

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

February 2015 • Volume 8, Number 2

Something for everyone at Asessippi Ski Resort

BY JULIA DIMA

Driving toward Asessippi Ski resort from Russell, Manitoba, just south of the resort can be an underwhelming experience—from the provincial road leading up to the resort, there is not much to see—a small hill at the top of the valley is visible, and a bit further down, the top of the squirrel chair lift where skiers and snowboarders dismount. But where they go from that point is unclear—it's not until you enter the resort, and go through the building into the courtyard that the size of the ski resort, tucked away in the Shell River valley, becomes clear.

Asessippi Ski Resort boasts three chair lifts for 27 ski runs for all levels of skill, a bunny hill for beginners, and four downhill snow tubing runs—there are also two terrain parks for doing jumps and tricks.

The Asessippi Ski Resort, though it's been officially open since 1998, the history of the ski resort stretches back to the 1960s.

"In the 1950s, Brandon, Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg were always flooded from the Assiniboine River and Red River—so, they wanted to put protective measures in place to protect Manitoba's biggest cities from flooding," explains Daymon Guillas, the president of Asessippi Ski Resort. "They had to harness the rivers, so they did that with three measures: They built the Shellmouth Reservoir here to hold back the water, they built the Portage Diversion, and they built the Winnipeg Floodway around the city. But, to do that, they had to flood the water out somewhere, so, they flooded 28,000 acres of farmland in the two municipalities, so all that land that was generating tax through the municipalities came off the tax roll, and 125 families left the area.

"So, the government told the municipalities, 'To replace the lost tax base and to create jobs for some of the people, we'll build a provincial park. They designated this park, and



Above: Skiers about to disembark from the porcupine chair.

promised a ski resort, cross country skiing, two motels, golf courses, riding stables and an interpretive centre. But the government changed, and while the park was created, nothing else happened after that—so this park is an outstanding debt from 1965. The municipalities never forgave the province and federal government for abandoning the project."

In 1991, a new government came into place and the Riding Mountain Constituency had a new MLA, Len Derkach, who brought the outstanding debt to the municipalities up again. After that point, Guillas says, things began to change, and the idea for a ski resort became real.

"There was always a big ski culture here in Roblin and Russell—we had community ski hills that were built in the 50s and 60s, so, our big ski culture said they wanted a ski hill, and it progressed, and we decided to get it together," Guillas says. "Studies were done, and initially, it was proposed to just have a local ski club. Studies came back from that idea, and



Above: Two boarders carefully make their way down the Cruisin' ski run below the squirrel chair.

they let us know if we did that, we would lose money. After that, a consultant was hired who works with ski businesses, and he said, 'If you're going to build something small, save your money. You have to build a ski resort for the Prairies.' A ski resort would definitely

have a positive impact on our other local businesses, so as a business community, we said 'Yeah, we're in.' Fast-forward to 1995, we got the plans done. This project was at one point going to be \$6 million, and it went to \$10 million. The municipalities and busi-

nesses put up the money and built the ski hill. We put up \$7 million, the province put up \$1.5 million, and the federal government put up \$1.5 million. So, here we are today, with a ski resort."

Annually, the resort hosts around 85,000 ski and snowboard visitors, and 50,000 people who do not ski or board. Guillas says those 50,000 people were a big factor in how the resort was designed, and continues to evolve.

"When we were doing our marketing study, it was clear that 50 per cent of our guests needed a ride to the ski hill. So, that meant we had to design the resort for the non-skier as well. We wanted to design this in such a way that mom and dad have an excellent day as well while the kids are on the hill. . . . That's why we have this pub, and a gift shop, a food court, and Wifi. So, hopefully people are happy to bring their kids here for the day, because they can hang out in the spa, have comfortable places to sit, do different things so it's really a vacation even if you don't ski or snowboard," Guillas says.

"This is the first year we've put a little spa in here, and it's gone so well too, so, we want to continue to expand the spa, and find more space for it. We also want to attract a professional firm to offer pedicures, manicures, and hairstyling. We've had lots of parents tell us if we can have that here, it's a nice treat."

There are also snowshoe trails, ice-fishing, and winter hiking, and snowmobile trails for the cottagers. For people who want to give skiing a try but have some mobility concerns, the resort offers snow biking—a bicycle adapted with skis instead of tires so those who have knee and hip problems can ski. The resort also has an adaptive ski program to help those with disabilities experience skiing and snowboarding. The adaptive ski program has equipment designed to accommodate physical disabilities like sit-skis and out-riggers—which are like crutches with skis on them for those with limited leg strength. Asessippi also has 11 CADS (Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing) certified instructors.

Ken Waldherr is the manager for the Snow School, and a CADS certified instructor. He says most people using the adapted ski program come in through the schools that visit the resort through January and February.

"It's a very important program. A lot of these kids want to be with their friends when there is a ski trip. Who wants to be left alone at home when everyone else is going to the ski hill? This way, they can come and participate, and actually be out on the hill with their friends," Waldherr says. "It's also good for getting them the ability to have fresh air and exercise, which is just as important for people with disabilities as anyone else."

The adaptive ski program will work with any sort of disability, from paraplegia to quadriplegia, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, blindness, amputees, and so on.

Continued on page 27

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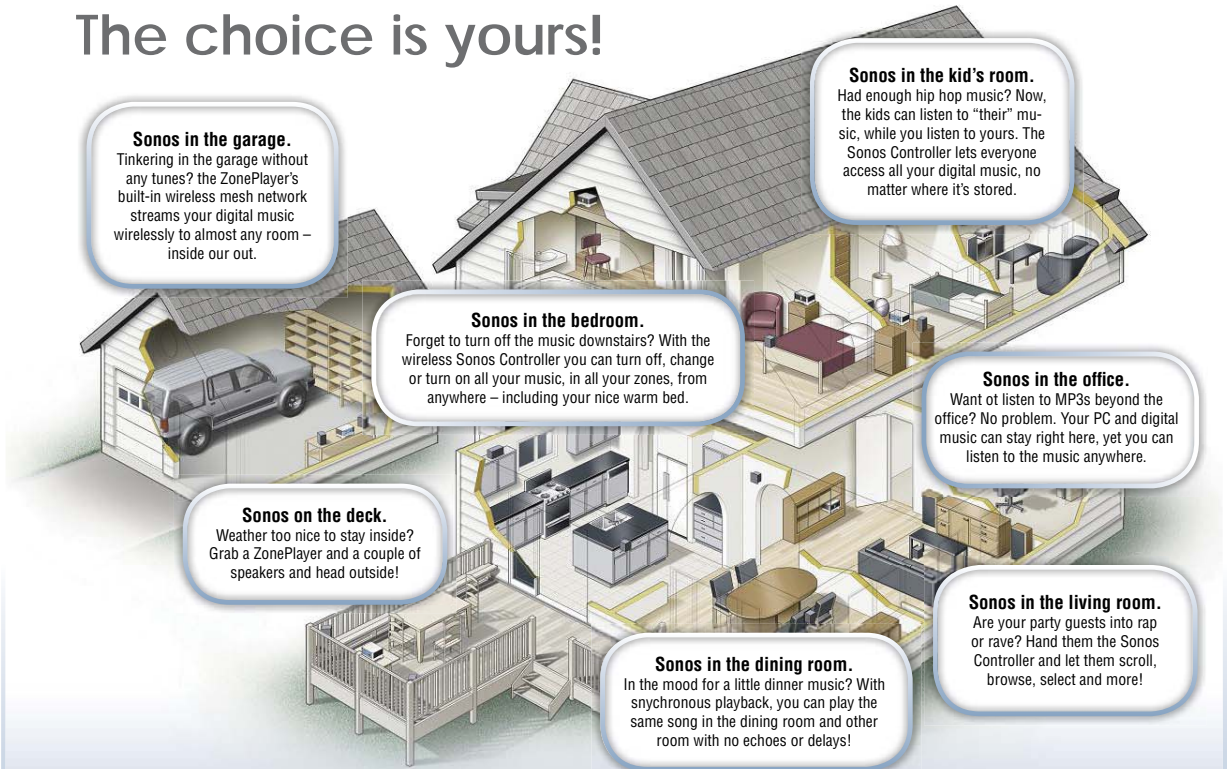
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Ice-fishing creates a community on the lake

BY JULIA DIMA

From a distance, Moosomin Lake looks like a flat frozen plain through the winter months. Looking across the horizon of the lake, there are small dark motionless dots littered sparsely across the blank white sheet of snow and ice.

Getting closer to the lake and out onto the ice shows a different picture: groups of friends and families in shacks or tents, or right out on the ice are chatting around holes drilled through the ice, waiting to catch supper.

Though ice shacks and parked trucks keep a bit of a distance, neighbors visit and call from across the ice, "Catch anything yet?" The quiet and frozen lake serves as a little village of fishers.

"It's a bit of a social thing," says Beryl Stewart, who spent last Tuesday ice fishing with her friends. "We've got visiting with our neighbors on the ice over here this morning, they are from Kipling, and they came over to try fishing on this lake, and they were chatting with us and asking how we were enjoying it—so it can be a social event."

Stewart and her friend Sheila Bergstresser took advantage of warm weather last week to get out on the ice, since they don't have a pop-tent or permanent shack on the ice, instead standing out on the ice, and



From left: Tyler Stark and Jason Taylor share a laugh in their ice-fishing tent on Moosomin Lake. Sheila Bergstresser with two jackfish she caught. Beryl Stewart holds her line over a fishing hole.

setting the rods up on holders, and watching for tugs from the truck to warm up. Tuesday afternoon was slow for catches, but for both women, catching a fish isn't as important as enjoying company on a nice winter day.

"It passes the time on a nice day, and we just enjoy doing this so much," Stewart says.

Stewart says she started ice fishing when she was a teen, and it was her neighbor who taught her how to fish.

"Our neighbour took me fishing all the time on Long Lake, and that was always fun. I liked sitting out there in the open and just watching the surroundings, and visiting with each other," she says. He was an older

gentleman, and he used to pick me up, and we'd pack a lunch and spend the whole afternoon out on the ice—the whole nine yards. It was the first thing I remembered when I started ice fishing again when I moved here, was how fun it was when I was a girl. He taught me everything about ice fishing, I had never done it before then."

One memory Stewart remembers is not knowing how to use the reel on her fishing rod, and trying to run up a hill pulling the line when she got a tug to pull the fish to the surface. Since then, she says, she's become much better.

For Bergstresser, getting out on the ice was long overdue, after two frigid and snowy winters made it

impossible to ice fish.

