

Demo event opens 2009 box lacrosse season Whitewood association enters fifth year of programming BY CHRIS ISTACE

You may have heard the motto used to promote a sport making a surge in popularity the last 10 years. Box lacrosse—"The fast-est game on two feet" is the indoor version of Canada's national sport. The game, which is played in hockey rinks, has seen strong growth throughout the country, including Saskatchewan. Box lacrosse programs have been established in virtually every city in the province alongside the towns of Rosetown, Biggar, Big River and Assiniboia.

The box lacrosse association in Whitewood is entering its fifth year of op-eration. After a drop in the number of players in 2008, the organization's president is expecting a resurgence this year that he hopes will establish Whitewood teams in five age categories.

"Our numbers were down a little bit, but last year with the (Saskatchewan) Summer Games going on, we had to split the kids playing in Whitewood in half because of the zones," said Hugh Davis. "Half were in Zone 1

while the other half were in Zone 2 and had to play in Yorkton. Last year was a nightmare with the zone stuff and all the stuff in Whitewood."

However, the association's programming— which has in the past attracted players from a 100 kilometre radius of the town, including the communities of Churchbridge, Langenburg, Moosomin and Melville-will resume regular operations this sea-



Submitted photo

Thomas Davis, an Esterhazy youth who plays with the Whitewood Box Lacrosse Association, makes a save during national competition two years ago while playing goal for the Saskatchewan Storm provincial squad.

the Tykes (aged six to eight). Novice (nine and

"I would have loved to play the game.

it after seeing a National Lacrosse League (NLL)

said the league's televised games are attracting many youth to the sport, and the kids who started several years ago are continuing the growth trend by drawing even more interest from younger players.

"Talking with people involved in the sport— basically from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Maritimes—the Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget nationals have generated a lot of interest, too," he said.

Davis noted that the influx of people into the prov-ince from areas of Canada where lacrosse programs have been in place for a longer period of time influ-ences the sport's growth in southern Saskatchewan as well.

"People moving in from Ontario, people who grew up with it there, are coming out here and getting things going, too," he said. Despite his own involve-

ment in the sport—besides being the father of a lacrosse player, Davis is also a coach and one of two facilitators for the sport in southern Saskatchewan he never played the game. It's the same for many of the parents who are seeing their children get involved, he said.

"I would have loved to play the game," he said. "The one drawback we are finding is that pretty much everywhere in the province, a lot of the coaches haven't played. We're learning as much about the game as the kids are. That's why we're hoping that the majority of the kids playing now get into the coaching part, too, and build the game from their own experience.' Anyone unable to attend the April 26 box lacrosse introduction but want more information or want to register can email the Whitewood Lacrosse Association whitewoodlacrosse@ at gmail.com or call Davis at (306) 745-2905, or Jodi Bennitt at (306) 735-2244. The organization is also seeking parents willing to volunteer with coaching or officiating. The association will host clinics for the adults wanting to participate in these capacities.

son.

Whitewood's 2009 campaign starts on Sunday, April 26 with an afternoon session that will introduce the sport to youth and their parents.

Hosted at the Whitewood Community Arena, the event will include a lacrosse skills demonstration and registration for those interested in playing on a team this year. Equipment will be provided, but youth will require hockey gloves and helmets.

The event is open to both male and female youth aged six to 16. The association wants to host teams in

10), Pee Wee (11 and 12) Bantam (13 and 14) and Midget (15 and 16) divisions.

The association's competitive season stakes place during the months of May and June, with games scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. Some road matches will take place during the weekend.

Davis said box lacrosse is one of the best offseason training sports for hockey players, noting that National Hockey League players like Wayne Gretzky, Gary Roberts, Brendan

The one drawback we are finding is that pretty much everywhere in the province, a lot of the coaches haven't played . . . That's why we're hoping that the majority of the kids playing now get into the coaching part, too, and build the game from their own experience.

Hugh Davis, WBLA president

Shanahan and John Tavaris played the game in their vouth.

The benefits of the game include improved eye-hand co-ordination, speed and overall physical and mental conditioning.

Davis's 14-year-old son Thomas has been playing the sport for eight years, who first took an interest in

game on television.

Since 1987, the men's league has grown from four to 12 teams, including franchises in Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto. The rest are located in the United States.

"He was watching T.V. and thought it would be cool to play," said Davis, who resides in Esterhazy. "Yorkton started up a program and we went there to get him started."

Davis points to the NLL as part of the reason for the sports surge in popularity in the past several years. He



Plain and Valley

April 2009





Rempel returns to home province in trade

BY CHRIS ISTACE

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A season after entering the CFL with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Jordan Rempel is coming home.

The six foot, six inch, 322 pound Canadian Football League offensive lineman was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in early April. The Riders also received Hamilton's second-round pick in the 2009 draft.

Meanwhile, the Tiger-Cats picked up lineman Dan Goodspeed and the Riders' fifth-round pick in the draft.

Rempel, a former resident of the Fairlight area, was selected by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the second round of the 2007 CFL draft. As a rookie in 2008, he was a starter in three games for Hamil-ton, was dressed for a total of 11 dressed and spent three games on the four-man reserve roster.

"I was not really expecting (the trade) at all," Rempel said on Wednes-day from Hamilton, where he and his wife Megan had just purchased a home. "It was looking like I would be sticking around here a bit longer, so it was a shock.'

Besides playing with the team he cheered for as a youth, Rempel is looking forward to join-ing a Rider offensive line that he thinks will benefit his career.

"It's a great organiza-tion that has really excelled the last five years with a lot of good things happening," he said. "It's exciting to get a chance to play with a veteran offensive line. There's a couple of veteran guys that will be great to learn from." Plus, he's keen on re-turning to the province

where he was raised.

"It will be great to get back home where there are a lot of familiar faces. It's where it grew up, so it's good," he said.

Rempel grew up on a farm near Fairlight and attended Maryfield School until Grade 3. The family then moved to Caronport, where he com-pleted his elementary and secondary schooling.

