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Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

Kipling's paralympic champion Gil Dash says winning gold an amazing experience

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Gil Dash of Kipling won gold in wheelchair curling at the Paralympics in Milano-Cortina this past March.

He says the experience was unlike anything he has experienced ever before. He says the gold medal game was overwhelming with cheers for Team Canada with 3,000 people watching.

"We got to the Olympic village on March 4 we went into town that evening and toured around. We didn't have much time throughout the event. With wheelchair curling the days are long, exhausting, and it's hard to get rest. We had games in the morning and evening and then late at night myself, my coach, and other staff would be matching rocks, so I'd get home an hour or so later than the rest of the team. The para-alpine and para-snowboard had fewer events and so they would come watch our games and do other activities in the village whereas we didn't have a lot of down-time to go to other events, which was something I really wanted to do, but there just wasn't enough time.

"We started practicing as soon as we got there, and the venue was amazing. The nicest one I've seen. We were told there were close to 3,000 people there for the final game. The venue had a lot of people for all of the games. When we were playing in the final it was almost 99 per cent people cheering for Canada. The only ones cheering for China were the athletes from China. It was so loud. One of the biggest thrilling things for me was an hour before that game—I was in the hallway outside the locker room downstairs and the fans were starting to get let in and 15 minutes before gametime the amount of noise with 'Go Canada Go' chants gave me goosebumps and my hair stood up on my arms. That was such an awesome feeling."

Dash played his first game with Team Canada in the middle of the week against Latvia.

"There were a lot of strong feelings," said Dash. "Relief that we had made it to the final game. We had a chance. It's so hard to win at that level when there are so many good teams. Little tiny things can make all the difference. We did so much mental training as well that I feel helped prepare us for that final game. Trusting the process and trusting your teammates and coaches was a huge thing for us. You can't think about winning the gold medal it's about how we are going to make the next shot, how can I help my teammate with the next shot, and strategy. I was listed as alternate. I had played two full games during the week and matched rocks



Gil Dash with his gold medal.

at night for the team which is an important role. The first game I played was halfway through the week we were playing Latvia, and my spouse, Angela, wasn't supposed to get there until supper time and she got there halfway through the game so that was such a nice surprise and moment, seeing her in the crowd."

First Canadian Paralympic team to sweep competition

Dash explains his team was the first to ever be undefeated throughout the games.

"We had played China earlier in the week and won. We beat all of the teams during the week. We were the first team at the Paralympics to ever go undefeated so that was a big milestone for us. There are 10 teams there and you have to qualify for the Paralympics over the previous three years. You had to get enough points to go, other than the host team. We were there in the mixed fours discipline. There were mixed doubles at the Paralympics going on at the same time. It is so narrowed down so it is hard to make the Paralympics. I skipped the previous year at worlds in Scotland in 2025 where we won bronze, and the year before that in 2024 I played second and we got silver, and the year before in 2023 I played second as well and got silver. Then, we got gold at the Paralympics."

He says the atmosphere was unbelievable with support for Team Canada all over the world.

"The volunteers at the Paralympics came from all over the world and paid their way to get there. It was extremely expensive to stay there, and they paid for their own meals and were just amazing. These volunteers worked all hours of the Paralympics and were great. The fans in the curling rink all week long were loud and lots of them and the venue was amazing, topnotch. When we won, the number of fans we had cheering for us was unreal. The team leader of Scotland said to us 'It is not only that you deserve to win because you have the best team but also you guys were the nicest people to play at the games' and I thought that was really good to hear. The fans were just amazing as well as the para-alpine skiers, snowboarders, and Canadian Paralympic Committee staff that were in Cortina that came to watch and support us were so great and we were just so excited that game. It was posted on CBC there were 661,000 households that watched the final game in Canada. The support from all of the people from Canada was crazy good and all of the support from Southeast Saskatchewan was amazing. I used to live in Wolesey and

the community helped organize a send-off at the airport in Regina when I was leaving which was so cool and so many from Kipling helping me and supporting me it is just a great feeling."

Continued on page 4



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Grace & Gather opens on Main Street in Moosomin

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Kody Wolf and Jalisa Miller have opened a new business on Main Street in Moosomin. The two sisters are excited to offer a new, unique small business to the community and area.

"Grace and Gather is a retail space focusing on women's clothing, home goods, stationery and party goods, and our upstairs will be a rental space that will accommodate small event gatherings, pop-up events, photography studio space, etc," Wolf explained.

Wolf has past experience working in retail and was interested in opening her own retail business. "I have been in and out of retail for much of my teenage and adult life, and when we saw this building for sale, we saw an opportunity to bring something unique to the community and build a space that feels intentional and warm."

Behind the name

Miller says their mom was the inspiration behind the businesses name.

"Grace is our mother's middle name, so we knew from the start that we wanted to include her in some capacity," she says. "She was our inspiration from the start. As well as seeing 'grace' as warmth and intention while 'gather' is bringing people together."

Miller explains Wolf brought the idea to her about the opportunity last December. "It was really Kody's idea starting it. She has always been involved in retail and I think it was time she felt like doing some-



Kody Wolf, Sayla Grace Wolf, and Jalisa Miller inside Grace and Gather.

thing on her own, so the retail idea came from Kody, and then I got involved to help with the business side of things and helping get it set up. I feel like some people think going into business with your sister isn't a good idea, but we get along well, and we are just excited to do this together.

Kody has her areas of expertise and I have mine. It has been going really well."

Planning started in December

Wolf explains they started looking at

buildings in town last December and began renovating shortly after.

"We started looking at the building last August and we went through the motions for a few months going back-and-forth looking at it and deciding if it was something we wanted to do. We purchased the building in December, and we've been renovating it, starting as soon as we purchased it, since the second half of December."

She adds, "We saw an opportunity to bring something unique to the community and wanted to fill the space that felt intentional. We love how fast Moosomin is growing, and the community has been so supportive, and it really has an uplifting culture when it comes to small businesses."

Open for business

Grace and Gather, located on Main Street beside New Sky Nail Salon, held their grand opening on March 28. The event includes drinks and snacks to celebrate the new business.

"We are located right beside the nail salon, it was the building that used to be Brazen," says Wolf. "We looked at a few different locations in town and we kept coming back to this one because it really is the perfect location. We are right on Main Street and in a busy area, so we will be able to attract a lot of people here and that is important obviously for any business."

Continued on page 10

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Dash says winning gold an amazing experience

Continued from front

Grew up at the rink

Dash says his childhood was mostly spent at the rink in Kipling. "I am from Kipling, and I was at the rink all the time with curling and hockey. It was the same facility. I also figure skated for a little bit, but I was always on the ice. My parents curled, my brother curled and was very good and when my dad was curling there were huge bonspiels. Wind-thorst would have one and it would be a weeklong. Kennedy hosted one, all the towns around had one and sometimes longer than a week so you'd be at the curling rink all day. That was the hub. I curled in Kipling. One of the guys, Ken Burton, coached all of the school kids and people back home still follow me today which I think is really cool. I grew up at the rink and after high school I didn't do a lot of curling then fast forward to 2006 I wanted to keep busy and found wheelchair curling after my accident when I was ski-jumping in Kimberley, BC and didn't land proper and I broke my back. I remember being face down in the snow not able to move my legs. They put me on a sled and took me down the mountain to the ambulance, and I just remember it being quiet and seeing the blue sky. I was taken to Kimberley hospital then a plane came from Victoria and took me to the Calgary Airport and then off to the Foothills Hospital and was there for a month. Then, back to the Regina Hospital for about six weeks and then off to Wascana Rehab.

"I had a lot of nerve pain and I still do. I wanted to try sit-skiing in the beginning, but I couldn't because every little bump would radiate down my back and legs. I was looking for something to do to stay active. In 2006 was the first-time wheelchair curling was part of the Paralympics and that was the year I was hurt and about 2008 I started and eventually got to representing Saskatchewan at nationals and being invited to play with Team Canada. They watch you and ask you to a camp and then they pick the team. The team at the Paralympics there was a lady from BC, me from Saskatchewan, the Assistant Coach was Edmonton area, and then the rest from Ontario."

Future goals

He plans to continue wheelchair curling in hopes of playing at the Paralympics again.

"In 2006 I got hurt and in 2008 I started wheelchair curling. Over the years it became a goal of mine to go to Nationals in Wheelchair Curling and then going to camps after being invited into the Canadian Wheelchair Curling program. From Saskatchewan, there is myself and one other player Marie, and her longtime coach who just retired. We have five national championships which is terrific. No one else has that many in one province so that is a proud thing too for Saskatchewan and we are proud to be from Saskatchewan and represent Canada. We had provincials here just about two weeks or so and we won so we are going to nationals again at the end of April this year."



Above: Gil Dash receiving his gold medal.

Above right: Gil and his teammates at the Olympics with their gold medals.

Right: Gil Dash with Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark at the Legislature after winning gold.

"I plan to continue wheelchair curling. I am going to try to go back to the Paralympics. It is a good community, it is a lot of hard work and takes so much away from family time and you're away a lot, but it keeps me busy."

Moosomin Connection

Dash and his wife billet local hockey player Ella Newton of Moosomin who plays for the Women's AAA Regina Rebels.

"We billet Ella Newton from Moosomin. She plays hockey for the AAA Regina Rebels the most competitive women's hockey team in the area, and we were asked to billet and accepted. She showed up here as a 15-year-old and it has been amazing having her. She works so hard at hockey, school, ball, she is very busy. Hockey is my favourite sport. My brother-in-law played junior and is also a coach of the AAA Rebels team, my niece played with the Rebels for three years and then played university hockey with the Regina Cougars for five years and I enjoyed following her with that. I think I've seen more female hockey than male hockey because of her, and now watching Ella at her games and following her and meeting her family. Billeting Ella has been very good for Angela and myself. We really enjoy it."



Dreams take hard work

Dash believes dreams can come true with hard work and dedication.

"You have to work hard. You have to keep going and work hard if you want to accomplish goals and dreams you have. You have to be at the top to get far in life and get opportunities, so you have to keep working hard to get somewhere in life. It took me a long time and you just have to keep going and do everything you possibly can. To win gold for Team Canada at the Paralympics was hard we had to be away from home lots, be at the gym by yourself, practice, do video, strategy, work with mental health consultants, and sacrifice to better our game and ourselves and to win."

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Karen Ireland's family standing in front of the spot where she was found deceased in 2022, just east and slightly north of the South East Integrated Care Centre.

From left are Karen's first cousin Tracy Stevens, Karen's sister Ruth Desjarlais, Karen's daughter-in-law Jacklyn Ireland, Karen's granddaughter Aynzley Ireland, and Karen's sister Kerri-Ann Ireland.



Family of Karen Ireland hopes inquest leads to long-term changes

BY KARA KINNA

A public inquest into the death of Karen Ireland was held in Moosomin the week of March 30, and Karen's family says it has led to a sense of closure and they hope the inquest is a catalyst for change.

Fifty-year-old Karen Ireland was taken to the Moosomin Southeast Integrated Care Centre under the Mental Health Services Act by the RCMP on November 22, 2022.

Karen's sister Ruth Desjarlais says Karen had bipolar disorder and they called the RCMP to have her taken into the hospital after they noticed Karen acting erratically.

Ruth says Karen had a long history of mental illness, and had been in and out of the hospital for many years due to her mental illness.

Karen was admitted and spent the night at the hospital.

At some point the next morning, Karen left the hospital. She was last seen sitting in the front foyer at approximately 7 am by hospital staff. Staff noticed she was not in her room or outside, and contacted the RCMP. Her family filed a missing person's report. She was found deceased on a frozen slough approximately 270 meters northeast of the hospital at 2:30 pm that same day.

After her death, Karen's family pushed for an inquest. Ruth says that day in November 2022 was not the first time that Karen has left the hospital in Moosomin, and even though the inquest only focused on what happened that day, it was a relief to see the inquest taking place.

"It's refreshing to hear the facts—things that we didn't know. There are things that we did know, but it's those missing pieces to the puzzle that everyone is connecting, and that has been a really refreshing feeling for me," she said as the inquest was underway.

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Two 12-unit apartment buildings were completed by Keller Developments under the housing accelerator program.



Moosomin exceeds target under housing incentive program

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The town of Moosomin has exceeded its target of 43 new housing units under the federal housing accelerator program. Under the incentive program, the town has seen 44 units approved for construction, including two 12-unit apartment buildings and two sixplex apartment buildings.

When combined with the addition of Cobblestone House, which opened its doors in 2023 and offers various levels of assisted living, the town of Moosomin has seen the addition of 86 new housing units since 2023.

The town of Moosomin was approved for \$992,000 in funding from the Federal Government's Housing Accelerator Fund in February of 2024 to build more homes and apartments in Moosomin. After receiving the grant, Moosomin town council made the decision to pay \$30,000 for every new housing unit, and \$30,000 for the first door and \$8,000 for every additional door in multi-unit housing such as apartments and condos.

The announcement led to national attention for the

town and a flurry of building activity.

At the March 25 council meeting, council made a motion to wrap up the \$30,000 incentive program, except for properties under the "multi unit other" category. As per the HAF stipulations, the town still needs to build six units classified as multi unit other, which would be multi unit properties that have a shared space such as a lobby. The town will still be offering the \$30,000 incentive and \$8,000 per additional door on up to six units under this category, with the building permit needing to be taken out by March 31, 2027.

Mayor Murray Gray says he's happy with how the incentive program worked for the town.

"I'm very happy with the fact that we've added the 43 doors in that short a period of time," says Gray. "We also had some really good promotion of our community with the media attention that it got, both provincially and nationally, which gave us some name recognition in terms of everybody talking about the growth of Moosomin. It has been really good, and we certainly have no regrets.

"I hope that as the growth continues, we can somehow keep the momentum going, whether it's with another program, or whether it's just with continuing to promote the community. That's up for discussion. This program to date has been good. We need to keep it going in order to ensure that we add the six doors of multi-unit that we need, and then we'll regroup and make a plan from there."

How beneficial was it to add those extra units to Moosomin?

"When we try to attract new businesses and new residents, without having somewhere for them to live, you can't grow, so I think it's important," says Gray. "I also believe that it should, in the long term, help with affordability because of supply and demand. The more doors we add, then hopefully there's less pressure on the rental side, and hopefully we can have some affordable housing going forward. It's a balancing act, for sure, but I think it's beneficial to just about every aspect of our community in order to add housing. I can't think of a downside to it."

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Family of Karen Ireland hopes inquest leads to long-term changes

Continued from page 5

"In a community as small as Moosomin, there is a lot of gossip and a lot of hearsay, and you don't know if what you're hearing is actually true. And when you're sitting there listening to the testimonies, and you're hearing the truth, and it confirms some of the things that we've actually heard are true, it shocks you. Three years ago, we didn't know if we should actually believe some of the stuff we were hearing through community members, because we have received multiple messages and emails from community members. When you actually hear that some of that stuff is true, it's kind of refreshing. I'm not going to go into detail on some of the things that were said, but it's just a good feeling. You feel like there's progress being made."

Ruth says there have already been some small changes made at the facility in Moosomin after the death of her sister, but it's systemic change that the family really wants to see.

"We really want to see things change in the system entirely," she says.

"In Canada, there was a legal challenge, and it brought about change in Indigenous communities, and it's called Jordan's Principle," says Tracy Stevens, a first cousin from Regina who was in Moosomin last week with her family at the inquest. "There were jurisdictional gaps between the province and the federal government in dealing with children's needs, Indigenous children on the reserve. That court case took place, and we now have Jordan's Principle. We would like something like this to happen in this case, and we're proposing that it be called Karen's Principle so that those jurisdictional gaps no longer happen, and people don't fall through the cracks and people don't die because there were gaps between two institutions."

"You have the health institution, and they have a jurisdiction, and it stops at the property line, and then you have the RCMP, and their jurisdiction takes over once off the health property. And between the two, she fell through the cracks because of their jurisdictional protocol."

"It is clear that those gaps need to be filled so this never happens again. So that's what we're proposing, that something like this comes out of this, and if there could be that change made for people who are suf-



A photo of Karen Ireland provided by her family.

fering from mental health and addictions so that this never happens again. It's the least we can do.

"There's a gap, and both are aware that there's a gap. It's not about blame—none of this is about blame. But it's pretty clear that the hospital did, in their opinion, everything that they were obligated to do. The RCMP are saying the same thing, that they did everything that they were obligated to do, and that they followed their own protocol. And in the end, the result was tragic, and in fact, it was the family who found her footprints and led the police to her, and that to me is appalling."

"I think that this was a cascade of failures," Ruth says it was her first and second cousin who found Karen's footprints and then notified the police of where they thought she was located.

Ruth said it felt good to see the inquest taking place last week.

