Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

February 2022 • Volume 15 Number 2



Left: This little gem situated among towering snow covered pines imbues a person with spiritual wonder. It is a medieval Norman design in the middle of the RM Wawken, Sas-katchewan. St. Paul's Anglican Church, built with fieldstone Langbank, near was built in 1938 by Charles Parker, a stonemason originally from Ontario. The church and cemetery are surrounded by hundreds of evergreen trees planted in 1940. Quite a picturesque scene.

Below: A barn near Langbank.

Taking snapshots of the past takes the 'Chasing Yesterday' duo down many Saskatchewan roads

BY DONNA BEUTLER

Taking a look at the past, be it seeing an old church or building or old truck or car, may fill us with nostalgia, wonder or a wish for what some of us may think of as "simpler times," but for Susan Brazill and Emery Wolfe of Regina, it's a bit more of an art form than many may realize. These two have taken their love of photography and love of all things "old" and they now share their amazing photos daily on their Facebook page.

And it's not just Brazill and Wolfe who are excited about Chasing Yesterday's Facebook s also their followers-30,000 of them in fact. While it's mostly Canadian and American followers, they do have people from almost every continent including the U.K., Australia and South Africa. For Susan Brazill, a visual artist, her inspiration comes from stepping away from the screen and taking drives around Saskatchewan, no matter what the season.

rural Saskatchewan through my photographs and the stories and poems I write," Brazill said in a recent interview. "I leave very early in the morning and post photographs and stories every day on the highly successful and engaging collaborative 'Chasing Yesterday' Facebook page," she added.

For Wolfe, who grew up in small-town Saskatchewan (Lanigan) where he was obsessed with hockey, spending time at the pool, hunt-ing gophers at friends' farms, and family fishing trips down "the Hanson Lake Road," he also (obviously) loves photography.

Besides



"I love capturing the nostalgia of abandoned

making fun of Susan," he says with a chuckle, "I like music, movies and hockey, but I'd be remiss if I didn't say photography.'

For Wolfe, he started out with film, went on to video and kind of settled on 'camera stuff.' "I can talk pretty endlessly about camera stuff; I'm pretty sure it's boring to most of the non-camera obsessed world," he says.

Continued on page 21



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February 2022

Plain and Valley

Sharpe's Burger Blitz back for a second year

Barn, with 626 burgers

over the week. The staff

in charge was absolutely

blown away with the sup-

port from the community

and the success we had

from the restaurants in-

She says the success of

As a company we had a

Burger Blitz week exceed-

ed Šharpe's Crop Services

goal of selling 100 burgers

that week, and gave each

restaurant just 50 tickets

for the week, thinking that

would be enough. So we

were very wrong. After

the first day two restau-

rants phoned us and said

they were out of tickets

and that we need to bring

be taking place is from February 22 to February

The week the event will

Miller and Senkowski

says that individuals can

follow their Facebook page

for more information on

the details of Burger Blitz

week, at: Sharpe's Crop

Services on Facebook.

more," says Senkowski.

volved."

26.

expectations.

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Sharpe's Crop Services has announced their upcoming Burger Blitz week will be back for a second year. The event is in support of Agriculture Week in February.

Sharpe's Branch Manager Hayley Senkowski said Burger Blitz will be happening from February 22 to February 26 and will be supporting local businesses.

"It's important to have conversations about where your food comes from, and supporting Canadian agriculture as well as locally sourced ingredients," says Senkowski.

"The concept of the Burger Blitz came from a burger being able to showcase many ingredients made from agriculture, besides the fact that they're delicious."

The seven restaurants involved last year were the Red Barn, the Witch's Brew, Dairy Queen, TJ's Pizza, Cork & Bone Bistro, Fleming Windsor, and the Crate House. This year the Nutrien Sportsplex will also add a burger into the mix.

Each of the restaurants will come up with a burger that only uses Canadian ingredients and those who order one of the Burger Blitz burgers, will be entered into a draw to win \$500 in Moosomin Bucks—every purchase of a Burger Blitz burger a customer eats, will give them another entry.

"Thank you to everyone who participated last year, and who supported the restaurants and those who bought a burger," says Carly Miller of Sharpe's Crop Services.

"This year we are putting up another \$500 in Moosomin bucks, to encourage the support of local restaurants and homemade burgers. We are challenging every participating restaurant to create something new and to give their burger a unique name this year, so it will be something different.

"In conjunction with the Burger Blitz, Sharpe's is also going to be making a donation to the Moosomin Food Bank, in the spirit of Canadian agriculture as well."

Senkowski says last year's Burger Blitz sold more than 2,000 burgers.

"In our first year, the community ate 2,443 burgers and the restaurant that sold the most was the Red

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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Last year, seven local restaurants took part in Sharpe's Crop Services Burger Blitz, where each sold their

own personalized burgers using only Canadian ingredients. Participants who try the different burgers, will be entered to win \$500 in Moosomin Bucks. Above is one of th burgers from last year's event.



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WHY?

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DAY

SHARPE'S

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Redvers Medical Centre Emergency Service partially reopens



The Redvers Health Centre

by Sierra D'Souza Butts

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER Emergency services at the Redvers Health Centre were to resume effective 8 a.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022.

It will be a partial reopening, as the emergency department will be open limited hours at first.

Emergency services will be available from 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, seven days per week starting Feb. 7.

Due to challenges with recruitment and retention, 24-hour emergency services were temporarily closed on September 24, 2021.

All acute care and Alternate Level of Care (ALC) beds were also temporarily closed.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) says it is fully committed to completely re-opening emergency services, and resuming admissions to acute care and ALC beds at Redvers Health Centre

SHA said this will be done through a phased approach that stabilizes services and builds capacity while minimizing service disruptions.

Bulbuck ecstatic

"We are ecstatic that the hospital reopening has been announced," said Redvers mayor Brad Bulbuck.

"We are encouraged they are opening. We are hopeful this is leading to a permanent opening sometime in the near future.

"This is excellent for the community of Redvers and all the surrounding areas that are part of the Southeast Medical Group. "We thank our residents for their patience through this trying time and appreciate all the support that we have received from the communities with respect to getting the hospital reopened. In my opinion, this is just the beginning. We want to get it open full time.

"I would like thank the Redvers Health Foundation and the Southeast Medical Group for all their hard work, recruitment of nurses, and negotiations with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the provincial government to get the hospital reopened," Bulbuck said.

Bulbuck said Andrew Will, interim CEO for the Saskatchewan Health Authority, reached out to the community. "He reached out to us on Feb. 2," he says. "They wanted to do a meet and greet with Redvers town council. Myself, three councillors and our CAO sat in on our video conference today, and it was Andrew Will and Dr. Kevin Wasko.

"It was a very encouraging conversation and Andrew Will relayed to us that it was the Saskatchewan Health Authority's priority to reopen some of these smaller community hospitals that have had disruptions in the past little while.

"He asked us for input on what we see as something that could enhance health care in the region. And one of the things I recommended to him was board representation from all the small communities in our area, to act as an advisory board and provide grassroots, boots-onthe-ground communication to SHA.

"He asked for feedback. I didn't specifically get into all the negotiation and the hardships we experienced over the past six months, but I did talk about how there needs to be more transparency and communication both between the SHA and grassroots level as well as from the SHA up to the provincial government and the ministers.

"One thing I talked about in our meeting too is the partnership that all the communities in the southeast region have. The Southeast Medical Group makes up the 11 communities and municipalities of our region where their care is delivered through the Redvers hospital. And I talked about how these communities all raised money that went into the Redvers hospital, how they provided their volunteerism and time and effort and trying to get the hospital built and open."

Continued on page 18







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Province launches mental health campaign

by Sierra D'Souza Butts

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER The Government of Saskatchewan has launched a public awareness campaign to help address the stigma often experienced by those facing mental health and addictions issues.

The theme of the campaign—There is Help, There is Hope—focuses on changing the perceptions individuals have on mental health and addictions, and to reduce the stigma surrounding it.

Through different platforms, people from Saskatchewan will share their personal stories about their experience of addictions, mental health issues, or have counselled people with those experiences.

The campaign includes newspapers, television, cinema, radio, billboard, transit buses, and social media. The radio spots will be translated into Cree and Dene as well.

Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley spoke with Plain & Valey about what the provincial government hopes to achieve from this campaign.

What do you hope to accomplish from this campaign?

What we did through the ministry of mental health and addictions, and the government of Saskatchewan, we launched a new mental health awareness campaign about reducing the stigma. The campaign theme is There is Help, There is Hope.

What it focuses on is changing the underlying attitudes, behaviors and beliefs that contribute to the stigma.

We've partnered with a number of Saskatchewan folks, some are actresses, musicians, some are social media influencers, some are addictions councillors, some are people with lived experiences who are using their voice to help promote that there's an opportunity for people, and a powerful message of hope and recovery for folks, by sharing their stories to help reach as many people as possible as we can.