"He just showed signs of being a good football player in Grade 9," said Rempel's mother Carol. "(Playing professionally) was never a dream he talked about, but he had the build and the strength to do it." Both Carol and her husband Ken are excited about having Rempel join the team they have long cheered for. They purchased season tickets after learning about the trade. "It's a little easier to get to the games now," Carol said with a laugh. "We've been Rider fans, except for the last two years when we were Hamilton fans out of necessity.' After graduating from high school, Rempel moved on to the University of Saskatchewan, where he played three seasons with the Huskies football program.



After a rookie season that saw him dress for 11 games with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, former Fairlight area resident Jordan Rempel was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders early this month. The offensive lineman joins eight other Saskatchewan-born players currently on the Rider roster.

Two years ago, Rempel was one of only two Canadians to play among North America's best college and university to be seen by National

East West Shrine game in Houston, Texas. It was an opportunity for Rempel

credit union

football prospects in the Football League scouts, 103 players in the Shrine who picked up 55 of the game the previous year.

Rempel was named top lineman in the Canada West conference for his play with the Huskies in his final year and was a finalist for the J.P. Metras Trophy for the country's top university lineman.

Rempel said his rookie season as a profession-al last year had a steep learning curve.

"I can still improve a lot and get better, faster and stronger, but getand stronger, but get-ting game time helped a lot," he said about the three games he started and the spot duty he had throughout the season. "As a rookie playing is very beneficial."

There are now nine Saskatchewan-born players on the Roughrider roster, including Rem-pel, receiver Chris Getzlaf, slotback Jason Cler-mont, running backs Neal Hughes and Stu Foord, defensive linemen Scott Schultz and Mike Stadnyk, and offensive linemen Gene Makowsky and Joe McGrath.

"It's just awesome that so many Saskatchewan players are on the team," Rempel said. "Having Canadians on the team is great for the people to relate to, but having Saskatchewan players is great for the community. There's a close connec-tion with the people living in the area.

Rempel expects to be in Regina later this week or early next week. He and his wife are currently trying to sell their home.



Supper 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Registration 6:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL

MEETING

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Advance Supper Tickets may be purchased at any branch location for \$5

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

TAKE NOTICE THAT the annual meeting of the Members of the Credit Union will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, the 23^{rd} day of April, 2009, at Hamiota Community Center, Hamiota, Manitoba for the following purposes:

- To consider the annual report of the directors, the financial 1. statements and the auditor's report;
- 2. To appoint an auditor;
- З. To consider the amendment of the by-laws of the Credit Union;
- 4. Other business.

Proposed By-Law Amendments

It is proposed that the By-Law of the Credit Union will be amended to provide that joint members and joint associates will no longer be permitted. For convenience, the existing By-Law will be repealed and replaced.

The full text of the proposed by-laws will be available on request for members' review at the Credit Union.



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Wolverine Supplies holds open house

Wolverine Supplies near Virden held its annual customer appreciation day and open house on Saturday, April 4. The firearms business, which has been in operation for 17 years, held a barbecue lunch that day, new product demonstrations, draws, and prize giveaways.

Above, a staff member explains a .22 youth rifle to a customer.

Right, the sales manager at Wolverine Supplies helps one of over 200 customers who came by the shop that day.



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Man lands in coffin during car crash

• Radoslav Pokrajac, 30, of Sibinj, Croatia, had quite the day when he was in a car crash that threw him from the car through an open window. He crashed through the window of an undertaker's shop and landed in a display of the funeral director's special offers on coffins. When the stunned Pokrajac woke up and found himself in a coffin, he freaked. As it was explained, he didn't know if he was alive or dead.

 A police officer endured four operations at a private clinic in Gothenburg, Sweden, to correct a birth condi-tion that made one leg shorter than the other. However the operations on the longer leg cut off too much, so it is now shorter than the leg that used to be the shorter one.

•A footman in Buckingham Palace caused £60,000 damage when he spilled a trolley of drinks on a carpet that had just been laid two days earlier. The footman was wheeling the trolley when one of the wheels fell off.In Atlanta, a robber climbed through a hole in the

roof of an Atlanta liquor store but then couldn't get out. Police and the owner of Azar's Package Store found Adam Hardeman, 29, hiding in a store restroom with playing cards, lighters and a bottle of gin in his pockets. He was arrested and charged with burglary and damage to property.

• This is weird. The \$500,000 top prize in Alaska's Jan-uary statewide lottery, to benefit the organization Standing Together Against Rape, for victims of sexual assault, was won by Alec Ahsoak, 53, who is a twice-convicted sex offender.

• A man wearing a bicycle helmet demanded cash at a bank in Gig Harbor, Wash. The quick-thinking teller slipped a GPS tracking device with a transmitter that po-lice could track into the bag with the \$12,000. The robber



Gene Hauta

escaped on a bicycle, rode to a nearby car and drove off. Puzzled as to how the police cars got to him so quickly, the man ditched his car and ran, of course, taking the bag with the GPS. He was arrested within minutes. James R. Knox, 50, had only been out of prison for 10 days after spending nearly 10 years in prison for, what else, bank robberv.

• The mysterious mewing in Vickie Mendenhall's Seattle home started about the time she bought a used couch from Value Village for \$27. After days of searching for the source of the noise, she found a very hungry calico cat living in her sofa. Bob Killion responded to a media search and reported that he had donated the old couch and lost his cat at about the same time. The cat had crawled into a hole in the back of the couch and then couldn't get out when the furniture was pushed against the wall.

 Christian Colon, 21, had arranged a plea deal to testify against alleged murderer Joel Rivera in exchange for a lighter sentence. Abruptly, he decided he was not going to testify. Not so coincidentally, the change of heart came right after Colon was accidentally housed in the same Milwaukee County Jail holding cell with Rivera. Without his plea deal, Colon got 46 years.

