

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Scenes from the Gapland Rollers' last home bout. The next is coming up versus Estevan's Hillbilly Hurt June 2 in Rocanville

After two seasons and only one home bout:

Gapland Rollers donate \$5,000

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Roller Derby is new to southeast Saskatchewan, but it's taking off.

While they're a new team that has hosted only one home bout, Rocanville's Gapland Rollers recently donated \$5,000—money that was raised by that home bout back in September that brought hundreds of people to Rocanville's rink to cheer on the roller girls.

The stands were full for the bout, as were the ends of the ice surface. Local garage band Unaccompanied Miners played in the beer garden at half time and the whole event felt more like a party than a sporting event—although roller derby is a very different sport.

From the funds raised at that first home bout, the Gapland rollers have donated:

- \$2,000 to Rocanville Skating Rink, which just charges the team for the power they use over the course of the season.

- \$1,000 to the Moosomin Family Resource Centre.
- \$1,000 to the Rocanville Dream Big Daycare.
- \$1,000 to the trust fund for the children of Dorothy Woods. She was a derby girl from the Saskatoon Roller Derby League who went missing in the fall. Her remains were found in the winter and her husband has been arrested for her homicide.

Ellie Reid of the Gapland Rollers said the group wanted to share their good fortune after finding out how much they raised at their home bout.

"We were lucky to have so much success at our first home bout," she says. "We had so many people out, we just couldn't believe it. It cost a lot of money to put it on, but we had awesome sponsorship, and when we had hundreds of people show up, it was just incredible.

"This being a small town and drawing players from a few different towns, we knew that we would have people coming from different towns, but we never thought it would be that successful.

"Everyplace does something different. In some places they have kids' games at half time, in Regina they have a house band that plays. We wanted to make our first home bout something people would remember, and I guess it was.

Reid said the group heard great reviews of their first home bout in September.

"The thing we heard the most was 'when's the next one?' she said. "People don't know the rules, and they didn't know what to expect, but everything we heard was really positive."

The local roller derby girls got together last Monday to start their third season.

The group got its start three years ago when two sisters who had been involved in roller derby in the city returned to the area.

"Jackie Wilson and Kim Hilts were moving home, and they didn't want to give up derby, and they said, let's see if there's enough interest to start a team," says Reid. "It's

all their doing.

"Our whole first year was learning, and then we played our first bout in Regina that September," says Reid.

"Last year we had a few games on the road, then we had that home bout in Rocanville."

The Gapland Rollers are considered a league, and hope to grow to the point where they have different house teams competing locally. "We want to have enough skaters to have house teams to play against one another," Reid said.

"Regina's got three house teams, and Saskatoon has three or four. We need to get a few more out before we can have house teams. We have around 20 or so and there are a few coming out to try it for the first time. We're hoping to have around 30 by the end of the year."

The Gapland Rollers have started a youth team as well. "We have about six or eight who are really dedicated, and a few new ones signed up, so hopefully it will grow."

The team's plans for this season are to try to host a couple of home bouts.

"We're planning a bout for June, and we will try something in September again, too," said Reid.

Bout coming up in June

The Gapland Rollers will be hosting their first bout of the 2012 season on Saturday, June 2 against Estevan's 'Hillbilly Hurt.'

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Fun at the trade show

There was lots to see and do at the Moosomin Home, Farm and Leisure Show held on April 27 and 28. Besides the trade fair, the weekend also featured things like a pet show and children's entertainment.

Left: Nathan Enns tries out one of the John Deere riding mowers on display.

Below left: Ray Lazar gives a power safety demonstration to children. Lazar was manning the SaskPower booth at the tradeshow.

Below: Ty Cutler and his dog Bolt hanging out before the pet show.



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Two beds being replaced at Deer View Lodge: Easton says Wawota's fight was worthwhile

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

It's not the outcome he hoped for, but Save Our Beds Committee chair Dale Easton is happy to see two beds being added to Wawota's Deer View Lodge.

It was May of 2010 that the Sun Country Regional Health Authority announced that three long-term care beds and two respite beds at Deer View Lodge in Wawota would be closed in order to save \$110,000.

Since then, Wawota's Save Our Beds Committee has been working to have the decision reversed.

They arranged petitions, held community meetings, kept the issue in the media, and took their fight all the way to the Saskatchewan legislature, and to Saskatchewan Health Minister Don McMorris.

Two years later, two beds will be added to the facility at a cost of \$212,581 plus taxes.

"Do we feel it was worth it? It does put two beds back where there's a real need for beds," said Easton. "If we hadn't fought they would have got away scot-free shutting down beds there was no need to shut down."

"The fight was definitely worth it, or the case we pleaded was definitely worth it," said Easton.

"Does it make sense to any of us on the committee? No. The whole committee believes the beds could have been back where they were with some restructuring whether it be monitors or intercoms."

Easton said he is happy to know that the Sun Country Regional Health Authority has awarded the tender for the two new rooms, and the work will be done this summer.

"It is nice to know they are going to follow through on what they said they would do and put two back," Easton said.

He's disappointed that the goal of bringing back the five closed beds was not realized.

"Our ultimate goal was to get to the bottom of why they did it and get them back. We didn't really reach our ultimate goal but we did prove some accountability and they will put in two more beds."

Sun Country CEO Marga Cugnet said the bids for the work came in a little higher than expected.

"We had six inquiries and four bids that came to the region," she said. The tender went to Gabriel Construction of Regina.

Cugnet said the work should be starting right away, and estimates the work will take three to four months.

Cugnet said she's looking forward to seeing the work completed.

"I think it will be nice for the facility to get the work completed," she said. "These beds will be filled right away. There's still a waiting list."

One issue that the Save Our Beds Committee is still concerned about is the lack of representation on the Sun Country Regional Health Authority from the northern tier of the health region. The board has no members from Maryfield, Wawota, Kennedy, or Kipling—any of the communities along Highway 48. The former member from Kipling resigned after the board made the decision to close the five beds at Wawota. He said at the time that the board made the decision after being falsely told by administrators that the beds were not in use.

