enbridge says the project will also stimulate local economies through the purchase of goods and services from local retailers and suppliers of accommodation and food for workers.

The other pipeline approval announced last week will take oil to the West Coast for export.

Trans Mountain expansion project will nearly triple the capacity of an existing pipeline to 890,000 barrels a day.

The \$6.8-billion, 1,150-kilometre twinned pipeline will move a mix of oil products from Edmonton to a terminal in Burnaby, B.C., near Vancouver, where it will be exported to markets in Asia, as well as to Chevron's Van-

couver-area refinery.

"If I thought this project was unsafe for the B.C. coast, I would reject it. This is a decision based on rigorous debate on science and evidence. We have not been, and will not be swayed by political arguments, be they local, regional or national," the prime minister told reporters.

"We have made this decision, we are convinced that it is safe for B.C., and it is the right one for Canada. It is a major win for Canadian workers, for Canadian families and the Canadian economy, now and into the future."

Many First Nations, including 39 in B.C. and Alberta, have signed "mutual benefit agreements" with the project's proponent, U.S.-based Kinder Morgan. Those deals will deliver money and jobs to First Nations communities. The company also told CBC News in a statement that it has reached agreements with all First Nations communities where the project crosses a reserve.

Kinder Morgan forecasts the expansion will create 15,000 jobs a year during construction, and a further 37,000 direct and indirect jobs for every year of operation. It also estimates expanded operations will deliver an additional \$46.7 billion in government revenues for all levels of government in the first 20 years. The bulk of that money, \$19.4 billion, would flow to Alberta.

Construction of the expansion is slated to begin next September, with a tentative start date of December 2019.

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## MP Kitchen happy with decision on Enbridge Line 3

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
Souris-Moose Mountain MP Dr. Robert Kitchen says he is happy with the federal government's decision approving Enbridge's

katchewan and Manitoba. "It's a great start," Kitchen said of the decisions on Tuesday.

"It's great to finally have some good news for our area with Line 3. With the approval of that, it's going to create some jobs and put some employment back in the area. The laborers who are building the line as they come through, they're staying in hotels, they're buying meals in restaurants, and that's a good spinoff for us. So Line 3 is all positive.

"The government's approach to pipelines is a little disconcerting. On the one hand they used the NEB and science as the reason for accepting Trans-Mountain, yet that same study that approved the Northern Gateway isn't being used. They're using it one time and not on the other. That makes me wonder what are they going to do with Energy East?



Souris-Moose Mountain MP Robert Kitchen

Line 3 Replacement, but is worried about what the rejection of the Northern Gateway Pipeline means for the future of Energy East.

Energy East is a Trans-Canada proposal to convert one line across the Prairies from natural gas to crude, and create new pipeline across Quebec and New Brunswick to deliver Prairie crude oil to eastern refineries and to an export position.

Moosomin is a key part of the Energy East proposal, as the plan calls for the construction of a tank farm at Moosomin, a feeder pipeline from Cromer to Moosomin, and a potential additional feeder pipeline from North Dakota to Moosomin, known as the Upland Pipeline.

The Moosomin compressor station would be the on-ramp to Energy East for crude from Sas-

"Obviously we have to wait, but it's disheartening to see them make that choice."

The National Energy Board's initial timeline shows a report to the federal government in March of 2018, but the process has been delayed as members of the National Energy Board panel hearing the submission have had to be replaced.

Kitchen says he believes Energy East is an important project for the entire country and he has tried to get that across to the minister and in the House of Commons.

"It's an important project. It's important for the country. It's important for Canada to become less reliant on foreign oil. For me it's a win-win. It's going to create thousands of jobs in the East.

"I'm hoping the government will see that it's important not only for Alberta but for Saskatchewan. Some of our oil is going to be moved on that. As you know, it's going to create jobs in Moosomin and it's supported by the community.

"To me, when you ask the communities what they want, they should be able to have some say in that."

## Nurses being recruited for Redvers Health Centre

BY TERRI EGER

After the recent loss of three nurses, Redvers Health Centre has employment opportunities available.

"We are currently recruiting at least one full-time, permanent Registered Nurse and possibly one or two relief workers," explained Colleen Easton, Regional Director of Rural Facilities for Sun Country Health Region.

The facility has already engaged one contract worker but is looking to fill a full-time position.

Recruiting to rural communities can pose as a challenge for the health region according to Easton.

"For new graduates it can be enticing to go to the city," she said.

"But Redvers is a full service hospital that offers and challenging and

rewarding opportunity."

An active emergency department, five acute-care beds, two multi-care beds and 24 long-term-care beds round out the facility. Redvers Health Centre also offers full public and mental health services to the community and surrounding area.