"You just couldn't get out on the lake at all last year—it was way too cold and way too much snow," she says. "I think it's just the relaxation, and getting outside that I like about ice fishing—you're not going to find me out here when it's 30 below, but in this weather, I like coming out."

Ice fishing, like fishing in the summer, has some specific equipment. The most important piece of equipment is an ice auger to dig the hole for fishing. Ice needs to be 12 inches thick to support a vehicle, but winter ice can get to be three feet thick. Though a hand auger can get through ice fairly quickly if the blades are sharpened properly, gas-powered or battery

operated augers can drill through three feet of ice in seconds. Along with the auger, special short fishing rods are used for ice fishing since it is easier to tell when there is a bite on the line with the short rod, which can be held, or positioned on a rod holder that holds the fishing rod in place over

the hole in the ice.

"There are these other lines that we have here that have a little orange flag on them, and they have a trigger mechanism. When the fish catches the hook and tries to swim with it, your flag pops up, and you know you have a fish on your line, and you can just pull it out of the water, hand over hand. With that, if you get cold, you can just go pop into your vehicle and warm up if you haven't got a shack," Bergstresser says. There is also equipment like underwater fish finders and cameras that can be lowered into the fishing hole to look for fish in the area.

"Over the years, there's different gadgets for ice fishing," she adds. "We never used to have these gadgets, we'd just sit outside by the hole and fish."

Aside from spending the day with friends, ice-fishing is a relaxing way to catch supper—well, sometimes, according to Bergstresser.

Continued on page 7

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RRSP LOANS

Getting an RRSP loan may allow you to contribute to your RRSP when you would otherwise be unable to. Investing your maximum allowable amount may give

you a larger income tax refund. You can use your refund to help pay off the loan. And you'll have invested more money in your future.

OTHER SOURCES OF CASH

You may have other sources of cash you're not thinking about—work bonuses, financial gifts, income tax refunds. You can use these sources to make an RRSP contribution at any time during the year.

CONTRIBUTE EARLY

Make your RRSP contribution in January of the tax year instead of at the last

moment. This allows your money to earn more interest and grow tax-deferred throughout the year.

Each of these examples can help you maximize your RRSP contributions. Contributing more helps you reduce your taxable income and allows more time for your investments to grow. Through the power of compounding, you may be able to increase the amount of money you save in the long run. It all helps to keep your retirement savings goals on track.

Submitted by Jim Beale and Douglas Stroud, Advisors with Sun Life Financial.

Save on taxes, save more for retirement

The deadline looms for making your 2014 contribution to investments held in your Registered Retirement Savings Program (RRSP). But you've still got a few days and a few choices to make that will save on taxes and save more for your retirement. Here are your last-minute RRSP tips.

RRSP DEADLINE DETAILS

- March 2, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. is the deadline for contributing to investments in your RRSP for the 2014 tax year.
- You may make a maximum contribution of up to \$24,270, depending on your earned income in 2014 (and minus your pension adjustment, if applicable).
- You'll find your personal maximum allowable contribution on your most recent notice of assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency (on line (A) of the RRSP Deduction Limit Statement).
- You can carry forward unused contribution room from prior years.
- You can fill your unused contribution room in a single

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RRSP TAX-SAVING, TAX-DEFERRING, INCOME-BUILDING TIPS

- Maximize this year's RRSP contribution. This is the best strategy for tax savings and maximizing potential long-term growth.
- Maximize last year's RRSP contribution. For additional tax savings and enhanced long term growth, catch up on your unused contribution room as quickly as possible.
- Borrow to gain. You could maximize this year's contribution or catch up on past contribution room with an RRSP loan. The money you borrow will generate a tax break and add to your tax-deferred RRSP growth potential. The key is to get a loan at a low interest rate and pay it back quickly. Use your extra tax savings to help pay off the loan.
- Split to gain. If your spouse's income will be lower

than yours over the next few years or in retirement, a spousal RRSP can generate retirement income that is subject to less tax. The plan is in your spouse's name but you contribute to it. Your total can't exceed your personal yearly contribution room but your spouse's limit is unaffected by your contribution.

The right RRSP strategies will save taxes and help you retire with more—and by adding a well-balanced non-registered investment portfolio, you'll make the most of the retirement of your dreams. Your professional advisor can help make it happen for you.

Submitted by Jan Gustafson, a Senior Consultant with Investors Group. This column, written and published by Investors Group Financial Services Inc. (in Québec—a Financial Services Firm), and Investors Group Securities Inc. (in Québec, a firm in Financial Planning) presents general information only and is not a solicitation to buy or sell any investments. Contact your own advisor for specific advice about your circumstances.

When investing, don't give in to emotion

Every investor dreams of buying low and selling high. Yet through the different market cycles, many investors do just the opposite: they tend to buy when the market is near its peak and sell when the markets are struggling.

This kind of emotion-based investing can be harmful to your long-term goals, since it ignores fundamental valuation in favor of following market momentum. Stocks tend to be overvalued when the markets make new highs, and undervalued when they reach their lows.

Here are some sound investment principles to keep in mind in today's fast-changing markets.

DON'T TRY TO PICK TOPS AND BOTTOMS

Market movements are too unpredictable to catch the highest or lowest price. It's far better to invest in solid value opportunities.

AVERAGE YOUR COSTS

Dollar-cost averaging through regular investing helps to minimize the effects of market volatility on your portfolio over time. Market lows are the best times to lower your average cost.

DON'T CHECK YOUR PORTFOLIO DAILY

It's tempting to want to over-manage your portfolio in turbulent markets; this can cause you to overreact to short-term price movements and make impulsive decisions.

INVEST WITH A LONG TIME HORIZON

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Submitted by Gord Webster, a Certified Financial Planner with ScotiaMcLeod.

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St. Lazare's Dupont retires position after 31 years on council

BY JULIA DIMA

Martin Dupont never intended to be the mayor of St. Lazare for nearly three decades. But an ethos of community involvement kept him in the office for 31 years. Dupont was first elected as a village councillor in 1983. He says he was inspired by his parents, both of whom were involved in community groups and village council.

"They thought that it was good to be involved and not to live a sheltered life and I guess I never really thought of it any other way than it being a good thing to be involved," Dupont says. "At that time, I wanted to be involved too in whatever it was, be it minor hockey, fundraisers, or whatever else, and I decided to run for council because there was a vacancy."

Dupont became deputy mayor in 1987 after the town's mayor at the time, Ivan Tremblay, resigned the position. After being in the position for a few years with not many others interested in running for the mayoral position, Dupont found that it made sense to stick around.

"We had a good working relationship with the RM of Ellice and with the village at that time, and it just carried on. I didn't look at staying that long, but there were always issues or items that would carry on from one term to the next, so we'd just want to see them through, so we just stayed involved, and we thought it was good for the town to do that," he says. "I also tried to show that if you were there for a while, there's longevity and commitment to projects for a long time, you're not just running on a platform or one issue—you're there for the good of the whole town."

One of the early projects Dupont and council took on at that time was a town beautification project. They held public forums to ask what people would like to see in the town, and with the help from the school and community, were able to do some basic beautification projects around the village.

As well, Dupont's council worked on increasing the visibility of bilingualism in St. Lazare. They joined the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities which helps bilingual communities maintain French culture and language with programs and grants.



Martin Dupont

"They support us, along with all the other bilingual communities in Manitoba, in making us more visible, getting possible grants for any project supporting bilingualism. We run our bilingual library with help from that, and it feeds our CDC (Community Development Corporation) in town too, they have partners that come down to our meetings and help us with projects," Dupont says. "We tried to increase visibility with signage in the RM to let people know you were coming into a bilingual community. We've been able to increase that quite a bit using that group, and of course with village and RM council committing to it."

Dupont says his proudest achievement as the mayor was developing the Mayor's Choice Award, a yearly award given to an individual or organization within the community doing volunteer work in St. Lazare. The recipient is awarded a plaque of recognition from the council and there is a community supper held in honour of the achievement.

Dupont says he wanted some sort of recognition because he saw that so many members of the community were committed to volunteer work and he wanted to give recognition to that.

"A lot of people were doing a lot of work in town, and we found we were not really being thanked for it, so that is why we started the Mayor's Choice Award. . . I thought that was a nice way to say thank you to everyone, and I felt that people were tickled pink that someone saw them doing something good and recognizing it. I've said this often during my time as mayor that a lot of the time, we may not seem like we are thankful for what people do, but we've always strived to thank people as much as we could," Dupont says. "We found that as we would thank these people, they would be positive about it, and in the next month or two, more people would be helping them, it was a bit of a chain reaction there."

Dupont says another highlight for him was developing the water treatment plant in St. Lazare.

"The water treatment plant took a lot of meetings and effort, and that was good. It's an effort to keep it going, but based on what we have now to what we had before, we've

increased that water quality, which now exceeds all of the Manitoba regulations for water guidelines. Having good water is important, and we're proud of having done that," he says.

The work done on the water treatment plant did not happen without some opposition, Dupont says, and as mayor, he says he had to work to meet the needs of everyone despite disagreements.

"When we built the water treatment plant, we had meetings and public planning, and some people weren't on board—once it was explained fully, for the most part, people turned opinions and got on board but we've always had some people that weren't happy with us, but that's the way it goes. I did what I had to do for the best of everybody and not just for one or two—I think that's what all people in council try to do," he says.

Dupont has been mayor of the town through successes and good times as well as failures and harder times.

In the 90s, the village wanted to purchase the Fort Ellice site and develop it into a tourist destination, but was not successful.

"It didn't work out, and it's not the end of the world, life carried on. I found very few people to be upset in town about it, but probably people were that didn't say so," he says. "But now, with CDC we're forging ahead and in the future, we are looking at having a tourist site there after all."

One of the more difficult days to be the mayor of St. Lazare was July 9, 1991 when a train derailment spilled methanol and acetic anhydride in St. Lazare, forcing an evacuation of the community.

"That was a big learning curve for us. The town was evacuated for a couple of weeks, and that was hard on the council because we were basically put in charge of the scene, because it was in our village, so it was a lot to handle and keep people happy—of course, once you're evacuated from your house, there's nobody that's happy," he says.

Flooding has been another challenge in St. Lazare. In 1997, flooding affected every community along the Qu'Appelle Valley, and St. Lazare, with village, provincial, and federal government funding built a ring dike to protect the homes on the north side of the railway. Dupont says that the dike provided security to people in the village, but unfortunately could not help mitigate flooding to the three homes south of the tracks.