"We still don't have any representation on the board from our corner of the world."

"I don't know why we don't have any representation on the board," Easton said. "There's a board member from White Bear, there are Sharon Bauche and Allan Arthur from Redvers, but Kipling, Kennedy, Langbank, and ourselves don't really have anything. The seat from Kipling never has been filled."

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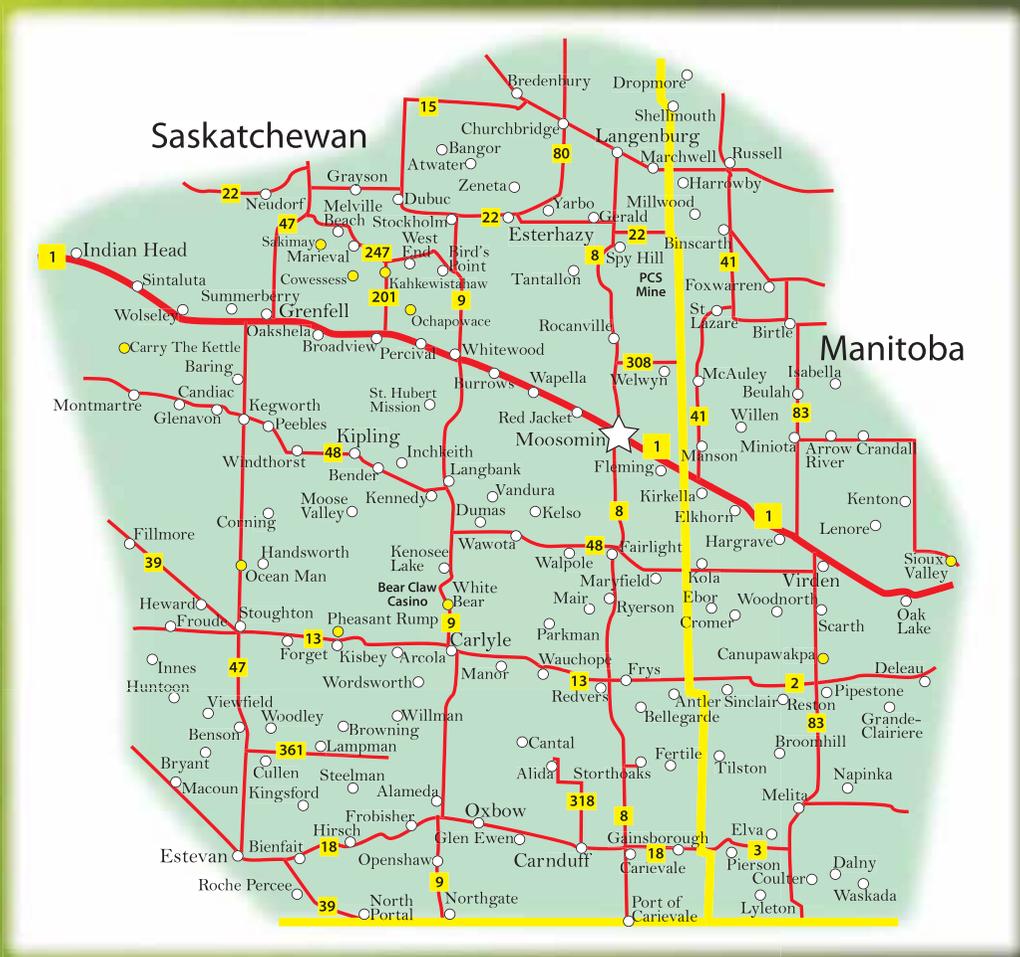
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Plans in motion for second Moosomin Marathon

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
Last year more than 60 walkers and joggers participated in the first ever Moosomin marathon. Co-owners of Strive Fitness Robyn Berry and Kristen McAuley are looking to double that number this year.

"Now that we've done it once, we know what to expect," says McAuley.

"We're hoping to make it a family thing, it doesn't just have to be runners who come to it," adds Berry. "Kids can come, toddlers can come, people who just want to walk it. We'd like to see parents bring their kids and make it a whole activity for the day."

The second annual Moosomin marathon will take place June 10 with a starting line at the Communityplex. There will be three distances participants can choose from; 5 km, 10 km and a half marathon which is 21 km.

"It's nice because you can choose to run it all, walk it all. Run some, walk some," says Berry.

The organizers stress that the marathon is a family event—strollers and toddlers on bikes are encouraged.

But for those who have a competitive edge, there will be cash prizes for the runners who come in the



Participants take off from the starting line at the first Strive Marathon last year.

top place at the finish line.

Registration fees include admission into the race, a race package, and a t-shirt. Registration starts at \$20 and the early bird deadline in May 15th. All money proceeds will be donated to the Moosomin Generals Football team.

"It's all going towards a good cause, because football is relatively new in this town. There are a lot

of kids in it and there's a lot of potential for that group. Anything they get will help," says McAuley.

Strive has a number of sponsors lined up to participate in the event. They will donate prizes for the top runners and provide beverages and snacks throughout the day.

The race itself will loop around the outskirts of town, with the half mara-

thon taking a brief detour on the outskirts of town and back. Water stations and port-a-potties will be set up along the way. A DJ and a photographer will be on hand to get the crowd excited and to snap some pictures.

"Because it's something people are working towards, we have a lady going around snapping pictures while they're on the

race, and then you can go to her afterwards and get a photo of you at the finish line," says McAuley.

Greg Apshkrum is one of the participants who trained last year for the marathon. He ran the 10 km race.

"It was the first one I've done and didn't really know what the exact," says Apshkrum. "It went very well. It was well or-

ganized and there was no issues along the way."

"I'm hoping to run again. I have a bit of a knee issue going on, but I've never really stopped training."