While the long-term care facility continued to operate, the hospital closed for a few years and was reopened in August, 2015.

"The community really got behind the hospital and was instrumental in getting it reopened," she said.

"Today there are two lovely physicians who work at the hospital. The physicians are in a stable position and are kind and easy to work with. There is experienced management in place

and it's a great work environment."

Redvers is located at the junction of Highways 8 and 13 and is a short drive from Moose Mountain Provincial Park. With a population of 975 people, the community includes both an elementary and high school as well as recreational facilities such as a skating rink and pool.

"Often there are family considerations including employment opportunities for a spouse, but Redvers has a lot to offer," said Easton. "It's a great place to raise a family. Redvers is a very nice community that is really supportive of the hospital."

For more details on SunCountry Health Region and the job opportunities in Redvers please visit [www.sun-country.sk.ca](http://www.sun-country.sk.ca).

## Redvers Adult Drama Club performs Farce of Nature

The Redvers Adult Drama Club performed Farce of Nature in November. The two-act comedy took place at a fishing lodge in the Ozarks, which is turned upside down by romance, and a few colorful local characters and characters from Chicago.



**Above left:** Maxie Wilburn Suggs, played by Jasmin Parker, and Carmine Deluca, played by Tiffany Holtom. **Above right:** Lola Barbosa, played by Joleen Colleaux, Wanelle Wilburn, played by Jocelyn Toms-Delmaire, and D. Gene Wilburn, played by Trent Dumaine.



Kara Kinna photos

**Above:** From left, Ty Wilburn, played by Corby Parker, Carmine Deluca, played by Tiffany Holtom, Wanelle Wilburn, played by Jocelyn Toms-Delmaire, and Jenna Sealy, played by Andrea Carriere.

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# Without pipelines, Canada's prosperity is on the line

When it comes to reaching new energy markets, Canada lags dangerously behind the Americans, who have aggressively expanded their oil and gas industry and built the infrastructure necessary to support it.

There are approximately 840,000 km of pipelines in Canada—25,000 km of feeder lines, 250,000 km of gathering lines, 450,000 km of distribution lines, and 117,000 km of transmission lines. They carry oil, refined petroleum products, and natural gas. The National Energy Board directly regulates about 73,000 km of this pipeline network; the provinces are largely responsible for everything else.

The United States had 4.3 million km of pipelines as of 2015—510,331 km of gathering lines, 3,505,077 km of distribution lines, and 332,760 km of crude transmission lines. A national agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, regulates the transportation of oil and gas by pipeline in interstate commerce, while state public utility commissions oversee the construction of pipelines within their jurisdictions.

As the list below shows, there has been a 25 percent jump in U.S. hazardous liquid pipelines (HLP), measured in kilometers, in the last decade. Most of this growth occurred under U.S. President Barack Obama's watch. Of the total kilometers of hazardous liquid pipelines in the United States, two-thirds transport refined petroleum products or crude oil. The U.S. added 8,600 km of pipeline capacity between 2014 and 2015—equivalent to 7.5 Trans Mountain pipelines! Canada's pipeline additions during this period totalled zero. In fact, no major oil pipeline has been constructed in this country in many years.

**U.S. hazardous liquid pipelines including crude oil and refined petroleum products (km)**  
 2015 - 332,760  
 2014 - 319,454

Jock Finlayson and Denise Mullen

**2014-2015 % change - 4.17**  
 2012 - 297,954  
**2012-2015 % change -11.68**  
 2006 - 266,750  
**2006-2015 % change - 24.7**

The lack of additional Canadian pipeline capacity matters. Our only foreign market for crude oil and natural gas is the United States. A one-customer business model is obviously risky for any supplier.

What's the problem?

The United States is transitioning from being a net importer of energy to a net exporter. In 2015, U.S. crude oil production was the highest since 1972, with further growth expected in the coming decade. Canadian oil exports could be squeezed by rising U.S. domestic production.

The recent American election could lead to more inward-looking policy and a heightened pre-occupation with energy security. Alternatively, the new U.S. administration and the Republican-controlled Congress might be open to treating Canada as a "reliable" and "friendly" source of energy, as they seek to lessen America's dependence on Middle Eastern and other offshore oil suppliers. This is the argument Canadian governments should be advancing in discussions with American policy-makers. If persuasive, Canada may have considerable scope to increase shipments to the U.S. in the next five to 10 years.