To let people across Saskatchewan know that in these particularly challenging times we're facing, in this second year of the pandemic which is making things more stressful for everyone, but I think that's what the message is about.

Which is trying to help promote awareness about mental health issues and to let people know that they aren't alone facing these challenges.

For individuals who are currently facing mental health and addiction issues, how will this campaign help them?

There's a number of different areas where we try to provide help and offer support to people out there.

The Government of Saskatchewan funds a number of services and supports across this province, as part of our overall mental health and addictions budget," says Hindley.

That can include any number of things, whether it's outpatient treatments for adults, children and youth. There are services in a number of centres and smaller clinics around the province for screening and assessments services, there's consultation services, acute mental health impatient services in our major eight centres as well.

Psychiatric rehabilitation, including community residential supports, then of course Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, is providing a more in-depth support for people.

Continued on Page 6 🖙



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Jennifer Gray is a certified Interior Decorator, Certified Colour Consultant and a Certified Aging In Place Consultant from the QC Design School.

Mental health campaign launched by Sask government

Continued from Page 5 In addition to that, I think what the campaign is about is letting people know that there is help out there, and it's helping to promote conversation amongst folks.

If you listen to some of the messages in some of the videos that we released, there's everything, from recommending people that they speak to their doctors, talk to your family on a regular basis, reach out to your friends and neighbors, and make sure that you take time each and every day as much as you can, to take time out for yourself, and to participate in activities that help you de-stress and improve your own mental health.

I think it's a combination of things in terms of that, as we try to focus on ending the stigma as part of this week's launch of this new awareness campaign.

As part of the focus for this weeks launch of the campaign, we've done other awareness campaigns in previous years, but this is fairly a substantial one. It was built into this year's budget for increased sup-

ports for mental health and addiction services here in Saskatchewan, but I think part of the goal of this is for individuals and people across the province to recognize that you truly aren't alone in this.

There's all kinds of people across this province and some are former Saskatchewan residents that live abroad right now who are famous individuals, who have faced mental health and addiction challenges throughout their lives and some of these folks are social media influencers in our own backyard, some are addictions councillors and some are people with their own lived experiences that can tell their story.

I think what that helps to do is that it helps people realize that they might not be alone.

That they might have a personal situation that might be very similar to any one of these individuals who's participated in the media campaign, and it makes you recognize and realize why your challenges may be unique to your own individual situation.

It does let you know that you truly aren't alone in some of these matters, but I think that helps promote conversation, and it helps promote awareness around some of the mental health challenges that each and every one of us face.

In regards to the success of the campaign, how do you expect to track the results?

As a formal metric I think what we're going to do is taking a look at the number of calls and emails that might come into help lines as an example.

To track some of the information and data that comes through the website links and videos that are going to be shared through social media, take a look at some of those social media metrics, the views, that sort of thing.

On a more informal basis, we'll also be taking feedback from stakeholders and the general public into account, to hear from people about what they think, about what worked, and perhaps some areas that we need to do a little better on.

But, I think that's how we're going to try and track it as best as we can, through some of those metrics.

Is this campaign's target audience people who are currently facing mental health and addiction issues, or is it directed to individuals who don't fully understand the effects of mental health?

It's a bit of both, I think the target audience truly is everyone. It's for people that might be struggling with mental health on their own and mental health challenges right now, to let them know that they aren't alone, that there are resources available to try and promote those opportunities for folks.

In addition to that, there's a lot of promotion around mental health in this particular week here, in the province and nationally as well.

But in addition to providing some avenues and ideas for people who are faced with mental health challenges, it also helps promotes the issue for everyone else, for all of us t



Everett Hindley, minister responsible for mental health and addictions

versation to know that it's okay to reach out for help, that it's okay to say you might be struggling, to know that it's not something to be ashamed of, and to be able to reach out to talk to others.

If you look at some of the videos a part of this campaign and some of the folks who are participating in it, you get everyone from addiction councillors, there's people with lived experience, people who are social media influencers, to some fairly famous individuals who are from Saskatchewan. It just goes to show mental health affects each and every one of us.

How will people who don't have access to technology, be reached by the awareness campaign?

I think there are a number of avenues that people

could access, we're trying to reach people through a number of different means whether it's through social media, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, also through traditional media like TV, radio stations, newspapers, that sort of thing

We're trying to get the message out as broadly as we can. In terms of being able to view the videos, I'm sure folks can probably get access through their local public library for example, to see some of these links. Again, we'll feature them very prominently through the campaign over these next couple of months here, and make sure we get the message out to as many people as possible.

It does help put a face on the issue of mental health not just in our province, but across Canada, and I think it localizes it a bit for us here. When you see some folks that are well known, whether it's people who are from the entertainment industry and have a large following who are well known for that reason, but I also think through other social media influencers and those who are people who have lived experience, can speak about most importantly, how they have faced their challenges head on and what they've done to turn their lives around.

I think those are some of the most powerful messages coming from people like that, who share their personal experiences and I just think that if we can get the message out there, you never know, that could be the difference that might save a life.

Somebody can hear, or read about that message, and realize that they truly aren't here alone in this and that there might be someone that's quite well known, who's faced a mental challenge that is similar to their own.

This year, the province has invested a record \$458 million in mental health and addictions supports and services, accounting for 7.5 per cent of the overall Health Budget.



I don't think it's a stress to say that each and every one of us, has something in our lives and has good times and bad times.

There's times you know where you're really feeling under a lot of pressure and under a lot of stress, part of the other goal of this campaign is to continue the con-



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Wawota assisted living project in the works

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM **INITIATIVE REPORTER**

Wawota's Assisted Living Committee recently received a \$25,000 grant from the federal government in support of an upcoming project to build a space for seniors who are in need of assisted living in the area.

"We've been wanting to get something going for the seniors here in Wawota," says Kevin Kay, chair of the committee.

"We've watched individuals, even over the last two years, who had to pack up and head somewhere else like Regina, Kipling, Moosomin or wherever. But we've just watched this exodus of seniors leaving and I'm looking at it going, if we had a facility here, then they wouldn't have to do that."

Although the town has a long-term care facility-Deer View Lodge— there is no place in the community for seniors who are in need of minimal assistance.

"Deer View Lodge is an acute care centre, and there's no step in between of them living on their own and going to the nursing home, so this would be that intermediate step" Kay says.

"They just need some help doing things around the house. They need help doing the simple things we tend to take for granted, but even just providing a meal in a common room it would be significant for a number of individuals."

He says it's important for seniors to have a place in Wawota because it's a community that they are used to, and a community that they belong to.

"This is their home to them, and to move to



Chair of the Assisted Living Committee project in Wawota, Kevin Kay, says the committee is still looking for a location to build the facility in town.

somewhere else you're just out of sight and out of mind," he says.

"For these people who have grown up in the community, you know to leave is really hard for a lot of them. So just been wondering and investigating what the possibilities are, of meeting that need here in the community is rather exciting so we put together the project and we're seeing where we are going."

Although the committee project started in fall of 2019, the Assisted Living Committee did not receive the grant until 2021, due to funding opportunities and lack of being able to have in-person meetings.

kay says receiving the grant brought him joy because it means that the project is still underway.

'It's a breath of fresh air really, because it really gives the project some legitimacy and it really does help us getting down to that next step.'

Right now the Assisted

Living Committee is in the process of looking for a location for the facility, and have already applied for a federal government grant of \$150,000.

'We're in the process right now of looking for a location, we're looking at size, there's a number of things we have to take into consideration, but we will be starting right from scratch and putting together this facility," says

Kay. "It's just a matter of finding a location and seeing if we can actually purchase the land. Ideally we would like to have it donated, but if we have to purchase it then we need cash for that and a bunch of other things.'

We haven't started fundraising as of yet, as far as looking for other sources of income to begin the project, but we want to at least get the momentum rolling so that we can then put together brochures, put together prospects for what this project is going to look like."

Kay says the grant the committee applied for, would be their seed money for the building of the project.

"Ít's another federal grant, CMHC, and that is pure seed money for organizations like ourselves. At the stage where we are because they understand that a project like this, really does need seed money to start the investigation. To see if this is a viable project, if you are putting together brochures or holding meetings, and all those sorts of things."

The next step to move forward with the project Kay says is to find a location in Wawota, to build the Assisted Living facil-

ity. "The next step is to se-

cure a location and once that is secure, we'll start putting a design, we'll start putting together a

specific plan for the facil-ity."

part of the Assisted Liv-

ing Committee, including Kay, continue to look for The four individuals a an ideal spot for their upcoming project.

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No excuses to not wear your seatbelt RCMP member shares top 10 list of excuses that won't get you out of a ticket

What's your excuse for not wearing your seatbelt? Whatever your reason, it's not a good one and it won't get you out of a ticket.