"We requested it in 2022 so it feels amazing. Karen did not deserve that. At the core of our hearts, we feel that she deserves answers."

"But more importantly, in my heart, people are out here every day struggling with mental illness, and we have to go through this in order for change to take place. And as hard as it is for us, there are people out there since Karen passed away who have reached out to me and have asked me, 'What can we do to help our loved one who's suffering right now?' And I see a problem with that—that families are trying to help and guide other families going through it, and that's wrong. We need resources. We need support. We need people in our community. We need to be coming together and really working towards helping people suffering. That's what it boils down to. We need to help the people that are not well."

"We feel that we needed to get the answers under oath," adds Tracy. "People are under oath, and we needed the truth and we needed it all in one place. The individuals who are responsible have to be accountable and have to be truthful and we have to let the public know what actually happened. This is the one place where we're getting all the facts all at the same time, which is good. This is something that the family had to ask for. There were no resources provided to the family to deal with this. And in order to get to the bottom of what happened to their sister, they had to push to get an inquest in order to get the answer, which they did."

"I'm grateful that this is happening because it's going to bring some closure to the family, and it will also bring some change for everybody else."

"It has given us closure that you can even describe. The facts are so important for us to get closure, and we now know exactly what happened," says Ruth.

"For me, it was about fact finding, getting everything as truthful as we hoped it could be," says Ruth's sister Kerri-Ann Ireland. "As it went on, the solutions that we may be able to put in place became evident—things as far as protocol for a code yellow, protocol for missing persons, to call the fire department first, start at the hospital and branch out from there, then go with the family and co-operate with the family."

The inquest wrapped up on April 2, with recommendations following.

Recommendations

The jury gave the following recommendations following the inquest:

Saskatchewan Health Authority

- Exterior cameras at all entrances to hospital, and covering all main access roads and parking lots, within reason.
- 24-hour security personnel to monitor screens, with daily checks for camera date and time accuracy.
- Implement annual mandatory staff reviews and sign off sheets for new and existing procedures for emergency codes. Full staff body should be included in review.
- If possible, provide at least one registered psychiatric nurse within an area in rural regions, with the ability to travel between hospitals.

RCMP

- All personnel should have body cameras, and all police vehicles should have dash cameras and GPS recording of vehicle travel. (May already be in place.)
- All personnel should take very descriptive notes of ALL instances while on duty, to ensure accuracy of report paperwork.
- Implement mandatory annual intensive training for handling mental health cases, and supply a manual for all personnel to have on hand while on duty.
- Implement a detailed transfer form for detainees under the Mental Health Act when transferring from RCMP custody to hospital care, including reason for transfer and description of behavior.
- Implement an interprovincial transfer program for RCMP members to ensure a full understanding of new jurisdiction laws and bylaws.
- Implement search and rescue policy, ensuring all police searches include both foot and vehicle searches of the immediate area, and contacting additional resources, such as fire department, other detachments and/or other relevant services, promptly.
- All phone calls within the detachment should be recorded to have on file to ensure accuracy of reports.
- File jot notes from DSA calls for a minimum time period to ensure record accuracy.

Karen Ireland family makes statement, recommendations following inquest

BY KARA KINNA

After the inquest into Karen Ireland's death last week, her family released a statement with their own recommendations.

"We, the family of Karen Joy Ireland, requested this Coroner's Inquest to get answers about the circumstances surrounding her tragic death," reads the statement.

"We are grateful for this opportunity to learn the facts. After four days of testimony, we have made our own recommendations."

The family's recommendations include:

- Security cameras
- Monitor cameras
- A security guard at the hospital
- The use of a guard bracelet
- RCMP Report Sheet
- Infrared drones
- Formal training for RCMP/Hospital staff
- A psychiatrist on site
- Immediate isolation for mental health crisis patients until proper evaluation

- Contacting local media quicker when a person at risk goes missing
 - Contacting the local fire department to aid in the search
 - Having phone calls recorded
 - Reporting a person at risk vs a missing person
- "We want to thank the following: Saskatchewan Coroner's Services, specifically, Presiding Coroner Frederick Kovach, Coroner's Council, Robin Ritter, Family Liaison Consultant, Jo White, Community Coroner for Grenfell, BreAnn Zorn," the family concluded in the statement.
- "Thank you to Lorne Frape for his support and services. A special thank you to the jury members for their commitment and contribution to this important matter."



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Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the R.M. of Browning No. 34 for the year 2026 has been prepared and is open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 3 to May 4, 2026.

A Bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the assessor at:

R.M. of Browning No. 34
Box 40, Lampman, SK S0C 1N0

A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$50 appeal fee which will be returned if the appeal is successful, must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision:

Nicolle Hoskins,
Western Municipal Consulting Ltd.,
Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0
by the 4th day of May, 2026.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2026.

Jadon Carduff
Assessor



Dignitaries from Ocean Man First Nation, CCR Construction, and the school during the groundbreaking for the new daycare on Ocean Man.

Ocean Man First Nation breaks ground on new daycare

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

For several years Ocean Man First Nation (OMFN) has been working on plans for a new daycare, and the day finally arrived on March 27 with a groundbreaking ceremony. The event began indoors at the school.

Chief Ernest Standingready welcomed everyone to the event. He thanked the previous chief and council who had this major milestone underway for several years. He introduced Peter BigEagle who is one of the oldest members of OMFN. He opened the ceremony in a Nakoda prayer. This was followed by an honour song with drum group Justin Kaye and OMEC.

"It is important that our little people have a safe place to go," said Standingready. "When they get older, they can stand before us maybe as chiefs or council. This building will be here for a very long time."

Gloria Shepherd from OMFN council and committee member is excited for the community. She was also on the committee for the Community plex that was build

some years ago. Craig BigEagle is also on council, and he said the future looks bright for the young people of OMFN.

Justin Holness is a newly elected council member, and he loves seeing his community thrive. He provides youth programs and is happy to see the progress in the community that will help the young people.

Fredrick BigEagle is working on a solar project for the community. This is something that is planned for the future. Principal Priscilla Smith said, "This is not just a building for strong beginnings, but for a strong future."

Yvonne Rusanck has been the YTC Head Start Daycare Manager for over 20 years. She plans to retire after this event. She is excited for OMFN to see this project begin.

Jaime Read, ISC Health Facilities Manager, said it is more than just putting the shovel in the ground, it is a start of the future.

Chris Sheepskin is the senator for OMFN. "This gives hope for the future, and it gives culture to the little people," said Sheepskin. "We need to teach our children softly and let them know about the history."

Project manager Tyler Kabatoff, Architect 1080, Vanessa Keilback and CCR representative Yves Ikobe also spoke on the daycare. Ikobe said that the project should be completed in six months with a proposed completion date of September 21, 2026.

Everyone in attendance proceeded outside to the west side of the complex for the official groundbreaking. With shovels in hand, and the sun shining, the ground was broke to begin construction.

Chief Standingready thanked everyone for all they have done to get this important project going. "Through hard work from the previous chief and council, this is an exciting day for Ocean Man First Nations people," he said.

He asked everyone to stay for the feast that they had prepared for the event. Approximately 100 people were in attendance for the occasion.



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The Arcola arena was turned into a curling rink allowing ten teams to play at once. Stephanie Zoer photo



The Leftovers from Oxbow was the entertainment after the banquet. They kept the crowd on the dance floor. Stephanie Zoer photo

125th anniversary bonspiel in memory of Cody Grimes was an overwhelming success

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

It was a whirl wind time in Arcola when 64 teams, family and friends joined for the 64-team bonspiel. The event took place from March 25-29 at the Arcola Prairie Place complex starting with games on the Wednesday night.

This event took a year and a half to organize with many volunteers, and Warren Neuman, the chairman of the event, said it was an overwhelming success.

The event was named in memory of Cody Grimes. His brother Micky Grimes from Eagle Oilfield Services was the major sponsor of the event. Cody was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis in 2000. He was able to manage the condition with medication and lifestyle changes until 2019. His condition progressed and led to cirrhosis, and hardening and scarring of the liver.

At first, he was eligible for a liver transplant, but through further testing it was discovered that he had a blood clot and internal bleeding which would not allow for the transplant to happen. Through surgery they were unable to find the source of the internal bleeding. Cody passed away to

further complications on January 27, 2023.

Jason Reddekopp from Spiritwood came out a week prior to the bonspiel to get the arena and curling rink in top shape for the bonspiel. It takes several steps beginning with a Lazer level, several floodings, putting white paint in the water for the surface, routing the circles and having them painted. The water needs to be filtered to ensure its purity as this creates an ice surface that is harder and non-slip. Jason stayed throughout the ordeal to keep the ice in top condition.

Friday night there was the opening ceremonies, and the ceremony began with a bag piper escorting the speakers in with Lucas Hislop as the emcee. He welcomed everyone and introduced each person as they came to speak. The singing of the national anthem was performed by Scarlott Nister, followed by the mayor of Arcola Scott Tessier.

Tessier also welcomed everyone to the town. "It is great to see communities coming together through curling," he said. "This event would not be possible without the help of volunteers and committees, and

we want to thank all the teams for joining."

Neuman said he could finally breathe. He spoke about the history of the curling rink. "The volunteers have gone above and beyond to make this event what it is." He wanted everyone to have a good time and enjoy the event. He said it was an honour to hold the event in memory of Cody Grimes.

Jamie Rekker from SaskCurl was also on hand to speak. He congratulated Arcola on the 125 years of curling. "It shows dedication and support from the community," he said. "This curling club has a rich history, and it is great to see everyone having fun in honour of Cody."

Sheena Grimes came forward and is the widow of Cody. Through a great deal of emotions, she thanked everyone. "This is such a great way to remember his legacy, as he loved his community. He loved car racing, the Blue Jays ball team, and the strategy of curling. He would be so proud of this special event in his memory."

Everyone returned to the hall for a meal prepared by volunteers, which served a full house. Every evening a home cooked full course meal was served and each time the hall was packed. People raved about the meals and said the food was excellent. Friday night the Leftovers came to entertain from Oxbow, and Saturday night a group from Moosomin called Old Habits.

Neuman said the event was an overwhelming success and they raised a substantial amount of money from the event. He is thankful to all the volunteers who spent hours at the event, giving up their personal time to help out. "It was long days and evenings," he said. Sunday at 6 pm the finals were held.

At the live auction, the Town of Arcola purchased the commemorative curling broom that displayed the anniversary on it. This broom was signed by the A division winners and will be hung in the arena for all to see.



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Grace & Gather opens on Main Street in Moosomin



Continued from Page 3
 “We post on Instagram with updates as our main social media. We do have a Facebook page, but our following is quite a bit larger on Instagram, so that is where we are posting most of our information.”

Interest in rental space

Miller says they have had interest in the rental space already.
 “We’ve actually had quite a bit of interest already for that. Initially they have been messaging on Facebook or Instagram, but as we start to advertise that more, it will be just a phone call or text. When our website goes live, there will be a booking directly on the website.”

Background in business

Wolf explains her experience in retail, which includes working at the clothing

store Kari’s Closet in Moosomin.
 “Throughout my teenage years I worked at Brazen when it first opened, I worked at Hillberg and Berk for three years in their retail space both online and in-store, and I worked at Kari’s Closet and worked on her website with her, so it is something I have done for quite a few years now as a side-hustle. When we saw this opportunity, I thought it could be something I wanted to do.”

Miller adds, “I don’t really have a business background, but I have worked at the mine for almost 15 years now and I’ve been involved in a lot of project management settings, but starting a small business was definitely still a learning curve for me.”

What to expect at Grace and Gather

Wolf explains the uniqueness the new

business offers for the community.
 “I think the inventory and products we brought to the store are different from where you can find anywhere else in town. There is already such good shopping in the community and we wanted to make sure we were bringing in something very different and not the same brands as anyone else, so shoppers can expect different styles.
 “There will be clothing, but also a lot of giftware and fun crafts. With no Dollar Store in town, we saw that as an opportunity to bring in unique and more elevated

party supplies and entertainment stuff.
 “The vibe is a very calm, relaxed, and curated environment.
 “We hope people can find our store as something different, very unique, a very different aesthetic vibe you wouldn’t get from other stores in town, and I think it is really unique that we have the rental space upstairs,” adds Miller.
 “There aren’t a lot of rental spaces in town for small events, and also aesthetically pleasing ones, so it is nice to have that option in town. We hope people come to our space and use it.”

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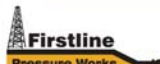
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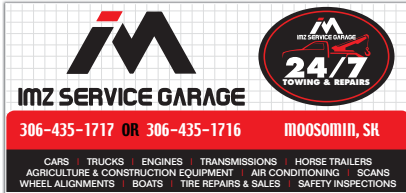
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Dr. Ross Kerhthoff and Dr. Schalk van der Merwe and a few of their colleagues at the Moosomin Family Practice Centre



The Moosomin Family Practice Centre is part of the Patient Medical Home Program.

Six new health care providers coming to Moosomin

Province adds positions to support physicians as part of Patient Medical Home program

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

The provincial government announced six new positions for medical professionals in Moosomin to support the Moosomin Family Practice Centre. Positions are being added across the province as part of the Patient Medical Home initiative.

The Patient Medical Home Project is about offering a variety of health care services to patients within a clinic, making the clinic the patient's medical home for a variety of health care services.

Moosomin's Dr. Ross Kerhthoff says the additional funding for new hires will aid support the local physicians and

provide more care services to patients.

"It is to improve efficiencies in our health care system," he says. "There is a growing emphasis on primary health care networks and team-based care, so the family practice is working closely with the SHA to develop this Patient Medical Home to enhance the health care services in our region."

"The Patient Medical Home project has 10 pillars that are necessary for its success, many of which the practice has been able to do over the years in providing comprehensive health care services in Moosomin and our clinics as well as key care services at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre.

The foundations are in place, and in order to meet these deliverables on this Patient Medical Home—improving functions, ongoing development and to enhance the comprehensive services already provided by the Moosomin Family Practice—the SHA is hiring additional health care providers, including registered nurses, dietician, pharmacist, and social workers to support and work directly with the providers at the family practice and primary health care clinic at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre. Essentially, they are employees that are going to be working with the practices to provide these extra services."

Continued on page 18

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Cannington Constituency



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Live auction enjoyed at Moose Mountain Wildlife Federation banquet

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

The Arcola Prairie Place Complex hall was alive with conversation, laughter, and the unmistakable sense of community spirit as the Moose Mountain Wildlife Federation (MMWF) hosted its annual banquet and live auction. It all took place on April 4, and it was an evening dedicated to conservation and commitment to the outdoors.

For 22 years the branch, which includes Arcola, Carlyle, Kisbey, Lampman, Manor, Stoughton, and surrounding areas, has sponsored events such as fishing derbies for families, youth camps and placing new docks. This is only to name a few that the MMWF supports.

The 240 attendees were welcomed by vice-president emcee Devin Brown. He has done this duty for the past five to six years. Without delay he had President Paul Dellaleau come forward and say grace before people were treated to a hearty meal prepared and served by Wier's Catering.

On each table, a cast iron moose, deer or elk was placed. Brown decided on the animal who was going to be served first. The buffet-style meal went quickly and smoothly giving everyone the opportunity to go for seconds if they



From left to right, Devin Brown was the emcee for the evening, while Ty Cutler took care of the live auction at the Moose Mountain Wildlife Federation banquet and auction.



It takes a lot of volunteers to make an event work and Caitlin Murphy, a Grade 8 student from Carlyle, helped with displaying items that were up for auction.

Stephanie Zoer photo

Stephanie Zoer photo

wished.

It was going to be a busy evening, as they had 43 items for the live auction, nearly 50 items for the silent auction, and over 60 items on the raffle tables. Throughout the evening people would check to see if anyone had outbid them on the silent auction. This is often a time when friends compete against each other, driving the bid higher.

Ty Cutler from Moosomin was the auctioneer. Ty was the Rookie of the Year Auctioneer in 2024, and he kept the crowd bidding with his quick response to bids, driving the price as high as he could to bring in funds for MMWF.

Each year they have a mystery item. No one knows what is inside the camouflaged tent, but Brown ensures that it is a worthwhile prize to bid on.

This year the mystery item brought in over \$2,500. Inside was an E-bike, gun, tent, and a fishing package with numerous other small items. Another item was a two-person waterfowl hunt. This item brought in \$2,000.

The fun did not end there. Each year they have a ping pong ball auction. Last year's winner gets a buy, and 11 balls are sold. This alone brought in over

\$5,000. The object is to have your ping pong ball to be the last one drawn from the bucket. The winner had a choice of select guns. Any firearms won in the auction, raffle or draws are held by MMWF until all paperwork is processed.