Continued on page 22




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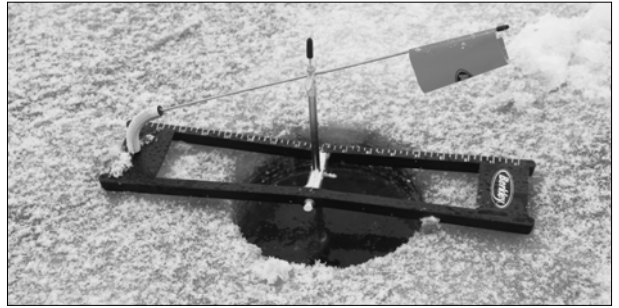
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Left: Sheila Bergstresser secures her line in a rod holder over one of her fishing holes.

Above: A trigger mechanism fishing line that has a flag pop up to indicate a bite on the line.

Catch a meal and a fun day ice-fishing on Moosomin Lake

Continued from page 3
 "Some days, you may not get any bites. We've landed two of the hits on our line, and lost some. It's almost like a lottery, you may or may not catch something," she says. "When we're catching fish, you can get jackfish (pike), wall-eye, perch, and if you're lucky, you might catch a pickerel—pickerel is my favorite," Bergstresser says she likes eating fish in the winter more, since the warmer water in the lake during the summer makes the fish softer and the cold water keeps the flesh firm. After a day of good fishing, she says, sometimes the fish is cooked up for supper, sometimes it's frozen or pickled for later, and often, it's shared with family or other ice-fishers who weren't out that day or didn't catch fish.

"We usually all share, those of us that come out here to fish regularly," she says.

Just down the ice from Stewart and Bergstresser, Jason Taylor and Tyler Stark from Kipling were fishing Moosomin Lake for the first time. Stark, who just recently bought a home in Moosomin, and his co-worker Taylor wanted to give a different lake a try.

Stark has been ice fishing since he was a young boy, with his dad and grandpa taking him out on the ice, and he says they taught him everything he knows about ice fishing.

"As a kid, I learned to not step in the holes. I learned that the hard way. I lost a

boot down the fishing hole once," Stark says with a laugh. "Also, of course, you just learn the proper ways to fish, and to watch out for thin ice. They taught me to not drive on thin ice, and don't have your seatbelt on when you drive out onto the ice."

Taylor says that is something ice fishers always need to be mindful of, and he's had close calls himself.

"This year, the ice started to crack underneath of the truck. It was only eight inches thick, and I didn't know that, and you could feel the ice cracking as you drove across it. It was making quite a bit of noise, so

we got out of there pretty quick," he says. "It's pretty scary your first time, even today I was skeptical going out on a new lake, but we saw our neighbors here on the ice, so we came out."

Taylor, a hunter and a summertime fisherman has only been ice fishing for about eight years. It was his father-in-law who took him out for the first time.

"I love fishing, I fish all summer, so I ended up liking this different way to fish," he says. "It's just another fun winter activity to do with your buddies and family—it's social."

Taylor says eight years later, he and his father-in-

law still bond over ice-fishing.

"We went out together last weekend, so it's a little bit of family bonding," he says. "My father-in-law brings out a little stove and heater so he can cook lunch right out here on the ice, if we've got some sausage or anything else, so he packs all that up when we go."

Taylor and Stark brought a pop-up tent that can be easily folded away in the back of the truck, along with a heater to stay warm inside the tent.

"Everything folds up, so you can just set your tent up quickly, drill your four holes, and sit back and en-

joy," Stark says.

"Every year, you try new things, so this is my first year with a pop tent, and before that, we just used to use a regular little tent, and before that, we were just sitting on pails out on the ice," Taylor adds.

Their favorite part of ice fishing is being able to catch dinner.

"Nothing better than catching your supper," Stark says.

Ice fishing season at Moosomin Lake usually lasts from around Christ-

mas time until mid-March. Shacks have to be off the ice by March 15, but before that, a weekend on the lake can look like a small community.

For avid ice fishers, there are ice fishing derbies in the region over the course of the winter, including the major Lake of the Prairies Ice Fishing Derby in February which attracts hundreds of ice fishers from Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where fishers have a chance to catch not only dinner, but a \$10,000 prize too.

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Wedding Guide

The top ten wedding to-do's



He has finally proposed? Then your top priority is to do a bit of bragging and tell everyone the good news! Once your initial excitement has calmed down a touch, though, you'll have to take time to do some serious thinking. There are so many details to plan, a budget to draw up, and deadlines to be met: it seems so overwhelming. If you are finding it hard to get some traction and launch your wedding planning, here are ten tips to give you some direction and help you get moving.

1. Establish your budget per guest. In fact, this is the perfect time to draw up your guest list.

2. Order your invitations, being careful to include your names, the date, time, and place of the wedding and reception, as well as the date by which you need to receive replies. Being clear about this will help you save a lot of precious time and money. Be sure to include stamped,

addressed envelopes if you can.

3. The reception hall is often one of the biggest expenses, so be sure to reserve one as quickly as possible. If you want to keep expenses down, think about holding the reception at a family home or in a garden.

4. Creating a good atmosphere is just as important as choosing a caterer, although you don't want to skimp on food either. To cut costs, consider serving fewer courses, with a focus on excellent quality instead of quantity.

5. Make up or order wedding favours for your guests. These are put with their place setting or offered at the end of the reception. Let your imagination run wild: you could offer small homemade soaps, candles, local produce in mini format, bath pearls, or small boxes of candies. It can also be fun to have a "retro" favour, such as a pack of matches with the bride and groom's names embossed on the matchbook cover.

6. Give yourself enough time to find a wedding gown that really suits your personality. It is also possible to rent a dress for the occasion, much as your beloved can buy or rent his tuxedo.

7. Book your hair, make-up, esthetician, and manicure appointments several weeks before the wedding. If possible, plan a test run.

8. Put all your heart into writing down the vows that you would like to make during the marriage ceremony. If you

plan to make a speech at the reception, be sure to get that down in writing as well.

9. Plan the reception down to the last detail: create the atmosphere you like with suitable music, entertainment, and a décor that matches your personality. (Don't forget to decorate the bathrooms, a place everyone will see at some point!)

10. Organize your honeymoon so that you can celebrate your new life together. And while we're talking weddings, here are a few other tips to keep in mind:

- Avoid giving important jobs to the parents of the bride and groom — unless they really want to be involved that way. Instead, let them enjoy being with the guests.

- If you intend to create a gift list, be sure to put it on the Internet so that it will be easily accessible to everyone.

- If small children will be at the reception, plan to have a space available where they can play and a quiet room where they can sleep.

- Take photographs of your hair and makeup test runs so you can choose the perfect combination when you're well rested. Prepare a make-up kit for any touch-up jobs on your big day.

- Leave a guest book at the entrance of the reception hall. It's a great souvenir to keep, along with your photo album.

- Leave a disposable camera on every table so that guests can record magical moments during the reception.

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Wedding Guide

Trends for the groom: tone-on-tone

On the wedding day, it may be true that all eyes are on the bride, but a well-dressed groom will still be appreciated. He is one of the main stars of this celebration, after all!

A classy and unique suit is on the agenda; after those criteria, the groom should choose a suit he feels comfortable in, one that corresponds to his personal style and that is tailored to his body shape. For an impeccably fitted suit, the groom should have a last fitting at the tailor's, two or three weeks before the wedding.

The fabric of the groom's suit should be chosen according to the season and its overall style should match the tone of the wedding; a suit is perfect for an afternoon wedding, while a tuxedo is required for an evening event. When choosing a suit, think of it as an investment; it should signal sophistication and elegance rather than office-job functionality.

Once a suit has been chosen, the next

Dressed to the hilt in all his finery, the groom will shine on his big day.

secret to a refined look lies in the tie. A contemporary finish requires a tone-on-tone tie that matches the colour of the shirt; it is a very attractive look, especially if both are pale in colour. Pale tone-on-tone will brighten up the complexion and highlight the smile.



WEDDING DAY survival kit

IT'S YOUR BIG DAY!
Have you thought of everything?

If you feel your stress level rising at the mere thought of your upcoming wedding, imagine what it will be like on the big day. Of course you want your wedding day to be fabulous, and the best way to ensure that is to be prepared for every eventuality. Here are a few things to pack and have on hand for the big day:

- Makeup kit and makeup removal pads
- Pocket mirror
- Glue for false nails and eyelashes
- Pre-moistened wipes, deodorant, and lip balm
- A toothbrush, toothpaste, and breath mints (avoid chewing gum, especially during the photo session!)
- Transparent nail polish, nail file, and nail polish remover
- An extra pair of glasses or contact



lenses, including the case and lens solution.

- Curling iron, hair straightener, or hot rollers
- Bobby pins (to control rebellious curls and to affix your veil)
- White and black thread, sewing needles, safety pins, and a pair of scissors (for clothing repairs)
- Iron and ironing board
- Extra pair of pantyhose
- Pair of ballerina shoes (for the end of the evening when your feet ache after all that dancing!)
- Tissues as well as acetaminophen or ibuprofen (for unexpected headaches)
- Super glue or something similar, masking tape, and transparent adhesive tape
- Finally, because you know just what your man is capable of, include a pair of black socks in case he had the bright idea of wearing white sports socks with his tux!

Collect all these things in one spot before the wedding day. Why not use one of your grandmother's magnificent hat boxes or that travel bag you spotted in your favourite store?

A pair of ballerina shoes is perfect for the end of the evening.

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All you have to do is set up a table somewhere in the reception hall, decorate it with a tablecloth or tissue paper of different textures and colours, put your candies in large, attractive candy jars, and place them on the table. Or you can use a

variety of models, sizes, and shapes of pots, vases, plates, and bowls to organize your candy bar. It's even possible to rent them if you don't think you'll use them again.

You could layer pretty candies in tall vases or thread an assortment of jujubes on skewers to fashion sweet kebabs that you can arrange on plates. Don't forget to leave small containers or bags so guests can take some home as a wedding favour. And be sure to place little scoops and spoons around the bar for hygienic reasons.

Let yourself be inspired by sweet, happy childhood memories as you plan your treasure trove of bounty. It will fill your guests with wonder and have them gaping in awe like kids in a candy shop!

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Originally from Maryfield

Sweetening off to Nationals for second year

BY JULIA DIMA

For the second year in a row, Val Sweetening and her rink won the Alberta Scotties championship. The final was a 9-7 win over Chelsea Carey's rink. Winning the final means team Sweetening is going to advance to play in the National Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw in February.