The world still needs petroleum products. Projections from the International Energy Agency (IEA) indicate that

petroleum will continue to meet a sizable portion of global energy needs for the foreseeable future, even as most governments address climate change. The latest data show China becoming the world's largest oil importer by 2020, with India emerging as the second-largest oil importer by 2035. Both markets represent growth opportunities for energy producers in Canada. One thing is certain: if Canada fails to develop the capacity to export oil and other energy products to Asia, other suppliers (including the U.S.) will happily fill the void. The notion that the global environment will be in better shape if Canada abandons plans to sell oil and gas to customers abroad is wholly unconvincing.

As a major player in the global energy business and with large and diverse natural resources, Canada must find ways to get our products to market. This is a task we're failing to do.

As Canada dithers and the volume of our oil and natural gas available for export expands, constrained pipeline capacity inevitably means price discounting (as well as more oil being shipped by rail). Revenues for Canadian oil producers decrease as shipping costs rise and other suppliers make inroads in the markets where energy demand is growing.

The collateral damage is a loss of full-time, well-paying jobs in Canada, shrunken energy industry supply chains across the country, and diminished revenues for our governments. Continuing down this path will have dire implications for Canada's future prosperity.

The Americans have shown an impressive ability to expand their oil and gas industry, and to build the infrastructure necessary to support this. Shouldn't Canada be following their example?

Jock Finlayson is executive vice-president of the Business Council of British Columbia.



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The staff at Flaman in Moosomin built this Christmas train for the kids and kids-at-heart to ride on during Moonlight Madness in Moosomin on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Here, Flaman manager and head elf Mark Steinger drives the train with Santa by his side. At right is reindeer Charlene Swanton.

## Virden & District Chorale presented "Crazy For You"



photo by Kim Poole

Virden and District Chorale presented the musical Crazy for You at the Virden Auditorium Theatre. The group did five performances, from Wednesday, Nov. 23 to Saturday, Nov. 26. The show—directed by Michelle Chzyk and Dean Munchinsky—featured 40 performers from Western Manitoba and a large professional orchestra led by Elkhorn's Mark Humphries.

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# Provincial award for Moosomin's Ryan Bender

The Al McGuire Award for Community Involvement has been presented to Ryan Bender from Moosomin for his community involvement.

"The Pipestone KinAbility Centre nominated me for the award," says Bender. "It was for the community involvement I do, playing to entertain at community events and nursing homes. "I like to perform," he says. "It makes people happy."

"When I was told I won the award, I was a bit shocked. We were in the States and Sheilagh (Garrett) phoned to say I won the award, and I was shocked at first."

Bender is a very talented musician who plays a number of different instruments and sings.

Despite being blind, Bender has developed strong musical abilities and shares his talent with people at performances at health facilities and community events.

Bender has even had a recording session at Eli Barsi's Moosomin recording studio, where he recorded Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain.

"The awards ceremony was awesome. It was a very good banquet, and there were lots of people there. I invited some of my friends from KinAbility there. I got a chance to perform at the awards

ceremony and I really enjoyed it."

He has become well known in the Moosomin area for his talents and his drive to share his music and his positive message.

Bender performed two songs to close the provincial Celebrate Success Awards Banquet and received a standing ovation from the crowd.

"We commend Ryan for his community involvement. His dedication and determination to writing and playing music is incredible. We are so proud that he is able to share his talents with the people of Moosomin and beyond," said Amy McNeil, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC), adding, "Ryan's music and warm personality have made a significant impact on many lives."

The Al McGuire Awards, established in 1992 after the late Al McGuire, are presented at the Celebrate Success Awards Banquet in conjunction with SARC's annual Fall Conference.

The Community Involvement Award is one of four awards presented to an individual who is active in their community in ways such as volunteering for organizations and events, or providing a valuable service to the community.

Ryan is now hoping to write his own song and record it.



Ryan Bender receives the Al McGuire Award at the Celebrate Success Awards.

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# Public offering of petroleum and natural gas rights raises \$14 million

December's public offering of Saskatchewan's Crown petroleum and natural gas rights raised \$14 million in revenue for the province, bringing the total for the fiscal year to date to \$48 million with one sale remaining.

This is the second-largest revenue for a single public offering so far in the 2016-17 fiscal year, and the current total has now exceeded the amount of \$43 million for the previous fiscal year.

"This increased investment shows that the petro-

leum industry continues to recognize the opportunities that exist in Saskatchewan," Energy and Resources Minister Dustin Duncan said. "More oil wells were drilled in Saskatchewan in the first 11 months of 2016 than in Alberta, an indicator that our province is setting the pace in Canada in terms of both industry activity and policy attractiveness."