• Chuck Shepherd noted that at least Colon is still alive. A 23-year-old inmate at the Oklahoma State Peni-tentiary was found beaten to death after being mistakenly assigned to the same cell as his ex-partner-in-crime,

against whom he had testified in a 2002 murder trial.
Police in Ireland are red-faced, all because they don't read Polish well. They were searching for a Polish driver who apparently committed more than 50 driving of-fenses. Looking high and low, they could not determine the whereabouts of the mysterious driver, Prawo Jazdy. This driver always produced his documents, proving he was legal immigrant in Ireland, but the documents always had a different address. The mystery ended when embarrassed officers found out that Prawo Jazdy means "drivers license" in Polish. Really, about 50 different drivers had been stopped

• A New York woman has set a record for the larg-est bust size, a 38KKK. "And you thought the KKK had some big boobs before," wrote Barach.

 We have all suffered through frustrating incidents of poor service and officialdom.

Tracey Fox simply would not play the part of the poor helpless housewife. After surviving without her washing machine for three weeks and a string of failed repair attempts, she took matters into her own hands by kidnapping the repairman. The 42-year-old grandmother of two told the man to phone 999 "because you're not leav-ing until it's fixed." The repairman is thought to have been held hostage for no more than 15 minutes, and Fox had released him by the time cops arrived. She said she was so frustrated she needed someone to hear her story. The company actually offered to replace her "lemon" with a new washer.

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Lots to do at Moosomin Home, **Farm and Leisure Show**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK Moosomin's Home Farm and Leisure Show is coming up April 24 and 25, and will feature a range of attractions.

The Home, Farm and Leisure Show will feature a wide range of exhibitors. The eight anchor exhibitors will be Borderland Co-op, Celebration Ford, Bradley's GM, Miller Farm Equipment, Mazer Implements, Greenline Equipment, Creasy's Hot Tubs, and Boyd's Excavating.

There will also be dozens of other exhibitors, ranging from local organizations like Relay For Life and the Rocanville Wildlife Federation to a wide range of businesses from the local area and a wide surrounding area.

The weekend will also include a silent auction, with proceeds going toward the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce's highway signage project. The chamber is raising money for Welcome to Moosomin signs along the new Trans-Canada Highway lanes. A children's area is being supervised by the Moosomin Family Resource Centre and St. Alban's Sunday School.

Several events are being planned as part of the Home, Farm, and Leisure Show.

On Friday evening, Sas-katchewan Roughrider John Chick will be on hand to meet Rider Fans and sign autographs.

The Baptist Youth Group will be serving chilli and a bun on Friday.

Saturday kicks off with the Firemen's Pancake Breakfast at the Moosomin Fire Hall. The firemen are raising funds for an addition to the hall.

On Saturday morning, a fun pet show will be held at the events area of the Home, Farm, and Leisure Show. This isn't a serious pet show for pedigreed animals only-it is designed to be fun and organizers are hoping as many people as possible

Awards will be presented to individuals and organizations who have provided exemplary service to the community.

Doug and Anne Creighton will receive a special award for their years of hard work for the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, Barry Dearle will accept an award on behalf of his late wife Bonnie, whose long list of volunteer efforts in-

and District Health Care cluded being the heart and soul of Moosomin's first Relay For Life, the Bethlehem Live Committee will be recognized for their achievement in getting a new community tradition off the ground, and Neil and Carol Russell will be recognized for their tireless fundraising efforts, including several very successful soup-andsandwich and silent auction fundraisers for people with medical needs. Entertainment will be

provided by "A Night of Memories" by Sylvio Fontaine and Sean Wynne. The pair impersonate several stars, and the show has got great reviews.

Admission to the Home, Farm, and Leisure Show is only a toonie, with all proceeds going to the sign project, and tickets for the community recognition evening are \$20 each. Tickets are available from the World-Spectator office or from any Chamber executive member.



Sask Roughrider john Chick will be on hand at the show on Friday, April 24 to meet Rider fans and sign autographs.



out their pets.

On Saturday afternoon, BG Crafts will be helping people create make-andtake crafts at the events area.

The Baptist Youth Group will be serving soup and sandwiches on the Saturday of the show. A local artist will also be working on a paint-ing during the show, and Westwind Greenhouse will be doing demonstrations Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

Saturday will wrap up with the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce **Community Appreciation** Evening.

The event includes supper, awards presentations, and entertainment.

PotashCorp Rocanville will be making a presentation to the Moosomin

Plain and Valley

April 2009



· Children's Area - Moosomin Family Resource Centre & St. Albans Sunday School.

· Craft Arena by BG Gifts, Home Decor & Crafts, Saturday from 1-3 p.m.







Featuring Saskatchewan Roughrider John Chick Friday night





Moosomin Chamber A Constant of the second s

MMF president hopeful Fort Ellice site can be developed

by Kevin Weedmark

The president of the Manitoba Métis Federation is optimistic the RM of Ellice and the village of St. Lazare can settle their differences with the owner of land where historic Fort Ellice is located so that the land can be returned to public control and the site can be developed and preserved.

the site can be developed and preserved. David Charttrand met with local Métis, as well as representatives of the village of St. Lazare and the RM of Ellice on Feb. 27.

A vote of the local Métis was taken at the meeting, and there was unanimous support for moving ahead with the Fort Ellice project.

Fort Ellice is a Hudson's Bay Company fort site. After years of legal wrangling, the Supreme Court refused to hear the landowner's final appeal, but the town and RM have spent \$200,000 on legal costs over the issue and are still awaiting a land valuation which will determine how much they will have to compensate the landowner for the site.

The village and RM's interest in the site dates back to 1982, when an archeological survey found that there was significant archeological value at the site but that it was in poor condition, with bones protruding from the ground at the burial site. In 1999, a vision plan was developed for the area which identified the Fort Ellice site as a significant development opportunity.

significant development opportunity. In 2003, the local governments first started trying to negotiate with the landowner, and in 2004 started meeting with lawyers regarding expropriation of the land. In 2006, Court of Queen's Bench determined the local governments could expropriate the land, but further delays have been caused by an attempt to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, and the need to establish a value for the land.