"Śimply put, people who don't wear their seatbelts are—sadly—much more likely to be killed in a vehicle crash," said Penny McCune, Chief Operating Officer of the Auto Fund. "Consider this: more than one-third of all vehicle occupants who died in Saskatchewan auto collisions last year were not buckled up. That level of overrepresentation is concerning, since the vast majority of people do wear their seatbelts."

Sgt. Dallyn Holmstrom, Detachment Commander of the Carlyle RCMP, recently compiled a list of excuses he's heard from drivers who failed to buckle up. (These did not work; they still received a \$175 ticket.)

"Ask any police officer and they'll tell you—the list of excuses they've heard from people not wearing their seatbelts is long," said Sgt. Holmstrom. "But really there is no excuse for not wearing one. That applies to both drivers and passengers. It's really one of the easiest things you can do to help keep yourself and your passengers safe in the event of a collision—simply ensure everyone is buckled up before you get going."

We're sharing Sgt. Holmstrom's list of seatbelt excuses below, along with our responses.

Top 10 excuses that won't get you out of a seatbelt ticket

1. "I'm a careful driver. I don't need a seat belt." Even if that were true, being the world's best driver doesn't guarantee you'll never be in a collision. You're not the only one on the road. There are other vehicles (some driven by drivers who may be less careful than you). There's wildlife. There's icy patches and road hazards. Good drivers get in collisions, too.

2. "Wearing a seat belt makes me feel restrained."

That's the point. You're restrained. When a vehicle comes to a sudden stop, being restrained means your soft body won't keep moving until it hits something solid and unforgiving. Objects in motion tend to stay in motion.



Sgt. Dallyn Holmstrom

3. "Seat belts are uncomfortable."

Here's what's super uncomfortable: Slamming chestfirst into a steering column, being partially ejected as your vehicle rolls on top of you, or even just being tossed around your vehicle like the last peanut in a can. If you don't like wearing a seatbelt, you're really not going to like being strapped onto a stretcher.

4. "I forget to buckle up sometimes."

That's weird, since your vehicle almost certainly has some sort of buzz or ding to remind you to put it on.

5. "I'm too big to wear a seat belt."

If you fit into a vehicle, you can wear a seatbelt.

6. "I'm not travelling very far or very fast."

A collision can happen close to home. And you don't have to be travelling at highway speeds for a crash to severely injure you. Coming to a sudden stop at 50 km/h turns a 70 kg person into a 1,400 kg projectile. Even if you work out, you're not strong enough to brace yourself for that impact.

7. "I want to be able to exit the car quickly."

Not wearing a seatbelt in a collision means that you will exit the vehicle quickly. Unfortunately, it could be through the windshield...face first.

8. "I don't want to get stuck inside the car during a crash."

You don't want to be ejected. Trust us on this one. You're two to three times more likely to die if you're ejected from your vehicle. The body of your vehicle is meant to absorb the energy of an impact and keep the passenger compartment intact, but you need to buckle up for that to keep you safe. Not wearing your seatbelt does increase the chance you'll be knocked unconscious or physically incapacitated in a crash, and unable to free yourself.

9. "Seatbelts cause injuries during crashes."

Think about it: If you're in a severe enough collision that a properly worn seatbelt bruises you, the injuries that you would have suffered if you weren't wearing it would have been worse. A lot worse.

10. "I'm driving a bigger vehicle that will protect me in case of a crash."

If your jacked-up truck hits a tree, a ditch, or even a cute little Fiat going the opposite direction, you're still going to wish you wore a seatbelt.

Contact an Agriculture Specialist

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program Helps Fund On-Farm Water Projects

The maximum rebate for livestock producers has been temporarily increased and the deadline for project completion has been extended. Livestock producers who submit a preliminary application for their project by March 31, 2022, now have until Sept. 30, 2022 to complete their project and submit for a rebate.



8



The Ministry of Agriculture has 10 regional offices around the province. To connect with a specialist near you, call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre.

> **Toll-free number:** 1-866-457-2377 **Email address:** aginfo@gov.sk.ca

saskatchewan.ca/agriculture

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Winter calves and winter sports

Now that we are well past Christmas (and oh how wonderful it was to gather together with family), I know I have to set my focus on those dreaded farm books and finishing up our year end. I am pretty sure there's a puzzle somewhere that will allow me to procrastinate on this for awhile longer.

Meanwhile, down on the farm, calving season has begun. I received a message from the twins (10 years old) the other morning just before they were to get on the bus: "You guys had two calves this morning." Hhmmmm, I wondered to myself, does that mean one cow had twins or two cows each had one. We only have two cows so there were only two options and I obviously wouldn't hear back from the boys until after school, though I would find out from hubby when he got home from chores.

The answer to my "twins?" question was answered after school (from the man of few words): "Yup." I countered with: "I need to buy more cows if we only have two left. I will never make any money with just two cows." His response? "Two cows and three calves is good money." Well, I guess he has a point, though by the time these two babies get some supplemental milk via the good old bottle I have my doubts.

Of course my contribution to the whole cattle business (of which we have nearly zero lol) is to wish my hubby a good morning when he leaves the house every morning to help with chores. It seems I like the coziness and warmth of home much more than those minus 30 days we had.

Minus 30 and high wind chills on many days doesn't stop the twins from their love of the outdoors. A stop at the farm on a bitterly cold day saw them out playing fetch with the dog, a hilarious game of both dog and boys looking for the ball in a foot or more of snow. While they did come in to warm up for a couple of minutes, they certainly didn't take my advice to stay in, so back out they went, never at a loss of things to do. From snowmobiling to their love of hunting to their love of being outdoors all the time, I am reminded of the little boy I raised in that same farmyard so long



ago. It's like seeing two minis of my son.

My question to the boys when they finally came inside about the number of calves they had so far was met with two different answers, different by not one but two. And so to the calf record book they went to confirm the exact number. And the debate was settled in short order!

Life on the farm continues with its daily duties, regardless of the cold or snow. And no small amount of snow either. It may present its own set of problems on the farm or at the very least lots of snow plowing, but if nothing else, it's so pretty and the grandkids abso-lutely love it. As for the wind—yeah, well there's nothing pretty (ever) about that!

On a recent visit to see my youngest grandchildren in Regina, my grandson (7) came running to me with a huge smile and asked, "Do you know what the coolest job in the world would be?" Of course, I had NO idea. He continued with, "To work for the government!" He was just beaming and I didn't want to burst his bubble by saying I would check with his dad on that. And then he added, "Or to be a mayor." He thought being a mayor would be even better, so I said, "What about premier? That would be an awesome job!" He nodded

happily as I once again thought to myself, "Hhmmm, I wonder if Scott Moe thinks the same." If this 7-yearold were mayor, he says, he would make sure everyone gets two birthdays a year-one at the one-year mark and one at the half-year mark!

This winter has brought an opportunity we didn't have much of last year—to be able to watch our grandkids in their sports activities. I love that some of them are curling and I am often reminded of my growing up years in the forests of Northwest Ontario, where the old two-ice wooden rinks could be found in every community, big or small. Now my grandkids are learning the game in the beautiful curling facility in Whitewood with its bright lights and padded spectator chairs. But no matter where you play or played the game, it's the best game out there!

As for hockey, we've seen a few games and practises from the youngest's (7) to the older ones (10). In fact, Grandpa told the boys the other day as they prepared to play against a team known to be a bit more formidable than their team, to be sure to score at least three goals each. Their response, considering their next game was to be against a team a bit less formidable than they, was for both to say (at the same time of course) "Next game maybe!'

Well, it's time to move a little closer to the fireplace. It may be sunnier and warmer out today but as the wind blows and swirls the snow off the roofs, it seems like the kind of day I don't have any intention of going out

So to all our farmer friends out there, don't let the cold seep into your bones-or your heart for that matter. We live in interesting times and if you are like me, I don't really wish to be reminded that we are but a few weeks off from the two-year mark of when this pandemic hit our province and we are all so tired of it. It's been a LONG time. Still, we soldier on, and if we can tackle life with a bit of humour and lots of positivity, then we will be better off for it. Take care out there on the farm, folks-you are an integral part of our rural communities!