December's public offering occurred on the same day that the Fraser Institute released its 10th annual global survey on bar-

riers to investment in oil and gas exploration and production facilities. According to the 2016 survey, international petroleum industry executives and managers now rank Saskatchewan as the fourth most attractive jurisdic-

tion for investment in the world, rising from seventh place, and number one in Canada, while Alberta fell 18 spots in the world rankings to 43rd.

One exploration licence and two leases located west of Estevan received bonus

bids in Tuesday's public offering, totalling \$7.6 million for 1,554 hectares. Stomp Energy Ltd. was the successful bidder of these parcels that are prospective for multiple targets, including the Midale and Frobisher Beds of the Mad-

ison Group, the Bakken Formation, the Three Forks Group/Torquay Formation and the Red River Formation.

The next public offering of petroleum and natural gas rights will be held on February 7, 2017.



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# RSM helps in discovery of feathered dinosaur tail

Ryan McKellar, Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM), has co-authored a paper in the prestigious journal, "Current Biology." The paper outlines the first discovery of a dinosaur tail preserved in amber and provides in-

sight into the evolution of feathers. Discovered in Myanmar in 2015, the specimen was originally destined to become a curiosity or piece of jewelry.

It was purchased from an amber market by McKellar's colleague Lida Xing, China University of Geosci-

ences, who recognized its potential scientific importance. Within the amber, visible to the naked eye are a dense covering of feathers protruding from a tail segment which includes eight vertebrae and part of a ninth. Colleagues in China used a Synchrotron Radia-

tion (SR) X-ray scan which enabled them to identify soft tissue, likely muscles, ligaments, and skin, as well as trace amounts of ferrous iron indicating that relics of hemoglobin remain trapped within the tail.

"We used the specialized photography and micros-

copy setup at the RSM to do most of the detailed specimen study, while the bones and specimen chemistry were studied using synchrotrons in China," McKellar said. "The synchrotron scans allowed us to see the outlines of the bones, and how the feathers attached

to the skin. The bone shapes showed that this tail was long and flexible which is unlike the tail type present in modern birds and their close relatives."

What makes this specimen particularly unique is that although these feathers are not the first to be found in amber, most other discoveries have been challenging to link to their source animal. This specimen unquestionably represents the feathered tail of a non-avian dinosaur preserved in the amber from about 99 million years ago. The RSM is one of only a few facilities in the world where this type of fossil feather research is taking place.

McKellar and his colleagues at the museum, work on amber from dinosaur bone beds across the prairie provinces. They are looking for insects and ecological details and hope to someday find comparable specimens.

McKellar has broad interests in palaeontology, however his current research is focused primarily on amber inclusions and composition. He believes there is tremendous value in amber as a supplement to the fossil record of dinosaurs.

"This is a new source of information that is worth researching with intensity, and protecting as a fossil resource," McKellar said.

This project was funded in part by a National Geographic Expeditions Council grant.



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Children took turns posing for pictures with Santa at the Wawota Forum on Friday, Dec. 2, where he hosted a long lineup of people eager to meet him.

Above, Gracie Rohatyn tells Santa what she wants for Christmas.



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# Focus on AGRICULTURE



## WSA releases 2016 fall condition report

On December 8, the Water Security Agency released the 2016 Conditions at Freeze-Up Report. The report looks at the water conditions across the province going into winter freeze-up. This is the first indicator of how spring runoff in 2017 will impact Saskatchewan. The other two factors include how much precipitation we get over the

winter and how the snow melts in the spring. Based on the current conditions across the province, if there is an average snowpack and spring melt, regions may see an above normal spring runoff in 2017. While the later part of October and the first few weeks of November leading up to freeze-up were relatively dry, soil mois-

ture levels and wetland storage remain at or near capacity over much of the province. At the end of October, most indicator stations across the province were experiencing record stream flows going into winter freeze-up which is an indication of how wet the fall was. For example, Moose Jaw and area saw roughly 100 mm of pre-

cipitation in total which is the most ever recorded for the month of October. The Swift Current Creek, Wood River, Notekeu Creek, lower Carrot River, Red Deer River, upper Assiniboine River, and Swan River basins all have above normal moisture conditions. These regions received above normal summer precipitation, as well as

above normal precipitation in October. The initial Spring Run-

off Outlook for 2017 will be issued in early February.



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Staff at the Villa spent hours decorating the outdoor courtyard in the centre of the Villa. Many of the decorations, including a lit igloo and snowman, were hand made. The courtyard was lit up following the carol singing.



Above: The entire courtyard splendidly lit up.

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Right: Resident Janet Mark playing the piano.



Left: Residents Norman Stewart and Ellis Pearce singing carols together.