"I think (the marathon) encourages people to not only go to the gym but encourages them to do something. You don't have to run you can walk. It's something that may encourage you to think about getting active. And it supports a good cause too which is great," says Apshkrum.

Berry and McAuley are excited for the marathon this time around and are hoping that it will turn into an annual event.

"The goal of starting the marathon last year was to create a health and fitness event for everyone in the community," says McAuley.

"(This year) I would like to see as many families as possible come out and be a family event. We need to be more active as a community and this will be a nice thing to get the summer started," says Berry.

Anyone who wants more information about the marathon should contact Strive Fitness at 435-2355, check out www.runningroom.com or stop into their location on Main Street.

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Conexus plans new building in Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The corner of Main and Broadway in Moosomin will look very different a year from now.

Conexus Credit Union plans to start construction of a new building for its Moosomin branch on the corner. Construction will start in July of this year, with an expected completion date of March 2013.

This new facility will be located on the corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue, on what has been the Co-op community corner and will be approximately 9,000 square feet in size.

The size of the building will require the demolition of the Borderland Co-op head office next to the Family Practice Centre.

The Co-op will move its head office to a former house on Windover Avenue that had been renovated to accommodate Conexus lending support employees.

The Conexus employees in the Windover Avenue building will move into the current Conexus building on Main Street, which will also house non-retail positions.



An architect's rendering of the new Conexus Credit Union building at the corner of Main and Broadway in Moosomin. The 9,000 square foot building will be completed in March of next year.

Conexus Vice-President of Retail Services for the southeast region Jason Bender said he's excited about the move.

"We've outgrown our current facility," he said. "The staff are very excited to have the full financial offerings in one building."

"Borderland Co-op has been very accommodating in working co-operatively to see this project succeed and benefit both our organizations."

Conexus has been in its cur-

rent building since 1976.

"Due to the support or our communities, our staff and financial service offerings have grown to the point that to adequately service our members and their full financial needs it became apparent a new location was required," said Bender.

"The new building will allow us to have our full retail staff in one location to serve all our member needs and offer full financial planning services."

Borderland Co-op General

Manager Jason Schenn said selling Conexus the corner lot and the Co-op office and moving into the lending support building works well for the Co-op.

"It's a good opportunity," he said. "We've got that corner lot, and we've had it available for a while for anyone looking at development, so it made that deal that much easier to do."

"As well, we're at the point where we could use more room for our administration. When I started we had three or four

admin people in this office, and now there are eight of us. Our admin component has gone up, and we're going to be adding further jobs, adding more professional jobs. In the past, our administration component has been the General Manager and a couple of support people. Now, with the way things are in human resources and new accounting rules, there's a lot more work needed.

"As well, member relations was developed as a part-time deal, and we need to expand that to full-time right now."

"That Windover property is just the right size for us right now."

Schenn said the changes are a win-win situation.

"It's a win-win all around," he said. "It gives Conexus good visibility, it will beautify that corner, and for us it gives us a little more space at no cost to us."

"With more space, we can continue to develop our administrative component."

Borderland should be in its new location by June and Conexus should move to its new location next spring.

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Homestead Buckeye - Maroon red fall foliage

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Sask proposes new film tax industry credit

The Saskatchewan government has a new plan for the province's film industry which balked when an employment tax credit was cut in the provincial budget.

The province is proposing a new tax credit first suggested by the film industry in a meeting this week.

It would offer a 25 per cent non-refundable credit on production expenses to recognize the extra cost of buying and using goods and services in Saskatchewan.

There would also be bonuses for copyright and intellectual ownership, as well

as for work done in and using workers from Saskatchewan.

The government calls it a "true tax credit" as it is fully deductible from taxes paid in Saskatchewan.

Under the old credit, companies could be eligible without having paid tax in Saskatchewan.

The plan also acknowledges the industry's move to digital and calls for more focus on and support for digital movie-making.

The new tax credit could be available by July 1.

Sask potash revenue on track

The Saskatchewan government says potash revenue projections are on target despite disappointing first-quarter results from Potash Corporation.

PotashCorp's first-quarter net income fell to \$491 million U.S. from \$732 million U.S. in the same period last year.

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd says earnings are down, but there are still three quarters remaining.

Boyd says PotashCorp has indicated

that sales are picking up and facilities are running at capacity, so it expects to meet projections going forward.

Earnings from the Saskatoon-based company are important because the province collects royalties from production.

The Saskatchewan government said in its budget that demand had eased in recent months and forecast potash revenue of \$705 million this year.

New NDP leader won't be chosen until next March

It's going to be almost a year before the Saskatchewan New Democrats choose a new leader.

An NDP spokeswoman says a leadership contest is to be held March 9, 2013, in Saskatoon.

It will be held at the same time as the party's regular annual convention.

Anyone with a valid party membership will be allowed to vote online, by phone,

with a mail-in ballot or in person.

Dwain Lingenfelter resigned after the election last fall when he lost his seat and the NDP dropped to nine seats in the 58-seat legislature.

Interim leader John Nilson has said he will not seek the job.

The official campaign period opens Sept.

4. The deadline to purchase memberships will be early next year.

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The history book

They call it a history book. I call it something completely different.

Every time I pick up this three-volume tome written about the history of Montmartre, Kendal, Candiac, Mofat, Mutrie and Carry the Kettle Reservation, I come up with a different definition

The recently released book is a precise chronicling of archived material that dates back to the very inception of these communities. It's also an exhaustive research study into the places, people and businesses that comprise this Southeast Saskatchewan area. But more often than not, I've considered this book a priceless romp through time and a stirring ode to the life story of my ancestors.

Whatever I choose to call this book doesn't really matter. The fact is it's amazing, incredible, priceless and a work of such epic proportions that it will never be repeated in my lifetime.