Chartrand said in a recent interview that he is optimistic for the project.

"We want to follow through and ensure that this site is preserved and protected for our children, and for our children's children," he said.

Since the Métis meeting in late February, Chartrand and his organization's regional leadership met with the landowner who has been fighting expropriation of the site by the village and the RM.

"Mr. Fouillard came to meet with us in Brandon to express his views, and we were interested to hear from him," said Chartrand. "He said a lot of his concern is based on a fear that there is potential loss of value in his remaining land. It seems like Mr. Fouillard and the community have not yet resolved their issues.

"I hope they can resolve their issues, and I hope it happens sooner rather than later. I think the Métis Federation would have a strong interest in seeing this site protected, and I'm sure the federal and provincial governments would like to see

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such a structure established."

Chartrand said that the Manitoba Métis Federation has worked with the federal and provincial governments on other projects and feels it could work with those levels of government on the Fort Ellice site as well.

"I think it would be a wise decision for everyone to work together on this," he said. "There's a very good opportunity there. Fort Ellice is a historic site for both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and there are a lot of possibilities for that site."

He said he believes there may be funding available from the federal and provincial governments to develop the Fort Ellice site.

"There are segments within the new stimulus package that may help us with funds for such an initiative," he said. "We have raised the issue informally, and I have no doubt the board will support us if we move on this."

However, he said the dispute between the landowner and the two local governments is still in the way of progress on the site.

"A lot will depend on how soon they can settle this issue, Chartrand said. "We have great support behind this and if we work together, knowing we have the community behind us, we don't have to worry about people trying to divide that relationship."

Chartrand sees Fort Ellice as an important element in teaching youth in the area about the history of the region—which extends back far beyond the arrival of the railway, where most history books start.

"This could be an important place for Manitoba and Saskatchewan," he said. "There was interconnection of Métis communities from Fort Garry to Fort Ellice and all the way up to Batoche.

"The sad part about our country is that our education system is not doing a good job of educating our own youth. They don't understand the history and the importance of these communities and these historic sites.

"We're a very young country and we're doing a very poor job of explaining our history. This might be one way to start correcting that."



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Could programmable matter be a reality soon?

Remember the shapechanging T-1000 robot in the 1991 movie Terminator 2? It could disguise itself as anything—a policeman, the floor, whatever—and sprout tools and weapons as required.

10

It turns out it may very well have given us a glimpse of a very real future (though hopefully without the whole Armageddon-like-conflict-between-robots-and-humans thing).

Researchers right now are working on "programmable matter," matter that can be ordered to assemble itself into . . . well, pretty much anything. You could think of it as a 3D equivalent of the pixels on a computer screen.

Imagine a bracelet that could morph into whatever electronic gadget you required, from cell-phone to pocket computer; a 3D model of a prototype car that automobile executives (if such people still exist in the future—a long shot, I know) could examine at the board-room table and tweak as desired; a single tool in your toolbox that could become a hammer, screwdriver, wrench or blade as required; a block of matter in a small apartment that could shape itself into pieces of furniture as needed; or (most creepily)

a lifelike T-1000-like simulacrum of someone from the other side of the world you're having a telephone conversation with. Sure it sounds like sci-

ence fiction, because it isbut so were computers, nuclear power and space travel before they burst into the public consciousness. And just as happened with those advances, the research that may give us programmable matter is bubbling along at labs all over the world.

There are a lot of different approaches being tak-en. One is Intel Corporation's "claytronics."

In Intel's vision, programmable matter will be made up of tiny robots they've dubbed "catoms," since they're essentially artificial atoms which combine in various ways to create a desired object.

Each catom will contain computing power, memory, and the ability to store and share power and information with its fellows. Intel wants to eventually make each catom a sphere about 100 microns—1/10th of a millimeter, about the size

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of a fine grain of sand—in diameter. If that sounds too cramped to contain any computing power, you don't realize just how miniaturized computers have become.

"This is acres of space for nanoelectronic circuits," is how Justin Rattner, Intel's chief technology officer puts it.

With catoms that size, he says, "You could have a cup full of (them), or a tray, and (they) can be programmed to take on any arbitrary shape."

That's the goal. Right now, though, instead of making spheres, Intel is making cylinders, little tubes, each with 24 electromagnets around its circumference which can be powered on or off to move the catom in relationship to other catoms as their

Standing Seam

Edward Willett

computers exchange information based on their programming.

These prototype catoms are about one millimeter in diameter and about 10 millimetres long. At a smaller size the electromagnets would give way to electrostatic forces.

Despite—or because of— the tiny sizes involved, the remaining challenges are immense. A lot of the work Intel is doing is aimed at developing the necessary programming to tell thousands of cooperating but distributed processors how to work together to create a particular object. New programming languages, algorithms and debugging tools are needed. (And what happens when someone develops a computer virus that attacks your programmable matter? Hmmm . . . is that a science fiction story I see before me?)

How close is all this? Jason Campbell, one of the key researchers at Intel working on the project, says his personal estimate of how long it will take has gone down from 50 years, when he started working there four years ago, to

"just a couple more years." And remember, Intel's is only one lab researching programmable matter, and their approach is only one of those under development. Eventually, one of these approaches may give us artificial, programmable atoms roughly the size of real atoms. And at that point.

Well, Clarke's Law (formulated by famed science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke) pretty much covers it: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."

If programmable matter really takes off, we're going to enter a world where the mythical powers of wizards will become available to all of us.

Whether you find that exhilarating or scary probably depends on your view of human nature.

Edward Willett is a science and science fiction writer from Regina.









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Sylvia MacBean photo

The Bakken oil field near Stoughton, Sask. A lot of drilling activity has been taking place in the area recently, and many new wells have been developed.

Land sale brings in \$11.7 million in revenue

The April sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights has brought in \$11.7 million in revenue for the province.