PRE-OWNED NEW TRAILERS ARE ARRIVING WEEKLY! TRAVEL TRAILERS WE ARE SO EXCITED FOR CAMPING SEASON! ARE YOU? 2022 **DR-Z400S** The 2022 DR-Z400S newest version of the modern DualSport movement, starting DR350S the with and now with the DR-Z400S. Suzuki makes 2022 Dutchmen Coleman Rubicon fun, reliable, and capable motorcycles available to The 2022 Dutchmen Coleman Rubicon 1708BH makes your adventures comfortable and relaxing sleeps up to 4. Trailtech BD2-12 V-Nose anyone Riders will be impressed with the amount of torque coming from the 398cc, liquid-cooled powerplant, crisp handling from the adjustable suspension. This Just arrived Trailtech BD2-12 V-Nose. This deck Bunk Bed(s) in the Bunkhouse and 1 queen bed upfront. trailer has 3500 Lb. Idler axle 3.0" Beam Lippert, Coleman Rubicon Travel Trailer offers home conveniences 2".0 DIA Shelby coupler, Rub Rails and Stake Pocklike a Center kitchen with Bench Seats, Center living area crisp handling from the dalustable suspension. This ultra-reliable bike is completely street legal, with an electric start and easy-to-read instrument clus-ter. The black and gray bodywork with contrasting black, silver and yellow graphics make the bike stand out on the road, on the trail, or even when ets along the sides. Slide in 24" wide SM Ramps, and Rear bathroom. Living made easy with features like and TTG Salt Shield Bolt on fronts to help protect a 2 burner stove with glass cover, Full-Size refrigerator, ou cargo Farmhouse sink with high rise faucet and more. Features nclude: 1 Black Water Holding Tank, 1 Fresh Water Hold-ing Tank, and 1 Gray Water Holding Tank. This Coleman CRV PRICE: \$6,595 plus taxes parked. Whether you're on the highway or on a twisty forest path, the Suzuki DR-Z400S can't be \$56 BI-WEEKLY Rubicon has 1 awning for shade or rain, 1 slide out for that bit of extra room. This unit has the Outlander package beat. which includes Solar Package 190 watt w/1000 watt **SALE PRICE: \$8,199** Inverter, Torsion Axle for Improved Towing, All Terrain Tires on Aluminum Rims. SALE PRICE: \$36,900





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Esterhazy Super Sledders in need of volunteers

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS LOCAL JOURNALISM **INITIATIVE REPORTER**

10

Although Esterhazy Super Sledders has just over 40 members, only 10 people volunteered their time to help groom the trails and put signs up, for the annual trails that local snowmobilers use.

Mark Franklin, president of Esterhazy Super Sledders, says it takes a full week for the volunteers to fully complete the trails.

"We snowbunch, we've got little machines that go around and make bunches of snow to stick the signs in, but to do the whole trail doing that, takes about five days with two people snowbunching," he says. "To actually sign the trail

completely takes about seven days, and that's with two sleds and two people. If we had four to six people with us, it would take maybe four days or five days, but it winds up being seven to eight days to do the whole thing.'

The total length of trails that snowmobilers can ride through Esterhazy is 168 km.

Franklin says he has lost count of the number of stakes and signs that have to be put up across the trail, but it's about \$20,000 worth of equipment.

"It's something that I enjoy, going out in the snowmobile and being on it. It was actually myself and our late president, who were the ones who started this. At the time we found out about the trails being for sale and it wasn't being used for 10 years, so we paid the back taxes on it and started making it a year-round trail."

Before being president for the club, Franklin says he was a volunteer for 27 years and an executive member for an additional 15 years.

The Super Sledders has always been here and it's a snowmobile club, and then around the time of the late 2000s, that was a time where we did start with the SSA to get set up, start our trails and get them approved."

He says it's important to keep the trail alive. However this year, Franklin says he felt the weight of having limited volunteers to help prep the trail for the season.

"We're like all clubs, we're in a slow death spiral with volunteering, it's a struggle and every year it's a struggle."

Trails need volunteers to help repair damage

In the summer, the trails in Esterhazy are also used for ATVs. Yet, with limited volunteers to maintain the trails, Franklin says the use of the trails from ATV users have caused permanent damage to them.

"The snowmobilers are paying their fair share, their paying for the winter time for us to go out and do this, but the thing is in the summer time, there is no revenue."

"The ATV users are paying nothing, some people were buying memberships and saying, well I'm a member paying \$30 and that's fine, but a membership to a service club isn't to just get on the trail. That should be a permit or something," he says.

"That's where it got to people thinking that if I buy a membership I'm okay to ride the trail. They wanted to be a member to ride the trail, and that's kind of been the way for the last few years but, we're trying to change that."

"We want people to buy a membership to the club to come out and help, because that's what you join a club for. "

There was a meeting held in December with about 45 ATV attendees.

At the meeting Franklin says he discussed the potential closing of the trail in the summer, due to the damages to the trail caused by its excessive use.

"We need a group of people to step up and take this on because we just can't anymore. We need volunteers and ATV users to come out, I mean they're using it extensively. There's over 1,000 off-road vehicles in this area that would have access to that trail."

He says people can help repair the damages of the trails so that they can still be used in the summer time, they just need to vol-



Esterhazy Super Sledders, (left) manager Gerard Kristoff, along with Ian Kerr and Oliver Pask, spent the week grooming the trails and sticking signs along the paths, so that snowmobilers can enjoy a fun and

unteer.

"The big thing is people." It's people coming out and

helping. We had this meeting asking people to come out and help keep the trails

open, something that they use and enjoy." Continued on page 11 🖙

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February 2022

Plain and Valley

Esterhazy Super Sledders in need of volunteers

S Continued from Page 10

"There's probably over 1,000 dirt bikes, ATVs, UTVs in the area, in which a vast majority of people have access to this trail and use it (during the summer). I mean we know there's hundreds and hundreds of bikes on the weekend, and in the summer time there's more people on it."

Franklin says the possibility of closing the trails in the summer is high, but if enough people volunteer to help maintain the trails, then there may not be any risk of shutting them down.

"Since this (meeting) happened, we're up to 127 members, we've had a lot of people pay \$30 membership fee, and a lot of people donate because they understand there's an issue, and I don't think they understood it before," says Franklin.

Franklin says the club as regular monthly meetings to discuss ideas on how to bring more volunteers in and to discuss potential permit fees, in order to keep the trails alive during the summer time.

"When it comes to riding the trail (in the summer) that's going to be a whole separate thing. If you want to ride your ATV on the trial then you would pay a \$40 or \$50 yearly or weekend fee, that sort of thing.'



SUN COUNTRY

HEARING

Jacquie Mvula,

M.S.R., Aud

In addition to the fee members pay during the winter for snowmobiling, Franklin says there may be a potential summer fee for ATV users.

How people can help Esterhazy trails all year

Franklin says he does not mind volunteering his time to groom the trails with others, he just wishes to see more people who use the trails, volunteering as well.

"It's a sense of pride, like I was one of the people who originally started (grooming) when we bought this trail," he says.

"It's a beautiful trail, it's a huge asset to the community, and that's why the four of us have stuck doing it. It's just, we've got to the point where we're tired of doing it. It shouldn't be us here anymore, it should be the next generation taking over."

Franklin says at the next Esterhazy Super Sledders meeting, he's hoping to see more people step up in volunteering.

"It's just another way of saying that we need people. We need people to come out and get involved. There's going to be a group, hopefully at this next meeting." Individuals who are in-

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terested on becoming a member to the club, and volunteering their time to help maintain the trails in both the winter and summer time, can reach out to: esterhazysupersledders@ gmail.com.

"Our meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the Legion Lounge. We also have a public Facebook page where we post information for members and the general public. There is info on there as to how to purchase a membership or donate through e-transfer which we have pretty well exclusively gone to as a payment method with Covid."





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RCMP officers from Virden, decided to temporarily close the Trans-Canada Highway Monday and Tuesday, due to icy roads.



Highways from Moosomin to Southwest Manitoba were closed last week. This was the scene with the icy roads near Virden

RCMP say being safe is crucial during icy road conditions

by Sierra D'Souza Butts

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LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, highways were temporarily closed from Southeast Saskatchewan to Southwest Manitoba, due to icy roads and heavy snow conditions.

"What our protocol is we correspond with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT), Department of Highways," said Sgt. Scott Fefchak of the Westman RCMP detachment in Virden

"We'll communicate with them through our telecoms. Last night one of the members decided that it's pretty dangerous out here, we're not going to keep the highways open."

Under provincial legislation in Manitoba, police have the authority to shut down highways. As for Saskatchewan, the ministry of highways is responsible for deciding when highways should be closed.

He explained why closing the Trans-Canada Highway begins at Moosomin, and carries into the Manitoba border.

"What's been done in recent times is that they'll try



and stop the traffic in Moosomin, so that at least the people taken off the highway have somewhere to go. There's hotels, there's somewhere to park, they're not sitting in the middle of the prairie," Fefchak said. In the past, the highway was closed with a gate at the edge of Virden and trucks were stuck on the highway with nowhere to go. "When the highways are shut down, ideally we want people off the highways. So when it's time to re-open them, the plows can get through and there's not a bunch of vehicles in the way. They then can clear the highway off or de-ice it, and then open up the highways with no vehicles on there to obstruct that process."

Continued on Page 25 🖙







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February 2022





Above: Kids enjoying hot chocolate. **Left:** People snowshoeing and ice fishing on the lake.

Winter Wonderland at Moosomin Regional Park

From skating on the lake to hot chocolate and horse drawn sleigh rides, Moosomin Regional Park's Winter Wonderland event on Jan. 22 was a great way for people to spend a day of winter fun outside at Moosomin Lake. This was the first year for the event hosted by the regional park board.