Once all items are auctioned off, some people begin to gather their items and go home, while others remain to socialize a little

longer. The MMWF said that this event is not possible without the help of the membership volunteering their time and skills to make the fundraiser successful. Many thanks go out to the businesses and community people that donate to this cause. Without them there would be no event. They are grateful for all the support they have received over the years.

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'We'll Meet Again' being performed May 1-3 Celebrating 100 years of Legion and 40 years of theatre in Carlyle

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

Across Canada, Royal Canadian Legions will celebrate 100 years of service this year. For a full century, the Royal Canadian Legion has been the cornerstone of support for veterans, their families, and communities nationwide. Established in the aftermath of war, the Legion was built on the promise that those who served would never be forgotten, and that commitment has never wavered.

Over the decades, Legion branches have become much more than a meeting places. They are hubs of remembrance, where ceremonies on Remembrance Day bring generations together with quiet reflection and gratitude. They are also places of camaraderie, where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and support is offered to those who are in need the most.

In Carlyle it is not only the 100th anniversary of the Legion, but the 40th anniversary of the Cornerstone Theatre and together they are planning an unforgettable event. While the Legion preserves history, the Cornerstone Theatre has spent the last 40 years creating it, on stage, under lights, and in the hearts of their audience.

Doug Waldner and Dianne Twietmeyer are members of both and they, along with the board, plan to put on the play that was first held at the theatre in 1986 called "We'll meet Again."

The first production was performed in 1986, followed by another one in 1995 and 2010. On May 1, 2 and 3 the musical will take place once again. It is based in a pub in England during the Second World War. Pianist Wendy Rounce and Lori Brown

will be on a dark stage and begin playing, while ghosts of the past become present.

Shannon Klatt, David Slykhuis, Joan McDonald, and Paul and Dianne Twietmeyer were original actors in the first play. Lane Easton, Chris Koshi, Ashton Lisitza, Jesse Twietmeyer, Emma Boutin, Lauri Noble Briner, Megan McCauley, Sophie Turk, and Jadah Walbaum have joined the cast to bring the musical back to life. Doug Waldner will make sure the sound and lighting is taken care of. Rehearsals began several weeks ago.

There will be a great deal of singing in the production with many songs from the '50s and '60s. Waldner and Twietmeyer feel it is a great way to reminisce about the past through the music that was played during those days.

The first performance will take place on May 1. On May 2 it will be a dinner and theatre, and it will all take place at the Carlyle



It is the hope of the Carlyle Legion and the Cornerstone Theatre that the theatre is filled when they perform their play "We'll meet Again."

Stephanie Zoer photo

Memorial Hall. The dinner will be prepared by Legion members. Sunday, May 3, it will be a matinee show.

Tickets are available for all the shows. The theatre will donate 10 per cent of the fund-

raiser to the Carlyle Food Bank. The rest will go towards equipment upgrades at the theatre.



Digging through the archives, old programs and posters were found of the three performances that have taken place over the years.

Dianne Twietmeyer photo

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Six new health care providers coming to Moosomin

Continued from page 15

Kerkhoff explains physicians in Moosomin have been working toward this project for some time.

"As a physician group, we work as a team. I am the physician lead alongside my colleagues Dr. Fraser Woodside and Dr. Cara Fallis. The three of us are the physician leads in this project and are supported by Dr. van der Merwe who is a representative in the provincial Southeast Saskatchewan affairs, as well as Dr. Wessel Roets who is representative for the region, and we have been trying to formulate this Patient Medical Home Project for some time.

"We've actually been able to do most of the deliverables over the years, but the issues that we've encountered are maintaining health care providers which is quite common in most rural practices and a lot of primary care practices in the country. In order to provide timely, accessible care, and enhance preventative care, we feel the need to get these extra support staff. Our success has been based on the fact that we work as a team and alongside the auxiliary health care providers, including nurses, pharmacists, health practitioners, etc.

"So this will enhance that and go further, and our goal is to improve access to care across all our locations, strengthen our interdisciplinary team-based service delivery with all of the providers working together, improve preventative care through disease management, reduce our ER wait times and our inpatient hospital stays, enhance continuity of care across clinic, hospital, long-term care, and assisted-living, ensure services remain responsive to community needs, and demographic changes.

"Then, a big thing for us is to advance clinical training, educational, and clinical development so then we can help train the next generation of health care providers to help maintain our current health services in Moosomin and Southeast Saskatchewan."

Community initiative

Kerkhoff says community leaders tirelessly advocate for the family physicians in Moosomin.

"We are pleased and grateful for the support not just from government, but from the community. I think it is worth acknowledging the late Mayor Larry Tomlinson as well as Bill MacPherson who have been great advocates for health care in our region, and that is being taken further with the current Mayor Murray Gray as well as the board members of the Southeast Municipal Health Care Corporation and the Health Care Foundation. It is a community initiative, and we are all glad it is coming to formation," he said.

"We are the central hub in Southeast Saskatchewan, so there has been stability for 20-plus years. We started with three health care providers and now there are 12. We have now eight satellite clinics, so it is a matter of maintaining that stabil-

ity in numbers. It helps with health care services not just in Moosomin but in our greater southeast area."

He explains the project will bring new physicians to the community and area. "It will be enhancing what is already in place and maintaining what is already in place so that this area and Moosomin can be an attractive place for new recruits and new health care providers to come work and stay.

"We are putting up posters in our clinics to announce this Patient Medical Home, what it means for the patients and what the goals are. It is based on a comprehensive team-based approach with all of these different health care providers."

Government funding to support new patient medical home

Kevin Weedmark, MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre, says government funding will help support the new Patient Medical Home program and offer more care to patients in Moosomin and area.

"The Patient Medical Home program is about trying to turn medical clinics into more than a clinic, into a medical home," he says. "For instance, the Moosomin Family Practice Centre isn't just a group of doctors practicing, it is a patient's medical home. They can go there and see any physician in the practice, and the physicians other health care professionals to help them. The idea is that is that is your primary point of contact, your medical home."

Weedmark says the Moosomin Family Practice Centre pioneered some of the concepts involved in the Patient Medical Home model.

"Moosomin has been fortunate that our physicians have always had the vision of having a very collaborative work environment. They've worked together very well over the years. The doctors working together in Moosomin have really served as a model for the province," he said.

He explains how the Moosomin Family Practice Centre serves as a medical hub to the surrounding area.

"Many years ago, when many doctors were working in solo practice, a few doctors got together in Moosomin and set up the Family Practice Centre and it has become a regional hub. Doctors from there are going down south to Wawota, to First Nations in the region, to Whitehead to the west, even east into Manitoba—there are different satellite clinics in different areas that they support. They have a collaborative group practice, and the whole idea of the Patient Medical Home program is to support those physicians to be able to provide even more services.

"Moosomin is very fortunate. Many years ago when the former government was in power, initially there were only two doctors in Moosomin—Dr. Davidson and Dr. Hussein. They were amazing people, that is why you see Hussein Drive and

Dr. Davidson Park in Moosomin named after them, because they were incredible people, but only two of them were serving the entire area. There have been different initiatives to grow Moosomin as more of a medical hub over the years, and the Patient Medical Home model is another step in growing that."

New medical providers in Moosomin

Weedmark explains the new Patient Medical Home program and the new hires that will help support the new program.

"A big step was bringing the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program to reality. That program is based in Moosomin, which is the only town of its size in Canada where you can do your residency in Family Medicine. That is unique.

"In Moosomin right now there are two first-year residents and two second-year residents, so we have seen that program have success. Doctors such as Dr. Cara Fallis, who was one of the very first graduates of that residency program, have chosen to stay and practice in Moosomin. Today, we have four medical residents who are training in Moosomin under supervision of local physicians—two first-year residents and two second-year residents. Moosomin also has 12 physicians, two locums and one nurse practitioner—so that is 19 primary health care providers.

"Now, what this new Patient Medical Home program does is provide more support to all of them. Under this program Moosomin will receive \$768,000 in funding to hire 6.2 FTE positions, and that is for registered nurses (RNs), dietitians, therapists, a pharmacist, and a medical office assistant. The breakdown is full-time equivalent (FTE), so 2.5 FTE RNs, 1.25 FTE dietitians, 1.25 FTE behavioral therapists, and two FTE pharmacists, and one full-time office medical assistant.

"So far, three of those full-time positions have been filled in recent weeks which includes one full-time dietitian that started working on March 11 and two full-time RNs. One began on March 16 and the second will start on April 6. They will support the physicians in Moosomin and help them provide a wider range of services within their clinic to provide better care for folks in Moosomin.

"We are lucky we were able to fill these first positions very quickly, and I think that is a testament to our region. It is an incredible community with an incredible medical community.

"This is where health care is such a collaboration between different levels of government. Our government is funding these new positions, SHA is hiring these positions, the local clinic—the Moosomin Family Practice—is the group of doctors. They lease their clinic space from the Southeast Medical Health Corporation which is a group of municipalities that got together and bought the building that the Family Practice leases. That local mu-

nicipal corporation has been renovating the Family Practice Centre to make new office space to accommodate these new positions. So you see the province, SHA, the physicians and local municipalities all working together. And that makes it work.

"It is a collaborative effort, it is the doctors working with the municipalities, working with the government, working with SHA that makes it all happen and improve health care in our local area. I cannot say enough about the vision and leadership of the local physicians in Moosomin, and the steadfast support of local municipalities who are always there to support health care locally. Those two are leading the way, and our government is stepping in to help support what they are doing with the Patient Medical Home initiative."

Weedmark says Moosomin is one of 10 communities in Saskatchewan to receive funding for the new Patient Medical Home program.

"Moosomin is one of the 10 communities across the province to receive funding under this program. Another community in our region that is receiving some funding is Esterhazy, where three full-time positions have been created to support physicians there—one dietitian, one counsellor, and one RN."

Weedmark says the funding will help Moosomin continue to grow as a medical hub.

"Moosomin is a pioneer in this model of care and 100 per cent of the credit for that goes to the local physicians. Many years ago, when the Family Practice Centre started setting up satellite clinics in surrounding towns, that is not something that was happening in very many places, and they proved it's a model that works. You have multiple physicians sharing call at the hospital, so you don't have anyone burning out because they're taking call at the emergency department too many days of the week. The model works, and this is basically building on that success."

Significant investment

"This funding is a significant investment in the future of Moosomin. This is six new medical professionals that we are adding to Moosomin and it will help make Moosomin more of a medical hub. It has been a long-term building process by the physicians to get it to where it is."

He adds, "This is a vote of confidence by the government in Moosomin as a health care centre. This is building on all of the work that the local health care foundation has done, the local physicians have done in building up Moosomin as a medical centre. This is going to help the local physicians with their practice, it is going to allow them to add to their practice to provide more services, and this will simply solidify Moosomin even more as a medical hub where you can get a wide range of services."

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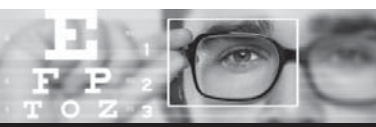
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Enbridge proposing Line 26 optimization project to transport oil from Cromer to the U.S.

Pipeline project would export 250,000 barrels per day

BY KARA KINNA

Enbridge Pipelines is planning to submit a proposal later this year that would see its existing Line 26 from Cromer, Manitoba to the U.S. border reverse its south-to-north flow and transport 250,000 barrels per day of Canadian light crude oil to the U.S.

Currently Line 26 carries roughly 145,000 barrels per day of light crude oil from facilities in the U.S. to the Cromer, Manitoba facility.

The proposal suggests deactivating an existing 12-inch pipeline from the Steelman pump station to the U.S. border, and constructing a new 24-inch pipeline segment to replace the existing 12-inch pipeline so that oil can be transported southwest from Cromer to Steelman, then south from Steelman to the U.S.

A new pump station would also be constructed at Alida, between Steelman and Cromer, as part of the proposal. A new pump station would also be located within the existing Cromer terminal, and there would be equipment modifications to the existing Steelman pump station.

Enbridge says the project could assist in lowering and stabilizing energy prices and improving energy security.

"The Line 26 optimization project is part of Enbridge's broader Mainline Optimization Phase 2 project, which if approved, would add 250,000 barrels per day to Enbridge's liquids pipeline system. This follows Mainline Optimization Phase 1, which Enbridge is currently working on implementing and will add 150,000 barrels per day by approximately the end of 2027," Enbridge told the WorldSpectator.

"Combined, these two projects will advance approximately 400,000 barrels per day of oil transportation capacity to refining markets in North America.

"In Canada, this could enable production growth from Western Canada and provide shippers with options to ship their products to U.S. refiners and global markets, where they can get the best price for their commodity, resulting in economic growth and prosperity for Canadians as well as additional revenue through taxation and royalty payments that can be used to pay for healthcare, education and critical infrastructure.

"Both the market and governments on both sides of the border have indicated that more needs to be done to grow the economy and meet increasing energy demand. This project could help achieve both of those objectives.

"Independent market forecasts see 500,000 to 600,000 barrels per day of supply growth in Western Canada by the end of the decade. Additionally, the Enbridge Mainline is regularly apportioned (e.g. in 2025 it was apportioned nine out of 12 months). That forecasted growth, plus lack of transportation availability, is a strong indicator this project is needed.

"Enbridge does not offer priority service contracts on the Mainline system and the Line 26 optimization project will be considered part of the Mainline service; however, Enbridge will be expanding the Flanagan South pipeline system in conjunction with the Mainline Optimization Phase 2 and will be offering contracts for service on that pipeline system.

"Production from Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba is able to access the Mainline system today at Cromer and will be able to access this capacity. Mainline Optimization Phase 2 will add an incremental 250,000 barrels per day of capacity which will move on the Line 26 optimization project. This will benefit all Western Canadian producers who access the Mainline system."

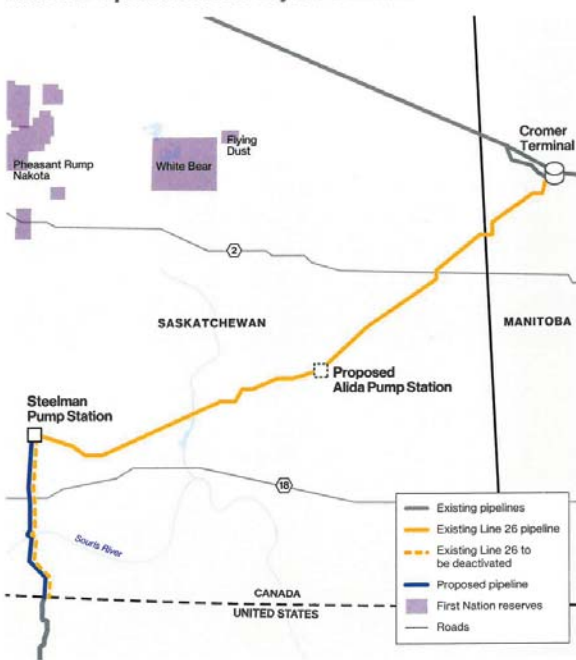
Enbridge says, because this is not a greenfield project, and uses existing pipeline infrastructure, they don't anticipate as many hurdles to getting the project approved.

"Many of the permitting risks and requirements that would apply to a greenfield project don't apply here as this project involves optimizing Enbridge's existing pipeline network and using joint ventures with other companies," says Enbridge.

"By optimizing existing pipeline systems and leveraging our established right-of-way, we can deliver meaningful, cost-effective capacity additions with lower community and environmental impacts and lesser permitting risks compared to new greenfield developments.

What other projects does Enbridge have

Line 26 Optimization Project Canada



This diagram shows where the existing Line 26 would be deactivated and a proposed, larger pipeline would be built south of the Steelman pumping station so that oil could flow north to south into the U.S. from the Cromer terminal.

on the go to increase Canadian oil flowing south?

"We sanctioned the first phase of our Mainline expansion (MLOI) in Q4 last year, which will add 150,000 barrels per day and is expected to be in-service by the end of 2027," says Enbridge.

"We're now commercializing Mainline Optimization Phase 2 (which includes Line 26), which could add another 250,000 barrels per day of transportation capacity to the Mainline as early as the end of 2028.

"We continue to engage with our customers on how we may support their production growth beyond the first two phases of Mainline Optimizations."

Enbridge says they expect a final investment decision on the Line 26 optimization project by mid-2026.

Work on proposal full speed ahead

Jesse Semko, a spokesman with Enbridge, says work on the Line 26 Optimization proposal is full-speed ahead with the hopes of seeing the project approved.

"What we're doing right now is talking to our shippers to make sure they like the idea and they agree with it," he says. "We're having those conversations. At the same time, we started engagement with Indigenous groups, communities and landowners to inform them of what we are thinking and to see if they have any concerns or comments.

"We take all that feedback and we aggregate it, and we refine the scope even more, and then based on that, we decide if we go ahead or don't go ahead. We're planning to make that decision around the middle of this year."