Sale revenue was almost twice as high as that for the first land sale of the year in February, but was well below that for April of last year when the price of oil was more than double its current level.

to an 85 per cent reduction in land sale revenues for the three western provinces over the first quarter of this year," Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd said. "It's not surprising that our numbers would also be tracking lower, and we knew we'd be hard pressed to match the record year we had in 2008 - a phenom-"The global economic enal year for the oil and gas

slowdown has contributed industry in our province.

"We are optimistic on industry activity over the balance of the year, given the investments companies have already made in land acquisition and the overall attractiveness of our oil and gas resources. Industry showed a lot of interest in what was a relatively small number of parcels on offer, and we expect to see greater bidding activity in

the next sale."

April's sale included five petroleum and natural gas exploration licences that sold for \$2 million and 176 lease parcels that attracted \$9.7 million in bonus bids. Weyburn-Estevan The area led the land sale with

sales of \$9.6 million. The

Kindersley-Kerrobert area

was next at \$971,000, fol-

lowed by the Lloydminster area at \$602,000 and the Swift Current area at \$509,000.

The highest price paid for a single parcel was just under \$1.2 million. Canadian Coastal Resources Ltd. acquired this 2,840-hectare exploration licence near Lampman.

The highest price on a

per hectare basis was just over \$23,500. Badger Pass Minerals Inc. bid more than \$762,000 for a shallow rights lease of a 32-hectare parcel above the Bakken Formation, six kilometres south of Stoughton.

The next sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas dispositions will be June 8, 2009.



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Murray living proof that cancer can be beaten

BY KARA KINNA When Kristen Murray experienced a few small health problems—nausea, fatigue, and her heart racing from time to time—she simply assumed it was because she was six weeks pregnant.

Cancer was the last thing she was expecting.

"I went in for my prenatal blood work on a Tuesday," says Murray, who lives in Wawota, Sask. "I was at work on the following Friday and I got a phone call from the doctor's office telling me to come to Moosomin immediately."

Murray got a hold of her husband Shawn, then made the 30 minute trip to Moosomin to see her doctor. She knew something was wrong when, as soon as she walked through the door, she was escorted to a room right away to wait for the doctor.

"Doctor Peters said flat out 'You have Leukemia and you have to go to Regina.'

The rest of the day was a blur for Murray.

"Honestly, I don't even remember," she says. "I literally ran out the door and ran to the nursing home balling to my mom (Murray's mother Judy Steinke was working there at the time). I hardly even remember that trip to Regina. That first week is kind of a blur. You've got to do what you've got to do I guess. I didn't really



Wawota's Kristen Murray has been cancer free for five years now. She was diagnosed with Leukemia back in 2002. At the time, she was only 23 years old and six weeks pregnant with her

"There is life after cancer. You always hear the bad stories. No one ever tells you the good stories. It's always nice to hear the positive stories. They tell you how many people die from cancer, but they don't tell you how many people survive, which I think should be other way the around."

—Kristen Murray

and seeing that end of it. It was nice to be able to fundraise and give back."

Since that first Relay For Life, she has participated in a Relay For Life every year. After Moosomin, it was Redvers... then Carievale and Oxbow. This year, she is on the planning committee for Moosomin's second Relay For Life being held in June.

"There is life after can-cer," she says. "You always hear the bad stories. No one ever tells you the good stories. It's always nice to hear the positive stories. They tell you how many people die from cancer, but they don't tell you how many people survive, which I think should be the other way around.' Murray says she believes a cure will be found some day. "They've got to find a cure," she says. "They find a cure for everything else. It may not be in my lifetime, but hopefully it's in my daughter's or my son's lifetime.

ask many questions. I had a daughter and a husband and family to come home to."

On May 21, 2002, Murray—then 23 years old and pregnant with her second child—was diagnosed with Acute Lympho Blastic Leukemia (ALL). Although the cancer is more common in children, it can also affect young adults.

"I thought something was wrong with the baby," says Murray. "I would never have thought it was cancer. That was the last thing I thought of on the way to Moosomin."

"It was just such a shock because she was a healthy girl," says Murray's mother, Judy Steinke of Wapella. "I went straight with her to Regina and I was there for as many months as she was."

After being informed of

second child.

the news, Murray rushed to Regina where she stayed for about six weeks in hospital. She was forced to start chemotherapy immediately, and to terminate her pregnancy.

"I really didn't have a choice," she says. "It was either that, or I would have lost my life."

Doctors told Murray that she had caught the Leukemia early. After her first round of chemo, the cancer was knocked into remission.

However, Murray's medical treatments were far from over. After four rounds of chemo, she had to do a year and a half of maintenance chemo. She has had 30 spinal taps and three bone marrow biopsies and says she has spent

"I couldn't have done it without my mom and husband," she says. "I never spent a night alone. I was lucky to have the support that some people don't have in there, because it's not something you want to do alone."

Although Murray admits she was scared, she never thought she would lose her battle to cancer.

It has been two years now since she stopped taking chemo treatments, and, as of July 1, 2009, her cancer will have been in remission for five years.

"I did what I had to do," says Murray. "I didn't really thing about it, I just did it. I put my trust in my oncologist and I'm glad I did.

"I think it's more scary now looking back."

With the chance of becoming sterile from the chemotherapy treatments, Murray didn't know if she would be able to have another child. When she got pregnant again, she says she was a bit apprehensive.

"I was scared because I was six weeks pregnant when I found out I had Leukemia," she says. "But I was very excited at the same time. Once I got past six weeks, I could breath. I was very, very excited." Just over 13 weeks ago,

Just over 13 weeks ago, Murray gave birth to her second child, a baby boy named Rowan.

"He was a healthy nine pounds and three ounces

when he was born, and there were no complications at all during the pregnancy," she says.

Murray says having cancer has, without a doubt, changed her life.

"You take time to smell the roses and slow down and enjoy life, because you never know. You can be at work one day, and the next day be in the hospital. It can definitely change in a heartbeat.