When I heard our town was working on a history book four years ago, I must admit that I didn't pay too much attention. I expected that we'd all submit a snippet or two about our families, including the customary family photo, and that would be that. I expected a yearbook-style publication that might be 200 pages or so.

But this book, produced by a group of remarkable community volunteers, is a phenomenal saga that flows over 1,500 pages in three beautifully bound books. The box set of three volumes takes readers back in time to 1893 when six families from France established their homesteads in RM 126 (or to be as precise as the book's authors, SE 16-15-11 W2, owned by Pierre Foursin, and NW 10-15-11 W2, owned by Andre Chartier).

It is hard to explain the scale and scope of this history book project, so let me just try to quantify it by stating that it took 50,000 hours to complete. Yes, I said "fifty thousand" hours. That's 6,250 days of full-time work.

The chair of the Montmartre History Book Committee, Marianne Couckuyt, spent four and a half years herself, "living" at the Saskatchewan Archives for the first year, and dedicating the remaining three and a half years to collecting, documenting, revising and editing the massive books.

Sandra Brown, vice-chair, spent four years volunteering full time on the project, with other committee members and community volunteers spending hours and hours to bring the area's history to life.



Christalee Froese

When I brought my book set home and placed it on the kitchen table, I knew I would be the only one in the house to read it. After all, my husband didn't grow up here and my 14 year old certainly wouldn't be paging through our town's past. But, lo and behold, as soon as the spine of Volume 1 was cracked, the book was apprehended from my possession and read by my husband.

Then my son got in on the act, forcing me to wait until the evening to get my first moments alone with this extraordinary book. It was worth the wait, as looking at the photos alone kept me busy for several days.

I have been told that some community members have started to read the history book, only to find themselves still in their reading chairs well after a meal or two has passed.

"People don't have meals on the table because they can't put down the history book," said Marianne Couckuyt who researched and wrote Volume 1 based on archived material alone.

With topics from municipal government to war service, elevators and school districts, the first book is a fascinating read whether you're from the area or not. I could not believe what the first immigrating families went through upon discovering that the log cabin, food provisions and farm equipment promised to them was not going to be provided.

"No log houses awaited them; no trees broke the rolling grassland seen below them from the hills; there was no river in sight. They spent their first night under the stars being eaten by mosquitoes . . ."

And it only gets more interesting from there.

They call it a history book. I call it a gift for all of those who have a chance to read it.

Christalee Froese welcomes comments at Lcfroese@sasktel.net or visit www.westwords.net.

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Moosomin duo drafted to WHL

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
Rykr Cole and Dakota Boutin are heading to the big leagues.

The two 15-year-old hockey players from Moosomin learned last Thursday morning that they were both drafted in the third round of the WHL draft. Boutin was drafted 50th to the Brandon Wheat Kings and Cole was drafted 63rd overall to the Regina Pat.

In the 18-year history of the WHL draft, there has never been a player selected from the town of Moosomin. Now there are two.

"I didn't even know no one has ever been drafted until my dad told me two months ago," commented Cole Thursday morning after he heard the news. "So Dakota being the first one and me being the second is pretty exciting."

For Boutin, seeing his name on the WHL draft list Thursday was a huge sigh of relief.

"I had two hours of sleep in total last night," laughs Boutin. "I was just dreaming of my name being on the list."

Cole feels just as excited about having his name on the draft along side his long time friend. The duo spent the better half of Thursday morning refreshing a computer screen to see if their names would appear on the online draft list.

"Just waiting for the name to be on the screen. We were checking it all this morning," says Cole.

"We just kept refreshing," joked Boutin.

Being drafted when they did came as a surprise to both boys. Boutin was only expected to go in the 64th spot, while Cole was seeded 87th. Being drafted 50th and 63rd was just icing on the cake for them both.

"It feels like we've earned the right to go higher by how much we've put into it. We've worked so hard to get drafted," says Cole.

"Every little thing we did helped," says Boutin.

Originally from Redverse, a small town 40 km outside of Moosomin, Boutin started playing hockey when he was only three years old. He moved to Moosomin when he was 10 years old to pursue his hockey career.

"First year pee wee I moved here because I wanted to play with some better players," says Boutin. "It was tough playing (in Redverse) because we barely had enough players to make a team some years. I was always playing up with a bunch of older guys, but moving to Moosomin was good."

Unlike Boutin, Cole was born in Moosomin and

"It's kind of fun to know that you have to work for it. It wasn't just handed to you. You have to put in your full time doing what you love."

played most of his younger days on the Moosomin ice.

"We had small number of players on teams, so you got a lot of ice time and could build up your skill level," says Cole.

When he was 13 years old, Cole started playing on the Melville Bantam AA Millionaires—an hour and a half car ride down the road. Boutin followed suit and joined the team a year later.

"We have to travel three hours a night Tuesday and Thursday to get to practice and back," says Cole.

"It was a long hike. It takes a lot of commitment, especially coming from a rural place, to get to practice on time."

Despite the long road trips, Cole thinks the commute shows just how committed he and Boutin were to achieving their goal.

"You kind of have to do it. It's kind of fun to know that you have to work for it. It wasn't just handed to you. You have to put in your full time doing what you love," says Cole.

Unfortunately, Cole's first year playing for Melville without Boutin wasn't as successful as he'd hoped.

"We had a very weak team the first year I played," says Cole. "It was a long year. Travelling to practice by yourself, with no one to car pool with. This year we had some out-of-town coaches... they took over the team and we ended up with a very good team," says Cole.

One of the coaches who stepped up was Cole's Dad, Jeff Cole. The successful season led him to win Coach of the Year in Melville minor hockey. Coaching in Melville while living in Moosomin proved to be a big of a commitment for the coach as well.

"We drove enough!" jokes Cole. "It was an hour and a half there, and hour and a half back. An hour and a half for practice and these guys usually took a half of hour to get out of the rink."

Jeff Cole says the time put in was well worth it, despite the lengthy commute.