"There are a whole bunch of factors at play. We're an energy transportation company, and so we talk to shippers all the time, and they tell us if their needs are being met or if they want more capacity. And they have certainly expressed an interest in having more capacity, more opportunity to transport energy.

"Line 26 comes out of the main line at Cromer. The main line system is a network of several pipelines, and there are no contracts on it. Basically every month, shippers come to us and say 'next month we'd like to transport X amount of heavy crude or light oil.' And when those requests exceed its ca-

capacity to transport, it's called being apportioned, and the system is regularly apportioned. It basically means it regularly doesn't have space to transport more capacity. The demands to transport exceed its availability. That shows to us that the market is interested and wants more transportation capacity.

A shift in public opinion

"The other thing is that there has been a shift in public opinion with governments on both sides of the border recently, and they have realized the benefits of both economic prosperity and energy security," adds Semko. "So by transporting more Canadian energy to the U.S.—and Canada has the highest regulatory and environmental standards when it comes to producing this energy—we can do a few things. First of all by transporting more, we generate more revenue locally. So there are more jobs involved, more royalty payments, more taxation. That's all real revenue that can then go to local governments to help pay for things that Canadians want—like help to pay for roads, hospitals, critical infrastructure, schools and stuff like that.

"At the same time, by producing more energy, you can also stabilize or drive down energy prices just because the demand stays the same, and you add more energy and it helps to keep prices low. So that's the other element.

"Both governments, on both sides of the border have expressed an interest in developing more energy products to increase economic prosperity help to increase energy security and affordability.

"So you have all those things—the commercial side and the government side, and the public side, and those all kind of have converged and that has led us to look at our system and what work we can do to optimize it to allow for more energy to be transported."

Talking to shippers

Semko says Enbridge is in the process of talking to shippers about using the pipeline's capacity to ship to the U.S.

"That's all in discussion right now. We are talking to shippers and asking if they are interested. We think that there is that demand, but we're still working out those details," he says.

He says there would be an opportunity for shippers from Southeast Saskatchewan and

Southwest Manitoba to use some of that capacity.

"Yes, absolutely. The way it works, Cromer is kind of like a hub and crude light oil and NGLs (Natural Gas Liquids) flow from Edmonton and Hardisty down to Cromer. But there are also feeder lines that come into different stations," he says. "There could be feeder lines throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan that feed into Cromer as well, and they could use the Line 26 optimization to ship south and enable access to producers in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"When it comes to the main line, any month, any shipper in any of those provinces can put up their hand and say, 'Hey, next month, I need this much transportation capacity,' and so they have access to the system."

Project uses existing network

Semko says because this project would involve using Enbridge's existing pipeline network and will mostly take place on Enbridge property, the company anticipates minimal hurdles.

"This project is a little different," he says. "I know that there are a lot of things that need to be ironed out with the Canadian regulatory system and things that the federal government is talking about to increase energy development. A lot of those problems in theory shouldn't be present with this project because it's using existing infrastructure.

"When it comes to pipelines, you have a greenfield project, which is a brand new project, and you have a brownfield project, which is often using existing infrastructure and you're just making tweaks or optimizations to it. So because this is an existing pipeline, and we're just optimizing it by reversing the flow, deactivating one part of the pipe, replacing it with a larger pipe and adding pumping capacity to it, it shouldn't encounter as many of the problems that could slow its development from happening like a big greenfield project.

"That's one of the advantages of having infrastructure like this is you can work to optimize it and make it transport more energy.

"We've just started to discuss this with Indigenous groups, communities, and landowners. Those conversations, along with conversations from our customers, this early stage development work is really, really helpful. What that does is it gives us a whole bunch of feedback that we can use to make this project even better. And so if we do that, and do that work well, hoping that there shouldn't be any problems, it should go relatively smoothly."

Early stages

Semko says it's too early to know how many people would be employed if the project moves ahead.

"We don't know that yet, just because the way it works when it comes to project development is you start with the initial development stage, which we're doing right now, and then it reaches a final investment decision, which happens mid-year, and when we know we have a project and are going ahead, usually at that point we undertake something called a socioeconomic assessment. We do a big study saying based on all the work that we've agreed to do to make this project happen, how many workers would we need? How long would we need them for? Will they be needed? How much is that estimated to contribute to the local economy? What are all the ancillary benefits to the communities from hotels to the food services? What would be the result of increased taxation flowing to all the communities?"

"Once we know if we're doing this or not, mid-year, and we commission that study, we'd have all that information. But right now we just don't know. It's a little too early in the development process to know that."

In the public interest

"We believe this project is in the public interest, and it could assist in lowering and stabilizing energy prices, and improving energy security," concludes Semko.

"It's still early in the stages of development, but we're interested in hearing from Indigenous groups, communities and landowners, and through those conversations and feedback, we're hoping we can come up with a really good project."



With Grenfell Mayor Mark Steining, Lori Carr and Grenfell Health Foundation members.



With Foundation board members and staff of Broadview Hospital.



The new long-term care facility under construction at Grenfell.



With Elizabeth and Katherine Gagne at the Garden Club in Wolseley.



At the Indian Head Regional Health Clinic.



With staff who toured us through the Golden Prairie Home at Indian Head.



With staff who toured us through the Indian Head Hospital.

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A week focused on health care

Last week was a week focused on health care for me, both in my riding, and around the province. It was a busy and fulfilling week!

Mobile Breast Cancer Screening unit in the region

The mobile Breast Cancer Screening unit has been in southeast Saskatchewan since the beginning of the year and will remain in the region for the next couple of months. It has been in Moosomin at the Canalta Hotel since March 30 and will be there until April 24.

While there is a waiting list for Moosomin, there are still lots of appointments in Broadview and Grenfell.

The unit will be in Broadview at Broadview Centennial Lodge April 27–May 8, in Grenfell at the Grenfell Curling Club May 11–22, and in Fort Qu'Appelle at the All Nations' Healing Hospital May 25–June 12.

Call 1-855-584-8228 to make an appointment.

Provincial Revenue Sharing Grant

On Tuesday, I presented a cheque to the Town of Moosomin for \$892,990 representing their provincial revenue sharing grant for 2026—and I threw in \$10 to make it an even \$893,000! Revenue sharing is up eight per cent to its highest level ever. I made the cheque presentation at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday.

I also presented a cheque for revenue sharing to the Town of Indian Head on Thursday in the amount of \$613,000.

Second mobile mammography unit

I was happy to be there last Wednesday morning as a second custom-designed mobile mammography unit was unveiled in Regina.

What will this mean for our area? It means the mobile mammography unit will be in local communities every year rather than every second year.

The new unit will begin visiting Saskatchewan communities this week.

With two mobile units in operation, screening capacity will grow and bring lifesaving breast health screening services closer to home for more women. With the second unit, rural communities will see visits by mammography units every year, rather than every second year. Each mobile unit is projected to screen approximately 6,000 to 7,500 patients each year.

The second unit, which features a state-of-the-art digital mammography machine and new furnishings, follows the recent launch of the first enhanced mobile mammography unit in January 2026.

"Expanding access to vital breast health services continues to be a priority for our government," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "We are putting patients first by ensuring Saskatchewan women have timely access to screening mammograms closer to home. I would like to thank the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan and its generous donors for making this second mobile unit a reality."

The two mammography units will visit 42 rural and northern communities each year.

"We are deeply grateful to our leadership donors—Mosaic, Orano and MNP—whose generous support set the stage for this campaign's success," Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan CEO Nora Yeates said. "I also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Knight Cares and philanthropist Kevin Knight for stepping forward with more than half a million dollars to complete this campaign."

"Together, your collective commitment to expanding breast cancer screening will make a meaningful difference in the lives of women and families throughout Saskatchewan," Yeates said.

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among Canadian women and the second leading cause of cancer death. One in eight women in Canada will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

The mobile units are equipped with digital mammography machines which offer screening mammograms, which are low-dose X-rays of the breast tissue that detect signs of cancer early. Approximately 75 per cent of breast cancers diagnosed through screening are early stage. Earlier detection allows for more treatment options and supports better health outcomes for women.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and Saskatchewan Health Authority work together to deliver this mobile



mammography program.

"The addition of a second new Mobile Mammography Unit ensures that even more women in Saskatchewan will have access to consistent, timely screening mammograms in rural, remote and northern communities through the BreastCheck program," Saskatchewan Cancer Agency President and Chief Executive Officer Deb Bulych said. "Putting another unit on the road is an important step towards giving women the best possible chance at early detection and successful treatment."

Saskatchewan recently began lowering the age for breast screening without a doctor's referral as an important step in cancer prevention. As of January 2, 2026, women aged 43 years and older are eligible for screening.

Most healthy women, with no breast symptoms, should have a screening mammogram every two years. Screening mammograms are for women 43 and older who do not have lumps, discharge, skin changes, breast implants, are not in active follow up for breast cancer and have been breast cancer-free for five years.

"The addition of a second mobile mammography unit means improved access to breast screening closer to home for people across rural, remote and northern Saskatchewan," CEO of the Saskatchewan Health Authority Andrew Will said. "Together with our partners, we are expanding the reach of BreastCheck and increasing our mobile screening capacity, supporting earlier detection and better outcomes. We are grateful to the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation and its donors for their generosity in helping make this expansion possible."

To find a breast screening location near you and schedule a screening mammogram, visit the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's BreastCheck program online at saskcancer.ca/breastcheck or call toll-free at 1-855-584-8228.

Tour across Moosomin-Montmartre

Thursday, April 9 was an incredibly busy day as I toured across Moosomin-Montmartre with Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr.

The day-long tour was initiated when the town of Indian Head asked me to focus on health care at the Mayor's luncheon. Because of their request, I invited Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr to join me, and we arranged to tour the hospital, long-term care home and medical clinic in Indian Head that day.

To fill out the day, we also arranged to tour the Broadview Hospital and meet with the Broadview Health Foundation, as they had requested a visit, and we visited the site of the new long-term care facility at Grenfell and met with the health foundation there.

In Broadview I have met with the local foundation on a couple of previous visits. On Thursday, we discussed physician recruitment and we discussed several options to pursue. The ER is now open 24 hours a day with the help of virtual physicians. You will see the "H" signs put up on the highway shortly.

In Grenfell the long-term care home has been under construction since mid-2025. The 2025 budget included \$10 million for the Grenfell project. I have had several meetings with the Grenfell foundation since being elected in the fall of 2024. The community had difficulty with the 20 per cent share. I brought Minister Carr out to hear their concerns, and the Premier also agreed to meet with them. This year's budget includes \$23.4 million for the project and the reduction of the local share to 10 per cent.

At the meeting Thursday we discussed the progress of the project and steps we can take to help in Grenfell's local fundraising initiative.

Indian Head invited me to their Mayor's luncheon and asked me to address health care concerns. I brought the



Myself and Minister Lori Carr presented a cheque to Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole last week for the provincial revenue sharing grant that Indian Head will be receiving in 2026.



Todd Mintz donated his photography to brighten up the mobile mammography unit. I had met Todd and a few other Regina folks on a trip to London in February.

Minister of Rural and Remote Health with me and toured all the local facilities so we can get a full picture. Their ER, like Moosomin and Broadview, is open 24 hours a day.

I announced at the lunch that we have a new doctor slated to come to Indian Head in July through the SIPPA program, and we have strengthened SIPPA with some important changes. We expect these changes will result in more SIPPA docs remaining for the full three years of their contract. We also discussed the process for future capital replacement.

It was great to be able to tour the local facilities. Every time I tour a health care facility, I am impressed by the professionalism and dedication of our health care workers. Indian Head is obviously a very busy hospital serving a wide area, and it was good to see the facility for myself and understand the challenges and the opportunities the staff see in that location.

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New bison herd welcomed on Kahkewistahaw

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On March 27, members of Kahkewistahaw First Nation gathered to welcome a new bison herd to the land, marking a step toward food security and sovereignty. The project has been several years in the making.

Chief Evan Taypotat said the idea began during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This obviously started when Covid hit us in 2020. We didn't have any meat, self-sustenance. Not long after, in 2022, we started talking about making this day a reality. These buffalo are high maintenance, they take a little bit of TLC to look after them. So we got everything in place. We didn't rush things," said Taypotat.

"It doesn't happen overnight. It's a lot of planning, four years.

"In 2024 we found a herd we liked and found people in the province willing to work with us. In 2025, we said, let's get them out there," he said. "Four years to get here, and I couldn't be happier to be chief today."

The event included drumming, singing and a ceremony led by Chief and elders.

The herd currently includes 16 female bison, with plans to expand.

"We've got 16 female buffalo out there. Four are already pregnant. We're adding a male in the fall, and we're just hoping that every year they can repro-



Members of Kahkewistahaw First Nation drumming during the welcome ceremony for the bison.

duce. You've got to make sure it stays as clean as possible so that you get a good, healthy buffalo," he said.

Taypotat said the return of the bison is part of a broader push toward self-sufficiency.

"For us, it's a good day today. It was important to us that we make those little steps towards sovereignty, and this is one of those days," he said.

The herd is currently located on land purchased from a local elk farmer, where the animals are

being introduced before eventually roaming more freely.

"Ideally, this would have been on our First Nation, but the way this elk ranch was set up before, it's perfect for them right now. They're going to open this up, let them get acclimated to the land and where the water sources are. Once they figure that out, they're going to let them roam this land here," he said.

"In a perfect world, this would be on the First Nation, but we'll get there. This is a small step," he

said. The land continues to be used for community gatherings and cultural programming.

"We bought this land from a local farmer a few years back, and it's a good place for us. We have a band member that lives in the house. We come out here and do a culture camp every year," he said.

"This land, our ancestors lived on this land. If you walk around, you can find artifacts, arrowheads,

things like that," he said.

"I see it as a good place for our people to be and our buffalo to be," he said.

"Two hundred years ago, buffalo roamed this land freely. When treaty was signed in 1874, they say there were only 300 buffalo roaming this land. We've got 16 of our own right here, right now," he said.

"This herd is going to grow. We see other First Nations that started this in the early 2000s, and their

herd is now 300. Ideally, that's where we're going to be in my lifetime," he said.

"If there ever is another pandemic, we want to be able to feed our people," he said.

"Everything I've learned about these buffalo, they need lots of land to stay healthy to run, to roam," he said.

"The songs they were singing today were welcoming the buffalo—this is your home, we will look after you. We want to let the buffalo know we're with them. We're together, and it's going to be a good relationship," he said.

Taypotat said the effort involved multiple departments and community members.

"The whole team pulled together to make today happen. This wasn't a chief and council thing. This was a lands department thing," he said.

The herd will also support local food programs and education.

"We'll probably take a few every year and feed the elders and the youth at the school," he said.

"Our school has a really good land-based program, teaching our kids how to hunt, how to skin, how to eat, how to quarter animals. It's getting back to the way things were," he said.

He said the initiative is also tied to reclaiming culture and identity.

Continued on page 23 ^{ESP}

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New bison herd welcomed on Kahkewistahaw



The herd of 16 female bison roam around their new home.

Continued from page 22

"With residential schools, we weren't supposed to have any of this. It was supposed to take the Indian out of the Indian. We're getting the Indian back in the Indian right now. Today is a really good step," he said.

Looking ahead, Taypotat said the work toward sovereignty is ongoing.

"If I was to measure sovereignty on a scale of one to 50, we're at 20 right now. Another 30 steps to reach that full point, our own doctors, our own elders home, our own police, our own ambulance, our own hockey rink," he said.

"This is a small step, but it's a step we needed to take to feed our people," he said.

"Everything we do is about trying to achieve sovereignty. We want to live long, meaningful lives, just like the surrounding communities. We want to make that on our homelands too," he said.

Council member Corey Alexson said the return of the bison reflects a reconnection to identity and culture.

"Coming back to who we are as First Peoples, as First Nations families, and who we were traditionally, we know that the buffalo themselves were our main source of livelihood," Alexson said. "They kept us fed, they kept us warm, and basically led our steps, the places where we set up our camps, our home fires. They led us to our safekeeping."

"It's significant, life itself, because they kept us alive and kept us well. And then just the connection. We see all our genera-

tions here today with Kahkewistahaw and our relatives. It shows the importance of who we are as Indian people and keeping that connection with the buffalo."

Alexson said being part of council during this time has been meaningful.

"It's been awesome. It really strengthens my spirit and my heart. Having our long-time serving Chief Louis with us today signifies the continuation of his work and his vision and his teachings, and passing that forward for us to continue on."

"It's not just economically. It's who we are as people, remembering who we are and who we're always going to be."

"I know it made the elders happy, but when you really pay attention to our little ones, they're going to be the ones who take over. Teaching them young the importance of who we are as Indian people, they're learning by watching. Having them participate in the ceremony, they feel welcome, they feel a part, and they feel safe. They'll respect that."

