Inside this issue of Plain and Valley



Creative Vision performing Into the Woods Page 7



St. Lazare's Donna Simard recognized for her writing Page 13



Old fashion farm harvest held at Wilson farm near Wawota Page 23



Frederickson, Mercredi to hold gallery show together

Show at Shurniak Gallery will feature Frederickson's bronzes and Mercredi's poetry together

BY KARA KINNA Ken Frederickson has been sculpting in bronze for just over two years, but already

bronze for just over two years, buť already he has his first major gallery show lined up, and it won't be your typical art show. Frederickson, who lives at Wawota, will be showing his bronze sculptures at the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia, Sask. in collaboration with the poetry of Ovide Mercredi, a poet, artist, and well known First Nations leader with a long and re-spected history of governance. Mercredi has become Frederickson's friend, and each of Frederickson's bronze pieces will be paired with on of Mercredi's poems. be paired with on of Mercredi's poems, and some of his First Nations artifacts as well

The gallery show will open on October 1 at 2 pm and will run for two months.

So how did it all come to be? How did a fledgling artist like Frederickson end up with a show in a major gallery along de an esteemed First Nations leader? Frederickson says it was all just a series

of chances.

of chances. "Heather, my wife, had a conference in Quebec (in the spring of 2015) and we went down a week early to tour Old Que-bec City," he says. "And when I was at the conference one of the keynote speakers was Ovide Mercredi. I wanted to hear him speak. After he had spoken the conference participants were heading for their tours for the day and I had the opportunity to visit with Ovide." At the time of the conference. Frederick-

At the time of the conference, Frederick-son had only cast one piece in bronze—a piece called "Bear Soul," depicting a First Nations man and a bear together as one soul

"It was the first time I had met Ovide "It was the first time I had met Ovide and I thought who better to critique the 'Bear Soul' piece then him?" says Freder-ickson. "After he had seen it, he said 'you have my personal invitation to attend the Assiniboia Art Retreat.' And part of the Assiniboia Art Retreat was to have one piece on display at the Shurniak Art Gal-lery for a month. "When I dropped the Bear Soul bronze piece of that was the only piece I had cast.

piece off, that was the only piece I had cast, and Bill Shurniak said to me 'Where have you been hiding your whole life? I want to be the one to host your first gallery show, so get casting.'" Frederickson did get casting, and the re-



Respected First Nations leader Ovide Mercredi, left, and Wawota sculptor Ken Frederickson, right. The pair have collaborated to show Frederickson's sculptures and Mercredi's poems together at the Shurniak Gallery starting in October.

sult is a body of work that will be shown at the Shurniak Gallery alongside Mercredi's poems and artifacts.

Frederickson says the best thing about the show is that each of Mercredi's poems will create a story to go along with his hronzes

"What they can expect to see is poetry that is written by Ovide merged with ap-plicable bronzes, and I have created some bronzes to go with his poetry and he has written some new poems to go with some of my bronzes. It is a unique collabora-tion "care bredericken tion," says Frederickson.

How did the idea come about?

How did the idea come about? "In discussion with him (Ovide) he had sent me a poem on Nohkom (Cree for "grandmother") he had written on his grandmother, and I had sculpted my ver-sion on a Nohkom and a grandbaby. And after he had seen it he said 'you should en-grave the poem on the piece' and I said 'I think we should do one better then that. I think one day we should just do a gal-lery show where we display your poetry with the bronzes rather then enerave it on with the bronzes rather then engrave it on a bronze

"With some of the pieces, it is quite re-markable how the two have merged to-gether where he has written poems a number of years ago and I have sculpted pieces a year ago, and without reading the poetry how the two, you would swear, were written or sculpted for each other. The merge has been wonderful that way.

"There are going to be around 13 bronzes on display and the applicable poetry. The neat thing is that some of Ovide's artifacts will be on display as well. For example there is a bronze that I have done called The Rattle' and it's of a gentleman stand-ing there holding onto a prayer rattle. And not only will the poem about the rattle be there with the bronze, but Ovide's rawthere with the bronze, but Ovide's raw-hide prayer rattle will be on display with it. "So there are going to be some interac-tions that way too. His prayer jacket will be on display, and some of those types of things and a few of Ovide's paintings will

things and a rew of O'vide's paintings will be on display." The subject matter for the show will vary, but will include a number of First Nations pieces and wildlife pieces. Frederickson can't say enough about

"His poetry is absolutely wonderful," he says, citing the bio on the back of Mer-credi's poetry book: "I wrote these words in a style that is

free, based on an idea that becomes a short story. It may not be poetry as expressed from the perspective of euro Canadian literature. The words and thoughts are mine as one indigenous voice drumming silently."