"I sure enjoyed it, especially when you get the results like this. We had a pretty good little club," says Cole.

Boutin and Cole played on a line together while playing for Melville. Cole played centre and Boutin played left wing. Their line was top five in scoring in the league and was later deemed one of the top lines in the entire league by a group of recruiters. Cole was third in scoring in the league and Boutin was fifth.



Leslie-Ann Kroeker photo

Two 15-year-old Moosomin hockey players, Rykr Cole, left, and Dakota Boutin, were third-round draft picks in the WHL draft Thursday. Cole was drafted by the Regina Pats, and Boutin was drafted by the Brandon Wheat Kings.

tin played left wing. Their line was top five in scoring in the league and was later deemed one of the top lines in the entire league by a group of recruiters. Cole was third in scoring in the league and Boutin was fifth.

"We had a good line, we had some good chemistry. It helps that we've played together for a long time too," says Cole.

The team managed to pull off a big win and capture first place in the Swift Current bantam AA tournament this year. They even made an appearance in the provincial semi-finals. Not too shabby for a team who only a few years before had a losing record.

—Rykr Cole

ment this year. They even made an appearance in the provincial semi-finals. Not too shabby for a team who only a few years before had a losing record.

After the bantam AA season was over, Boutin and Cole both played in the Sask-first zone camp a few weeks ago—a platform to show off their skills for 150 recruiters from WHL teams. Jeff Cole was impressed by both of their performances.

"Both these guys played really good. These guys were told they had the best line at the tournament. So I think that weighs their stock a bit more. They put up good numbers," says Cole.

"They're good kids, I just hope they can move on with it and some day get some education with it."

The celebration the boys felt Thursday morning will be short lived, because life as a WHL recruit only gets tougher from here. From this point forward, both players will have to work hard if they want to continue to wow their critics.

"From now on you have to work even harder to get on the team," says Cole.

Both boys will play for the Sask. Midget AAA Moose Jaw Generals starting in September. Since they are only 15, they are not allowed to play in the WHL league until next year. Being drafted this year means that the Pats have the rights to Cole and the Wheat Kings have the rights to Boutin.

Moving to a big city at only 15 years old can be daunting for any teenager. But Boutin is looking forward to a new adventure.

"I'm excited. It will be the first step to playing in the WHL. We'll get lots of no-

," says Boutin. "It will be a big jump as first year midget players. Bantam is only two age groups; 13-14 years old. In midget it's 15, 16 and 17-year-olds. It's a tougher league," notes Cole.

The competition is high, but both players are excited to be playing at the brand new stadium in Moose Jaw.

"It's an \$87 million rink," says Cole. "The Mosaic Place is where the Warriors play. The atmosphere is just like a WHL atmosphere. It's just so nice."

The selection camps for the Pats and the Wheat Kings will take place later this summer. Cole will head to Regina and Boutin will head to Brandon to try and impress the scouts one last time before the midget AAA season begins.

It's been a long road for Cole and Boutin but it's just the beginning. They are looking forward to their futures.

"My goal is to have a good season with Moose Jaw and hopefully impress the scouts. They will be watching a few times I'm sure and I want to make a good impression. Hopefully I can play in Brandon as a 16-year-old. Then make my way to the NHL after that," says Boutin.

"Right now, things have paid off but you got to keep doing these things to advance to the next level. I'm just looking forward to working hard and maybe making it someday," says Cole.

But for this week the boys still have a chance to look back and celebrate their accomplishments. Being picked in the WHL draft only happens once in a lifetime. Cole and Boutin's smiles shine as they pose for the newspaper photo.

"Yeah, it's a good day," beams Boutin.

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Farmers optimistic for new growing season

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
This time last year, farmers were reeling after an unseasonable snow storm hit most of the province. The downpour halted most farmers' seeding and would be the start of a difficult year for many Saskatchewan and Manitoba farms.

"Last year through May it just continued to rain," says grain farmer Myles Fuchs whose farm is situated just outside of Fleming. "Everybody and ourselves included tried to go out in ridiculous conditions which really didn't work out. When you get into that muddy stuff it usually doesn't work out well."

"A lot of people that seeded last year say that they might of well just not seeded at all."

Fuchs was still able to seed a small chunk of his land, but it was still a very disappointing season.

"On the annual crop land we seeded millet for our cattle and that worked out well last year. . . as far as the grain crops go, it was no good at all last year."

The uncertainty of the weather is always in the back of farmers minds, but Fuchs is still optimistic for the upcoming season despite the rainy conditions the province has had this past week.

"I haven't started seeding yet, but there are a few people who have. It's fairly

wet. Maybe a bit wetter then it was last year at this time. . . but if it quits raining now and the sun comes out with a little bit of breeze it'll still be good."

Fuchs is confident that there is still a hope for crops this year. He does not foresee a repeat of what took place a year ago.

"It's sort of at a point if we got another couple of inches of rain it would be quite a mess and start getting late. At this point in time, the optimum window of seeding is still ahead of us. I'm still optimistic."

"I think everyone wants to get at it from talking to other producers. But yet, they realize that it is early and it wouldn't take too many drying days."

Fuchs says that the goal is to get seeding done before May 15th, so he is still breathing easy.

"The middle of May would be the real panic time (but there is) no real cause for alarm yet," says Fuchs.

Ron Dietrich's farm was hit hard last year as well but he says he is still hopeful for this season. He farms both cattle and grain on his land southwest of Moosomin.

"It's still early at this stage, it all depends on what the weather does in the next couple weeks" says Dietrich.

"I think this time last year, the difference is we had a

large amount of storms that dumped a large amount of rain all at once. So that made a big difference," says Dietrich. "It just got too late in the year. This year I think the optimism comes from the fact that it's still early enough. We can expect that it can dry up in time."

"The weather is the most unpredictable thing we deal with, but that's what you sign up for in this kind of business."