"I see the importance of schools across Saskatchewan widening their teaching and recognizing First Nations within Canada. It comes back to good people that will make us stronger in who we are, because we're all related, we're all family. It's about bridging that relationship and making all of us stronger."

"We're always community-driven," said Alexson. "We're always strategically planning, not just at our table, but involving our administration and the community. You see how well represented they are today—keeping them involved and a part of

all our projects in all capacities.

"Coming back to who Kahkewistahaw is, in the Cree language, speaking of that visionary, Chief Kahkewistahaw was the eagle flying in the circle. So always having that vision and never letting it fade or slow down, just keeping that focus and leaning on one another as a community."

"Seven generations from now are going to reflect and look back at what we're

starting here. That's the exciting part. When we're doing the planning and doing things like this, I want to be able to smile and have those young people acknowledge us and say thank you for supporting where we are today."

"The teachings that were given to us aren't for us to hold onto, they're to give away, especially to our young people. So it will be good. It is good."

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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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'Diesel,' a famous front right lead horse in the current Budweiser eight-horse hitch.

From small Saskatchewan farm to Budweiser's lead horse

By DONNA BEUTLER

From a humble beginning on a small Saskatchewan horse farm has come great things. "Diesel" whose registered name is Clydesdale Creek's Diesel, is a well-known Budweiser stallion who is the right front lead horse in the Budweiser eight-horse hitch. During Super Bowl 2026 in February, it was Diesel in the lead of that Budweiser team.

Diesel is one of three famous Budweiser Clydesdale horses born and raised at the Szumutku farm just north of Stockholm, Sask. The Szumutkus—Delvin and Louise—can be rightly proud of this horse who was born with a love of showing off. Budweiser Clydes have to meet strict physical standards, and as part of a hitch team, these iconic horses travel to parades and brewery events and have been part of the Super Bowl ads since 1986.

"Budweiser horses need to be photogenic and they need to exude self-esteem," Szumutku told the World-Spectator

in a recent interview at his kitchen table. "That's why Diesel is the front right lead horse on the team," he explains.

The front right lead is sort of the 'top spot' on a team like this, and Diesel—tall, self-confident and show-worthy—fills the role effortlessly. He even made the December spot on last year's Budweiser calendar. These gentle giants are tall and muscular and the long, silky hair that covers their lower legs and hooves (leg feathers) and their high leg action are legendary.

Diesel—with his red-brown body and black mane and tail, four white socks and a white blaze on his face—has taken part in many events as a member of the current Budweiser hitch. It is a truly remarkable sight to watch a Clydesdale hitch team at work!

Horses like Diesel are only used for a few years because the pounding on pavement is hard on their legs. Diesel, like other horses on the team, are eventually placed on

a two-year 'last term,' and when that second year ends, the horse is retired. Diesel however, is on his second go-around of a two-year 'last term.' This very much speaks to not only how regal he looks and how beautiful he is, but how he has carried that love of 'showing off' that he was born with to the level he is at today, one that has earned him such a place in Budweiser history.

How does a horse breeder know he has a winner on his hands? And when does he know he has a horse destined for great things?

"When he knows, he just knows," said Louise Szumutku of her husband on his ability to spot a showring-quality Clydesdale. What's most amazing, though, is that he knows when that horse is just a baby. Not weeks or months into a young colt's life, but pretty much right away.

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In the summer, a kid's camp is held for one week. This gives kids the opportunity to learn and ride horses, ending with a youth horse show. Stephanie Zoer photo

New Hope Ranch a dream come true for owner DeeAnna Lyke

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

Long before the sun crests the horizon, DeeAnna Lyke is already awake. She enjoys the quiet mornings that are only broken by the soft nicker of horses waiting for their morning feed. Living on a ranch is not a job that a person clocks into, it is a way of life, and for Lyke, it is one she embraces fully.

Lyke was born and raised on a PMU farm by Wolseley by her parents Doug and Roberta Lyke. The farm had 60 horses that were all registered quarter horses or Arabians. Over the years this herd grew to 84 horses. When Lyke's parents went their separate ways, Lyke stayed with her mom Roberta who remained on the farm.

Lyke loved horses, but especially the Arabian breed. Roberta showed Arabians and soon Lyke went into showing as well. By the time young Lyke was seven years old, she was already training her own horse. She had done all the groundwork and was the first to ride this horse.

The excitement of the farm was when they held their production sale. A month before the sale, fences were painted and yard work was done. "It was a social time with friends," recalls Lyke.

When she turned 13 years old, she began farrier work on the horses. This is usually done every 6-8 weeks. In 2003 she attended Shur Shod School in Missouri and became a certified farrier. She has a large client base but is slowing down in that field of work.

Eventually Lyke bought a small farm west of Stoughton and also bought herself an

Arabian stallion with the bloodlines from Kemosabi. "Arabians are intelligent, athletic and beautiful," said Lyke. The stallion "Ace" is as gentle as the day is long, and Lyke did all the training. Today he is 26 years old and still in excellent health and is used by children of all ages to learn how to ride.

Lyke's dream was to own a big ranch and be known as an Equine Hub. She sold her small farm when the opportunity came up for her to purchase a ranch by Indian Head. It has two quarters of land, a large indoor riding arena and an old barn that will be fixed up for stabling.

Today she has 50 horses on the property, and 12 of them are hers. She has put up miles of fencing, added outdoor arenas, a warmup pen, and a round pen for training. She has replaced boards on the corrals and teaches lessons.

Not only are the horses her passion, but Working Equitation is as well. She got into this when a friend wanted to try it out and Lyke was hooked. Today she teaches this to a group of riders and holds WEcan shows regularly at her ranch. This form of riding is similar to western dressage, along with obstacle courses. There are many levels that riders can move up in. It is a discipline that unites horse and rider to work closely together.

Lyke offers a wide range of programs on the ranch. My Little Pony is a program for all ages. They pick a pony and lease it for a year. This gives kids that do not live on a farm the experience of what it is like to own a horse.

Continued on page 37

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22	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
29	Wednesday	Regular Sale (Feeder Cattle, Cows/Bulls)	9 a.m.
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- MAY 2026 -

6	Wednesday	Regular Sale.....	9 a.m.
		Cow/Calf pair & Bred Cow	2 p.m.
13	Wednesday	Presort Feeder Sale	10 a.m.
		Cows & Bulls to follow	
22	Friday	Tack Sale	5 p.m.
		Touch of Class Saddle Horse & Prospect Sale	7p.m.
		Followed by Regular Loose Horses	
23	Saturday	Man/Sask Small Animal & Bird Auction.....	2 p.m.
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Province celebrates International Year of the Woman Farmer

The Government of Saskatchewan is celebrating the International Year of the Woman farmer and the women whose leadership, innovation and hard work continue to strengthen the province's agriculture sector.

"Women have helped shape every part of our agriculture sector, strengthening both our economy and our communities," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "From farming and ranching operations to research labs and processing facilities, their leadership across the value chain is driving the innovation that continues to keep Saskatchewan at the forefront of Canadian agriculture."

Saskatchewan is home to more than 34,000 farms, most of them family owned, many of them operated by husband-and-wife partnerships, and a growing number run by women.

The province has an active network of female agriculture professionals who strive to connect and encourage women in the industry and serve on various industry association boards and committees. One such network is Saskatchewan Women in Ag.

"Saskatchewan Women in Ag hosts networking events and mentorship activities

to connect like-minded women from across the province and beyond," Board Chair Anna Karlsson said. "Through relationship building, our members support, empower, and uplift one another contributing to a stronger, more resilient industry."

This year, Saskatchewan recognizes the role of women in agriculture in helping to bring safe, high-quality agri-food products to tables across North America.

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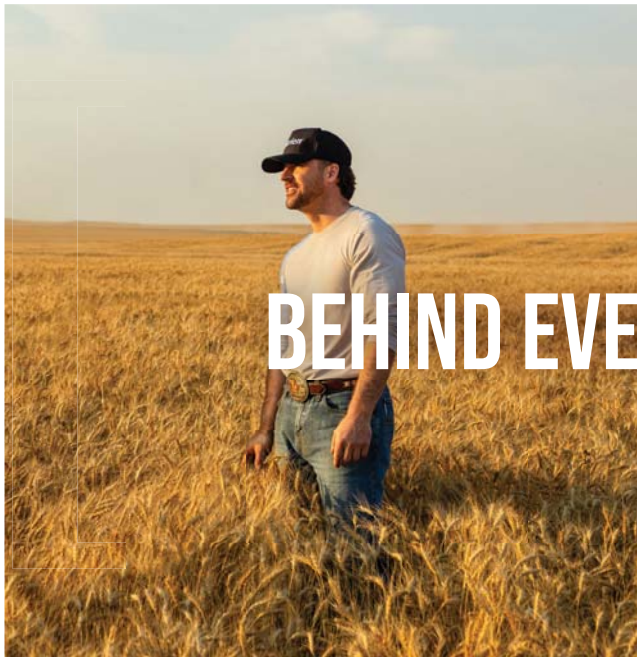
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Day of Honouring Walk held to remember Indigenous ancestors

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

In 1901 the people of Pheasant Rump were forced to leave their land and made to live on White Bear.

Mostly women and children packed what they could hold and walked on foot through the foothills of Moose Mountain, with the assistance of a few horses. Some of them carried babies while others were elderly.

The weather was bitterly cold and snow remained on the ground. It was a grueling walk that started on March 21, and they arrived in White Bear three days later.

In 2018 a motion was made to recognize March 21 as a Day of Honouring. It was signed by Pheasant Rump leadership and since then the walk has taken place each year, except for the year of shutdowns.

This year on March 21, the walk once again took place. It started in White Bear, setting off at the break of dawn. They travelled south on Highway 9 until they reached Highway 13. They followed Highway 13 until they reached PRNFN. The walk is 45 kilometres and took them eight hours to complete.

To ensure the safety of the people walking, they were escorted by the RCMP. Vehicles were also in tow for those who could no longer walk or needed a place to warm up. This luxury was not something the people had in 1901.

This year the walk was a little different. For the first time, all three chiefs—White Bear's chief Jonathan Pasap, Ocean Man's chief Ernest StandingReady, and Pheasant Rump's chief Ira McArthur—along with several band members did the long walk together to remember what their ancestors had to face.

For Juanita McArthur-BigEagle, it made her think of her late father, Mac, and she also thought of the others who had passed way.

"Many of them carried the weight of the forced amalgamation their whole lives," said McArthur-BigEagle. "They would have been pleased to see our nations walking together,



The Indigenous walk included, back row from left holding the Pheasant Rump Nakota First Nations (PRNFN) staff Patrick McArthur, Patrick Jr. Watcheston, Chenoa McArthur, Charlie Maxie, Aaron McArthur, PRNFN Chief Ira McArthur, Charlie BigEagle, Ocean Man First Nation Chief Ernest StandingReady, and White Bear First Nation Chief Jonathan Pasap. Front row from left are Theo Brown, Lemiyah Pasap, Blake Wolfe-McArthur, Amaya Wolfe-McArthur, Camden Wolfe-McArthur, Karrah Pasap, Juanita McArthur-BigEagle and Alaska Blue.

Stephanie Zoer photo

choosing unity and reconciliation.

"By walking in their footsteps, we reflect on the hardships they faced and the strength and resilience they carried forward," said Chief Jonathan Pasap. "The journey of reconciliation with all our treaty partners continues, and there remains much work to be done together."

Chief Pasap went on to say that it was an honour to walk alongside Chief Ernest StandingReady, and Chief McArthur, and the community members in remembrance.

"All people are welcome and encouraged to join us in next year's walk," said Pasap.

Chief Ira McArthur said that as always, the primary focus of the walk is to commemorate the ancestors of Pheasant Rump and Ocean Man, most of them being women and children.

"The illegal sale of the

Pheasant Rump and Ocean Man reserves and forced amalgamation with White Bear in 1901 changed the lives of the members of three Nations," said Chief McArthur. "It is a history that is important not only to our nations but to the southeast region of the province as well."

In 1986 there was a settlement agreement between White Bear and Canada which led to the re-establishment of PRNFN and OMFN in 1990.

Ultimately, the walk is to honour their ancestors, and also for reconciliation and healing amongst the Nations.

"This walk is a personal sacrifice for each walker, some of whom fasted for the duration, and pushed themselves physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually in their own way," said McArthur.

He is thankful to have been able to walk with the

other two chiefs during this time.

When they arrived at PRNFN they gathered for a feast and continued their

recognition by gifting star blankets and stories. They felt that the weather was reasonable with some light fog in the morning and a

light breeze.

They plan to continue with this tradition in years to come and hope that other communities will join in.

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When agriculture is always in your heart

Partway through our recent stay in sunny, southern California, hubby suggested I add the Richardson Pioneer (RP) app to my smart phone. Needless to say, his flip phone has no apps. Truth be told, his flip phone died and he actually has a smart phone—minus the smarts so to speak (no data).

When I get far away from home, I forget (other than the grands and the cats) most things “home.” By that I mean I don’t think about farm books, let’s say, or grain prices in particular, or the kitchen wall that could use a refreshing coat of paint. Those things really don’t exist when I am floating around in the outdoor pool, reading on the patio, or going for a walk along paths where the grass is green, the flowers are blooming and the palm tree fronds are waving in the breeze. What exists for me there is the most basic of things: the great outdoors, complete with never-ending sunshine. For hubby however, it’s barcharts (I can tell when he’s been on my phone) and RP apps with current grain prices; it’s the weather at home; and looking at the bin temperature readings our granddaughter is gathering for him each week.

To be fair, I get the importance of knowing where the grain prices are at (not so good, btw); fertilizer prices (yikes, what a hike); fuel prices (could do without this hike as we head into seeding); and bin temperatures (losing a bin of canola to overheating is not something any grain farmer wants to experience). I just don’t like to think about it all while I am vacationing—which I don’t want to take for granted and for which I am so thankful to be able to do. I well remember those years of tenting with our kids, all of which we enjoyed. It’s just that now I really enjoy an actual bed over sleeping on the ground. I also enjoy sunshine, heat and mosquito-free places complete with comfy recliners and full-size kitchens.

Crossing the border into the U.S. was easy-peasy, crossing back into Canada, not so much. I am certain that over the past 50 years-ish, we have never had our car searched or had to go inside for questioning. Each receipt was reviewed without issue but I am sure we looked positively guilty when they asked if there was anything that could poke them when they (all three) went out to check our car. “Poke you?” I asked. Crochet hooks was my first thought, not that I uttered that thought out loud. In retrospect I think they meant sharp needles as in perhaps insulin needles or something but at the moment, we were thinking so hard of something in our car that could “poke” someone, we probably looked suspicious.

We happened to be carrying our son-in-law and grandson’s golf bags as they had flown down from Saskatchewan to visit us, so when the agent asked how long we had been golfing (never), I am sure we once again looked off. Wondering if we were even allowed to carry golf bags that didn’t belong to us, we paused and then “fessed up—“They are not our clubs.” And then the question, “Did you pack your car yourself? Do you know everything that’s in there?” Well that was



a definite yes, though I am pretty sure hubby had no idea what was in those Hobby Lobby bags!

And speaking of feeling guilty (without reason), when we called in to our credit card company to set up our new cards yesterday, they asked the usual questions—ull name, birthdate, phone number on file – but then asked what my most recent purchase was. I was on it! I said, \$17.31 at Borderland Co-op just a few minutes ago. The agent’s response: “Not that recent.” Dead silence on my part. I have been away for six weeks during which time (believe it or not) I seldom used my credit card. Ditto for hubby although he used it for gas purchases.

Though hubby and I were both on speaker phone, if I answered a question related to “his” purchases (it’s all one account but card numbers are different) when it came time for him to answer, I was quickly told “he” had to answer. As it was, he told them his most recent purchase was at a gas station in Sidney, Montana. Agent: “What day?” Hubby: “March 11.” Agent: “What time?” Dead silence on hubby’s part until this: “Maybe noon, maybe mid-afternoon ish.” Not good enough. Agent: “What was the name of the gas station?” Hubby: “Maybe Conoco? Sinclair? 76? Really have no idea.” Not good enough. Agent: “Amount of purchase?” Hubby: “\$30, \$40 perhaps?” (We had just made a fair number of fills over a three-day travel-back-to-Canada trip for varying amounts). Not good enough. By this time we feel like we will never be able to answer any question correctly. The agent says he has to patch us through to his superior, so badly had we done on this test. Okay, so he didn’t say all of that. Superior: “Can you tell me when you made your last payment.” Me: “On or about February 20.” Superior: Not good enough. Superior: “Amount?” Me (cause I pay the bills): “Around X\$.” Superior: “Not good enough. Your husband has to answer since he is the primary cardholder.” So we reached over to the statement that had just come in the mail, looked up February 20ish and and ta-da! The exact payment amount. What a procedure!!