Murray attended her first Relay For Life in Moosomin in 2005. At the time she was still taking chemotherapy treatments. Her hair was just starting to grow back.

"It felt good," she says. "It was nice to see that you could give back after going through all the treatments "We'll keep fundraising until they do."

This year, Relay for Life events are being held in Moosomin on June 5 and 6 and in Indian Head on June 13.

Relay For Life is an event organized by the Canadian Cancer Society to raise funds for cancer research.

More information on Relay For Life can be found online at www.cancer.ca/ relay.

Please join us for Relay For Life 2009



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Alberta Clipper Project set to start in area this summer

BY CHRIS ISTACE

Activity on a 165 kilometre stretch of an Enbridge pipeline project running from Glenavon to Cromer, Man. is scheduled to begin this summer, bringing with it up to 600 construction workers and economic benefits for communities along Highway 48.

Enbridge is currently constructing its Alberta Clipper Project, a \$2.4 billion crude oil pipeline stretching 1,607 kilometres from Hardisty, Alta. to Superior, Wisconsin. About 700 kilometres of the pipeline runs through Saskatchewan.

Contractors will be working in two areas of the province this summer, including an area between Chamberlain and Bethune, and the area known as Spread 8, which begins in Glenavon and runs by the communities of Kipling, Kennedy, Kelso, Wawota, Fairlight and Maryfield to Cromer, Man.

When it comes in service in mid-2010, the 36inch pipeline will have an initial capacity of 450,000 barrels per day, with a further 350,000 barrels per day available for future use.

Michelle Perret, Enbridge Manager of Community Relations for Major Projects, was one of four Enbridge representatives in Moosomin last Wednesday to give an overview of the Alberta Clipper Project. She said the initiative

represents an expansion of Enbridge's existing system—which was originally constructed about 60 years ago—and an extension into new markets in the American Mid-West.

"If we didn't do this, there would be trucks and trains on the highway transporting the crude," Perret said while outlining the benefits of the project.

"This is a more efficient and environmentally friendly way of transporting it."

Enbridge's director of public, government and aboriginal affairs for major projects Morgan Yates, said the Alberta Clipper may also provide crude transport for the billions of barrels of crude yet to be pulled out of the ground in Saskatchewan, as well.

The Saskatchewan portion of the Enbridge project is about half complete following the conclusion of the winter construction season.

On the east portion of the pipeline, crews have worked as far as Montmarconstruction phase follows a multitude of regulatory processes, including environmental reviews under the Canada Environmental Assessment Act and through other regulatory bodies like the National Energy Board, Transport

Although construction workers are not told where they must find accomodations, Perret said communities along the pipeline, including Moosomin, should have increased business due to the project.

Businesses located in



The Saskatchewan portion of Enbridge's Alberta Clipper project is roughly half complete. Construction of the pipeline near Kipling, Kennedy, Kelso, Wawota, Fairlight and Maryfield will take place this year, bringing with it various benefits to local businesses.

tre.

Beginning in June, surveying, trenching, pipe-welding and pipe-laying will resume on Spread 8 at a rate of three kilometres per day. While much of the work will take place along Highway 48, a portion of the line runs on a more remote stretch north of the highway from the Kennedy-Langbank area to Fairlight. From there, it resumes its path along the highway to Cromer, Man., the site of a pump station.

The Enbridge pipeline then runs southeast to the Canada-United States border. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Yates said the project's

Canada and various other federal and provincial agencies. "It's a complex piece of

business when you stack all the jurisdictions together," he said.

Now that the construction phase has begun, however, the benefits to the province are starting to be felt. It is estimated that the project will generate about \$855 million in economic spin-offs, with about 5,000 full-time and part-time jobs created that pay an average \$40,000 per year.

On a corporate level, Regina steel company Evraz—formerly known as IPSCO—and the Magna Electric Corporation are involved as suppliers.

communities along the route may also see benefits. Besides increased traffic at local restaurants, motels and hotels, mechanics, tire stores and hardware stores can also see an increase in business.

Perret said a charity organization in one community raised money for their programming by selling bag lunches to pipeline workers.

"We heard stories that this project may have been a cushion with all the news about the bad economy going on," said Perret.

As pipeline crews make their way into the area south of the Trans-Canada Highway, another 500 will be working on the \$2.8

billion expansion at PotashCorp Rocanville to the north.

Some of the work on that project has slowed to let preparations for excavation of the mine's new service shaft catch up. However, activity is expected to ramp up in April or May when workers are expected to begin arriving.

The PotashCorp Rocanaville expansion involves the sinking of a new service shaft about seven miles northwest of Rocanville; the construction of office facilities at the same

site; the conversion of the existing service shaft into a production shaft; the installation of a new conveyor system to transport ore from a new mining area taken on by PotashCorp; and a new mill constructed next to the existing mill.

15

Other portions of the expansion include an increase to the mine's shop capacity, a new warehouse, a new tailings deposit area, improvements and expansion to the mine's rail yard, and a new product storage facility that will double the mine's storage capacity.

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If you would like to participate as a survivor, volunteer, participant, or to buy a luminary, please contact:

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Plain and Valley

Agriculture youth advisory committee formed

Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud introduced a new Agriculture Youth Advisory Committee recently. The committee will provide advice and direction to the provincial government on how to attract and retain young people in the agriculture industry.

"Young people are the key to securing a strong future for the agriculture industry," Bjornerud said. "I am looking forward to working with the committee to increase opportunities in farming and ranching for Saskatchewan's youth."

The committee's mandate is to provide recommendations to the minister about youth attraction and retention in the agriculture industry, which includes farming, ranching and agri-business. The committee will work with ministry staff to develop, implement and monitor a provincial agriculture youth strategy.

The formation of the committee comes at a time when the average age of farmers is steadily increasing. There is an immediate need to ensure trained, talented youth are able to meet farming responsibilities as the older generation retires.