Above left: People skating on the lake. **Above right, below left:** Horse drawn sleigh and wagon rides around the park. **Right:** People roasting marshmallows to make smores around the fire. **Bottom of page:** People skating on Moosomin Lake.





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February 2022



Above: The Rangers showing the backs of their jerseys with the names of the Blackhawk lengends on them

Wapella Blackhawks tribute game



A Wapella Blackhawks tribute game was hosted by the Moosomin Senior Rangers in the Wapella rink on Saturday, January 15. The Rangers donned Blackhawks jerseys that night with the names of former Wapella Blackhawks legends on them. After the game, the jerseys were auctioned off in the arena lobby.

The game was a Big Six league game, with the Rangers taking on the Wawota Flyers that night.



Above: The Rangers in their Blackhawks jerseys after the game.

Left: The puck drop before the game was made by Blackhawks legend Cecil Holloway. From left are Wawota Flyers' Braden Messer, Cecil's grandson Jesse Holloway, his granddaughter Kali Valstar, Cecil Holloway dropping the puck, his grandson Colby Holloway, Bud Holloway, and Brayden Holloway (sons of Blackhawks legends).



Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly **Cannington Constituency**



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Wapella Blackhawks tribute game



People bidding on the jerseys before the live auction.



Former Blackhawks legend Cecil Holloway with his grandaughter Kali Valstar and grandson Colby Holloway after bidding on his jersey.

Sr Rangers Alumni Blackhawk Jersey Auction

#	Name	Bid	Sold to	#	Name	Bid	Sold to	#	Name	Bid	Sold to
1	McKinnon	\$500	Jamie Graham	4	Starrak	\$325	Rusty McCormick	10	O Peterson	\$400	Ron Taylor
1	Sutherland	\$250	Gerald Flaman	5	C Holloway	\$1,500	Colby Holloway	11	Skiba	\$375	Josh Skiba
2	Beutler	\$700	Quinn Skulmoski	5	Clark	\$550	Neil Driver	12	D Ulmer	\$300	Don Ulmer Jr
2	Klatt	\$375	Gary Klatt	6	H Holloway	\$350	Tara Young (Holloway)	12	Wushke	\$500	Armin Wushke
3	G Holloway	\$1,100	George Holloway	7	Sokalski	\$1,000	Maggie MacPherson	13	H McGonigal	\$500	Sheila McGonigal
4	Dunn	\$2,500	Dave Dunn	8	L Holloway	\$1,000	Mark Holloway	14	F Holloway	\$750	Kyran Foy
4	Nixon	\$310	Wendy Ireland	8	W McGonigal	\$,1000	Ian McGonigal	53	R Gallop	\$1,000	Christopher Gallop
					0		U U	54	B Morris	\$550	Brent Holloway

Total Raised \$15,835





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Redvers Emergency Service partially reopens

🖙 Continued from page 4

Sutter welcomes decision

Spence Sutter of the Southeast Medical Group says the decision is great for the entire southeast region.

"We're happy, it was a really long time to have the emergency service closed. We're just glad the Saskatchewan Health Authority saw it was fit to open it, and managed to find enough nurses and staff in the area, and that it was safe to open the unit right now, because our nurses of course were being used in other hospitals, so SHA must have felt that Covid has backed off enough that they can open the Redvers hospital now," said Sutter.

Redvers hospital now," said Sutter. "I guess partially open is better than not being opened, we're certainly looking forward in the next little while to be opened fully. It's sort of tough on the public for a hospital to be open part-time.

"I think (the next step) is getting the nurses lined up. Hopefully they should have enough nurses in place to re-open fully soon, providing there is no other outbreak in the Covid crisis."

Apperly pleased with news

Ross Apperly is the mayor of Carnduff and a member of the Southeast Medical Group. "Obviously we're happy to have it open, but disappointed it's open for only 11 hours a day," said Apperly.

"We've been working really hard to try and get it open 24/7, so we've offered bursaries, we offered pay incentives to a point where we found staff. We have staff sitting in the wings waiting to open 24/7, but for logistics and for various reasons, SHA hasn't filled in all the spots. So we're kind of disappointed for not being open 24/7, but hopefully in the next short while we'll be open 24/7, and be able to admit patients.

"We've been in consultation with the ministry and with SHA trying to fill those voids, to help them along to get those positions filled. So really it's just putting people into positions to fill all the shifts. And we believe we have that, we believe we've recruited enough nurses to do that, so it's just a timing thing," said Apperly. "Realistically I'm not sure what their

"Realistically I'm not sure what their guidelines are, we can't seem to agree on that. Like I said, we have the staff and now it's a matter of timing."

SHA still looking at recruitment

Recruitment to address the staffing to provide the consistent, reliable coverage required to re-open 24-hour acute care and emergency services has been ongoing, according to SHA.

"The status of recruitment and securing the coverage necessary to provide safe, predictable acute care and emergency services will be taken into consideration before any services can be restored," says SHA. "The status of Covid-19 may also be a factor. The SHA is committed to providing the community with updates on progress as information is available."

While Redvers will not have 24-hour emergency service initially, that service is available 24 hours a day at the following locations:

 Southeast Integrated Care Centre, Moosomin

- St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan
- Weyburn General Hospital
- Arcola Health Centre

People are reminded in the event of an emergency call 9-1-1 and an ambulance will be dispatched to provide assistance.

People can call HealthLine 811 toll-free 24 hours per day if you have non-urgent health or mental health-related questions.



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USask crop researchers receive \$5.7 million

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER On Jan. 11, twenty-five researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (USask) were awarded more than \$5.7 million to develop crop-related innovations, in support of 34 ongoing agriculture projects.

The funding came through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), a provincial government program that was created to fund research in order to help farmers and ranchers become more successful.

ADF focuses on providing funding for "basic and applied agriculture research projects in crops, livestock, forages, processing, soils, environment, horticulture and alternative crops," according to the Government of Saskatchewan.

USask researcher and professor of plant sciences Karen Tanino, was awarded \$435,531 to further develop her research on heat and frost avoidance in crops, and focus on the importance of the plant cuticular layer.

"The cuticular layer is like your skin, but it's a waxier layer on the plant. It's usually composed of various types of waxes and is the outer layer of the plant and the first line of the stem," said Tanino.

She said that the more waxy or hydrophobic the cuticular layer is, the less chance the plant has of freezing.

"We've heard about super hydrophobic products where the water just runs right off. The more hydrophobic the cuticular layer is, the less water that is hanging around, and the less water that is hanging around, the less freezing that can occur. So if there's no water on the leaves, then the ice wouldn't be able to freeze on the plants.'

Her research focuses on abiotic stress, on how droughts, salinity, low or high temperatures, and other environmental extremes, impact crop yields.

"The bottom line (of our research) is avoidance of stress, avoiding frost and avoiding heat. What we learned is that the plant is better to avoid stress rather than really deal with it. It takes a lot more en-

ergy and a lot more tools for the plant to deal with the stress, than it does to avoid the stress."

The funds awarded for her research will go towards further studying how the cuticular layer of a plant, can help prevent heat or frost from impacting the crop.

"Our research is to first validate that the cuticular layer plays a key role, secondly, to identify those key genes that will improve both frost avoidance, and heat stress avoidance, so that breeders can then use that into their breeding programs for selection."

Research associate Tawhidur Rahman says he and Tanino have already tested their research of the cuticular layer, on model plants that are similar to canola.

"This particular membrane around the plant (cuticular layer), can actually help the plant overcome multiple environmental stress conditions, like drought, freezing weather and heat conditions," he said.

"If we can do that for canola, canola is one of the sensitive crops in Saskatchewan's weather because it needs a lot of water and it takes a longer duration to grow, so if we can modify the membrane layer for canola, then it might be a game changer for the whole thing.

Tanino said the research on the prevention of plant abiotic stress, can help current and future farmers gain more product from their harvest.

"If we can either identify an inexpensive and affective spray, it would help. Also, we can help breeders to develop new cultivars that can better avoid frost and better avoid heat stress. Those cultivars and varieties will then get passed on to the farmers and they'll be able to better get through some of these uncertain climate changes that we have," said Tanino.

"It's basically helping the plant to become more resilient to different stresses. Especially in the fall, there's usually a first fall frost, and then we get two to three weeks of nice growing weather, if we can just get through that first fall frost, we can easily extend our growing season even more."



A drone above USask's Kernen Crop Research Farm, summer 2019.

frost avoidance in crops, and focus on the importance of the plant cuticular layer, has the potential to benefit Saskatchewan's

overall agriculture industry. "This would be useful for the farmers but also homeowners too, because a lot of people have gardens and they're growing tomatoes or cucumbers, all these sensitive crops. If we can somehow avoid frost on these crops just by a spray, then maybe it will enable the home owners to produce more crops.'