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# From the Redvers rink to Dartmouth College: Sydney Hill pursuing hockey dream at elite college

BY ROBIN WARK

You never know where a sport can take you.

For Redvers' Sydney Hill, skill, hard work and passion for hockey has taken her from her hometown to Weyburn to Alberta and now to prestigious Dartmouth College.

The daughter of R. Clarke Hill and Christine Ewert Hill is a first-year student-athlete at the Ivy League institution. The Hanover, New Hampshire-based school squad competes at the NCAA Division I level, the highest university level in the United States.

"Dartmouth itself is a once in a lifetime experience," she wrote in an email interview.

"The relationships that you develop between professors and fellow classmates are honestly one of a kind. I'm really close with most of the professors because of the ample opportunities that the college and the professors themselves offer to students.

"I've had numerous lunches in either small groups or one-on-one with most of my profs, as well having them come to some of our games and cheering us on. The student body itself is very close with fellow students and alumni. Being a student-athlete, I'm also very close with fellow athletes on campus. I've gotten to experience so much already, and I'm only one term in!"

Hill has one assist in eight games so far this season for the Big Green. The 5-foot-5 athlete has been utilized both up front and on the blue line.

"What has impressed me the most so far about Sydney is her willingness and ability to play in a versatile role," Dartmouth head coach Laura Schuler wrote in an email interview. "Sydney has seen playing time as both a defence and a forward this year and has done equally well in both positions."

Schuler was a member of the 1998 Canadian Olympic women's hockey team. The veteran coach said Hill "has added more depth and strength to our overall defensive zone play. She also brings great energy and positivity to her game."

Hill is contributing as a rookie, but said she has had to make some adjustments to the university level.

"NCAA hockey is definitely a lot faster both mentally and physically as compared to the level I was playing before," she wrote. "Mentally, you don't have as much time to make a decision with the puck and physically you have to be a lot stronger in the corners and on the puck. You really have to focus on playing your best at all



Sydney Hill, who grew up in Redvers, is playing hockey with Dartmouth College.

Gord Honor photo

times. There's also a lot more support from fans and fellow students. We have a lot of young kids that look up to us as role models, which is really cool."

Hill's hockey journey started in Redvers when she was eight. She played boys hockey until she was 13. When Redvers had under-12 and under-14 girls squads she played on them both as well as the boys' team. "Three teams in one year was pretty hectic!" Hill said.

"What I remember most about playing in Redvers was the support and dedication from the community," she wrote. "Some of my favourite memories are skating with my friends and working through drills with my dad during public skating. The Redvers Rec Centre and Minor Hockey Association put a lot of time and effort into the community and it really made a difference in my development."

Hill recalls being inspired by her neighbor Jena Holden. Holden went on to play midget AAA hockey away from home and was a student-athlete at Red Deer College.

"She was always taking me skating and really made the game fun for me," Hill wrote. "When she moved away to play AAA girls hockey, she really inspired me to do the same."

At 13, she left home to develop her game with the

Weyburn Gold Wings AAA squad. The next season she headed to Alberta to study and play at the well-regarded Warner Hockey School. At Warner, Hill played in the Junior Women's Hockey League and competed against United States and Canadian teams.

In her final season at Warner, unforeseen circumstances with the program caused Hill to move back east.

She wrapped up her Grade 12 in Virden, Manitoba.

No matter where Hill's hockey journey has taken her, she has had the support of her parents.

"Without my parents, I would not have been able to pursue my passion for hockey at a young age. From driving me to the rink in minus-30-degree weather, shoveling off the dugout in the middle of winter, providing me with new equipment and sticks ... and allowing me to move away from home, I

am so grateful for the sacrifices that they made for me to allow me to play. I cannot thank them enough for encouraging me to push my own limits, and for supporting me when things got tough. Everything I've accomplished, I've accomplished because of them."

Now at Dartmouth, Hill is enjoying her time with the Big Green and looking to accomplish more on and off the ice.

"I'm really enjoying the opportunity to play for a such an amazing organization," she wrote. "I'd have to say getting to spend so much time with so many people who are both dedicated to the team and also overall great people. I'm really blessed to have a first class coaching staff, team managers, trainers and especially teammates backing me up and helping me improve my game."

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# Grocery store reopens in St. Lazare

BY KARA KINNA

People living in St. Lazare who have been frustrated that they can't run to the store to grab a jug of milk or do their local grocery shopping over the last year now have a store to call their own again.

Haney Grocery and Deli opened its doors in December in the community at the former location of Decorby Family Foods after that store closed one year ago.

The store is owned and operated by Melinda Haney, with help from her brother.