Dietrich does point out that every farm varies when dealing with the weather.

"It varies from situation to situation, some have large acreages to do so they're concerned that they might run out of time if they don't get started fairly soon. We're fairly heavy in the livestock so while the rain is aggressive at this point, it's good for the pastures and the hay ground. The crops we grow are all for seed so we have more time than some of the cash-crop farmers."

Dale Easton is a cattle farmer who farms west of Wavota. He doesn't have many fond memories of last year, but he concurs with Dietrich and Fuchs. If the rain stopped next week things have a chance to turn around.

"Last year was tough, getting cows to grass. With the road conditions, the way that was difficult," says Easton.

"You still have lots of

remaining thoughts of last year in your mind but you hope it doesn't get like that again. It would be nice to get some crop in the ground."

"It is early enough yet but it needs to get moving soon. With the forecast calling for rain (until last) weekend it's a little concerning but there's still time."

Allan Johnston is taking on a similar attitude.

"We're not worried yet, but we don't need any more rain," says Johnston who is the owner of Johnston Grain Marketing in Welwyn. "There's not much seeding being done. There were guys just getting started this weekend when it started to rain and they're all on hold until we get some sunny days and some wind."

Johnston says with the heavy snow last year, there was more run-off on the land. With the rain on top of the run-off, the water levels left fields saturated. He says fields around southeast Saskatchewan are saturated right now, but it is still early in the season to be worried.

Johnston notes that with modern equipment, seeding could even be done after the middle of May without too much cause for concern.

"It's getting late, but we can seed up until the last few weeks in May. One thing now-a-days is that the equipment can put a lot of crop in the ground very quickly," says Johnston.

According to Environment Canada, showers are expected to stop early this

week and the sun might make an appearance around Tuesday. Day time highs are expected to reach the 17 degree mark for Moosomin and surrounding areas.

"That would be great! I look forward to it if the weather man is right" laughs Dietrich.

Overall the consensus among farmers is that there is still time to have a successful farming season.

"At this point in time, all it would take is three nice warm days with a bit of breeze and everyone would be seeding," says Fuchs.

"Cautiously optimistic here, is what we can say," says Johnston.

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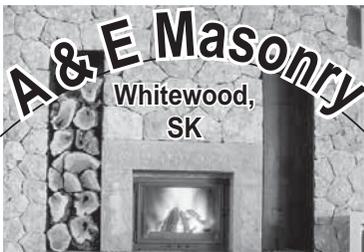
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A year after flooding kept customers away: St. Lazare hopes to regain revenue

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
A year ago this month, the village of St. Lazare was in a state of emergency when the Qu'Appelle and Assiniboine Rivers, which meet at the base of the village, flooded. Now, a year later, the community has created an incentive program that hopes to recover some of the revenue lost during the flood.



Christeen Jesse photo

Last year, The Qu'Appelle and Assiniboine Rivers flooded the village St. Lazare, where the two rivers converge.

The village that is located on the inside of the Manitoba border was flooded for the entire month of May in 2011. It caused Highway 41 into St. Lazare to close and travel into the area from the south was virtually impossible. Although there were other ways to get into the village from the north, the closure of the south entrance left many businesses and retailers without the steady stream of customers they were usually accustomed to.

"Some businesses weren't affected greatly, but some obviously were," says St. Lazare mayor Martin Dupont.

"With the road being closed for approximately a month, people were hearing reports on the radio and through TV that basically the Assiniboine and the Qu'Appelle River has flooded out the area. People had the perceived notion that there was no access to the village," says Dupont.

"There was a period of time that the misconception was out there and until businesses grabbed the bull by the horns and told people that they were open for business nobody came. That did attract some people (through their own advertising) but being that there was only one access into the village, the flood-

ing did limit the access of the customers from the south.

"For those folk who came to St. Lazare (from the south) it was quite a detour. They had to go up north through Langenburg and back down and that's quite inconvenient. So if someone had intended to come to St. Lazare to shop it wasn't as convenient."

A year later, the ground around the village is a little drier, but businesses are still feeling the effects. The village council decided to take action and apply for grants that would help them bring people back into their community.

"Some businesses applied to the government for personal loss and they weren't as successful as they thought they were going to be. We decided to apply for that grant (collectively). We wanted to re-attract business and try to get people to come in and buy again," says Dupont.

Leanne Tibbatts is a

Manitoba rural leadership specialist who helped the community apply for the provincial grant.

"Through the department of Manitoba agriculture food and rural initiatives there was funding available to communities that were experiencing economic downturn as a result of flooding last spring. . . communities were able to submit applications with an expressed interest to boost their rural economy and generate spending in their community," says Tibbatts.

With the efforts of Tibbatts and the town council, the village received \$40,000 in grant money through a program called the Excess Moisture Economic Stimulus Package.

"Their business district has come on board and they're really excited about this local campaign that will take place to bring people into the valley. (Also) one or two events throughout the year will generate some great return for local business," says Tibbatts.

"Once we got the grant money we had the dilemma

with what to do with it. The government had a different spin on what we should do with the money. After a few meetings and we consulted with the few businesses we came up with an idea," says Dupont.

For the week of May 22- 28, 11 businesses in the town will take part in "Win \$11,000 in St-Lazare Spending." Every business that participates will have a contest for customers.

With a minimum purchase of goods, the customer can enter a draw to win a gift card for the respective store. Each business will receive \$1,000 to distribute through gift cards. Businesses will also have sales, which is hoping to bring in more people because of the discounts. Another similar campaign will run at the end of summer or early fall. St. Lazare is the first community to ever hold such a campaign.

"Every store will make their own minimum purchase required. So you'll buy what they're selling and your name will go into a draw. Then that business will make a draw based on

the size of their store for an in-store voucher," says Dupont.

"The business people themselves will come up with what meets their needs. But through the government grant we'll pay for all the advertising to bring people in."