Overall, their research will focus on the genetic

Tanino said the research of the heat and improvement of plants in environmental stress conditions, in Canada.

Continued on page 23 🖙





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Above: The Christ Anglican Church in Wapella, a one-storey fieldstone church constructed in 1891.



Above: St. Hubert's Church (1935) in RM Silverwood, Saskatchewan near Whitewood.





Above: St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church is a stunning fieldstone structure south of the town of Wapella. The church was built by the volunteer Scottish congregation between 1899 and 1901 as a replacement for an earlier church built in the early 1880s. It is quite beautiful with a tall elegant steeple and it has quite a presence on a large landscaped property.

Above: Trinity United Church is a beautiful one-storey, wood-frame church built in 1905 in Welwyn, Saskatchewan. One of the village's first buildings and designated as a historic place, the church has served as a place of worship, a meeting place for church-affiliated organizations, and venue for community gatherings. Its beauty was amplified in the soft evening light.



Above: St. Paul's Anglican Church in the RM of Wawken near Langbank. Built with fieldstone in 1938 by Charles Parker, a stonemason originally from Ontario.



Above: An abandoned church at Oakshela, Saskatchewan.

Taking snapshots of the past takes the 'Chasing Yesterday' duo down many Saskatchewan roads

Continued from front

Brazill, as one of five children of a military family, went to 16 different schools and has travelled extensively, having lived in nearly every province of Canada and in England as well. Her current home, she says, is a "perfect old house with my dear husband John and three cats." Their three children have "fled the nest."

"I am passionate about creativity, learning and mindful-ness," says Brazill. "I am also passionate about connecting with the uplifting people in my life and the community. Helping others is not completely altruistic-rather the opposite-it makes me feel better about myself. Brazill loves to create things, not just taking photographs, but visual art and writing. She is in the middle of writing her third children's book following her first two which have received several accolades. Her medium as an artist is a unique form of art of flowers and trees using ripped up paper. As well she does fabric art for Zoom Girlz pillows which supports mental health charities.

Along with her photographer partner in crime, Wolfe, she ventures across the province in an effort to seek and to understand the past, and she says, "listening to Emery's bad choice of music." She finds Wolfe to be very inspiring and provocative.

The bilingual Brazill holds a BA in economics from Mc-Gill and an MA in public administration from Carleton University and has spent 25 years in leadership positions as vice president of her own management consulting company and as director of communications in the health sector. She has also created "blacksmith s2o consulting," where she is president.

Wolfe, on the other hand, attended film school at the University of Regina and began his career working in the film industry. He worked on small documentaries and travelled coast to coast with crews doing that. "When the bills needed to be paid," Wolfe says, "I'd

come back to Regina and work on shows like Corner Gas or whatever movie was being shot in town." After that, Wolfe started his own business and began shooting many local events. During this time he began working at an association where he met Susan. "She was my boss and hired me on full time. I ended up shifting my business, keeping the event work I enjoyed, shooting video with the Roughriders and at Pats games, as well as using the business to do other jobs," he explained. "I even got to shoot a video with the St. Louis Blues which was a pretty cool experience," says Wolfe. "I kept working with communication departments in town and shifted the business back to landscape photography, rediscovering Saskatche-wan just like when I was a kid on the Hanson Lake Road."

Wolfe currently handles, on a full-time basis, all the photo and video needs for the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association as well as managing many digital communications from mass emails, to web, to social and even graphic design. Even with all this, he still runs his

business (but sparingly) and still shoots the sports and events in the city. He started a video podcast called Just 2 Camera Guys and he heads out with Susan as much as he is able to.

As Brazill and Wolfe chatted about the idea of getting out and taking photos (for the better part

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- MARCH 2022 -

of a year or more) before they finally quit talking about it and just did it, after a couple of road trips, Wolfe set up the Facebook page. Though their plan was not necessarily a specific one, they planned some day trips, often getting up very early and hitting the road. Some trips were weekend ones and they started off by travelling highway 13 because it had a name, The Red Coat Trail, it had a history and it had a lot of ghost towns on it. Part of the fun is in doing the history searches of very small places and talking to locals to get even more of the story. Their trips result in them taking anywhere from just a few to up to hundreds of photos. Wolfe says he took around 2,000 in 2021 but kept only 60; Brazill takes thousands a year and posts one to Chasing Yesterday every day.

"I have been obsessed for some time now," Brazill says, with forgotten man-made spaces now being reclaimed by the elements." In these places, Brazill sees art and balance in the rust, the peeling paint, the fading wood and the angles of the dilapidated structures. "I am intrigued as to how they fit into the massive open prairie and the meeting of the earth and sky," she added. It helps that both Brazill and Wolfe are up to exploring and taking a 'significant number of detours—lots of detours." The two photographers often work independently of the other as well.

As for the name of their entity, Wolfe says the idea for Chasing Yesterday' came from a song lyric. Wolfe says he was looking for lyrics about the past or ghost towns and the song lyric, "I've been busy chasing ghost trains," comes from 'Where We Used To Play' by AFI. He says he was reminded of the photographer saying "chasing light," and that, he says, seemed to capture the spirit of the whole idea.

"It was just trying to articulate the right word for what we were chasing," Wolfe explained, "something like ghost trains but more general. And 'yesterday' fit the bill." From the 40 names they started out with, they managed to get it down to 10 and then had family and friends vote on it—and 'Chasing Yesterday' was born. The duo hasn't published a book of their photos as of

yet, but they have talked about it. They do sell calendars of their work every year and have talked about selling other things, but with their jobs and time spent on Chasing Yesterday, some things they have talked about haven't necessarily materialized.

The stories behind the photographs are always interesting to Brazill and Wolfe and they love connecting with people that own the property they photograph because,

as they say, "the better the history gets." "In Ravenscrag," Wolfe said, "we got a tour from the last remaining resident and he could tell us when the bank was built or the day the store shut down, but the real story was the house still standing where as a kid they got the best pie from. There's a lot more feeling to that than sharing when it was

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built and who built it."

Brazill also shares a story-one about 'Larry's courting car.' Having stopped in a once-vibrant little town, inhabitants now totalling 15, she and Wolfe met up with a fellow name Larry whose stories were interspersed with a quick humour and charm. The picture accompanying the story went like this: "Larry is a total Ford guy and provided us with a history lesson on Henry Ford, complete with dates and quotes. (He is) an extraordinary guy." Not only is Larry an extraordinary guy, but so too is his 1958 Ford Fairlane which was purchased in 1959-a blue and white beauty with a bit of rust. It's the car Larry used to go courting with and which he still drives on occasion. (Check out the Chasing Yesterday Facebook page, September 19, 2020 post, to see the car.)

While most of the photos the duo take have a specific subject (a house, a church, a car), the Saskatchewan sky in each of these photos has a beauty all its own and Wolfe says the sky helps give any photograph context and influences every photo they take, even though it's generally a specific building they are trying to capture the essence of. Brazill describes the prairie landscape as like no other and the buildings they shoot often become simply an accent in a "solitude and flatness that can be the prairie."

Wolfe says he can't see he and Susan stopping what they do anytime soon. They have only covered a small area of Saskatchewan and they can easily extend into Manitoba and Alberta and maybe even Montana someday. After all, there is a "lifetime of roads to travel," he concluded.





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Five agronomy priorities for canola



Above: 4R nutrient management, with principles based on the right fertilizer products applied at the right rate, right time and right place, can improve yield, reduce nutrient losses and increase profits.

by Clint Jurke

The Canola Council of Canada's five agronomy priorities, when implemented fully in every field, will improve canola yield and profitability, and will help to ensure success with the crop.

Use 4R nutrient management practices

All farms will benefit from applying the right fertilizer products at the right rate, right time and right place to improve yield, reduce nutrient losses and increase profits. These are the 4Rs of nutrient management. One-pass seeding into standing stubble, a fairly common practice, is an excellent foundation for 4R. Canola Council of Canada (CCC) agronomy specialists also encourage farmers to use soil tests and set fertilizer rates based on soil-test recommendations. Canada's canola industry has a goal to see 4R practices utilized on 90 per cent of canola acres by 2025. Go to canolacouncil.org/4R for more details on the goal and on 4R practices.

Choose the best seed traits for each field

Try new cultivars all the time. Yield lost to incorrect cultivar choice may be a greater risk than yield gained by choosing the highest-yielding cultivar. The best seed traits can include disease resistance specific to risks for each field,

maturity to match crop establishment and harvest timing goals, and pod-shatter resistance to harvest more of the crop. Use the tool at canolaperformancetrials.ca to compare cultivars.

Achieve a uniform 5 to 8 plants per square foot

Hybrid canola studies in Western Canada show that a stand with five to eight plants per square foot is best to maintain the yield potential of canola. Uniformity is also key. To simplify pest management and harvest timing, try to achieve the target population across the field and have all plants at the same growth stage. To set seeding rates that will achieve the target stand, use the calculators at canolacalculator.ca. For more agronomy tips, read the Plant Establishment chapter at canolaencyclopedia.ca.