"It was amazing to win, we're really excited to be headed to Moose Jaw. As soon as my family in Saskatchewan heard that the Scotties was going to be in Moose Jaw, they were like, 'you've got to make it, Val, we want to go!' It will be nice to have crowd support there."

Sweetening grew up in Maryfield, moving to Vegreville, Alberta after her seventh grade school year. Despite spending most of her life in Alberta, Sweetening says Maryfield will always be home.

"My dad and all my family here still calls Maryfield home. I was only 13 when I moved away, but I'm still proud to be from Saskatchewan. I still consider it my home and I have a lot of family there—it's still a big part of my life," Sweetening says. "I get lots of messages from people back home letting me know that they were watching our games, so it's nice to hear that people keep tabs and cheer us on still."

Sweetening got her curling start when she was a girl, encouraged by her curling family and community, and coached by long-time Maryfield curler and coach Barb Swallow.

For Sweetening, being surrounded by a curling culture in Maryfield encouraged her passion for the sport.

"Curling was such a big part of the community, and everyone did it. I remember sitting in the back of the Maryfield curling club watching my mom curl. I was there playing with my toys, and I wanted to curl myself. As soon as I could, I got practising, and there were a few groups of us girls who had teams," she says.

She credits that environment for being the reason she was able to build a curling career.

"I don't think I would have curled if I wasn't from there—it was just such a part of the community. Barb Swallow got a group of us girls together to curl, and we went to some bonspiels. That's definitely what got me into curling... Definitely being from Maryfield and thanks to Barb, that's why I started curling, and I stuck with it ever since," Sweetening adds.

Barb Swallow says there is pride in Maryfield watching Sweetening, like other Maryfield names be



Val Sweetening throws a rock at the Alberta Scotties Championship.

successful in professional curling.

"I think Val is a role model for young people whether it be in our community or in Saskatchewan or Alberta. I think we're proud of the fact that she started here, and we can feel like we're some part of the success. It's exciting to watch somebody you know do well. It means that much more," Swallow says. "My husband and I are really excited because we're going to the Scotties in Moose Jaw watching her play... in town, people will be glued to their television. It doesn't matter where you go in town here, they're talking about watching Val curl on TV, hoping for her continued success, just chatting about her curling."

Swallow coaches the Brayden Stewart Team, and has coached curlers in Maryfield for years. She says that Val's success leaves an impression on young curlers seeking success.

"I think they look out and they see people who got their start in this town, like Val, and they realize you don't have to be from a big city to be successful in this sport, so I think it's good for our community and others in the area that know her name and others and know that they got their start in this small town. I think it's positive for our sport—you don't have to come from a big city to get a good foundation," she says. "With my team, it's a positive influence because they know there's a chance for them to be in the same spot she

is somewhere down the line if they are interested and committed to the sport, then the opportunity is there. I think for the boys, they will be pushing hard to get to that level some day."

In Moosomin, Sweetening's cousin Carli Sweetening coaches McNaughton High School's curling team, and has a daughter who curls. Carli says it is her cousin's influence that encourages other Sweetenings to give the sport a try.

"She definitely makes an impact—knowing someone who has made it that far encourages our young

curlers to be able to do the same. I know my daughter wasn't interested in curling until Val started to be on TV, and she understood that you could make it that far," she says.

Carli says on the night of the Alberta Scotties final, she and her daughter were glued to two screens—one watching Val Sweetening compete in Alberta, and the other watching another Maryfield-native, Candace Chisolm play in the Saskatchewan Scotties. Chisolm's rink lost in the final to Stefanie Lawton's Saskatoon rink.

"My daughter was glued

in front of the game. Her brother and sister went to a movie in Maryfield, and she stayed glued in front of the TV paying close attention to the game all night," Carli says.

Outside of the influence in the family, her other curlers and even non-curlers in the school show interest in Sweetening's curling.

"The kids who aren't even curlers will say to me that they saw Val playing, and it definitely, when you have that connection, it makes them care about curling... For the kids, it helps motivate them to do

something that they didn't believe they had much of a chance at," she says. "Who would have thought so many kids from Maryfield would end up making it so far?"

As soon as Sweetening's rink won the final in Alberta and was advancing to Nationals, the Sweetenings started preparing to be in the stands in Moose Jaw later this month.

"We will be there in Moose Jaw, of course. My mom was on the phone today getting everyone tickets and hotels already," Carli says. "We're very proud of her and very excited for what she's done. Her son will be three in March, and she works full time too, so it's a big commitment for her to keep curling, and I'm proud."

Sweetening says it is a big motivation to know she is impacting curlers back home.

"It's a really cool feeling. It's just something I've always done and I put a lot into the game, so I kind of forget who is watching, so to hear stories like that, that you're inspiring people to start curling—it's a pretty cool feeling," Sweetening says. "I feel like I'm just Val at times, so I forget about how I can be a role model. I try to conduct myself and our team in a way that is respected, because yeah, you're inspiring youth. If you can inspire youth to start the game, that's a pretty special feeling."

Sweetening says she is excited to see her friends and family in the stands in Moose Jaw, and even though she knows the cheers will go to Saskatchewan's rink when that is who they are playing, she hopes to get some cheers from her home province too.

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Welwyn Curling Rink busier than ever

BY JULIA DIMA

Wednesday night in Welwyn seems quiet to the outside observer, with stores closed and empty streets. But tucked in the southeast corner of town, dozens of cars are parked outside the rink, which is buzzing with activity. The Welwyn Curling Club currently boasts 17 rinks that play games on the three sheets every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night, and play a big bonspiel each year on St. Patrick's Day. The Welwyn Curling Club has also hosted a kids bonspiel during the February school break consecutively for around 80 years.

Murray Swanston has been on the curling committee since 1999, and he says that interest was in a low spot when he joined up, but jumped in 2000, and continues to grow steadily. With 17 rinks this year, Swanston says that was a major jump in popularity from previous years.

"It's not hard now to keep it running, it's got a life of its own," he says.

Judi Johnston with the Community Recreation Organization of Welwyn (CROW) says that like any sport, curling has had its ups and downs in Welwyn, but young families have helped revive the club.

"A few younger families and younger people grew some interest in curling," she says. "Welwyn's always been interested in curling, but our population was down for a stint, a lot of young people left. Around 2000, our population flourished and interest in the rink grew again."

Welwyn's rink services not just the community, but surrounding towns and villages that no longer have a curling rink. Curlers come from Wapella, McAuley, Tantalton, and Fleming.

"We have local curlers, we have curlers from surrounding towns, and I am seeing that we're getting lots of curlers from other small towns that like that small town curling feel, but their rinks aren't open anymore because they can't sustain it. They like the small town rink and small town feel—that has drawn a lot of outside curlers," Johnston says. "I think another big reason for the rink's popularity is that our curling doesn't start until January. A lot of events are held in the fall and come December you're caught up in Christmas events, and it just ties people up a bit. In January, everybody is ready for the rink."

"Either you're curling or you're going to Mexico," adds Swanston with a laugh.

The curling rink is part of the Welwyn Arena which is operated by CROW, and has a skating rink and catering as well. Johnston says that the rink flourishes because of the many events happening all the time at the arena.

"This is a multi-faceted facility with public skating on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, hockey on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there's an introductory beginner skater program as well. We also have an active catering community that caters out of the kitchen here—there's a lot going on which helps keep the whole thing rolling," Johnston says.

Curling teams in Welwyn are always a mix of curlers of all ages. Johnston says one of the biggest benefits of curling is that anyone can curl for their whole life. Last Wednesday, the teams on the ice were made up of friends and families of all ages, from 10-year-olds to great-grandmothers.

"The rink itself brings people together," Johnston says. "It's a social night out in Welwyn."

Johnston says in smaller communities, curling is generational, and the rink is often full of generations of a family.



Orville Harper and his grandson look down the sheet as the other team throws the rock.

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Continued on page 19

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Guide to Education 2015



Dumont Technical Institute focuses on education for Métis

Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) is the adult education and skills training entity of Gabriel Dumont Institute. Established in 1992, DTI provides quality education, training opportunities, and services to Saskatchewan's Métis.

Over the past 20 years, DTI has been successful in offering adult education and training programs to Métis people across the province. With the philosophy "Learners Come First," DTI has been instrumental in helping reshape the lives of Métis individuals and communities. DTI continues to prioritize adult basic education, health, industry/trades, and business training.

DTI is proud of its partnerships and direct links to employers that help Métis learners obtain solid employment. DTI is proud of the giant strides it has made over the years to help meet the needs of Métis learners through curriculum en-

hancement and Métis-specific programming, working co-operatively with other institutions and agencies to improve Métis participation and success in the education system, and ultimately developing a skilled Métis workforce that will meet local, regional, and national labour market needs.

STUDENT SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Academic support
- Tutoring and guidance
- Culturally re-affirming environment
- Links to employment
- Adult Education programs
- Liaison with sponsoring agencies such as GDI Training and Employment, Provincial Training Allowance, and Student Financial Assistance
- Referrals for student assistance
- Career counseling
- Essential Skills training

2015-2016 COURSE OFFERINGS:

- Beauval**
 - Adult Basic Education
- Île-À-La-Crosse**
 - Adult Basic Education
- La Loche**
 - Adult Basic Education
- Lloydminster**
 - Adult Education
 - Scaffolding
- Meadow Lake**
 - Continuing Care Assistant
 - Office Administration
- Moose Jaw**
 - Heavy Equipment Truck and Transport Mechanic
- Pinehouse Lake**
 - Adult Basic Education
- Prince Albert**
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Practical Nursing Year 1
 - Heavy Equipment Truck and Trans-

port Mechanic

- Regina**
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Practical Nursing Year 1 and 2
 - Office Administration
- Saskatoon**
 - Adult Basic Education
 - Practical Nursing Year 1
 - Office Administration

PROGRAMS COMING SOON

- GED Apprenticeship and Essential Skills
 - Security
 - Heavy Equipment Operator
 - Multi-Sector Safety Tickets
- All DTI programs are nationally and provincially certified programs. Program delivery is based on adequate enrolment and funding. For start dates and other information, please call 1-877-488-6888 or visit our website www.gdins.org.

SBC a major source of post-secondary business education

In June 1907, Saskatoon Business College (SBC) was founded by Mr. E. A. Marshall. For the past 100 years, the college has served as a major source of post-secondary business education for Saskatchewan students; its primary subject areas remain clerical, business and computer related technology.

The Chapman family assumed ownership in 1951. In 1960 SBC moved into its present location (across from City Hall) where today it trains more than 300 students each year in 25,000 square feet of interconnected buildings.