On our way home from CA, we decided to travel through Arizona before heading up through Utah and Montana. Our first Arizona stop was Yuma, a place we had never been. And wow, did you know it was an agricultural area? We were positively fascinated! The Yuma County area, very near the Mexico/U.S. border produces 90% of the winter greens (lettuce, broccoli, etc.) that supply the United States between November and March. 40-acre fields with various forms of irriga-

tion including flood irrigation surround Yuma which sits in the middle of the desert. The Colorado River supplies the water released from Hoover Dam near Las Vegas and water ravines (or whatever they call them) criss-cross the region carrying water to the irrigation systems. According to what we could learn about water usage (and conservation) at a museum, every drop of water used by the farmers there is accounted for. While sprinkler irrigation systems might be used for starting young vegetable plants, flood irrigation is how the plants are kept watered during their growing season before they switch the fields to cotton or wheat or whatever “summer” crops they decide to grow.

Every time we travelled through a valley or an agricultural area on our trip south, our eyes and ears perked up because all things ag are so close to our hearts. Some of the valleys we drove through are barely three or four miles wide but the land is so well utilized even in small spaces. Us prairie people rely, of course, on water from the sky but through many of the areas we travelled through (half a dozen states), it was all about water from the river and how much could be irrigated. In Yuma, 2500 trucks of produce move out of there daily and we could tell – traffic was slow no matter where we went because of these trucks loaded with cases and cases of broccoli or romaine lettuce or whatever it was they were hauling. Cooling sheds are everywhere as the harvested crops need to get out of the heat (40C when we were there) and into cooling sheds very quickly.

With winter vacation at its end, we headed north from the border into snowy Saskatchewan (after a zero-snow anywhere vacation) up from the border crossing into Regina where we reconnected with the youngest grands who we had just sent off on a plane from California a few days before and then, before heading to Whitewood, we stopped in Balgonie to watch the twins and their team in their final junior boys’ school curling bonspiel. Now there’s nothing better than a great curling game or two and we were not disappointed. The team played several games and we loved watching as they strategized and made their shots. Oh, and listened to our built-in commentator (their dad) when the skip placed his broom and the fellows made their shots. I can’t be sure since I wasn’t on the ice, but something makes me think the twins don’t necessarily need to communicate out loud to know what the other is thinking.

Once again this winter I missed 4-H speeches (sad face here) but I did get a chance to read our 17-year-old granddaughter’s speech (she had won at the local level and went on to the next level) and wow! I was so impressed as it was a subject about some personal challenges she has faced since birth and the coping strategies she has learned and applies to her everyday life. It’s very obvious there’s so much maturity and growth that comes from facing certain challenges in our lives, something that I could sure see in the words of her speech.

And so, as I close off on yet another column, I hope the challenges that you, our readers, are facing, and especially the grain farmers with challenging commodity and input prices, don’t overwhelm you as you contemplate seeding this year’s crop. May this spring season of new life and new growth (and those baby calves for some of you) put a smile on your face and a desire to tackle, one more time, penciling out the figures you need to make a profit. Until next time...

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Mooseberry Acting Company performing 'Tom, Dick and Harry' April 24-26

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Mooseberry Acting Co. will bring a long-awaited comedy to the stage next month with its production of "Tom, Dick and Harry."

The play, written by Ray and Michael Cooney, has been more than 14 years in the making for the local theatre group. "This particular play has been on our radar for 14 years," said co-director Sheilagh Garrett. "The first time we attempted it, the actor cast as Tom became ill. Then we tried again in 2020, but we were forced to shut down just two weeks before production due to Covid."

Garrett said the cancellation was especially difficult after months of preparation by both cast and crew.

Following the pandemic, Mooseberry took time to rebuild before returning to the stage in 2023 with "Elvis Has Left the Building," a production Garrett described as highly successful.

Now, the group is revisiting "Tom, Dick and Harry," a two-act comedy centred on a couple in the final stages of adopting a child. Their plans quickly unravel as a visit from an adoption official coincides with the arrival of Tom's brothers, whose increasingly chaotic actions force Tom into a series of far-fetched explanations.

Garrett said the play reflects the style audiences have come to expect from the Cooney family's work, which Mooseberry has staged several times.

The production features nine cast members and a six-person crew. Rehearsals began in late January following casting in December and early January.

Garrett said the current group has created a positive and collaborative environment.

"Everyone is working very hard, but there's also a lot of laughter," she said. "That camaraderie is a big part of what makes these productions successful."

Performances will take place April 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.,



Back row from left: Sheilagh Garrett, Amanda Selby, Bobbie McLaughlin, Madison Willnott-Bennion and Nicole MacPherson. Front row: Kyle Callfas, Sean Brooks, Craig Palmer, Darby Yakiwchuk and Devin Nosterud.

and April 26 at 2 p.m. at the Moosomin Community Theatre. Advance tickets are \$20 and are available from cast members, the World-Spectator and Conexus Credit Union in Moosomin.





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Rules of First Nations land ownership: An overview

BY TREVOR BACQUE

For First Nations, purchasing land for agricultural development is often not as straightforward as one might think. When a First Nation buys land through the Treaty Land Entitlement framework, or by other means, there are two options: go through the Additions to Reserve (ATR) process or purchase land as Fee Simple.

Additions to Reserve (ATR)

ATR is the addition of a piece of land to an existing reserve or the creation of a new reserve for a First Nation.

All Reserve lands are considered Crown land and are subject to detailed land laws according to the Indian Act:

1. Land is set aside for the use and exercise of treaty rights by First Nations people and their community.

2. Reserve land is exempt from Federal and provincial taxes – the property of a First Nation community or a First Nation person living on the reserve cannot be seized.

Reserve lands are subject to the rules laid out in the Indian Act or the First Nations Land Management Act, in use when First Nations opt out of the land management portion of the Indian Act and adopt their own land management code.

Fee Simple details

When a non-indigenous farmer buys

land from a neighbour or realtor, it's Fee Simple land – a tract of land with or without structures on it. Anything can be done so long as the owner operates within the regional or county land-use bylaws.

The most significant difference between reserve land and Fee Simple land in developing or business ventures is that reserve land cannot be leveraged to build infrastructure. For example, if a First Nation wishes to develop a value-added processing facility or farm equipment shed on reserve lands, they either need the cash-on-hand or external investors. With Fee Simple, leveraging it for building infrastructure is common.

Reserve land for agriculture

It's appealing to have more tax-free land, since there's a draw of the often-large amounts of unused arable land. However, it's difficult to develop anything commercially on the land due to financing challenges, including access to capital and a general lack of agricultural capacity.

First Nations are pushed to use agronomists and agronomy to understand the land and how they're going to be planting on it, know the whole schedule of farming, know the dates, when to apply for crop insurance, and know that well in advance. But since Indigenous people have a historic lack of access to capital through financial institutions, reserve land is often

developed through investment companies or cash.

Continued on page 35

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Back row from left: Spencer Davies, Dwayne Dedecker, Dan Lyons, Travis Kish, Brody Heaton, Jared Toth, and Kirk Oliver.

In front are Dennis Cacho, Quentin Oliver, Brody Zepick, and Ken Nordal with the fire department, Tammy Davies, Dena Bachorcik, and Travis Van Meer with Kingston Midstream, and Cheyenne Siebert and Makyla Stender with the fire department.

\$50,000 donated by Kingston Midstream to Kipling Fire Department for new truck

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Kingston Midstream made a \$50,000 donation last week to the Kipling Fire Department for a new rescue truck.

The fire department estimates a new truck will cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000 and is replacing a rescue truck that is 25 years old.

"The new rescue truck will help the local first responders reach people faster and operate more safely, strengthening emergency response for residents, businesses and travelers, especially with increasing highway traffic and oil field activity," says Dena Bachorcik with Kinston Midstream.

"Through the Richardson Foundation, we provide funding to communities with their capital projects. So basically, anything that will support the community that is needed. And the fire departments are something that affects everybody. They need the proper equipment to do their jobs properly, to protect everybody."

Kinston Midstream made the donation through the Richardson Foundation.

"It's their foundation that they provide funding through for capital projects," says Bachorcik.

"We will be upgrading our rescue truck to a newer model because this one is over 25 years old," says Brody Zepick with the Kipling Fire Department. "It goes to every single call so it needs to be newer, for many reasons. This truck really needs to be reliable because it goes to every single call that we respond to."

Zepick says donations like the one from Kingston Midstream help tremendously.

"It's huge," he says. "We have to pay for 25 per cent of the cost of the truck so that helps us a lot. "It means this truck is going to happen when you get donations like that."

Zepick says the fire department has started fundraising

in the last year and once a new truck is ordered, it takes about two years for the truck to arrive.

He says current fundraising for the truck sits at about \$75,000

"We're hoping to get the ordering process started sooner rather than later so that we can have it in a two year time frame, roughly," he says.

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Rules of First Nations land ownership: An overview

Continued from page 33

Land is then leased back to a First Nation-owned corporate entity. The First Nation-owned corporate entity leasing the land can then farm it, develop it, or sub-lease it to a third-party farmer.

The designation process is complex and can regularly take up to two years. The designation request is sent to the chief, the community councillors, and then to the Minister of Indigenous Services, with no guarantee of the outcome.

There are other less-complicated procedures to pursue uncultivated and unused reserve lands intended for short-term agricultural purposes, such as a permit under subsection 28(2) of the Indian Act or a lease under paragraph 58(1)(c) of the Indian Act.

What about Buckshee Agreements?

There are also Buckshee Agreements, an informal agreement where a First Nation or band member allows, often verbally, a non-First Nation farmer to farm a portion of the reserve lands. However, as Billie Fortier, partner at MLT Aikins LLP in Calgary, Alta., explains, Buckshee Agree-

ments are not binding, and there is no recourse if anything goes sideways with the relationship.

Customary Allocations as an option

Like Buckshee Leases, Customary Allocations granted to an individual are also not considered legally binding. A Customary Allocation is a resolution of a First Nation council, or applicable custom or law of the First Nation, to use land for agricultural purposes.

However, an individual member of a First Nation may obtain allotments on reserves, giving them the right to exclusively use and occupy a defined parcel of reserve land. This is called a Certificate of Possession (CP), and once the First Nation approves the allotment, the federal Minister of Indigenous Services must issue the CP.

"It's as close to Fee Simple as a band member can get on reserve," Fortier explains. "Members have an enforceable right of possession; they can then lease those lands to other members or non-members [with Ministerial approval], extract natural resources and farm the CP

lands freely."

Fortier says it's important to remember that a CP may be transferred only to another member or band, and those lands cannot be sold as fee simple lands can.

The Westbank First Nation in British Columbia has allotted almost all of its territory to individual members using CPs. It's a prime example of how CP holders can lease and develop their lands.

Fortier suggests a band member can leverage reserve land for agricultural purposes by being allotted a CP. The other option is for a First Nation to source outside investors. However, Fortier cautions that the business relationship should be structured carefully to minimize liabilities.

"We often see First Nation-owned businesses engage partners either to get more investors on board or to engage their on-site expertise," she says. "A Nation-owned company may want to develop a large-

scale farming operation and would need initial capital investment, possibly by bringing in a third-party partner. Do your due diligence to make sure you're choosing the right partners and the most advantageous business structure and that you're protecting the company's long-term interests, and by extension, the First Nation's."

Bottom line

Reserve lands and Fee Simple lands are distinctly different, and both come with unique advantages. Reserve lands often face a larger task of becoming profitable since the owner cannot leverage land the same way someone who owns fee-simple lands can, except for the long-term leases provided through the Indian Act land designation process. A clear set of goals and expectations is key to successfully developing and farming either type of land.



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New Farm Stress Line partnership delivers enhanced mental health services for the agriculture sector

As of April 1, SaskAgMatters Mental Health Network Inc. will manage the Farm Stress Line as part of a coordinated mental health support system for Saskatchewan producers, their family members and their employees. The new partnership offers 24/7 confidential access to crisis line counsellors trained in agriculture, as well as follow-up counselling sessions with Saskatchewan-based registered mental health professionals with backgrounds in agriculture.

The Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada are providing \$200,000 per year for the next two years for the Farm Stress Line and counselling services through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

"Farmers withstand unique demands and challenges that affect not only their physical health, but also mental wellbeing," Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald said. "This partnership ensures that when members of our agricultural community reach out, they are connected with a mental health professional who truly understands their reality."

"People working in agriculture face stressful work conditions affecting their livelihood and wellbeing," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "They need support from mental health professionals who understand the industry and who will ensure confidentiality for those who reach out. The Farm Stress Line has a proud history of supporting the agricultural community, and these improved services will help protect the health of people working in the sector."

The Farm Stress Line toll-free number - 1-800-667-4442 - will stay the same. Producers can call about anything affecting their wellbeing, including financial stress, family pressures, anxiety, depression, burnout or concern for someone else.

SaskAgMatters is a Saskatchewan-based organization of producers and mental health professionals. The organization is enhancing its local counselling services through a partnership with the Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing to provide crisis support services from counsellors with agricultural training through the National Farmer Crisis Line.

"SaskAgMatters was founded to break down the barriers that Saskatchewan farm families face when trying to get help," SaskAgMatters board chair and co-founder Cynthia Beck said. "We have removed the time and stress involved in finding a mental health professional and cover the financial cost of these services. Our counsellors offer flexible appointment times and will meet by telephone or virtually."

"Through our research, we listened to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers," Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan, and co-founder of SaskAgMatters Dr. Michelle Pavloff said. "Their experiences guided this new approach to mental health support, including a refreshed Farm Stress Line and access to

therapy provided by those who understand agriculture, either through lived experience or training. This work was built with producers, and we are proud to be advancing farmer mental health in Saskatchewan."

Sustainable CAP is a five-year, \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.



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New Hope Ranch a dream come true for owner DeeAnna Lyke



DeeAnna Lyke photos

Above left: DeeAnna Lyke likes the versatility of the Arabian horse and takes them on cattle drives regularly.
 Above right: One of the highlights of her ranch is the large indoor arena that is used every day for lessons.
 Below: Geldings, mares, and miniature ponies are housed separately. Here the gelding pen sports a wide range of colour.

Continued from page 27
 She has another program called "Barn Rats." This program is for youth and runs for nine months. It is an introduction to ranch life. They learn about chores, the care of a horse and the farm. They also get to ride a horse.
 Lyke's Riding Academy program is for ages 10 -18. Here they focus on riding. They have a horse they use throughout the program. The youth learn to do drill teamwork, trail riding, and work together in a group.
 The last Monday of every month is the Dirty Saddle Club. This is an adult-only club and is a time for horse lovers to come together and have a social. They can

ride if they like and it is an opportunity for non-horse owners to have a chance to ride a horse.
 Lyke's days are filled with horse stuff, and she could not be any happier. This is the life she has dreamed about. Not everyone gets to live out their dreams, but Lyke has a good start. It is her goal to teach people to do better on their horses. She feels there is always so much to learn, and she continues to grow and learn herself.
 Lyke is excited for another year of horse shows, lessons and just the pure love of horses and being able to share that with other horse lovers that come out to the New Hope Ranch.




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RCR Prime Cut 122M, RCR Prime Cut 131M, RCR Prime Cut 147M, and RCR Prime Cut 184M were a few of the high selling bulls at Right Cross Ranch. Stephanie Zoer photo



On Right Cross Ranch some of the work is done on horseback which is enjoyed by the whole family. Stephanie Zoer photo

Fifteen years of selling bulls on Right Cross Ranch

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

Jim and Sarah Anderson and their children Morgan, Quinn, and Cole celebrated their 15th annual bull sale on April 7. Right Cross Ranch is located southwest of Kisbey, and they had 49 yearling and two-year-old red and black angus bulls to offer.

T Bar C Cattle Co was the auctioneer company that took care of the sale. Chris Poley welcomed everyone and introduced the Anderson Family. Jim thanked everyone for coming and thanked his family for all the hard work they put into the cattle. It is a family ranch with the kids helping at most levels.

The Andersons moved from Alberta in 2010 to start their dream farm. At the time they had no children but wanted their kids raised on a farm and now their three kids play a major part in farm life and 15

years later they are holding another bull sale.

The sale began with a luncheon for the filled sales ring, giving potential buyers the opportunity to check out the pens behind the sales barn while filling their belly. The bulls are housed together and rarely show any aggression towards each other.

Chris Poley does not fool around when it comes time to start the auction. He is quick and clear, selling over 50 bulls in a little more than an hour. Each bull enters the ring, but two decided this was not for them and the bulls made a sharp left and never showed their face.