Identify and manage the top yield robbers

Canola growers can find all kinds of pests and problems in their fields. The key is to focus time and inputs on the most important yield loss factors. Scout regularly to see what pests, environmental factors or mechanical issues (seed placement, sprayer settings, etc.) cause the greatest loss for each field. Find scouting and management tips for flea beetles, sclerotinia stem rot and all other major pests in the Diseases, Weeds and Insects chapters at canolaencyclopedia.ca.

Every seed is sacred: Deliver them all

We want canola growers to deliver every seed at No.1 grade, and leave none behind. To do this, growers have three steps: One, give all seeds time to mature. Two, harvest with minimal losses. And three, store canola without spoilage. Grower





survey results suggest that canola growers, in general, may achieve yield improvement through later swathing. The survey also showed that straight combining is associated with higher yields in the southwest Prairies. The Harvest and Storage chapters at canolaencyclopedia.ca have tips for all three steps.

Clint Jurke is director of agronomy for the Canola Council of Canada. Email jurkec@canolacouncil.org.



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Plain and Valley is published by McKay Publications Ltd., Box 250, 714 Main Street, Moosomin SK SOG 3N0.

Plain and Valley is delivered to post office boxes across Southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Canada Post Customer Number 2116693. Canada Post Contract Number 40011909.

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USask crop researchers receive \$5.7 million

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Preventing wheat midge and other wheat dilemmas

Another USask researcher Pierre Hucl, was awarded \$312, 737 from ADF, to further develop his research on three research studies regarding wheat. The first research study focuses on the field evaluation of next field Evaluation of next-generation solid-stemmed CWRS Wheat.

The second study focuses on new source of resistance to Fusarium Head Blight (FHB): wheat-thinopyrum derivatives, and the third is about the trait stacking to maximize resistance to the wheat midge.

"There are three projects that were awarded funds that I'm listed on. Two of them have to deal with insect tolerance in spring wheat, and the third project is to deal with disease resistance, a disease called Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). It affects wheat and other cereals like barley and oat," says Hucl. He explains how the insects that are attracted to the wheat plants affect crops, and harms farmers yield overall.

"Imagine a wheat plant growing during the summer, the soft flies leave the eggs inside the stem and they basically feed off the inside of the stem, as they go up and down the stem."

"Then in the fall, they basically nibble the inside of the stem and then cover themselves with it, until the winter. What happens then is that the stems fall over and it looks like they're being sawed off."

As a result from insects finding their way inside plants and damaging them, Hucl says producers tend to take a loss from their yields. However through his research, Hucl hopes to prevent that from happening.

^aOne way to that is stemmed wheat, instead of having a hallowed straw, it's filled with something called tick. This actually forms a physical barrier for the harvest so that the insects can't physically travel inside the stem and they starve to death," he says. "It's a mechanical way, a quite effective one, of damaging insects. The insect will be in the plant but it won't be able to travel up the stem and feed properly."

Hucl says that there's a gene in wheat grass that you can transfer over to spring wheat to add the trait.

"We're trying to bring in tolerance from any source that we can find because there's limited variabilities within wheat species. There are no species that is immune, but there are different genes present in other species that we can bring in."

"Basically what we're trying to do is stack different sources of resistance into one variety and it can be from close relatives of wheat, you know points of some of the ancestral species of wheat, or it can be things that lay outside that are distantly related, like wheat grass."

For his third line of work, wheat midge, Hucl says his research is trying to select higher yield so that wheat is economically competitive against other crops.

"With wheat midge we've been fortunate to have work done on it about 25 years ago. They were able to identify a single gene that gives resistance to wheat midge," he says. "We're working with one gene and one

"We're working with one gene and one of the things is that gene resistance tends to break down over time, whether it's for insects, or for fungi or bacteria, and so over the last few years researchers have been trying to find alternate sources of tolerance resistance to the wheat midge. To either protect the SM1 gene, or rebase it, if it breaks down."

With all three projects combined, Hucl says his research will overall help the agriculture industry economically and help farmers get higher yields.

"At this point we're talking economics of the crop, that's the bottom line. In terms of the work we're doing is either trying to protect what we already have or in the hands of what we have, to increase our competitiveness in the international markets. Since we basically export three quarters of what we grow, it's important that we satisfy importers of our product."

Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announce extension for livestock water project applications



The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan have announced an extension to the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) deadline for livestock producers planning to access the previously-announced temporary enhanced FRWIP funding.

Along with the drought conditions experienced in 2021, producers also found it is difficult to source materials and contractors to construct their water development projects. Due to these circumstances, the governments have adapted FRWIP to allow livestock producers who plan to claim over \$50,000 in rebates to submit a preliminary application by March 31, 2022 to complete their project(s) and submit for rebate by September 30, 2022.

"The past year has been a harsh reminder of how important water reliability is to agricultural producers," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "By extending the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, we are giving farmers more time to complete projects such as dugouts, wells and pipelines, that will help to ensure a better supply of this essential resource for livestock."

"The government of Saskatchewan recognizes the challenges producers are facing with availability of contractors and materials," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "It is important to provide more time for producers to complete their water projects so they can take advan-



tage of additional funding to develop secure and sustainable water sources to meet the needs of their operation and help them mitigate the impacts of future dry conditions."

On July 14, 2021, the government of Saskatchewan announced changes to temporarily increase the maximum funding a livestock producer can receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program for dugouts, wells and pipelines. For the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the maximum rebate, for livestock producers only, increased to \$150,000. The first \$50,000 is based on a 50-50 cost-share and the remaining \$100,000 is a 70-30 government-producer cost-share.

The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is costshared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/ territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.





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Agriculture ministers announce funding of \$9.1 million for crop-related research projects in Saskatchewan

by Sierra D'Souza Butts

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER On Jan. 11, Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit, announced a total of \$9.1 million in funding towards new crop-related research projects in 2022.

This year's funding will support 55 crop-related projects in Saskatchewan through the province's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

Minister Marit spoke with The World-Spectator about why the provincial government invested into ongoing crop-related research projects.

Why is it important for the government to invest into agriculture and crop-related research projects?

It's very important to us as a province, if we want to really grow the ag- sector here in the province of Saskatchewan. When you look at the over the \$9 million we invested this year in 55 different agriculture-related research projects, it just shows the diversity of the issues in the ag- sector here in the province of Saskatchewan.

How much of an impact does research have towards agriculture?

It has a huge impact, if you look back in history just in the past few years about what we've done, we're getting higher proteins than grains, we're seeing what probably will be the biggest thing that's happened in the canola industry—which was straight cut canola varieties early and maturing—drought tolerable varieties as well.

But we're also finding ways to deal with diseases and that's what some of the projects this year will do as well. There's mitigating root rot in peas, which is becoming a predominant issue and concern as well. Another project we approved was removing undesirable characteristics of protein ingredients from canola, hemp and flaxseed.

There's a number of different projects and I've been to the university and seen the stuff going on there. It's exciting to see these young researchers from around the world and I think that's another thing that should really be stated, is that with this kind of investment that the province is making, the government is making along with the federal government, it allows us to attract top researchers from around the world. I can't go without saying this is also in collaboration with the commodity groups who are partners in this as well, that have invested into \$4 million into these projects as well.

In addition to commitments from the federal and provincial governments, approximately \$4.1 million was contributed by the following industry partners in support of these projects: Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF), Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission, Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, Alberta Wheat Commission, Manitoba Crop Alliance, Mustard 21 and Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR).

The announcement of the funding also stated that support for these and other ADF projects, are awarded each year on a competitive basis to researchers focusing on areas of importance to Saskatchewan agriculture producers and industry partners.

What's the process of deciding which research projects, should receive funding from ADF, for the year?

The selection is made by a committee which we call the ADF Advisory Committee and it's made up of producers and experts around the province that we've appointed to this board, because we know the research projects always get over subscribed, and there's probably hundreds of projects that were submitted and narrowed down to 55.

It takes a lot of reading, a lot of work, and I wanted to take the opportunity to really thank all the members of the committee. It really takes it away from a government point of view, and really puts it on what the priorities are of the agriculture industry, here in the province of Saskatchewan and what their concerns are.



Following the announcement of contributing \$9.1 million of funding to support 55 agriculture projects in 2022, Saskatchewan's Agriculture Minister David Marit, talks about why it's important for the provincial and federal government to invest into crop-related research.

to find new varieties of higher yielding and what it really comes down to then, is us as the government, to work with the Ag industry and promote that on a global base.

You work with our trading partners and our business community around the world to show them what we have, and that's really what it comes down to. At the end of the day our global customer is looking at wanting higher proteins, wanting consistency, wanting this and wanting that. That's where it comes to planning and working with the researchers to find that, and work with both the customer and the researcher, and at the end of the day the primary producer who's going to produce this crop, because he or she sees a higher return for their product.