SEC employs 25 full-time instructors, offers 16 different diploma programs and has six computer labs with over 200 computers. SEC also runs a corporate computer training division, working with many of the city's top companies to train employees in various software applications. Present day owners, Blair and Rich, both third generation Chapmans, are proud of the family business and all it has accomplished.

In addition to employing many richly talented and experienced instructors, the quality of its graduates has given SBC an excellent reputation. As Graduate-Employer Liaison, Blair



Above: SBC campus director Blair Chapman with Colleen Butcher, a recent graduate employed with by PotashCorp, one of the largest potash mining companies in the world.

says "I often get calls from employers stating they want a carbon copy of the last grad they hired."

In 1987 the college became nationally accredited through the Canadian Education and Training Accreditation Commission (CETAC). Being involved in CETAC and the National

Association of Career Colleges (NACC) has played an important part in the college's history.

"You can't operate independently in today's age," says Chapman. "The wealth of information gained from organizations such as the NACC is immeasurable."

For over 25 years, SBC has been an active participant in Shinerama—a nationwide college and university fundraising campaign for Cystic Fibrosis. In 2006 SEC was chosen as Overall Top Campaign in Canada—nudging out all participating colleges and universities in Canada. Other organizations SBC is involved with include Saskatchewan Association of Career Colleges, Telemiracle, Kinsmen Club, Saskatoon Women's Network, and Association of Records Management and Administrators (ARMA).

Remaining true to its roots, striving for excellence in the basics (literacy and numeracy) as well as maintaining state-of-the-art computer technology has been critical to the college's success.

Rich and Blair Chapman firmly maintain: "Employers demand graduates with solid job skills who

can think on their feet and bring personality to the company. That will never change, and we deliver it."

Recognizing the growing mining industry in Saskatchewan and the need for companies to not only have trained technical but also business office knowledgeable staff to support all elements of the mining industry is very important. For this reason, Saskatoon Business College has developed the Mining Industry Business Specialist (MIBS) program. To achieve this objective, there are eight mining industry business specific classes as part of the current Business Administration (BA) 10-month diploma program. This curriculum has been developed to address the mining industry's business office employment requirements as identified by mining industry companies.

The program serves a

niche market in every department, in both supply chain businesses and mining companies.

Mining Industry Business Specialist Classes taught include:

- Mining Industry Fundamentals
- Mining Industry Terminology
- Mining Industry Corporate Social Responsibility, Safety and Ethics
- Mining Industry Law, Regulations and Policies
- Mining Industry Contract Administration
- Mining Industry Marketing and Communications
- Mining Industry Transport and Logistics
- Mining Industry Networking and Career Development

For more information or to book a tour, please call 244-6333 or 1-800-679-7711.

You can also find more details at saskbusinesscollege.com

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Guide to Education 2015



St. Thomas More College Offering students the best of both worlds

St. Thomas More College (STM) provides students with an intimate scholarly setting within the larger University of Saskatchewan campus. With a combination of smaller class sizes, award-winning faculty, social activities, additional scholarship and bursary opportunities and an in-house chef for food offerings, students enjoy an environment that is the best of both worlds.

STM is academically integrated with the University of Saskatchewan, and in partnership with the College of Arts and Science. This provides students with over 220 credit classes in the humanities and social sciences that they can select from—many unique to the campus. Any U of S student may take STM courses as part of their U of S degrees. A new 20,000 square foot

addition to the college was completed in 2013 providing additional classroom space incorporating the latest technology, dedicated student study space, faculty research space and a large natural light atrium for studying and gathering with friends. STM is also recognized for its community service learning and international travel opportunities, successful drama and glee club, youth groups, a student governing body within the college and access to student advising and college ministry support.

For more information please contact one of our STM student advisors at 306-966-8900.

Saskatchewan regional colleges meeting needs of communities since 1973

Since 1973, Saskatchewan Regional Colleges have been meeting the needs of people and communities throughout the province, offering people just like you a different way to learn. And for many, regional colleges represent a better way to learn.

Saskatchewan Regional Colleges provide the opportunity to access post-secondary education and training right in your own community. And the benefits are many. You are able to enroll in quality university and technical programs in your own region, alleviating some of the costs and inconvenience of relocating to a larger centre. You can prepare to pursue other education and training opportunities by completing your basic education requirements or upgrading existing skills. You also have access to counselling and resources to help make decisions about your career path and employment future.

For employers, Saskatchewan Regional Colleges will develop programs to meet your organization's needs and to increase productivity and maintain a competitive edge.

And, as a regional college student, you also have the advantage of conducting your studies in a familiar environment—eliminating the need to move to a centre where you must adapt to a new way of life.

Saskatchewan Regional Colleges are situated in a community near you ensuring that we can effectively meet all the local and regional education and training needs. In addition to the main college locations, a number of programs are offered in surrounding communities in each region. This provides enhanced opportunities for people in communities large and small to gain access to high quality educational programs—without leaving home.

We are the largest post-secondary campus in all of Saskatchewan, comprising seven colleges across the province. Saskcolleges.ca provides you with access to each college, campus information, course listings and much more.

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Gabriela, STM student

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Guide to Education 2015



Care about plants, animals and the earth?

Brandon University: Be an environmental scientist



phy, disaster management, environmental chemistry, environmental geoscience, environmental policy, and resource management.

The opportunity to study many disciplines is exciting for our students.

"I enjoyed the ability to take a variety of courses from across the science departments," said Morgen Burke, B.S.E.S. '14. "I also enjoyed the ability to take the many skills learned throughout the first three years of the program, and apply these skills to a final project that is of personal interest."

All students complete a final year project in preparation for professional practice. This project can be completed working with a Brandon University professor, or as part of a co-op placement with Parks Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada or another federal or Manitoba agency. Students can additionally receive credit to study abroad, as part of a field course excursion to South America, Central America, Africa, or Europe.

Our students have completed a wide range of projects. They have written management plans for local parks and protected areas, examined recycling effec-

tiveness in Brandon, studied movement patterns of common snapping turtles, and investigated nutrient input from dust deposition along rural gravel roads.

Brandon University has also partnered with Assini-

boine Community College (ACC) and offers two years of transfer credit to students who have completed Assiniboine Community College's Environmental Technology's Land and Water Management Diploma.

A Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (B.S.E.S.) from Brandon University offers a wide range of career opportunities, with the environmental sector seeing rapid employment growth across Canada.

Exciting career opportunities are available with the private sector and provincial and federal governments, including careers such as Environmental Consultant, Conservation Officer, Wildlife Habitat Specialist, Sustainable Resource Manager, Environmental Inspector, and Environmental Monitoring Officer. In addition, our students are eligible for

Environmental Professional (EP) Certification through the Environmental Careers Organization of Canada (ECO-Canada), providing them with a competitive advantage for job opportunities.

Environmental Science is the study of the interaction between plants, animals and the environment, and human impacts on these systems. This four-year interdisciplinary degree provides the scientific background necessary to address environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, resource management, and the conservation of wildlife

and their habitats.

Our Environmental Science degree includes courses such as Environmental and Resource Issues, Ecology, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Plant Ecology, Conservation Biology, Environmental Ethics, and Environmental Impact Assessment. Within many of these courses students will be involved in outdoor field excursions and learn about the many varied habitats in southwestern Manitoba. As part of their degree students can select from a wide range of areas of specialization, including wildlife management, biogeogra-

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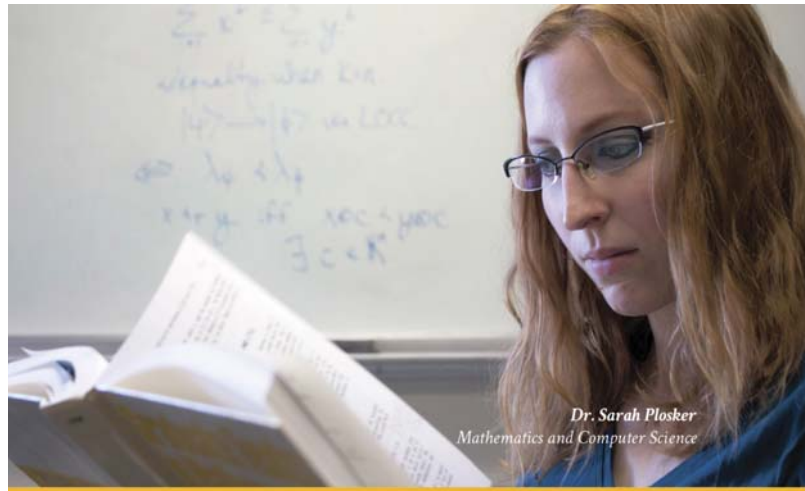
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2011 Dodge Ram 1500 Laramie 4X4	Crew Cab, 5.7L, auto, a/c, leather, loaded, 40ZD/40, 96 kms, red	Reg. \$27,995	SALE \$26,995
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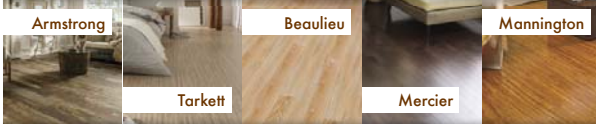
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Welwyn Curling Rink busier than ever

Continued from page 13
 "If a family has curling interest, the kids gain that interest, and they have the support to curl," she says.

Orville Harper has lived in Welwyn since 1967 and always been a curler. He spent the night curling with his grandchildren, and curling against his son.

"We've got lots of young kids out here, and that's what I like to see is lots of young kids curling. I have got two grandsons here curling with me today and we're curling against my son. My grandsons are getting pretty good, they're learning," Harper says.

Johnston says that the kids bonspiel fills the rink with families, and it's nice to see a full house. The St. Patrick's Day bonspiel brings in anywhere from 19 to 25 rinks, and for Welwyn rink curlers, that bonspiel is a big community party.

"During that week, if you're in the bar here on a Thursday or Friday night, it's packed, you can't even get a seat," Swanston says. "You can't hear yourself talk, there are so many people."

The curling rink also hosts a PotashCorp Rocanville bonspiel, and a few novelty bonspiels including a one-person and two-person team bonspiel.

"With that one, we pretty much make the rules up as we go," Swanston says. "It's a novelty thing just to mix it up a bit."

The kitchen at the arena caters, and is always open for curling nights, as is the bar, and Welwyn's rink has a unique feature of monitors in the bar that show the far end of the ice, so spectators can watch the action on both ends of the sheet.

Johnston says the curling rink is the biggest source of revenue for the arena and for CROW, and the arena would suffer without an avid curling community.