"The store has been closed for a year and in our little town everything seemed to be falling apart," says Melinda Haney. "My brother moved here from Calgary and we thought we'd take on the venture and start up a little family business. With help from the Louis Riel Capital Corporation we were able to do that."

Haney grew up in B.C., but both her parents and many of her relatives are from St. Lazare. She moved to St. Lazare in the early 1990s and has two children. She says she wanted to raise her children in a small community.

Taking over the store was also an opportunity for her family.

"I'm a single mom and I have two children, 10 and 12, and I just thought it would be great for them—it would be jobs for them. I'm just thinking about their future too."

"I just jumped. I thought



Haney Grocery and Deli, owned by Melinda Haney, will be open by December 5.

I'd try to get the store back up and going because we have a great little community here. I'm just trying to live it up again and get people staying and coming."

Haney says the store will be much the same as it was when it was Decorby Family Foods.

"We've added some

more shelving and some more stock. It's going to be basically the same grocery store. We've got a large variety of different things," she says.

How did the community react when she decided to reopen the store?

"The community is overwhelmed," she says. "They just can't wait. It's long

overdue. They're excited, I've got 110 per cent support from everybody here.

"When I first threw the idea out there, everyone jumped all over it and just kept pushing me and encouraging me to do this."

Haney says not having a store has been tough on people in St. Lazare.

"It really impacted them

hugely," she says. "Especially our elders who can't commute back and forth. It may only be 15 minutes away to Birtle, but it's a long ways for people to get to and from, and daily the convenience of just being able to go down the street and pick a jug of milk up, people really realize that we were very fortunate be-

fore." Haney says the store will also create some employment for people in St. Lazare.

"My brother and I are going to start and then we will probably be hiring one or two part time people."

"It brings jobs and keeps everyone in the community to shop locally."

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## RBC branch slated for closure May 11, 2017

# Wawota hoping to save bank branch

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The business community in Wawota is hoping to convince RBC to reverse a decision to close Wawota's RBC branch in 2017.

RBC has announced plans to cease operations at the Wawota branch on May 11, 2017.

A group of concerned Wawota residents met to discuss the proposed closure and planned to meet with RBC representatives on Dec. 7, however that meeting was cancelled due to the weather, and will be rescheduled.

"We have had one group meeting Nov. 14," said Wawota business owner Dee Brickley. "The business owners and the town council came up with an action plan of what we want to do to start voicing our opinions on the closure."

"We've come up with three different things we want to start with. We've started a written petition which is going to be circulated at all of our local businesses, we have come up with a form letter that will be inserted in our community newsletter. It's a general letter that all citizens can sign, and then it's going to be emailed and mailed to the RBC CEOs. We've also started an online petition for people to sign, so what happens is when people click on that link, they sign it and their

signature or their message gets sent directly to three of the RBC CEOs. The mayor is in the process of talking to one of the RBC reps and trying to get us more information on the reasons why this closure is happening—trying to get some numbers, and what they look at."

Brickley said the RBC branch is important to the community.

"The bank has been here for 100 years, so they do have a strong clientele. We have four employees who are now losing their jobs, one who has a family."

"The traffic flow alone that comes through town for people that do banking there is huge for us as business owners."

"People who come to do their banking in town will shop, they'll come see me (Brickley owns Details Salon), they'll do a loop of the town and get all of their stuff. Once you cut that tie off, and people start moving toward a different community, then that branch and that community is going to get all of our clients and all of our business. It will directly affect our businesses, our town events, our community facilities, like our rink for instance. If we don't have the people coming into town to use that, it's going to limit what we can offer here in town."

Brickley said the closure announcement came as a shock to the community. "Nobody was ready for it," she said. "They walked in and told their staff, and me working side by side with their staff I could see that something had happened and I could see the staff was upset, and that's how I found out, by talking to their staff. They sent out a letter two weeks later to the RBC clients stating that they were closing the bank and that everyone can start going to Moosomin to do their banking."

Brickley said she is optimistic the people of Wawota can convince RBC officials to reconsider their decision.

"This community is a strong community and they fight for what they believe in," she said. "They've had success in different closures. They had a fight over the bed closures at the nursing home. They put tons of hours in and they actually saved their beds. They got to keep a few of their beds."

"I strongly believe anything is possible if we all get together. If we stay strong, you never know what we can accomplish."

Representatives of town council, RMs, surrounding towns, and the Wawota Business Enhancement Group will attend the meeting with RBC representatives.