With the bulls being out of their element a few were a little excited when they came into the sale ring. They pawed at the shavings, sending them high into the crowd. These bulls wanted to make sure the crowd was paying attention.

All bulls are checked for their weight, their scrotal measurement, and the birth weight of calves. Some bulls are only for older cows as the birth weight is heavier, others are offered for heifers, which will calve for the first time. The catalogue goes into detail about parental lineage, and the buyers are reminded of this as the bull comes through the ring.

For the first time, the Roberts family offered three purebred Charolais yearling bulls. They began farming four years ago. Matthew, Micaela, and Colt began with a commercial herd and recently extended their program into purebred Charolais. Matthew had previously worked for the Anderson family, and they are grateful for the guidance and opportunity to sell a few bulls at the sale.

With the bulls all sold and going to their prospective homes across Canada, the Anderson family will focus on calving and raising the next crop for bulls for their up-and-coming sales in the future.



RCR Renovation 192M is sleek and comes from a conformational correct cow. She is raising another bull calf for next year's sale.



MOR Apollo 8N, MOR Dustin 1N, and MOR Zeus 6N are purebred yearling Charolais and brought in by guest consigner the Roberts family. Stephanie Zoer photo



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Above left: A wide range of one- and two-year-old Hereford and Black Angus bulls filled the pens at the back of the sale barn held at Right Cross Ranch by Kisbey. **Above right:** Glenlees MK 3128 Northstar 11N and Glenlees DBK 63F Outline 122N were two of the outstanding Hereford bulls offered by Glenlees Farm at the annual bull sale.

Stephanie Zoer photos

Largest Hereford bull sale in Canada held by Kisbey

BY STEPHANIE ZOER

For 22 years Glenlees Farm, Blair Athol Farms and Haroldson's Polled Herefords have held an annual bull sale. At this sale, the best of the best is offered for people to view and purchase. This can be done in person, over the phone or online bidding process.

The sale was held on April 3 at Right Cross Ranch southwest of Kisbey. It was the largest Polled Hereford Bull Sale in Canada. Three families with respected programs and deep roots in the industry offered over 60 bulls for sale.

Blair Athol Polled Hereford Farm is located north of Arcola. The family farm is owned by Duncan and Val Lees and their son and family, Jeff, Grace, Kylee, Jackson, Hannah and Josie, Christin, and Randy. It is the second oldest Hereford farm in Canada.

Glenlees Farm is also family owned and located north of Arcola. George and Annette Lees, along with their son and family, Corey, Tasha, Emma, Kyla, and Becca help run the farm. One of their two-year-old bulls went CN Supreme Champion-

ship in 2023.

Haroldson's Polled Herefords is also family run by Lenna, Kristy, and Chad Wilson. They are located near Wawota, and they offer Hereford and Black Angus Bulls at the sale. All three of these farms are well known for their quality stock.

T Bar C Cattle Co. auctioneer Chris Polye welcomed everyone to the sale. He has been the auctioneer for these sales for the past 22 years. He brings ringside spotters for the bids, and sale day phones.

Not only is it a day sale, trucking needs to be arranged, travellers' accommodations need to be arranged, insurance needs to be in place, and the bulls need to be hauled to the sales barn.

Poly introduced the families and said that each one has built their programs from the ground up with cow power, which have strong maternal lines that transmit quality, productivity, and longevity. The cows that produce these bulls need to have nice top lines, great feet and the udder needs to be even, as these traits will go into the calves.

Within the pedigrees of these bulls a



Haroldson's Proud 35L ET 50N bull relaxes before entering the sale ring at the annual Wilson-Lees Bull Sale.

Stephanie Zoer photo

person will find that the genetics are tied to numerous national champions. Whether a person was looking to add to their purebred herd or a foundation commercial herd, these bulls will add to the foun-

ation of any breeding program.

The sales barn was packed with respective buyers, but before the sale begins a luncheon is offered and catered by Wier's Catering. The bulls are housed out behind the sales barn for viewing. Each bull is semen tested and inspected by a veterinarian.

Bulls for the sale are hand selected by the farms. They need to have a clean top line, excellent feet, and average birth weights. Bulls that are used on heifers tend to have a lower birth weight for ease of calving for a first time.

Respective buyers came from all corners of Canada and into the United States. They were willing to pay top dollar for one of these quality bulls with some selling for over \$45,000, and many were repeat buyers. The sale is quick with each bull coming through the ring.

For quality polled Hereford bulls, this is a sale that respective buyers do not want to miss.



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Southeast Sask eligible to access strychnine for gopher control

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE
REPORTER

Producers in Southeast Saskatchewan are eligible to access strychnine for gopher control after the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta received approval for a revised joint Emergency Use Request for the use of two per cent liquid strychnine to support integrated pest management of Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS).

There are 15 crop districts in Saskatchewan that will be eligible to access strychnine.

The revised request was submitted to Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) following close collaboration between both provinces and the federal government. The revised request included additional stewardship measures and environmental safeguards to support responsible use.

As a result, 208 RMs in roughly 15 crop districts in southern and western Saskatchewan will have access to strychnine.

"Saskatchewan producers have been clear about the challenges they face in managing gophers with the limited tools currently available," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "We are pleased to see the emergency use request granted as a practical opportunity for producers to demonstrate how strychnine can help protect their crops and pastures from continued damage. We hope to see strychnine reinstated permanently in the future as a tool producers can use to manage gophers."

Under the Emergency Use Registration authorized through the Pest Control Products Act, areas in approximately 15 crop districts in southwest, southeast, south central and northwest Saskatchewan will be eligible to access strychnine. These areas were identified using Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation claims data and information

related to species at risk presence.

The revised Emergency Use Registration includes measures to protect species at risk, including a refined geographic scope, increased monitoring and carcass collection and disposal requirements and enhanced mandatory training.

The federal authorization allows strychnine to be registered for use in Saskatchewan and Alberta until November 2027, subject to all PMRA conditions. Saskatchewan will continue to support producers, including those outside of areas eligible for strychnine, through extension efforts, the Gopher Control Program and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation programs.

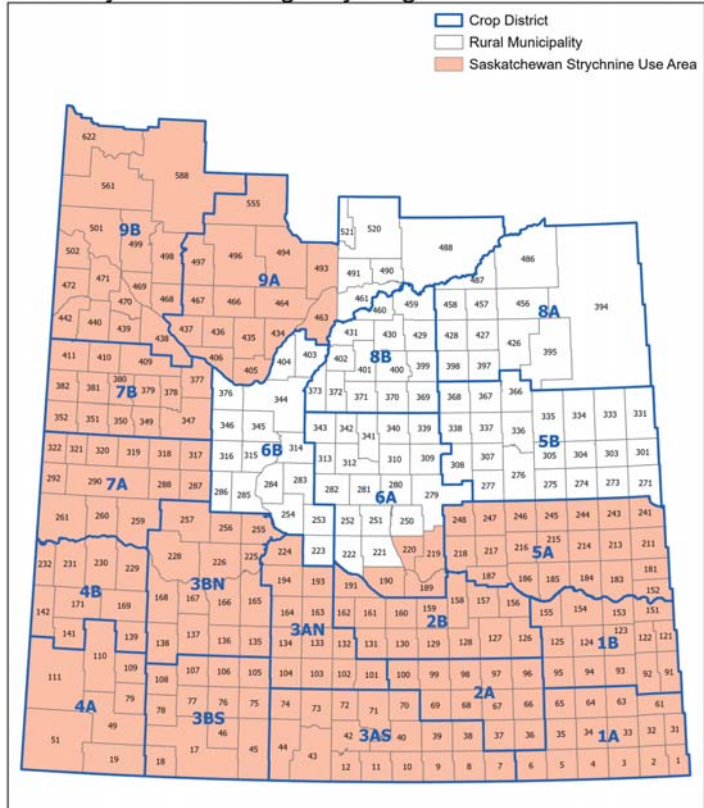
"The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) has been calling for a practical solution on strychnine for a long time, so today's announcement is a significant win for our members," SARM President Bill Huber said. "SARM will continue to work with governments and producers to ensure this tool is used responsibly and effectively."

"We applaud the government for hearing producers' concerns and pushing forward with a common sense, made-in Saskatchewan solution to the ongoing gopher infestation," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Jeff Yorga said.

"We want to thank the government of Saskatchewan for continuing to press this issue with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency," Sask Wheat board chair and producer from Broadview Jocelyn Velestuk said. "Having controlled, emergency registration of strychnine provides producers with a critical tool to help mitigate damage and losses to cereal crops incurred by pests. While we are still awaiting full details, the positive direction we are seeing is an important step for Saskatchewan farmers."

Continued on page 42

Strychnine Emergency Registration Use Area



The 15 strychnine use areas in Saskatchewan.

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Through the Groceries for Good program, Kraft Canada and Valleyview Co-op have partnered to support the Virden and Area Food Cupboard with food to help local families access essential groceries.



Valleyview Co-op donates \$2,000 to Virden Food Cupboard through Groceries for Good program

BY AMBER VANDALE TORRANCE
On March 19, the Valleyview Co-op Food Store made a \$2,000 food donation to the Virden and Area Food Cupboard, thanks to support from Kraft Heinz through its Groceries for Good program.

The donation of Kraft products will support individuals and families in the Virden area facing food insecurity. The Groceries for Good program partners with local grocery retailers across Canada to provide food donations directly to food banks serving their communities.

"Canadian food bank usage is at an all-time high with more first-time users than ever," said Cory Dittmer of Kraft Heinz. "At Kraft Heinz, we are committed to standing by Canadians and our customers by making a positive impact in communities by partnering with Food Banks Canada."

Valleyview Co-op's Virden Grocery Store team, led by Lorne Gryjack, played a key role in co-ordinating the local dona-

tion to the Virden and Area Food Cupboard, ensuring the products reached those in need. Gryjack credits the project's success to the commitment and teamwork of his staff.

"Programs like Groceries for Good show what's possible when national partners, local teams, and supportive communities come together," said David Wowk, General Manager of Valleyview Co-op. "I'm proud of our Virden Food Store grocery team for turning this \$2,000 Kraft product donation into meaningful support for the Virden and Area Food Cupboard, and grateful to our community for always stepping up when it matters most."

Shirley Gibson from the Virden and Area Food Cupboard says a donation of this size is quite impactful as demand for food hampers continues to grow. "It's wonderful to have this much food; it certainly helps us fill our shelves. We're doing anything between 40 and 50 hampers twice a month."

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Southeast Saskatchewan eligible to access strychnine for gopher control

Continued from page 40

"Saskatchewan Pulse Growers is pleased to see the approval of the emergency use registration of strychnine for RGS control," Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Board Chair Stuart Lawrence said. "With limited options, we recognize the Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to ensure continued access to this important and effective product."

"The Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA) applauds the federal government's announcement authorizing time-limited and controlled emergency registration of strychnine for the management of RGS," SCA Chair Chad Ross said. "The considerable negative economic impact of RGS is a reality for many livestock producers, and their

ability to manage this pest is essential. SCA greatly appreciates the Saskatchewan government's efforts to ensure that producers have access to this important pest control tool as part of their RGS management strategy."

"This emergency registration provides Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers with an essential pest management tool to protect against more losses caused by RGS," SaskOats Chair and producer near Pangman, Saskatchewan Elwood White said. "RGS have been increasing sharply in some areas since the cancellation of this product in 2023 and this essential change will allow producers adequate tools to address this problem."

"Farmers have been clear that losing strychnine has

caused extreme losses on our farms," SaskBarley Chair Cody Glenn said. "This revised EUR shows we can use strychnine safely while still protecting wildlife. It means farmers can once again use a tool that makes a real difference in managing RGS."

"Richardson's ground squirrels are causing real damage for Saskatchewan farmers, and producers need effective, responsible tools to manage them," SaskOilseeds Research Manager Doug Heath said. "This time-limited, tightly controlled emergency registration gives farmers access to an important option, while ensuring strong safeguards are in place for the environment and species at risk."

Government of Sask announces detailed changes to 2026 AgriStability Program

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit has announced changes to the 2026 AgriStability Program, administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC). This follows through on the province's ongoing commitment to ensure its business risk management programs remain relevant and further support Saskatchewan livestock producers.

"These AgriStability Program enhancements better recognize feed costs and pasture use, providing more meaningful and responsive support for our livestock producers," Marit said. "Our government has been responsive to the sector's requests, ensuring producers have access to relevant programs they need to manage risk and remain resilient."

Starting in the 2026 Program Year, for operations that rent pastureland for grazing, the costs associated with the rent or lease will be considered as allowable expenses for AgriStability. The expense must be reflective of a reasonable feed volume for the animals grazed. The producer needs to demonstrate that the transaction is for access to livestock feed, not for crop or forage production.

As previously announced, also starting in the

2026 Program Year, AgriStability is adjusting the feed inventory pricing for livestock producers. This accounts for feed destined to be used on the farm and not sold. When feed prices rise, the value of ending inventories can increase, potentially offsetting losses of actual feed production. This modified calculation will use the end of year price along with opening and ending feed quantities to calculate the value of the inventory change.

"The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) appreciates the province's continued commitment to strengthening AgriStability and ensuring business risk management programs meet the practical needs of Saskatchewan producers," said Bill Huber, SARM President. "The inclusion of pasture rental costs and the feed inventory adjustment are meaningful first steps that better reflect the realities faced by our livestock producers, particularly during dry years."

"The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) welcomes the 2026 AgriStability program changes that better reflect how livestock producers manage their operations," SSGA President Jeff Yorga said. "Starting to capture on-farm feed inventories and rented

pasture expenses is a great first step toward strengthening the program's ability to support producers through dry years, rising costs and market uncertainty."

"Strong risk management programs are essential for Saskatchewan cattle producers to remain competitive and resilient," Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA) Chair Chad Ross said. "SCA has worked hard to ensure producers have responsive and practical programs available to them. We appreciate the announced enhancements to the 2026 AgriStability Program. These improvements will help Saskatchewan producers more effectively manage their risks."

Enrolling in AgriStability is simple. To request a new participant package, call the SCIC AgriStability Call Centre at 1-866-270-8450 or email agristability@scic.ca. The deadline to enroll in the 2026 AgriStability Program Year is April 30, 2026.

AgriStability protects Canadian producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs and market conditions. It is one of the Business Risk Management programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.



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From small Saskatchewan farm to Budweiser's lead horse

Continued from page 25
hard work on their farm north of their beloved little community, and it's easy to see that Delvin not only has a gift when it comes to knowing a winner when he sees one, but a gift in preparing a Clyde for show. Over their years on the farm, they have grown crops and raised cattle and horses, but their true love are their Clydes.

Szumutku's lifelong love of horses—big horses that is—began almost from the beginning of his life. Now 74 years old, Szumutku says his dad always had Belgian draft horses, but as just a kid, Szumutku was more smitten with Clydesdale horses though they had none.

"I loved the Clydesdales," Szumutku said in an interview at his Stockholm-area farm. "Their legs, their white hair—I loved that about them. And I finally bought one when I was 12 years old."

Of course, it wasn't quite that simple. There was some work to be done to raise the money to be able to make such a purchase, and work he did, digging holes and putting telephone poles into the holes in the 1960s. These weren't just any holes, they were four feet deep, dug with a shovel and re-dug when he hit a rock. The pay was \$4 a hole. He dug holes from Stockholm north for two miles to the home farm where he still lives. And that money meant he could buy a Clydesdale, a five-year-old mare, not even broke.

When his dad purchased a Clydesdale stallion in the '60s, that was the beginning of a near lifetime of not only raising Clydesdales but showing them as well. And preparing these massive horses would become Szumutku's passion because showing them was one thing, but making them show-ready was where his greatest skill shone through.

"We (my dad and I) showed horses at the Royal in Toronto in the mid-60s," Szumutku said of those early years when he was just 13 and 14 years old. "The federal government provided funding to the provincial government who sponsored one train car of cattle and one train car of horses to go to Toronto to the Royal," Szumutku explained. "You had to apply to the Royal and then qualify to be able to have your horse go by train."

Though there was no cost for the horses to go by train, the owners had to pay other expenses and supply the feed for their animals. Nineteen horses was the maximum number in a train car and the owners rode along in the car to care for them. It took about three days to get there and in order to have the horses ready for show, this meant leaving Saskatchewan about 10 days before the show began. Once they



Delvin at Yorkton Exhibition

disembarked in Toronto in the middle of the night, they then had to walk their animals to the grounds—the Horse Palace as it was called.

"It was an incredible sound," Szumutku said as he remembered the sound of the horseshoes hitting the ground as the horses were led the three-block distance to the Horse Palace. Not only was the sound remarkable, but the spectators who lined the streets made quite an impression, especially as it was about three in the morning. People were enamoured with these big, beautiful horses that can weigh upward of 2,000 pounds or more.