"Without curling, the facility would struggle because it's a big part of recreation here, it's one of the main sports in Welwyn. We have recreational skating, hockey, and shinny, but to fund the building, curling is the biggest sport," she says.

CROW oversees every recreational activity in Welwyn,

including the arena, a community gym at the town hall, catering for sporting events, weddings and banquets, and they have raised enough money to revive the ball diamond in town—it will be operational in the summer, and Johnston says there has already been an application for a slow-pitch tournament.

Johnston says that because CROW covers every recreational activity in the village, she believes that can help ensure every recreational activity flourishes.

"It covers all recreation activities, so that means funds go wherever they are needed as it's needed," she says.

The biggest costs are upkeep and utilities in the arena, as well as improvements, which have included a kitchen renovation, a roofing project, installation of a zamboni storage area, and upgrading lighting.

The curling rink requires a lot of upkeep, and volunteers are welcome to help with every aspect of the rink from clean up and running the bar to scraping and pebbling the ice before games. Johnston and Swanston estimate around 60 per cent of community members are involved in the rink in some form.

The curling committee has five members including Swanston and Harper, and they are responsible for preparing the curling rink for games and practices every week.

"We scrape and pebble the ice, and it's quite a bit of work, three hours a day or so," Harper says. "Every game, it has to be scraped, and you clean the snow off and then pebble it."

But for all the work to maintain the rink for curlers, everyone involved curls themselves, and the effort is worth it to see a full rink.

"It feels pretty good when it's busy in here," Swanston says.

"I like to see the curling rink progress and do well," adds Harper. "When I retired I thought this was a really good place for me to be. I feel good about it being full, I like to see all three sheets going."

If there was no curling in Welwyn, Harper knows one thing would happen, for certain.

"Your winters would be a lot longer, that's for sure," he says. "I like the friendliness of curlers, the sociability of the game, it gets me off the easy chair."

Johnston agrees.

"It's just the fun of the game—getting out and getting moving, especially in winter, when it gets easy to stay in front of the TV. You get out with some people, have a few laughs, have a few cries when you're losing," she says.

Anyone can enter a rink to curl regularly or to enter the St. Patrick's Day bonspiel. The curling rink will also open up for special events on request.



Tyler McIntosh and Mikayla Rudniski curl as part of Welwyn's curling club, and also play on Rocanville's curling team.

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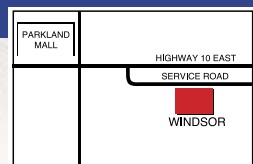


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Full-time programs may end at SERC Moosomin

BY JULIA DIMA

Southeast Regional College recently held an open house for its 20-week Electrician program in Moosomin. The full-time program, as well as the full-time office education program, may not be offered in Moosomin this fall.

The electrical program gives students the basics for electrical work and essentially amounts to the first year's work of an electrical apprenticeship.

"This is the basics, to teach them the first year of apprenticeship. They learn mainly residential, light commercial work, all the basics to get them started—what the tools are, what the materials are, the basics to go out there and get a job as if they were a first year apprentice," explains Dean Kazakoff, who has been the electrical instructor of the program for one year. "Otherwise, normally an apprentice has to go out there, try to find a job, do hands-on learning for a year on the job, and then do eight weeks of school." The electrical program was first offered in 2006, and it has room for 12 students. While the same program can have up to a three-year waiting list at SI-AST in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, or Prince Albert, Moosomin's program typically has no waiting list.

Unlike larger programs, the electrical program in Moosomin has one instructor that teaches code, theory and practical application to students—for Kazakoff, he says he tries to teach all three in application with each other, so students are prepared for the hands-on application of electrical work in their first year of work.

His students say that works well. "One of the things I really like about this program is the hands-on training. It's not just theory and hands-on separate, we do it together," says Linda Fowell, who is nearly finished the 20-week program and ready to go into the work force.

Fowell says her father was an electrician, and as long as she can remember, she want-

ed to follow in his footsteps. Family life caught up to her, and she worked at Scotiabank in Moosomin for most of her life. Now, she says, her youngest child is 26 and she was ready to go back to school and pursue the dream she always had.

"I knew this program was available here, I wasn't sure how it all worked, but I was going to do whatever it took to make my dream come true. I am glad it's here, I like being local. It's been an excellent program," she says.

Dylan Mills grew up in Wawota, and says he wanted to do hands-on work after going to university for kinesiology. "Kinesiology was a lot of book work, and I wanted to do something hands-on," he says. "Actually, Dean (Kazakoff) said that compared to SI-AST in Moose Jaw, we've done more lab projects, which is surprising to me."

Originally, Mills planned to attend the program at SI-AST in Moose Jaw. Like so many others, he was put on a waiting list that he was told could be two to three years long.

"I was on the waiting

list for probably five or six months, and this program showed up, so I applied and was accepted. I kept my holding spot at Moose Jaw to see if they would accept me, and if not, then I would stay here. That actually benefited me in the end—I have a home in Wawota, so I save money. Fuel and food are my only costs," Mills says. "I have talked to people who would tell me, 'oh you're not going to get into Moose Jaw, you'll be waiting, I'm still waiting.' It seems like city people don't want to come to college in a small town, but it actually benefits me to do that."

Jasmine Logan is another student who benefited from having the program close to home. Logan grew up in Esterhazy, and after high school, was planning to take a year off.

"My dad found out about this program, and said, 'you should apply for this, it's what you wanted to do.' So, I applied, I didn't think I was going to get in because I applied pretty late, but four days before the program started, I got a phone call saying I was in.

Actually, I'm happy I did this, because if I didn't get in when I did, I don't know if I would have gone back to school," she says.

Many of the graduates from the program have landed employment in the local area. Some have even started their own electrical businesses.

Kyle Jeannot took the electrical program the first year it was offered in 2006. In 2007 after he finished, he worked at different electrical businesses including both Nixon's and Grayson's and on June 9, 2014, Jeannot started his own electrical company in Moosomin, Jeannot Electric. Starting his own company was a goal since he graduated from the electrical program at the college.

"As soon as I did this course, and was working in field, I wanted to have a business," Jeannot says. "It felt good to get to that point, there was a sense of accomplishment, and it's nice to be able to serve people in the community."

Jeannot grew up in White-wood, and planned to go to SI-AST before he saw the pro-

gram being offered closer to home. He has a small staff, just himself, his wife, and an apprentice, but Jeannot says he plans to expand, and at the open house, 11 students about to graduate the program shared the room with Jeannot.

"We want to hire someone soon, so we're definitely going to take a look at the applicants coming out of here today, and hopefully one of them is eligible to get a job with us," Jeannot says.

Despite the benefits the program has had for these graduates, the Electrician program, along with the Office Education program, may not be offered at the Moosomin Campus next year. This is because the funding allocation matrix used by Southeast Regional College looks at market labour needs across the region, and programs are put into a queue. The programs that have the most demand in the job market for the region are at the top of the queue. Those that are less popular region-wide are lower on the queue and less likely to receive funding for the next year.

"Every spring, we start our planning process for the next academic year, and in December, we present a recommendation for next year's program planning from the pool of funds that we get from the provincial government. There is a finite pool of money to fund programming,

so what we do is use a framework to help in the prioritization of our needs," explains Southeast College CEO and President Dion McGrath. "We make recommendations based on assumptions of what we think we will have in terms of resources, based on labour market needs of our entire region—not just Moosomin, not just Estevan, the whole region. All of that is driven by labour market data—the better the data, the better the information, the higher it will score in our process of doing that."

McGrath says this is the first of three stages in determining what programming will be offered in the next year. Next, he says, Southeast College will look for extra funding for programs that fall just below the funding queue, and wait for the provincial budget to be revealed, which will verify how much money is coming from the government for advanced education. The current projection is based on an assumed one per cent increase in projected funding.

"After the budget is known, we finalize everything, go back to the board and say, 'this is our recommendation for the resources we have.' They will enter a dialogue, and finally make ultimate decision. Then that business plan is submitted to the Minister of Advanced Education, who has to approve it," McGrath explains.



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Dupont retires position after 31 years on council

Continued from page 6

The dike helped protect the village from spring flooding for years, but in the recent floods, Dupont says there was no way to predict the extent of the flood.

"We've never had flooding here like we had in the past few years, so everyone is looking at new ideas for how we can protect our town further," Dupont says. "This year was unusual, we had to pump water over the dike. We had to cut roads, but if you looked everywhere, everyone had to do this, and roads were washed out everywhere. . . . We were all in the same boat, it wasn't one little spot impacted, it was everyone across the region. We got such a comfort zone here because of the ring dike that when we flooded out on this side, some people were angry."

"We couldn't magically stop the water. We were trying to divert it as well as we could. . . . After, we widened ditches, dug them down, I think we've done everything we can without spending thousands of dollars on mitigation. If we get that high flow again, I am not sure we'll be able to handle it."

Dupont says that he feels that the village did as much as they could, but with concerns about disaster assistance not covering mitigation costs, there is still uncertainty.

"Some people will feel we didn't do enough, and some will feel we did a good job. Experience shows that you have to be careful with mitigation—sure, you can go all out and spend a million dollars, but are you going to recover it? You have to be careful with that. A lot of towns had large claims, but ended up not qualifying for a lot, or not as much as they wanted to. Everybody had that happen—you have to run a little government whether you're flooding or dry," Dupont says.

Despite the difficulties, Dupont says handling frustrations with the flood was not much different than anything else he dealt with.

"It is weird, but just dealing with dogs running at large or garbage pick up was as much of an issue sometimes as dealing with a flood. We can never do everything right in everyone's eyes, but you just keep going, you get thick skin, and you just do the best you can for everyone," he says.

Dupont's run as mayor of St. Lazare marks the last time anyone will hold that position—as of January 1, the village was amalgamated with the RMs of Ellice and Archie, and became a local urban district (LUD) within the RM of Ellice-Archie, which now has one reeve, one CAO, and six councillors.

Dupont says the amalgamation didn't factor into his decision to retire from the position of mayor.

"I was asked to run for that new council, but I decided we were going to let other people get involved—I've always been a person who thought when you get new young people involved, they have such

great ideas, and see that they can have a voice," he says.

At first, Dupont says, when amalgamations were announced, he hoped that the RM of Ellice and Village of St. Lazare could amalgamate, which would help preserve the French culture and language unique to the community. However, he says, the RM of Archie supported these ideas, and so far Dupont says he sees things moving in a positive direction.