To contact Plain and Valley call 306-435-2445 or email [world\\_spectator@sasktel.net](mailto:world_spectator@sasktel.net)  
NEXT ISSUE: January 13

# Thiessen to compete at world Triathlon

BY KARA KINNA

For the second time in five years Rocanville's Dennis Thiessen has qualified for the world long distance triathlon championships.

Thiessen will compete at the world championships in Penticton, B.C. on Sunday, August 27 in the age 60-65 category. In 2015 Thiessen attended the world championships in Sweden for the first time after qualifying at the Canadians in Vancouver.

This year Thiessen qualified for the world championships after competing at the Canadian championships—also held in Penticton, B.C.—in August. He was ranked seventh in the 60-65 age group. Those with a top 10 finish can qualify for the world championships and Thiessen was asked to join team Canada.

In order to complete the triathlon, Thiessen had to swim three kilometres, followed by a 120 kilometre bike ride, followed by a 30 kilometre run, for a total of 153 kilometres. Thiessen was able to do it all in just under eight and a half hours.

"It was pretty tough, actually," he says. "It was a good course but it was pretty hard. I have to say that when I crossed the finish line I was okay with the time but I don't think I could have done it any faster. That was the best I could have done."

"I went in a little under eight and a half hours, which is what I wanted to do, so I was pleased with that."

Thiessen has been competing in triathlons for about 10 years. How did he get started?

"It came to the point I felt I had to start doing something so I started cross-country skiing more regularly in the winter time," he says. "And come spring I thought I'd swim because we have a pool in town, and walk, and we had a tandem bike, and my wife and I would go biking quite a bit. And once I started that, the walking just wasn't cutting it after cross country skiing, and I started running and then went into triathlon."

"There were some health issues too. If I wasn't doing this I would have to be on more drugs for various different ailments, and this is a better alternative for me."

Why did Thiessen choose to make the triathlon his fitness challenge of choice?

"Being older doing one thing is just too hard," he says. "To just run every day, that wouldn't work. But the cross training thing is nice, I like doing more than one sport. Triathlon just kind of stuck out for me."

Thiessen says he did his first triathlon in Clear Lake, Manitoba, and has been attending triathlon, as well as running events, ever since.

While the Canadian championships are an open event, Thiessen says it takes a lot of training to be able to compete.

"It takes a lot of training. You can't just decide to go do it. I train all year," he says.

What kind of training does it take to compete at the national and international level?

"Around now I'm just sort of starting, so I will probably run three times a week, and swim when I can, and cross-country ski," he says.

"Once the snow melts here I'd be going at least five times a week. Right now my runs are an hour and a half. Once spring comes around, the longest I would be running would be a little over two hours, and cycling is the longest leg there so I'd do three to four-hour training runs."

"I think anybody could do it if you wanted to, but you have to sort of stick at it."

Since the world championships are being held at the same place that the Canadian Championships were this year, Thiessen says he feels like he got a good preview of what the course is going to be like at worlds.

"If I go by what the worlds were in 2015 I would expect the course itself is going to be fairly challenging," he says. "The bike courses in Penticton tend to be pretty hilly. In terms of competition I don't think it will be much different than the Canadians were this year. There's always a few people that are really, really fast, and there were at the Canadians this year as well. There are always those people and then the next group. Hopefully I will be in that group, and there are a few that are quite a bit slower, and I'm usually somewhere in the middle there."

As the host country, Canada can have up to 25 competitors, and the other countries can have up to five competitors. Thiessen says he expects there will be competitors from Britain, Europe, Australia, and Germany at the international event. He isn't sure how he will perform.

"I probably won't be standing on the podium but I'll try," he says. "I try not to go by place because you never know who is showing up but I'm expecting to be close to eight hours. If they keep the course the same, if the weather is comparable, I'm expecting to chop about half an hour off my time hopefully."

Thiessen says he enjoyed worlds in Sweden because he got to be a part of a team instead of just a single competitor.

"I'm excited to compete. It's always nice and different to compete with a country. When we went to Sweden it was quite different to compete as a team as opposed to individuals. That part of it is quite a bit different. And just the whole feel of it's different. Like the Olympics they have a great big event at the beginning, a big parade, and opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies, all those kinds of things. It's a week long event. You will be meeting with the other Canadian athletes and training with them a little bit and that's always interesting."

Thiessen says that since he has been to worlds once before, he realizes how much training he needs.

"There are always some changes. There is a bit more dry land training that I am doing this year. Once I went to the worlds in Sweden I realized what you had to do to improve, so I'm working on strength and that kind of thing."

"Also, if you add up the kilometers—it's a 3 km swim, 120 km bike ride, and 30 km run—you get 153 km. I am looking at this as a 3 km swim for a warm up, then 150 km—one kilometer for each year Canada has been a country. My Canada 150 celebration," he adds.