The committee is comprised of seven members between the ages of 18 and 35. All of the members are actively involved in farming or ranching in Saskatchewan.

Members are: April Nichol, Qu'appelle (Chairperson), Landon Swityk, Spiritwood, Jeff Prosko, Rose Valley, Colin Wilgenbusch, Halbrite, Max Halyk, Melville, Derek Tallon, Lafleche, Daryl Frank, Southey.

"All of the members come from different areas of the province, and can provide input based on their own experiences, and those of other young people in their area," Bjornerud said. "I think we're going to see some really positive changes to agriculture recruitment and retention as this process unfolds."

The Youth Advisory Committee will be operational for up to two years, meeting eight times annually.

Wheat Growers want reform to Canada Grain Act

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association is disappointed that parliamentarians could not set aside differences to move forward in a constructive manner in much-needed reforms to the Canada Grain Act and the Canadian Grain Commission.

"Failing to reform the Grain Act means that prairie farmers continue to be saddled with unnecessary costs," says Kevin Bender, President of the Wheat Growers. "Our industry needs to modernize and make sure our regulatory system fits with the needs of the marketplace."

The shelving of Bill C-13 means that potential cost savings from the elimination of unnecessary costs on the inspection and weighing of grain shipments will now be lost.

The Wheat Growers advocate the implementation of an optional inspection and grading system on prairie grain shipments.

"Increasingly, customers are buying grain on the basis of specs," says

The Western Canadian *Theat Growers Associa*on is disappointed that Bender. "Our regulatory system needs to adapt to face this reality."

The Wheat Growers note that mandatory inward weighing and inspection at port terminals does not contribute to Canada's food safety system. CGC inspectors are not on-site inspecting grain shipped to domestic flour mills, malt plants or crushing facilities. Farmers and companies are chiefly responsible for food safety in these instances with oversight provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It is false to suggest that the CGC grading inspectors are necessary to assure safe food for domestic or export customers

The Wheat Growers note that mandatory inward weighing and inspection is only in place for western Canadian grain shipments. This imposes costs on prairie farmers that eastern farmers are able to avoid. "If CGC inspection is truly necessary, why are eastern farmers exempt?" asks Bender. The Wheat Growers are also disappointed that the shelving of Bill C-13 means that an examination of CGC bonding and the exploration of alternatives will not go forward at the House of Commons Agriculture Committee.

⁹There is a need to ensure good risk management tools are in place to provide payment security to farmers" says Bender.

"CGC bonding has failed farmers in the past. We need to examine whether a clearinghouse system or other models would provide better protection at a lower cost."

The Wheat Growers are contacting various Members of Parliament from all political parties to encourage them to resurrect legislation that will help modernize Canada's grain regulatory system.

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by Sandra

Johnson

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Black bean sauce:

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3 tbsp salted black beans

Beef With Black

CCA supports challenge to South Korea

Canadian cattle producers received welcome news on April 9 when the Government of Canada announced it is taking the first formal step of a WTO (World Trade challenge against South Korea, based on its refusal to resume trade

Speaking on behalf of cattle producers across Canada, Canadian Cattlemen's As-sociation (CCA) president, Brad Wildeman said, "I commend federal Minister of International Trade and the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Stockwell Day, and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, Gerry Ritz, for requesting this WTO consultation with South Korea.

the World Organization for

Animal Health (OIE), yet Korea has continuously stalled restoration of Canada's access. Particularly galling with Korea's ongoing border closure, is the fact that they accept beef from the United States, which shares the same OIE status as Canada.'

Travis Toews, CCA Vice-President and Chair of the Foreign Trade Committee added, "We would have preferred to reach a negotiated agreement with South Korea, and made extensive efforts to achieve one. But it became clear that no progress was being made, particularly since their position has no scientific basis. We agree with the Canadian government's decision to take this issue to the WTO."

To date, more than 50 countries have resumed trade in Canadian beef,

based in whole or in part on the OIE guidelines for Controlled BSE Risk. Along with the OIE, they recognize

the effectiveness of Canada's world-leading measures for the mitigation, surveillance and eradication of BSE.



Organization) of Canadian beef.

'Canadian beef meets all the requirements for full market access, according to

Mix steak and soy sauce. Cover and refrigerate and leave to marinate for 30 minutes. Crush black beans and mix with water, leave to stand until ready to use. Heat 2 tbsp of oil in wok on high. Add peppers; cook until tender. Remove from wok. Add sauce ingredients, cook until thickened, add cooked green peppers. Serves 4.

Tried and True

Recipes

Cheesy Carrot Casserole

4 cups carrots, sliced and cooked 1 can cream of chicken soup 1 cup Velveeta cheese

2 tsp dry onion flakes 2 tbsp margarine 1/2 cup bread crumbs

Put cooked carrots into baking dish. Mix cheese, soup and onion flakes in a saucepan and heat. Stir until cheese melts. Pour over carrots. Melt margarine, add bread crumbs, sprinkle over top of carrots. Bake at 350 F uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes.



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Protecting Canada's world-class grain system

Well-functioning regulatory systems tend to be invisible, until tragedy occurs. It is only after someone dies from drinking contaminated water or eating tainted food, a bank fails or a highway overpass collapses that the general public realizes that something is wrong.

Citizens rightly expect their governments to protect them and to act in the public interest. Too often governments fail to do so, instead responding to corporate pressure to weaken regulations so that businesses can cut costs and increase profits. Recent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses—listeriosis in Canada, melamine contamination in China, and salmonella poisoning in the U.S.—underline the dangers to the public of cutting back on government oversight and inspections in the food system.

Yet these lessons seem to be lost on the minority Conservative federal government, which is threatening another of Canada's highly successful regulatory systems. Legislation now before Parliament—Bill C-13—would gut Canada's world-class grain regulatory system.