"We did talk about it at great lengths and didn't want to lose that, and Archie was very supportive of that too, and thought it was something worth protecting too," Dupont says. "They hired a bilingual CAO, which was certainly a necessary criteria—We were concerned since Ricky (Fouillard) was retiring but the services can keep being offered in French, and that is what the village residents wanted to see."

Though he considered running for the position of Reeve, Dupont says he and his wife gave it some consideration, and decided it was time for family. Working full time at PotashCorp Rocanville, and handling the responsibilities of meetings and village business in the evenings meant Dupont was spending less time with his five grandchildren. He has children in Brandon, Russell, Rocanville, and overseas in Germany, and wanted to be

able to be at his grand-kids sports events instead of in village meetings.

"We like to go visit our grand-kids a lot, and there were several times I could have been at their sporting event or whatever they were doing, and I had to go to a meeting instead, and I didn't want to—I just thought now I needed to take a break."

Dupont continues to be involved in the Knights of Columbus, the St. Lazare Athletics Association and the rink board. He says between that and the grand-kids' hockey games, he and his wife are just as busy.

Dupont says he's continuing to help the new RM council with any issues that arise, including handling a recent water main break, but he says he certainly won't miss taking the phone call for a water main break at midnight, and often being the one jumping down the manhole to solve the problem.

"I will always be here

to help, and maybe I will run for council again in a few years," he says. "Just, hopefully I don't physically have to go out there to deal with emergencies."

Dupont says he's looking forward to sharing stories with his grandchildren about his time as mayor. One thing he remembers fondly was being invited by Premier Gary Filmon to tour the flooded area on Manitoba in the late 1990s in a helicopter.

"I thought it was cool that we were invited to that. From the air, you could see how much water there really was. And it was cool meeting the premier, and the fact that these guys were on first name basis with us, they didn't forget about you, they knew you and remembered you at later conferences and meetings—it was nice to be recognized," he says. Dupont says he'll tell his grand-kids about setting up the Mayor's Choice Award, since it was his proudest

moment in his three decades on council. He says that he hopes that like he learned from his parents, and he tried to teach his kids, his grand-kids will grow up to get involved in their communities too.

"I hope I can set the example for my grand-kids that getting involved in the community is a thing you should really do," he says. "I've told that to our kids and we've found that our kids are getting involved in their communities where they live—they say they get involved because of us. I want to tell my grand-kids to be involved and respect

others, and just be kind."

Dupont says he feels the village and the RM are in capable hands with the new council, and he's looking forward to getting some much needed relaxation now.

"It was an enjoyable run. I hit that point where I just wanted to take a break and the village will carry on. I've gone down a few times to the office to visit. I always told people there that I'm giving them the key to the town now, and I actually went down there and returned my actual key to the office for good," Dupont says.



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18	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.
20	FRIDAY	BRED COW SALE	11:30 A.M.
22	SUNDAY	BONCHUK SIMMENTAL BULL SALE	
23	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
25	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.

March

2	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
4	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.
6	FRIDAY	BRED COW & C/C SALE	11:30 A.M.
9	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
11	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
15	SUNDAY	REBELS OF THE WEST SIMMENTAL BULL SALE	
16	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
18	WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.
19	THURSDAY	SHEEP SALE	NOON
21	SATURDAY	PLEASANT DAWN CHARLOIS BULL SALE	
23	MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
25	WEDNESDAY	PRESORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
27	FRIDAY	BRED COW & C/C SALE	11:30 A.M.

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Researchers working to tackle wild boar issue

BY JULIA DIMA

Wild boar continue to be a persistent issue in Southern Saskatchewan—initially introduced as agricultural livestock, boars were able to escape into the wild, and with a reproduction rate of two six-piglet litters in a year and a sexual maturity age of six months, their numbers have rapidly expanded, and have been causing problems for farmers since.

The way boar have been dealt with has been on a case-by-case basis—farmers, ranchers, and hunters would kill any boar spotted on sight. Saskatchewan does not have a province-wide boar eradication initiative in place.

Some groups, like the Moose Mountain Wild Boar Eradication Committee, have taken it upon themselves to develop organized initiatives to eradicate boar in an efficient way in the Moose Mountain Provincial Park region.

The group started 12 years ago when Bob Brickley, a rancher near Kennedy, and other ranchers and farmers in the region realized boar needed to be dealt with in an organized way. The boar were damaging crops and disrupting livestock.

"Initially, the problem was the fear that they were striking into livestock and the crop damage, of course. They wouldn't attack livestock, but their presence was enough—they were stampeding cattle out of the feeding area, and the horses through fences, they were just terrorizing livestock," Brickley explains. "Their presence dislodges wildlife too—deer, elk, and other animals moved out if boar were around. It was abundantly clear that everything left when they were present, and they were destroying ecosystem. We didn't know much about it at time, but it was clear even in those initial encounters that something had to be done."

Initially, Brickley and other farmers dealt with boar on an individual basis, killing any boar on their own properties, but they found that this was doing nothing to reduce the numbers. What they discovered was the boars traveled in sounders or 'cells' and unless every boar in the cell was killed, the reproduction rate of the remaining boars would produce a higher number of new animals than they could kill.

"We recognized that wasn't working and you had to have an organized team to deal with this. So we combined our resources and formed the team," Brickley says. "We locate them from the air in a fixed wing aircraft, and we don't approach a group unless we're confident we can eradicate the entire group—this is key and essential, we discovered. We learned that we're only successful if we find them in their nests and catch them by surprise. Once the nest is located, we go in on ground and approach them in way that we can catch them by surprise and completely they're surrounded, so that if they escape, we can get them as they escape from the nest."

Boars have been known to be aggressive when cornered or surprised, and Brickley says the eradication process can be dangerous, and there have been close encounters with the animals.

"There's been dangerous situations, without a doubt. That's why we go as a team, so people are covering each other, and we have more gun power there to protect one another," he says.

Using this method, Brickley says he believes the group has had success in reducing the number of boar in the Moose Mountain region.

"In Moose Mountain, we're in control. So far this year, we've done two flights and we haven't been able to locate any boar, so that's very encouraging for us," he says.

"There used to be 300 boar on the ground at one time, and we've now reduced them to the point that you can't find any, so we're pretty excited, and I think we've demonstrated that it can be done with perseverance and a dedicated crew. However, talking to other ranchers, it's obvious unless we keep them under control, we can lose control quickly over our land—they destroy everything in a few days, and move on."

While the area where Brickley's team is working in an organized way is seeing success, this isn't the story for the rest of the province.



Shelby Adams displays the GPS collars that will be placed on 20 wild boar in the Moose Mountain region to track their movements and collect data about the animals, in the hopes that more effective eradication efforts can be developed from the data collected.

"Province wide, it's escalating rapidly . . . Outside of the Moose Mountain area, even just west, it's concerning, there are signs of wild boar. I think we need more provincial initiatives, without a question," Brickley says.

A group of researchers from the University of Saskatchewan, working in partnership with the Department of Agriculture in North Dakota is working on a project now that they hope will create more information about the wild boar problem in the province, and urge the provincial government to create solid initiatives.

Dr. Ryan Brook with the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture is leading the research project. Brook has been studying wild boar in Saskatchewan for some time, and recently published a study on their numbers. He says that because of the high reproduction rate of the boar, and the lack of organized eradication programs, the boar are a serious threat.

"We know from our previous surveys that boar are widespread in the southern half of Saskatchewan. There are lots of reports saying they are expanding, and there is definite reason to have concerns about where this might go. There is a real potential that if we don't start doing something significant, we could have more feral swine in Saskatchewan than people," Brook explains.

He says what has to happen to effectively develop a method for controlling the population is more understanding, which he hopes can come of the research project that is underway in Moose Mountain Regional Park. Over the course of the winter, Brook's team will be trapping wild boar and fitting 20 of them with GPS collars to track their location.

"With our collaring project, the big question is dispersal. We know animals stay where they were born for a certain period of time, but what often happens, especially

in young males, but also others, is they will disperse. The question we need to answer is where do they go, and how far do they travel?"

The collaring is almost ready to begin in Moose Mountain, with University of Saskatchewan masters student Ryan Powers, and Shelby Adams, a local technical assistant on the project, waiting for final logistics from the university before heading out to find and trap boars.

"We're looking at wild boar movements, their dispersal, the ecology of the animal, and hopefully, we can deploy these collars to gain insight on what these animals are doing throughout the year," says Powers. "To my knowledge, there's no research like this in Canada on wild boars, so we are hoping to get some information by deploying those collars and try to get a better understanding for better management decisions on what to do with wild boar."

Down at Kenosee Park, the trail cameras are ready to be deployed to track boar movements, traps are ready to be set where boar are active, collars are ready to be placed on the animals, and full analysis kits are packed and prepared for gathering hair, blood, and fecal samples, and other information to further understand the ecology of the boar and any prevalence of disease that could be transferable to livestock. In preparation for the fieldwork, Powers and Adams have been collecting information from ranchers, local people, and the Moose Mountain Wild Boar Eradication Committee to know where to begin to track the boar for trapping and collaring.

"Right now, what we have been doing is surveying the land, looking for crop damage that the boars have done, talking to landowners and the RMs so once we get the green light, we know where they are," Adams says.

Brickley says this research will be valuable to solving the boar problem in the region, and the committee has been working with the research team on tracking boar.

"We think this project will be extremely valuable in the data it will collect for future efforts, and primarily for educating the public and various ministries in government—people have not comprehended the potential problem that is looming ahead for us, so this potential data they collect will be crucial in terms of following the groups and finding out what is happening. We view it as extremely important," Brickley says.

The biggest concern right now is to put a temporary pause on hunting the boar down, so the researchers have a better chance to trapping and collaring boar.

"If you just shoot a pig, there could be 10 more in the bush that you don't know about. So, when you shoot a pig off your back deck, you're one step behind them. By tracking them, we are trying to get two steps ahead of them. Once you collar a pig, you can learn from it and figure out where it prefers to be, you can start predicting where they are going to be, so you can work on eradicating in larger numbers," Adams says. "We want to spread the word that we understand that it's a problem, we certainly don't want them in our province, and the ultimate goal is to get rid of them, but you have to get data on them first to do that effectively."

Brook hopes that once the data is gathered, it will aid in convincing the province that more aggressive action needs to be taken to tackle the issue.