The council will spend \$11,000 on prizes and another chunk of the money will be spent on advertising across southeast Saskatchewan and western Manitoba. Ads will be placed on the radio and local papers to let neighboring communities know of the campaign.

"The people who do a lot of advertising—they say when they advertise it works for them. We're basically hoping that all the businesses are going to be named in this ad. People may get the general idea that we may not be a big town but we have 11 businesses that are participating in this. We get a better bang for our buck if we advertise instead of not doing anything or just giving away money," says Dupont.

The whole idea of the project is to create an in-

centive program that will pump money back into the stores. By giving the chance to win a gift card, businesses are hoping customers will be more likely to travel into the community.

"We're so excited," says co-owner of Eddy's General Store, Lorrie Murray, Murray recently bought the store in September with her sister. Although the two-some weren't around last year during the flood, Murray thinks the campaign will get the economy going again and is excited for the potential business.

"The contest and the prizes, we're really hoping to get a lot of new people come to town and help the town. It's a creative pilot project for other communities. We think it's going to be successful," says Murray.

For Dupont, the campaign is an experiment but he believes it will be a successful venture.

"The businesses are really pumped up, they thought it was a good thing. We're not losing anything and they may gain something," says Dupont.



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Celebration Ford will anchor new development: New business park in works for Moosomin

Kevin Wiedmark says to consider what decking whether to renovate Celebration's existing location or build new. The dealership is currently spread over three buildings along Broadway Avenue.

"It's been about two years since we seriously started thinking about renovating versus building a new facility," he says.

"We looked at renovating and staying here, but it is an older building and parking is an issue. At 9 a.m. the parking spots are full on the street, and then customers are driving around the block looking for a place to park."

"We thought if we renovate here, we're still not set up to handle the volume of business we're handling. We don't have the room to expand. We can't hire any more technicians. We don't have any more room for them."

He said the new location will give Celebration Ford the room to grow. "Any of my peers that have gone this route and decided to build say they've been able to recruit new people and take the opportunity to grow the business."

Continued on page 4

Show shows off some baby African soft fur rats held at the Moosomin Home, Farm on Friday, April 27.

the Home, Farm and Leisure Show: Recognition Awards • Pages 10-11 from the pet show • Page 15 from the show • Page 21

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Saskatchewan rejigs rules to protect foreign workers

BY JENNIFER GRAHAM
THE CANADIAN PRESS
Saskatchewan is tightening its immigration rules in an effort to stop people from abusing the system.

The new rules would limit the number of family nominees to one per household until principle applicants and their family members have successfully settled in Saskatchewan.

That means, for example, someone who has worked in Saskatchewan for at least six months could nominate a sister and her family to move to Saskatchewan. But someone with many brothers or sisters can't nominate them all at the same time.

Family category nominees will also require a high-skill job offer.

"We have families now moving forward with multiple applications and what's happening is something that's unfair," said Immigration Minister Rob Norris.

"We've even heard stories of up to 20 applications. As they move forward with their 20, what's happening is other families

are being left out."

Norris said some people in other provinces also abuse the program by moving to Saskatchewan just to help family members immigrate.

"That is, they're not really interested in coming and settling and staying in Saskatchewan. They're coming or looking to come to take advantage of the family class category and then move to other parts of the country. That's not what this was designed for."

The opposition NDP said the family nomination category has been successful for immigration. It's concerned about the impact of the changes.

"The changes that have occurred with the family class stream really are a gutting of the process with respect to what has been the understanding for the

many people who have moved here from Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver hoping to access this program to bring their loved ones here and to really put roots in Saskatchewan and contribute to our economy and society," said New Democrat Cam Broten.

"I know that this will negatively affect the ability of some families to be together."

The proposed legislation also aims to protect foreign workers by requiring immigration consultants and recruiters to be in good standing in Saskatchewan. The ministry will develop a registry of approved consultants and recruiters for employers to access.

There have been some problems in the past.

Norris said in one case, a small business spent about 18 months looking for spe-

cialized workers with a recruiter and didn't get the person they needed. Their business was impacted and they lost a lot of money along the way, said Norris.

Norris calls those consultants and recruiters "bad apples."

"I've had discussions with my federal, provincial and territorial counterparts. I've suggested that somehow we move to a bad apple list nationally because what happens is often they roam from province to province," he said.

The consultation process on foreign worker protection legislation will be underway until May 23.

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NO LICENSE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE!
\$5 Participation Fee - Proceeds Go To Westman Dreams For Kids Raffle for a NEW Glock Pistol!
BBQ Lunch Available Saturday.
Glock Pistols & Accessories for sale!
Glock Gunsmith on site.

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Swipe daily for your chance to win!
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TONS OF PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY IN MAY!

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Memories of Conway

by Conway's #1 Son Michael Twitty & Grandson Tre Twitty

Dinner Shows
May 15 & 16

Tickets:
\$35

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PAINTED HAND CASINO

Pow Wow

JUNE 9TH & 10TH 2012

HORIZON CREDIT UNION CENTRE
 MELVILLE, SK

<p>Saturday June 9th Registration – 9am – 5pm Grand Entry – 12pm & 7pm Free Admission Honorariums paid to veterans only in full uniform</p> <p>Mens Golden Age (50+) Womens Golden Age (50+)</p> <p>Senior Adult Men (35-49) Senior Adult Women (35-49)</p> <p>Junior Adult Men (18-34) Junior Adult Women (18-34)</p> <p>Teen Boys (13-17) Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Chicken</p> <p>Tiny Tots paid daily, (6 and under)</p>	<p>Sunday June 10th Grand Entry – 12pm Dancers must be in full regalia</p> <p>Teen Girls (13-17) Traditional, Jingle, Fancy Shawl</p> <p>Junior Boys (7-12) Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Chicken</p> <p>Junior Girls (7-12) Traditional, Jingle, Fancy Shawl</p> <p>Singing Contest</p> <p>Jackets for all 1st place winners in regular categories.</p>
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SPECIALS TO BE ANNOUNCED

For Trade Show and Concession Booth Info Contact:
 Loresa McLeod | loressa.mcleod@sigas.sk.ca
 For More Pow-wow Information Contact:
 Ella Delorme | ella.delorme@sigas.sk.ca
 Rob Bear | rob.bear@sigas.sk.ca
 306.786.6777

Painted Hand Casino and the Pow Wow committee are not responsible for any injury to persons, damage to or theft of property and destination. Absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed.