Among other things, the bill would eliminate government inspections of grain delivered to major elevators around the country. Trained public inspectors, independent of the companies they oversee, now ensure that chemically-treated grain, dirt, glass, rodent excreta, and dangerous fungal and bacterial contaminants of grain are kept out of the human food system. The government proposes to leave grain companies free to arrange their own inspections of grain in their own facilities—an obvious conflict of interest that would increase the risk of safety and quality problems.

In the same bill, the government also plans to remove an established security program for grain producers that guarantees producers are paid for their grain deliveries even when buyers default or refuse to pay. Rather than

by Scott Sinclair and Jim Grieshaber-Otto

providing prairie farmers greater stability to better withstand global economic difficulties, the government would increase their risk of catastrophic financial loss.

For many decades, two sister institutions—the Canadian Grain Commission and the Canadian Wheat Board—have worked side-by-side to create a uniquely Canadian regulatory success story. Now both are feeling the wrath of a federal government that seems more interested in creating opportunities for transnational corporations than in protecting Canadian farm and consumer interests.

A Canadian icon, the Wheat Board is the exclusive marketing agency for western farmers growing wheat and barley for human consumption. It seeks to obtain the best prices and transportation rates, and returns all the revenues it obtains (minus marketing costs) back to Canadian producers. Even though a solid majority of western grain producers support the current Wheat Board, the Harper government is implacably opposed to the internationallyrenowned marketing agency.

The lesser-known Grain Commission also plays a central role in maintaining and enhancing Canada's worldwide reputation for grain quality and consistency. As Canada's grain system regulator, it administers the unique grading and inspection system that ensures the safety and quality of Canadian grain—and allows it to command consumer loyalty and high prices internationally.

The Harper government has already eliminated Canada's highly effective visual grain identification system and gotten rid of Assistant Grain Commissioners, senior officials appointed primarily to protect farmers' rights. Bill C-13 would continue the Conservatives' efforts to fundamentally alter the role of the Grain Commission and undermine Canada's grain system. The bill would turn over more of our regulatory system to private contractors and multinational grain companies, while downgrading the Grain Commission's long-standing mandate to protect the interests of producers.

The recent spate of food safety concerns, together with the turmoil inflicted by the global financial crisis, graphically demonstrate the importance of intelligent public interest regulation, strong and effective regulatory institutions and appropriate constraints on the enormous power wielded by huge global corporations. Canada's grain regulatory system has for decades supported producers, protected consumers, guaranteed quality and provided stability through the peaks and troughs of the commodity cycle. Discarding it, as proposed by the current government, would be folly. Instead, Parliament should safeguard and enhance a unique policy and regulatory success—Canada's world-class grain system.

Scott Sinclair is senior researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. He lives in rural Prince Edward Island. Jim Grieshaber-Otto has a Ph.D. in agricultural botany. He lives on a diversified 35-hectare family farm near Agassiz, B.C. Their study, Threatened Harvest: Protecting Canada's worldclass grain system, is available from www.policyalternatives. ca.

Provincial Registration Trails website launched

Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) has launched the Provincial Registration Trials (PVT) website www.pvttrials.com.

The goal of this project is to have a website that allows farmers to compare varieties headto-head with results for their farm.

This website gives producers online access to Postregistration Variety data from all of the western Canadian provinces. The results are available in a standardized form so that producers and other key audiences can use this data in making educated variety decisions.

Starting only with Canadian Western Red Spring wheat, producers will be able to see the potential value of bringing all of this information into one centralized location. It is the goal to eventually have all crop types included on this website.

This online PVT database is a major breakthrough in obtaining cooperation between the provinces, leading towards a unified western Canadian Post-registration Variety Testing (PVT) system. The PVT website will give producers a better idea of how a particular variety behaves overall in Western Canada, leading to better variety selection.

This project was initi-

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ated by ARECA (Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta), as part of a grant funded by ACAAF/AAFC. The Western Grains Research Foundation provided special grant funding and leadership on this

project.

A steering committee with representatives from each of the western Canadian provinces was formed in May 2008, to shape and guide the development of this website.

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\$100 million 'booster shot' delivered to **municipalities**

Nearly 800 Saskatche- infrastructure projects van municipalities now was taking too long. We wan municipalities now have provincial money in hand to continue to make their cities, towns and rural municipalities better places to live.

The Government of Saskatchewan has delivered on its commitment to provide \$100 million in Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) funding on a per capita basis by March 31, 2009.

rural Urban, and northern municipalities can now start construction and/or repairs on wastewater, transpor-tation and recreational projects—infrastructure that has been neglected for years, but is integral to the lives of every person in each of these communities.

"The Premier announced this economic booster shot in February and today I am happy to announce we have delivered on this commitment to accelerate funding," Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Hutchinson said. "Municipalities gave us a clear message-securing funding for critical

needed to accelerate the process—and we did just that. The speed with which we delivered this government funding is unprecedented.'

The City of Regina is putting some of its infrastructure funding toward roof repairs at the Lawson Aquatic Centre, a community pool that hundreds of adults and children use every day.

"We are pleased that the province recognizes the need to invest in municipal infrastructure, and that they are delivering the funding in a timely way," Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco said. "Projects like this improve our facilities, streets, sidewalks and water systems, and help us achieve our vision of an attractive, vibrant city where people thrive in opportunity.'

Other projects being funded throughout the province include water, protective services, solid waste, municipal buildings, public health, and planning and development.

Under MEEP, Feb. 28 was the deadline for municipalities to submit a one-page infra-structure plan with a project list, estimated costing and construction timelines, along with a signed funding agreement prior to receiving funding. The application process was designed to be easy and straight-forward and the money was delivered to municipalitiesas promised—by March 31, 2009. Under MEEP, munici-

palities were eligible for \$108.79 per capita. Based on the 2006 census, cities were eligible to receive approximately \$58 million, towns \$15.8 million, villages and resort villages \$5.1 million, rural municipalities \$19.2 million and northern municipalities \$1.9 million.

In addition to the \$100 million in MEEP funding, \$31.6 million in funding was acceler-ated under the Building Canada Fund—Communities Component first intake and the second intake is underway.





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