"Basically, from the province's view, it's a localized distribution, and we haven't seen a lot of impacts yet, so they don't consider it a top priority—but they should be high on the priority list. Globally, we see the impact. Last year, France alone killed 600,000 pigs. In Germany, wild boar will wander into city parks in the middle of the day. We don't want to end up there," he says. "Here in Moose Mountain, the eradication group has been doing the best job in Western Canada in taking active action . . . there is active progress here, but they realize they could continue to do this for next hundred years, and certainly still have pigs showing up. We have to have recognition that there's a need for a bigger view of this—We need more widespread, consistent, and aggressive efforts for control."



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KEY

Rodeo community mourning loss of friend

BY DARRELL NESBITT
 Like a cowboy riding off into the sunset on a movie screen, the memories—oh so golden—of a man deeply enriched by the lifestyle of ranching, rodeo and riding with his family at home and on the road, will be forever etched in the minds of countless friends.
 “The outpouring of sympathy has been amazing,” said daughter Lacey, as she spoke of the death of her father Terry Marshall of Rapid City, Man. “He definitely touched thousands of lives. It’s really kept us going, knowing how many people cared about him as much as we did.”

At the age of 64, Terry died at home on Tuesday, January 6 as a result of a massive heart attack.

Rodeo nurtures the close family ties that make life rich. And for that he was blessed to be able to rodeo with his three daughters—Kelly-Jo of Melville, Sask., Lacey of Strathclair, Man. and Jerri-Lynn of Brandon, Man.

Through various rodeo associations, including the Heartland Rodeo Association (HRA), formed in 1995 to give families an avenue to compete and bond within the province of Manitoba, a ranch family from a small prairie town became fully involved. Through involvement they lived the Cowboy’s Prayer: “Heavenly Father, we pause, mindful of the many blessings You have bestowed upon us. We ask that You be with us at this rodeo and we pray that You will guide us in the arena of life. We don’t ask

for special favors. We don’t ask to draw around a chute fightin’ horse or to never break a barrier. Nor do we ask for all daylight runs or not to draw a steer that won’t lay; Help us Lord, to live our lives in such a manner that when we make that last inevitable ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush, green and stirrup high, and the water runs cool, clear and deep, that You as our last judge, will tell us that our entry fees are paid.”

AWARDS TELL STORIES

It can be said that belt buckles are the trophies of the rodeo world and they tell their own stories.

For many of us, including myself, Terry is remembered from a pickup man’s standpoint. One of the best on the circuit, he didn’t back down from many circumstances and was well known for his prowess of removing ornery or stubborn bulls out of the arena.

Stock contractors from Manitoba (Top Line, Seven Cross Ranch), Saskatchewan (Prime Time Rodeos, Prairie Rodeo) and Alberta (Whiteline Rodeo) also knew his worth.

At the HRA’s 2014 finals hosted by the community of Carman, Terry was honored with the Cowboy of the Year award. Very appreciative but yet humble, Terry also was blessed to win a number of other awards including his pride and joy—a trophy saddle presented by the Manitoba Rodeo Cowboys Association (MRCA) in 1979.

He was the MRCA Finals Champion in team roping



Terry Marshall, left, and Cam Mason of Killarney watch the Canadian flag being paraded at Minnedosa Heartland Rodeo this past summer.

in 1986, the MRCA 1994 Pick-up Man of the Year, HRA Finals Champion Header in 1996, and was gunning for the HRA Finals Champion Heeler honor, when his life was cut far too short.

“He was extremely proud to win the team penning buckle, alongside Karen Krueger, at Agribition in Regina in 2000,” stated Lacey. “They were the only Manitobans to ever win the buckle.”

With rodeo being a part of Terry, it was only fitting his wisdom and knowl-

edge was passed down to three extremely talented cowgirls cheered on by his second wife Kathy. Granddaughter Emma-Dee Marshall, Kelly-Jo’s little girl, was a gem in a proud grandfather’s eyes.

RODEO IS LIFE

Lacey said that one thing as sisters they promised each other was not to quit rodeo—a foundation built

on family and friends.

“My dad built his farm by himself, and built it into what it is, and we promised we’re not going to let it go,” she said.

Her older sister, Kelly-Jo, stands behind that decision. “I am very proud to say Terry Marshall was not only my dad, but also raised me when his first marriage went south.

While I basically grew up riding on a seat of a truck, I learned a lot from the man I so dearly loved.”

Others saw him as a kind-hearted soul, who cherished sharing jokes with acquaintances, away from the world of work, rodeo or horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides at community events.

Continued on page 25

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Marshall will be missed

Continued from page 24

His quips were many. "You look like an old lady throwing a dish towel into a sink," was one of many expressed to Lacey while practicing team roping at the Cathcart farm near Neepawa. He always reminded his daughters to get their britches moving, as rodeo was not a social event, however, from their perspective it was just that.

His life also focused around livestock inspecting, PFRA pasture riding, and his M2 Ranch hayrides that shared old-fashioned values with youth.

LIKE A COWBOY
With rodeo being a cornerstone of Terry's life, when Rapid City held its first rodeo in 1997, it was dedicated to Terry's son Dane, who died as a result of a tragic farming accident at the age of three in 1990.

"The impact of our father's death is evident," Lacey said. "Like a cowboy we will share stories, fond memories and cherish the awards, and life's pleasures of a man, strong on talent, and dedicated to the wonderful sport of rodeo."

Friends, family and colleagues came together to celebrate the life of Terry Marshall on Saturday, January 24 at the Victoria Inn, Brandon.

Pure poetry in motion easily describes the movement of pick-up men working a rodeo. Flat out saving a cowboy's life in a split second, it was not to be to save the precious life of a man, whose source of happiness included his

horse Tardy, warm sunshine, and the sweet smell of a bronc's uneasiness.

A legend known as Terry Marshall will forever live on, as his winning cowboy smile sums up the miles of love, passion, and dedication to not only the sport

but, perhaps more heart-warming, to his family.

When a loved one becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure!

Darrell Nesbitt is a fan of rodeo, living in Shoal Lake, Man.

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Activities for all at Asessippi Ski Resort

Continued from page 1

Guillas says the adaptive ski program is something the resort is proud of, and it has received a lot of support.

"No kid left out—that's the way it should be. With school programs, everybody should be able to participate if they want to, and we're proud of that program."

Aside from CADS instruction, Asessippi also offers lessons in skiing and boarding to anyone from about 30 certified instructors.

Guillas says the resort is always looking at improving the winter experience for guests—one goal is to get the ski hills open earlier each year. The resort is typically open from early December until April, but they plan to invest more money into the snow-making technology to hopefully have the hills ready for guests even earlier than that.

"We're going to continue to expand money into our snow-making, which can be very costly. We want to get open earlier and earlier every year," Guillas says. "We have 27 runs on the ski hill, but we're going to work to develop more bush trails and more features around the resort for winter—we'll continue to enhance trails, do landscaping, and create large gas-powered fire pits outside in our courtyard, so we'll do more things to increase ambience."

While the resort is busiest in the winter time, it is not without its activities all year round.

"We have the Shell River valley that is stunning and picturesque in the summer, very peaceful and tranquil. So, the cottagers that live here have a really awesome lifestyle, because in the winter, it is busy and active, and in the spring, summer, and fall, it's lush, it's green, and very quiet," Guillas says. "But we have a lot happening in the summer. We do dance camps in the summertime—that has been happening for the last 12 years, we work with a dance company out of Russell, and Brandon that offers



Above right: A unique feature of Asessippi's ski hill is the cabin, serving burgers and drinks halfway down the ski hill. The cabin is made entirely of logs from the property cleared to make trails. Above left: Students in the Aces program with their instructor.

high end dance classes. As well, the wedding market is large, and we do about 15 weddings a summer here, and the Trans Canada trail comes through the property as well, so we do hiking and biking."

Guillas says there are plans to expand summer activities at the resort, including the development of biking trails that are similar to the ski hills, with beginner, intermediate, and expert runs.

"Mountain biking is like skiing, and these will be professionally built trails, they will be first class. You can be a parent pulling your kids behind you on the beginner trails, and you progress to harder trails. In time we'll get there. It's about \$100,000 a kilometre to build a bike trail, so at some point, we will spend a \$1 million to do 10 kilometres of bike trail on the hill. Our drawings are done, we know where they will go, but we'll get a few dollars ahead before we go into that. So, that will be our significant attraction," Guillas says. "Then we will have cluster features as well, like ziplines and that sort of thing—but that will all come with time.

We're going to focus on doing winter really well first, and perfecting our wedding market."

The resort employs around 200 people, and to the people working in the resort, and the cottagers living in Cottage Cove on the resort, it is more than just a ski hill—it's a community.

"Our cottage community is a really fun open group—they hold parties every Saturday from 4 to 6:30 that cottagers host. They host these parties for everyone in their basements or living room or on the deck, and it's a lot of fun—you drink, laugh, make friends," says Guillas. "The best thing about being here in the winter time is you don't have to ski or board to have fun. . . . Some people have described the atmosphere here as Canada in the 50s and 60s, with that sense of community—we see it as Canada when everyone was involved in the community."

The other family at Asessippi is the employees—the resort is known for bringing in international workers from Australia, New Zealand, and other countries through the International Exchange Program. Around 20-30

Aussies and Kiwis are recruited to work at the resort each winter. Some of the workers are there for the season, some come back, and some stay.

Hannah Stollery works at the ski resort in the kitchen, and last November, she arrived with other workers from New Zealand for a seasonal job. Now, Stollery is still in Canada, and applying for permanent residency.

"I was originally going to leave after the season, but I fell in love with this place—as well as with a guy, but I've really come to love the snow here," she says. "I think because it is so different. It's not something you're used to. Here, you can look outside and see hoarfrost on the trees, when everything is so beautiful, with all the white and everything—I find it absolutely beautiful and fascinating living here," she says.

The best thing about working at the resort for Stollery is the people.

"I love the people that work here, we have a really good group of fun people to work with. This year, 16 Aussies and Kiwis were hired, and we have some people

from England and Germany too. Everyone stays at the bunkhouse or hotel in Inglis, and it's neat having a bunch of new people come in—they're all so bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and keen and eager to do a good job here. We have a great group this year."

Guillas says these workers from overseas are an integral part of the resort.

"In the last five years, I don't know how we'd operate the resort without them. In addition, they add so much fun and education and culture to our small town in rural Manitoba—we have 20-30 kids per year from Australia and New Zealand here, and they visit, mingle, and become friends with our local kids. Because of that our local kids don't grow up ignorant, they learn about these countries, they visit back and forth, and we become better people," he says.

"We need to meet people from all over the world, learn about different cultures, and then you become more accepting and understanding and tolerant of others. I think it's healthy for both our business and citizens to have that."

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