Through that, we're achieving all of our goals. We're hitting our gross targets, the farmers are getting a better return on their investments, and the customer is pleased at the end of the day."

How will this investment into crop-related research projects benefit current and future farmers?

The big benefit is number of things, obviously it's a higher return per acre, per investment, whether it's high yielding, whether it's crop rotation, whether some of the research is getting into inter-cropping now, where growing two-crops in one, things like that.

At the end of the day the producer is going to be looking at it that way, they're going to ask how's this going to better fit my operation, how am I going to get a higher return on his or her investment and I think that's the bottom line.

That's what we're trying to do with the governments, we're trying to figure out the research dollars, how to optimize that, how we can get our gross targets to where we want to get them to, and also satisfy the customer at the end of the day and provide high quality, consistent product, and that's what the customers are looking for.

Although unable to participate in an interview, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau, stated the following a statement:

"Canada's crop sector has navigated a challenging year marked by extreme climate events with resilience and determination. Together with the Government of Saskatchewan, our federal Government is committed to investing in science and innovation through critical initiatives like the Agriculture Development Fund. Investing in science is essential to give our farmers the tools they need to realize our vision of a sustainable agriculture sector in Canada."



How has science helped improve crop yields over the last 50 and 100 years?

Well if you go back that far and want to go back that far, you just need to look at where lentils came from, lentils came from the university as well. There's things like that, but if you look at different varieties of grains, durum is a good example where they've come up with a new varieties and higher proteins.

Even on the lentil side, the canola side, just about all of them, they've improved disease tolerance, drought tolerance, higher yielding, higher proteins. Things like that, it's incredible what's been done at the research centre there. Over the last 30 to 40 years it's been incredible with the changes we've seen, and even the different types of crops that have come out of there as well.

Why is it important for Canada's future to continue crop research?

It's really important, seeing that we are obviously an exporting province. We have a gross target for 2030 to get to 45 million metric tons of production, you're going to do that in collaboration with research. You'll find new ways of crop rotation, new ways of inter-cropping, you're going

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Shelly Kupschus of Esterhazy submitted these photos of her family enjoying their homemade outdoor rink.

RCMP say being safe is crucial during icy road conditions

Section Continued from Page 12

The re-opening of the highways is weather dependent, Fefchak said.

The previous week, a similar situation happened and RCMP had to close down a portion of Trans-Canada Highway as well.

"The members shut it down because it was so icy, they were responding to a call in our area and they couldn't go more than 40/km an hour."

Fefchak said the best advice he can give to people on how to stay safe, is to not go on the roads when it is icy.

"Stay home, don't go on the roads. Unless someone is needing serious medical help, there's no reason to be out there."

He said it's important that individuals stay off of the

road when they are instructed to, as it's in the best interest for everyone in the community.

"When people call in it's because they're in the ditch and they want someone to rescue them, well that's not much fun, for the rescuer's either especially when it's avoidable," said Fefchak.

"One of the members just charged a guy this morning because he was driving on the highway when it was closed. He was a fellow from Ontario and he got fined \$143 for driving on a closed road."

Fefchak said there have been times where he's witnessed individuals out on closed roads, and had to instruct them to "sit tight," until the roads were cleared up.

"There have been times where they've been told that you've got lots of gas, you're in the ditch, make sure your tail lights are clear, you might as well settle in and have a good night."

"I think people sometimes have more confidence in their abilities when it's up against the weather, than they actually do have. If you can't see where you're going chances are you'll probably end up going into the ditch. Some people over estimate their ability to drive in this kind of weather, or they think they have something really important to do"

He said often individuals are not aware how dangerous the roads can be, even when officers state to stay off the road for unnecessary travel.

"Stay off the roads it's the safest thing you can do. There's nothing really that important that you need to risk your life or the lives of anyone else to go do."







5 original wedding themes

Are you planning a wedding? If you're currently getting ready for your big day and looking for an original theme, here are five you may want to consider.

1. Candy

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Choose decor elements in bright colours that evoke sweets, candies and pastries. You can tie this theme together by setting up a candy bar for your guests. 2. Fairy tale

Book your venue in a castle-like setting, choose an outfit worthy of royalty and arrive in a horse-drawn carriage. You could also include props from the fairy tales you love to decorate the tables.





Incorporate suitcases, passports, airplanes and maps into table settings, photo booths and other decor. You could also decorate each table to represent a certain country or continent.

4. Rainbow

Hang origami flowers, balloons or umbrellas in an array of hues from the ceiling, and decorate your chosen venue with accessories in all the colours of the rainbow.

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Decorate your venue with vintage accessories and second-hand furniture, and visit your local thrift store to find old-fashioned cutlery,

5. Retro

vases, tablecloths and picture frames.

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- o Bose sound system
 - o Dual screen projectors
 - o Podium and organ
- o Free Wi-Fi
- o Private room adjacent to stage with make-up mirrors, small fridge, and couches for bridalparty
- o Stage risers for head table
- o 800 sq ft meeting room for serving meals or hosting other functions
- o Large bar with walk in cooler

KITCHEN INCLUDES:

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- Includes Setup of tables and chairs
- Includes 3 days for setup and clean-up
- 2 ceiling mount projectors with 3 large screens

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- Portable Stage
- We curtain off the Ice Surface Windows giving a full room effect
- Sound System
- Includes Kitchen
- Includes tables/chairs
- Includes Setup of tables and chairs
- Includes 3 days for setup and clean-up
- Portable projector and screen available

- ortable stage
- We curtain off the simulators giving a full room effect
- Sound System
- Kitchen / Caterer services
- Includes tables/chairs
- Includes Setup of tables and chairs
- Fully licensed (we supply and sell alcohol, saving you the up front cost, hassle and worry)
- Includes 3 days for setup and clean-up
- · Attached to huge covered outdoor deck and backs onto the Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex
- Portable projector and screen available



Having a small, quiet backyard wedding? Or maybe you plan to renew your vows!

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February 2022



How a financial advisor can lower your financial anxiety



Money is the major stressor for many Canadians. Over 40% of us consider financial worries to be the most stressful thing in our lives, according to the Financial Stress survey. Finances cause us considerably more stress than personal health, work or relationships.

The same survey found that 51% of us are embarrassed at the lack of control we have over our own finances. An FP Canada poll also reveals that 81% of us have at least one financial regret. And yet very few of us work with a financial professional: only 34% of Canadians have the benefit of advice from a financial planner, investment advisor or insurance agent. The rest of us go it on our own.

People who have a financial advisor are far less stressed about money than those who go it alone. So, what is it about having a financial planner that can help ease financial worries? And what do they actually do?

Managing your finances

Possibly the most important service a financial advisor offers is to help you manage your finances. Far too few people know exactly how much they spend, what they owe and how much they have saved. Financial advisors are experts at helping you take full control of your finances.

They can help you to formulate a budget and a plan that will get you to a better financial place. Having a financial plan is essential for feeling confident with your finances financial advisors will not only formulate one that fits your unique situation, they'll also help you to keep to it. Being able to see your debts decrease and your savings grow is key to making you more financially confident and less stressed.

Good financial advisors look at your finances in a holistic way – that is, they consider every single aspect of your finances. This way, they can help you make the right financial decisions to reach your goals. For example, they can help you work out the fastest ways to pay off debt, so you can start saving more. They take care of all aspects of your finances, so you don't have to.

Having a comfortable retirement

Workplace pensions have become increasingly rare over the last few decades. Currently, only 37% of Canadians have one. The Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security will only cover the most basic needs, if you're lucky, so it's essential that Canadians without a company pension save enough to have a comfortable retirement.

This is where financial advisors really come into their own. They can work out how much you'll need to save to afford the kind of retirement that you want and then put in place a savings plan to get you there.

Helping you choose the right investments

Do you struggle knowing the difference between a REIT and an ETF? Don't worry, your advisor can help you not only understand what they are, but also how they can help you and which ones are best for your situation.

Financial advisors can select the right investments to grow your money at a faster rate, while employing a level of risk that you're comfortable with.

Developing an effective tax plan

Good financial advisors work with in-house experts, such as tax accountants, to help you to legally pay as little tax as possible. They can help you choose the most tax-efficient ways to save money, such as investing in RESPs and TFSAs.

They can also recommend strategies such as income and pension splitting, spousal RESPs and taking advantage of tax credits.

Effective estate/inheritance planning

A financial advisor could save your family thousands in tax by helping you to plan ahead for your inheritance in the most advantageous way.

They can also ensure that your assets go to the right people and help you to set up a legacy of giving.

How to get started with a financial advisor

Cornerstone financial advisors can help you to relieve your financial stress and reach all of your financial goals. Call us on 1.855.875.2255 and let's start helping you take back control of your finances.

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