Young Szumutku, along with his dad and others who had traveled to Toronto with their horses, stayed in dorms that were provided for them and everyone chipped money in for groceries so they could make their own meals while they were in the city.

One cold, wintery November after showing in Toronto, Szumutku, about 15 at the time, boarded the train with his horse, carrying with him a can of soup and some wieners to eat along the way. The cold temperatures not only froze the barrel of water meant for the horses, but also his food. With no heat on the train, he decided to use the one-burner hot plate they had to warm up his soup.

"I opened my can of soup with a hoof trimmer," Szumutku said, "then stuck the frozen wieners in the can of soup and put it on the hot plate. Three hours later, I checked and the soup was just lukewarm and I thought I would give it just half an hour more because hot soup would really warm me up."

Unfortunately for Szumutku, he inadvertently spilled his soup and his warm meal ended up on the floor of the train car. "I

could have cried," he said of that moment. "I took a horse blanket and threw it over me to stay warm."

Szumutku and his dad also showed horses locally and one summer Szumutku's dad came home from an appointment with his heart specialist with a grand idea. Szumutku had come in from summerfalling a field at around nine in the evening and his dad had five horses tied up in the barn. His dad's idea was to show at the Yorkton Exhibition which was to start the following day. Szumutku looked at the horses. None were even remotely ready for show. They were dirty with burrs stuck to their hair, and he thought, "We haven't even registered for the show, but if they let us in, I will go." And as luck would have it, they knew who to get in touch with and got registered, albeit late.

"I arrived in Yorkton at midnight," recalls Szumutku, "and I worked all night to clean that horse up, shoes on, washed up, trimmed up." All his work paid off with that last minute decision to show because the horse he ended up taking won the Supreme Grand Champion award. Sadly, it would be his dad's last horse show.

Over the next many years, life took some tough turns and the passing of Szumutku's dad was just one of them. Life on the farm in the 1980s, as for most farmers in those years, was not easy. Crop failures and high interest rates saw many farms struggle to make ends meet. Szumutku had quit showing horses by this time and had kept just one mare, but somewhere along the line, when his wife said to him, "If you want to do this again (show horses), do it," he decided to start again.

And so began Clydesdale Creek and they named

their first colt "Lucky" because the newborn's resilience after her rough start to life was the beginning of bigger things to come. The little one had stumbled into a slough sometime after her birth and just her head was above water when Szumutku found her.

"We pulled the colt out of the water and brought her in and warmed her up," Szumutku said, "but she got an infected navel and it didn't look like she would make it."

Fortunately, little Lucky did survive and in the grand scheme of things, all of the Szumutkus' horses have come from that filly.

"This was the start of it all," Szumutku said as he thinks of Lucky, that little filly who didn't seem to have a chance, but in the end was actually the beginning of the Clydesdale Creek story.

When a wealthy fellow came to the Szumutku farm, he wanted to purchase the horse and the Szumutkus really needed the money at the time. But in the end, they didn't sell her, and in fact, they never bought another mare after that.

Though the Szumutkus have slowly phased out over time, they raised 45 to 50 Clydes over their many years in the business. Szumutku is quick to give credit where credit is due.

"I couldn't have done it without her," he says as he looks at his wife. "Together we've been to four world shows; we've shown all over Canada and the United States. The Worlds, though, is big-time. It's like the Olympics for Clydes."

Their first World Clydesdale Show (WCS) was in 2007 and their second in 2011. They admit to feeling like they didn't know a lot when they arrived at these first-for-them world shows, though they had showed well at other levels previously.

"Now we were at the show of all shows," Szumutku said. "Some owners had chefs in chef hats cooking for their hired help. They had fancy decorations, expensive decorations," he added, saying that where some horse owners had \$2.5 million budgets for showing their horses, he and his wife from little Stockholm, Saskatchewan had just \$250 for their decorations.

"Fortunately for me, I had a dad who had gone to Royal," Szumutku explained, "and because of that I learned all about preparing horses and showing them as a really young guy. We (my wife and I) knew nothing back then, but we could outwork others who were there. The wealthy want to be as good a horseman as us poor people but they aren't."

2011 turned out to be a year to remember for the Szumutkus as they travelled to the WCS in Madison, Wisconsin, and not necessarily in ways one might think. They had just arrived in Wisconsin with their five show horses when Delvin had a massive heart attack, one of three times he required medical intervention during the time they were in Wisconsin for the show.

"They call it the widow-maker heart attack," Szumutku said of that experience. His saving grace was being very close to a hospital where heart specialists were able to save his life.

As for the horses, it was the people they had met at the worlds in 2007 that helped them with their horses, showing the horses for them and proving to them what good friends will do for you when you need them. On top of that, their horses placed really well.

"We did amazing that year," Szumutku recounts, though he was required to stay in the U.S. for several

days longer while his wife drove home alone, pulling their horse trailer and its precious cargo back to Saskatchewan. It's an emotional memory for the two of them as they recall that time in their lives, but in the stoic, Saskatchewan way, they continued on, showing in many places over the next several years, including two more World Clydesdale Shows in 2015 and in 2018.

In 2018, Szumutku was asked to be the head speaker at the WCS banquet and he and his wife are so thankful for that experience and the many experiences they have been able to share together over the years and for the countless number of friends they have made in the business.

Szumutku says, other than a couple of instances, he never really was injured while working with his horses. He recounts being kicked as an eight-year-old and "catching hell" from his parents after his mom saw the perfect horse print on his chest, left behind from a stallion he was riding.

"We couldn't afford a saddle so I rigged up some twine to make stirrups and I went to bring the cows in for milking," Szumutku says of that incident. "The stallion took off and when I woke up on the ground, there were no cows, no horses anywhere and just the rope stirrup on my foot."

He thinks he was dragged and then kicked, but whatever happened that day, it left quite an impression on him—primarily in the middle of his chest.

On one other occasion he was kicked in the upper arm by a colt and it caused such a muscle spasm that it blew a hole out his shoulder. He couldn't understand why his wife, who he believed to be standing at the kitchen window, didn't come out to help him as his shoulder was bleeding bad. As it was, when he made it to the house and got the bleeding under control, he realized Louise had never been standing in the window to begin with.

"There's never been a plant hanging in that window since then," Louise explained, pointing to the kitchen window. And today, there is still a clear view of the barn from the kitchen window and Delvin will never again mistake a plant for his wife's head.

Szumutku is so modest when he talks about the horses he has raised saying, "It's all about the horses. This really just fell into our hands." He is so proud of his horses and feels "it's nothing we did," but in reality, there is much more to it than that and it is clear he has a special way with these large animals and is so knowledgeable and so skilled at raising show horses.

Continued on page 44



Above from left: Delvin riding a Belgium at age 4, Delvin's first Clydes team at age 12, Delvin Szumutku of Stockholm works with Dino, one of his young Clydesdale horses.

From small Saskatchewan farm to Budweiser's lead horse

Continued from page 43

Szumutku also gives a lot of credit to a stallion he raised called Jacob, who he says built Clydesdale Creek. He explains that much of his desire to do well with his horses stems from wanting to make his dad proud of him for carrying on this tradition. Between Szumutku's work ethic and his many accomplishments, there is no doubt that his dad would be incredibly proud of where his son's greatest passion has taken him. "Jacob won everywhere," Szumutku continued as he talked about this stallion. "He had incredible confidence. He was good with kids, he was cocky, he was proud.

"A fellow in the States where we were showing wanted to buy Jacob but was offering me \$10,000 less than another

horse this man had bought and so I said no," Szumutku said. By the time they got Jacob back home from the U.S., the guy was on the phone still wanting to buy him and so the Szumutkus did agree to the sale, at their asking price, plus the cost of shipping him to the U.S. "Jacob was the Corvette of horses," Szumutku went on to say. "He put us on the map."

Today, as Szumutku still works with his Clydes in the barn not far from his house, it's obvious he knows exactly what he is doing, but more than that, it is obvious that he has a deep love and respect for these animals. Szumutku is careful to note that these animals are not pets and they are not treated as pets.

His passion for the Clydesdale breed can be seen in his continued interest in the National Clydesdale Association

where today he is the President and still travels to Toronto to attend meetings. Three years ago, he was asked to judge a horse show in South Africa, something he really enjoyed. While there they asked him to set up a breeding program. Judging, Szumutku learned, requires a careful eye and the realization that none of the horses are ever perfect. Once he learned that, he explained, he was able to judge.

As for Diesel, one of the most famous Budweiser Clydes, the media today has had a big impact on him being as well-known as he is, at least in comparison to two other Budweiser Clydes that came from the Szumutku farm. Regardless, it's been a remarkable journey, not just for the Szumutkus, but for Diesel himself!

Why do we do what we do?

By Delvin Szumutku

This story by Delvin Szumutku appeared in Canadian Clydesdale in 2019.

I can't begin to count the times I have asked why we do all this work to get a few horses ready for a show that seems to last a few minutes and then it is over. After the excitement wanes, the tiredness sets in.

This year (2019) going to the Yorkton Harvest Showdown was even more so as we had just returned from the World Clydesdale Show in Madison, Wisconsin. We had taken three horses and one of those horses, Clydesdale Creek's Lucky Lady, had qualified for the provincial champion competition at Harvest Showdown one week later.

At the barn in Yorkton, I was still asking myself why we do this when the school tours started. They were expecting 1,000 kids to go through the barns in two days. We, as a group, are asked if we would take a horse into a separate aisle and answer questions for these kids as they come through. Lady had been in the aisle for about an hour so I decided it should be another horse's turn, so I cross tied



Lady and Jace.

her at the other end of the aisle and another horse was brought out by another exhibitor. As I was working on Lady to get her ready for the show, my brother-in-law, John, asked me if I could bring Lady over to the railing as he noticed a little boy in a wheel chair that could not get close to the other horse because of all the kids. When I looked up, I saw the little boy in his wheel chair. I found out that his name is Jace and he has a twin brother named Joshua. Now Jace has Cerebral Palsy and cannot speak or walk. He is totally confined to a wheel chair. He was being aided and watched over by his brother Joshua and his educational assistant Jackie Sedley.

I immediately untied Lady and without a lead shank I was going to take her over to Jace. Before I could do anything, she walked over to him, completely on her own. The other children tried to crowd in but John and Joshua kept them back. Lady put her head down about one foot away from Jace's face. She looked directly into his eyes. You could almost feel her asking him, "What's wrong, why are you so quiet?" His eyes were as big as saucers. At that moment, they communicated something that was above us all. It was as if Lady told him she understood. She then lowered her muzzle to his cheek and they touched for about a minute. A huge smile came to Jace's face and Lady stepped back and watched him and his brother and Jackie leave.

In that moment I understood why we do what we do. That little boy did not need that experience, nor did the horse. It was those of us around watching that needed that experience. Jace and Lady already knew what we still have to learn.

It's not always about competition. It's about touching people with what touches us. There was not a dry eye in the barn. It amazed me how one special little boy and one gentle giant, neither which could talk, could speak so loudly.



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Provincial budget includes \$662 million for agriculture



The 2026-27 Provincial Budget includes a \$662.7 million investment to agriculture, an increase of \$37.4 million or six per cent over 2025-26.

"This budget protects farmers, ranchers and our agriculture industry in the face of market volatility and weather-related challenges," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "By supporting innovation, investing in emerging technologies, strengthening market access and

fully funding our suite of business risk management programs, we are helping producers stay competitive and ready for the future."

A continued \$89.4 million investment, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, supports strategic programs to strengthen the agri-food sector and maintain Saskatchewan's position as a leading agri-food exporter with a growing value-added sector.

A \$524.3 million invest-

ment, an increase of 8.4 per cent over 2025-26, builds sector resilience through a strong suite of business risk management programs including Crop Insurance and AgriStability. This increased funding ensures Saskatchewan producers can access reliable coverage and responsive service delivery that meets the needs of their operations.

Overhead aerial view of square agricultural fields, including wheat and cano-

la, with the words 'protecting agriculture?' and budget figure overlaid on the image.

Over the past five years, Saskatchewan has invested \$178.6 million in agricultural science and research, including core funding for Saskatchewan's world-class research institutions and research and demonstration farms. Research remains a priority, with \$37 million budgeted for agriculture research to develop new technologies and conduct state-of-the-art research in Saskatchewan. This funding supports:

Key personnel at Saskatchewan crop and livestock research facilities;

Research chairs to advance strategic priorities and train the next generation of producers, agronomists and scientists; and

Research projects that demonstrate innovative technologies to producers and agronomists at the local level.

This budget fully funds animal welfare enforcement for livestock and companion animals in Saskatchewan through the newly formed Saskatchewan Animal Enforcement Agency.

Through an investment of \$200,000, expanded mental health services will be available to Saskatchewan agriculture workers and their families. As of April 1, 2026, the Farm Stress Line will merge with the National Farmer Crisis Line to provide free, confidential mental health sup-

port and additional access to follow up counselling by registered mental health clinicians with agricultural backgrounds.

"This budget keeps the agriculture sector on track to meet 2030 growth plan

targets while ensuring producers have stable, reliable programs," Marit said. "These strategic investments support livestock and crop production and protect our growing agricultural sector."



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Back Row: Miranda Murray, Rachel Tober, Katelyn Rutten
Front Row: Abby Bartlett, Stella Campbell, Boe Dalrymple, Kaycee Demas, Rhea Shier, Xavier Labelle, and Harper Demas.
Missing: Henri Hjertaas, Oliver Kyle, Oskar Hjertaas, Ava Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, Olivia Dangstorp, Nelia Fitzpatrick, Damion Semyour, and Halle Boyes

Glen Ewen Mixed 4-H hosts District Public Speaking

BY ABBY BARTLETT AND GLEN EWEN MIXED 4-H
 For most people, the fear of speaking in front of a crowd can be debilitating—but not for these 4-H members.

On February 22, Glen Ewen Mixed 4-H hosted its District Public Speaking event at the Carnduff Community Theatre. The Master of Ceremonies for the day was Eli Bartlett. Judges included Kathy Kyle, Lori Moncrief, Megan Andersen, and Cheryl Harrison.

Nineteen members from the Alameda 4-H Beef Club, Alida & Area 4-H Beef Club, Carnduff & Area Beef 4-H Club, Glen Ewen Mixed 4-H Club, and the Redvers Wranglers 4-H Light Horse Club participated in the event.

Cloverbud winners
 1st place – Rhea Shier (Alameda Beef)
 2nd place – Boe Dalrymple (Alida & Area Beef)
 3rd place – Olivia Dangstorp (Carnduff & Area Beef)

Junior winners
 1st place – Abby Bartlett (Glen Ewen Mixed)
 2nd place – Ava Fitzpatrick (Carnduff & Area Beef)
 3rd place – Xavier Labelle (Alameda Beef)

Intermediate winners
 1st place – Kaycee Demas (Alida & Area Beef)
 2nd place – Damion Seymour (Carnduff & Area Beef)

3rd place – Halle Boyes (Carnduff & Area Beef)

Senior winners
 1st place – Katelyn Rutten (Alameda 4-H Beef Club)
 2nd place – Miranda Murray (Redvers Wranglers 4-H Light Horse Club)
 3rd place – Rachel Tober (Alameda & Area Beef)
 The first-place winners will advance to Regional Public Speaking, which will be held in Foam Lake on March 28, 2026.

Thank you to our sponsors: the Village of Glen Ewen, R.M. of Enniskillen No. 3, and Souris Flats Ranch.



Above left: Megan Andersen and Abby Bartlett - 1st in Juniors.

Above middle: Cheryl Harrison and Katelyn Rutten - Senior 1st Place

Above right: Kathy Kyle and Rhea Shier - 1st Cloverbud

Left: MC Eli Bartlett

Right: Lori Moncrief and Kaycee Demas - 1st in Intermediate



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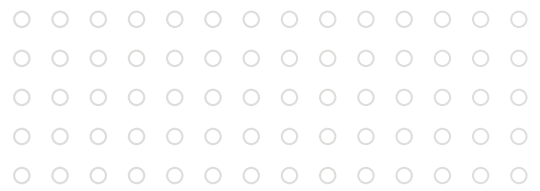
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SAVE THE DATE

Living Skies Come Alive

FIREWORKS COMPETITION

AUGUST 1 & 2, 2026

(AUGUST LONG WEEKEND)

MOOSOMIN REGIONAL PARK
EASTERN CANADA VS WESTERN CANADA

MUSIC BOTH NIGHTS - FOOD TRUCKS - MARKET AND MORE!



Saturday, August 1st - DJ Dumo
Sunday, August 2nd - Live Band
"North of Dewdney"

- Skout Brewing on site
- The Hideout kids activity trailer
- Kids games & activities at the beach both days

Campground bookings for the 2026 season are now open!



For more information contact Kyle Jeannot at 306-434-9112