"I appreciate the support of the people around here. In winter time there are not too many places to run, so you often have to run or bike on the highway, and motorists are very cordial and very good about that kind of thing. I really appreciate that."



Above and below: Dennis Thiessen competing in the long distance triathlon at the Canadian Championships in Penticton, B.C. in August of this year. Thiessen will be competing in the world championship in 2017, which will also be held in Penticton.



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# Raymond chosen for U18 national team

BY KARA KINNA

Nathan Raymond—a former Moosomin Generals football player from Redvers—has been chosen as one of the players on the Football Canada U18 national team, which will face off against the U.S. in the North American Championship on Jan. 28 in Orlando, Florida.

Raymond was chosen after competing in the Canada Cup tournament in Winnipeg in the summer, where he tried out and was chosen for the Saskatchewan team, playing against other teams around Canada. Team Sask lost to the Quebec team in the final at the Canada Cup.

Raymond—who is going to high school in Moose Jaw and playing football with Moose Jaw's Vanier Vikings—says he was surprised to be chosen for the U18 national team.

"Right after the (Canada Cup) tournament they select the first U19 all star team," he says. "I really didn't think I was going to be on team Canada because I wasn't on that team. A couple of months passed and it was not too long ago that after school I got a congratulations from a coach that was on Team Canada, and I was confused because I wasn't on Team Canada. And they told me to go look at the website and I was named to the U18 team."

"I was super excited. My head coach was beside me so I shook his hand, he congratulated me, and I called my dad. I was just really excited."

Raymond will head to Orlando, Florida with the rest of the U18 team from Canada to compete against the U.S. there.

Raymond says he doesn't know why he was chosen for the national team, but says he felt like he performed well at the Canada Cup this summer

"I feel like I played pretty well," he says. "I feel I made enough of an impact that other coaches saw me and thought I was a pretty good player and thought I had the mindset and skills to make team Canada and travel with them. I'm just very grateful for that."

Not only did Raymond make the team, but at age 16, the Grade 11 student is younger than most players on the team. He was also one of the youngest players on Team Sask.

"I'll be one of the youngest people on the team. I was in the age group for the youngest you can be for the Canada Cup so this is also a very big surprise to make team Canada as one of the youngest players possible," he says.

"There were three other players from Saskatchewan named to the U18 team and they are all in Grade 12. It's nice to know that coaches are seeing me as a great player when I'm only in Grade 11."

Raymond says he expects a challenge when he heads south. "I think it will definitely be a very tough competition just like the Canada Cup was," he says. "But I love competition and I actually like it if I'm going up against somebody who is just as good if not better than me because it makes me work harder, it makes me a better player, and there's nothing I love more than that. So I hope it's a tough competition."

"It's always good to go down there and show the Americans



Nathan Raymond at the Canada Cup this summer where he caught the eye of coaches and was selected for the U18 national team.

what Canadian football is all about."

He says being chosen for the national team is significant for a young football player.

"I think it's a pretty big deal," he says. "I've heard there are going to be a lot of scouts there watching this tournament so I think it's going to be great. It's going to teach me a lot, too. I think it's one of the highest levels of competition I've ever gone against. I think it will do tons for me as a player and a person and hopefully get my name out there more."

The team will meet in Florida about a week before the North American Championship for a mini camp.

"We do a bunch of practices and form the team there," says Raymond. "The caliber of players that will be on the team don't need much coaching. They just really need to learn the playbook and how to work with the team."

Raymond says he hopes to make a career of football one day. He was encouraged by university coaches to play with the Vanier Vikings in Moose Jaw as a way to hone his 12-man football skills for university.

"My ultimate goal is to play university football and if possible go further than that," he says.

Raymond has played football for three years—two seasons with the Moosomin Generals and one season with the Vikings.

He credits the Generals for getting him interested in football. "When I was younger I never thought I would be good at football. I just thought I would be too slow, and not strong enough," he says.

"The Generals told me to come out and try it. I loved it right from the start, and picked it up quick. And then from there I tried out for Sask Selects and got a great caliber of coaching there too. With the Generals it was just a great environment. I learned tons, and it did amazing for me as a person. It got me in much better shape, stronger, and got me hooked on football to eventually get me to where I am now."

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The Poltava Ensemble Ukrainian dance group performing in Moosomin on Nov. 18.

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**\$6,900**  
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STOCK# 61269B  
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STOCK# 61271B  
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WAS: \$46,900  
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STOCK# 61264  
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\$194 BI-WEEKLY



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STOCK# 71032A  
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