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LandSolutions is proud to be part of the community and invite you to join us for the official Grand Opening celebration of our new office building.

Please join us.

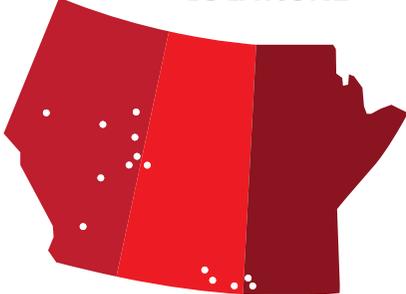
Thursday, June 7, 2012
 11:00 am - Refreshments
 11:45 am - Welcome & Ribbon Cutting
 12:00 pm - BBQ Lunch
 303 Main Street, Lampman, SK
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1T2208

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Leather, Moonroof

\$12,900
\$133 b/w



2T086A

2008 Dodge Caliber
SXT, Auto, PST Paid

\$11,900
\$115 b/w



2P107A

2010 Ford Fusion
SE, Auto, SYNC

\$15,900
\$140 b/w



2P066

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\$16,900
\$149 b/w



2P093

2010 Ford Fusion
Local Trade, 2.5L, Auto

\$16,900
\$145 b/w



2C113A

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2T079B

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2T072A

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\$35,900
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2P118

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\$175 b/w



2P126

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35,000 kms, 4x4

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\$335 b/w



2P130

More Awesome Inventory

<p>2008 Ford F-150 XTR, 4x4, Super Crew</p> <p>\$17,900 \$185 b/w</p>  <p>1T200B</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 XLT, 4x4, 5.4L, SYNC</p> <p>\$26,900 \$235 b/w</p>  <p>1P290</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 41,000 kms, PST Paid</p> <p>\$27,900 \$235 b/w</p>  <p>2T027A</p>	<p>2010 Dodge Ram Moonroof, Alpine, 4x4</p> <p>\$27,900 \$235 b/w</p>  <p>1T190A</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 Lariat, 4x4, 2 Tone</p> <p>\$26,900 \$225 b/w</p>  <p>2T041A</p>	<p>2011 Ford Explorer XLT, 4x4, 7 passenger</p> <p>\$33,900 \$296 b/w</p>  <p>2P063</p>
<p>2010 Ford Escape 30 mpg, 4WD, XLT</p> <p>\$20,900 \$175 b/w</p>  <p>1T181A</p>	<p>2007 Ford F-150 5.4L, SuperCrew, XTR</p> <p>\$16,900 \$165 b/w</p>  <p>2T074A</p>	<p>2009 Ford Escape Limited, 4WD, 40,000 kms</p> <p>\$21,900 \$184 b/w</p>  <p>2T048A</p>	<p>2005 Dodge Durango Limited, DVD, 7 passenger</p> <p>\$11,900 \$117 b/w</p>  <p>2T077A</p>	<p>2008 Pontiac Torrent 4WD, Podium Edition</p> <p>\$15,900 \$156 b/w</p>  <p>1T222B</p>	<p>2011 Ford Explorer 4WD, 7 pass., 40,000 kms</p> <p>\$29,900 \$261 b/w</p>  <p>1T263B</p>
<p>2009 Ford F-150 Spray-In Liner Tonneau Cover</p> <p>\$25,900 \$216 b/w</p>  <p>2P057A</p>	<p>2003 Ford F-150 FX4, Lariat</p> <p>\$7,900</p>  <p>2T062B</p>	<p>2011 Ford Explorer Premium warranty to 100,000 kms</p> <p>\$41,900 \$365 b/w</p>  <p>2T028A</p>	<p>2010 Ford Flex Limited, AWD</p> <p>\$25,900 \$227 b/w</p>  <p>2P093</p>	<p>2008 Ford Edge Limited, PST Paid</p> <p>\$24,900 \$208 b/w</p>  <p>3T002A</p>	<p>2008 Ford F-150 XTR, One Owner</p> <p>\$9,900 as traded</p>  <p>2T026B</p>
<p>2007 Ford Edge Local Trade, Well Maintained</p> <p>\$22,900 \$192 b/w</p>  <p>3T001A</p>	<p>2004 GMC Envoy 4x4, SLE, Local Trade</p> <p>\$9,900</p>  <p>2T090B</p>	<p>2009 Ford F-150 XTR, 4x4, 5.4L</p> <p>\$24,900 \$208 b/w</p>  <p>2T078A</p>	<p>2010 Ford Edge Limited, Command Start</p> <p>\$28,900 \$241 b/w</p>  <p>3T006A</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 XTR, Super Crew, 64,000 kms</p> <p>\$27,900 \$245 b/w</p>  <p>2T088A</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 37,000 kms, 4x4</p> <p>\$28,900 \$241 b/w</p>  <p>2T108A</p>
<p>2011 Ford Edge Limited, Loaded, AWD</p> <p>\$35,900 \$313 b/w</p>  <p>3T004A</p>	<p>2010 Dodge Grand Caravan 39,000 kms, Stow n' Go</p> <p>\$18,900 \$166 b/w</p>  <p>2P129</p>	<p>2009 Ford F-150 Great on Gas, Boxliner</p> <p>\$15,900 \$140 b/w</p>  <p>0P200</p>	<p>1995 Dodge Dakota Just in time for Craven</p> <p>\$7,900 for the package</p>  <p>1T1260C</p>		

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