"It is a really unique collaboration," says Frederickson. "It is neat, and the poems fit so wonderfully with the bronzes. It is go-ing to be an exceptional exhibit." *Continued on page 19* FF





September 2017



Thieves targeting DPF filters in large equipment

BY KARA KINNA

BY KARA KINNA A piece of emissions equipment inside of the engines of newer large vehicles has drawn the attention of thieves, with a rash of thefts taking place in Moosomin and Ester-hazy on the weekend of August 12-13. One local business in Moosomin and two in Esterhazy had parts stolen from the engines of their equipment that

weekend. The thieves targeted a filter that is part of the emissions system. The piece is valued for its precious metals and is commonly referred to as a DPF filter (diesel particulate filter).

Springer Construction in Moosomin had parts stolen from the engine of his excavator. The equipment was parked at a work site just north of Moosomin. Jason Springer, the owner of Springer Construction, estimates that about \$15,000 worth of damage was done. "We parked our equipment Friday night when we were done. Monday morning when we flipped up our engine compartment lid to check the oil, there were parts

obviously destroyed underneath by the engine compartment," he says.

"I could see a good one-and-a-half-foot section of the system was actually missing from the exhaust system. They took a zip cut saw and they cut some brackets and

"They also damaged another filter that is joined on to that, and so right now that machine is up to about \$15,000 in damage so far. And that's if they didn't damage any-thing else."

Springer says, on top of the damage, the theft has also left him with a piece of equipment down for a week while he waits for parts. He says there seems to be a rash of thefts like this hit-

"When I phoned into Finning for the parts for it, Fin-ning said this is the sixth machine in two weeks now of customers of theirs that they have had an issue with," he

"These parts are in any of the new diesel engines that

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This photo shows the damage to the engine of Springer Construction's excavator after part of the emissions system was cut out on the August 12 weekend.

have been built in the last few years. So every new combine, the new tractors, the new semis on the highway, con-struction equipment, everybody has this unit in there." Springer says it's tough to protect against this kind of theft.

"At our shop we have security cameras. But you can't load up equipment every night and bring it to the shop, so it's got to just stay there." "You can lock up the doors and the lids but if they have

a zip cut saw they are just going to cut the locks off any-ways so that's just a waste of a lock. The more you try to ways so that's just a waste of a lock. The more you try to prevent it by locking stuff up, they just use bigger tools to break into it. They just use sledgehammers and cutters and torches to get into it. You just have to pray for the best

"I've worked for companies before where you have to have night security on your equipment but hopefully it doesn't come to that in this part of the world."

Core Industrial Services in Esterhazy was also hit over the weekend. Damage was done to a water truck and two hydrovac trucks. "They had cut them (the filters) out of two of the trucks

I ney had cut them (the filters) out of two of the trucks and stole them and the third one they had cut the band-ing out but something must have spooked them, and they didn't get it out," says Sean Serhan, the operations man-ager at Core Industrial.

"There were a bunch of holes in our sea-cans. They took tools as well. They cut a hole in the back of the chain link fence, so when they got spooked there were some tools there they didn't come back for."

Serhan says the cost to replace just one of the stolen filters will be around \$7,000 and it could take a week to replace the parts.

The vard at Crushrite in Esterhazy, which is right beside Core Industrial, was also targeted the same night. Emissions parts were stolen from two concrete mixers.

Sherri Nixon with Crushrite said the damage means

"Monday morning when we returned they went out to do their normal pre-trip inspections and we found them,

"It not only takes a truck down, it takes a truck down "It not only takes a truck down, it takes a truck down at a peak point of year. And it's not something that you can just drive in and get a filter put on. It immobilizes the vehicle, so the vehicle has to be towed wherever it's going

They have to be replaced by a heavy duty mechanic. They have to be replaced by a heavy duty mechanic. They also wrecked the wiring harness, the electrical to this thing. To get it out they would have to take that all

Crushrite estimates the damage to their trucks to be around \$45,000 and says they will be installing cameras on their lot. The piece of equipment being targeted is in newer vehicles as a result of new emissions standards.



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\$10,000 for **Regional Park**

From left are park manager Wayne Beckett. Enbridge Community Relations Specialist Les Scott, Lower Souris Wa-tershed Committee board chair Theresa Walker, and Lower Souris Watershed Committee manager Tyler Fewings.

Enbridge donates \$10,000 to Moosomin Regional Park

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK A donation from Enbridge has helped provide sig-nage along the hiking trails at Moosomin Regional Park. Enbridge has donated \$10,000, which covers the cost of signs along the trails that include information on the local ecosystem and wildlife. There are also signs at the park store explaining some aspects of the park, how the lake was formed, and on the watershed. Funds from En-bridge will also cover construction of a gazebo at the point where the trail comes up to the lake. Park manager Wayne Beckett said he is trying to in-crease usage of the hiking trails. A new, more inviting, entrance has been built and he would like to explore possibilities for expanded use of the trails by school

possibilities for expanded use of the trails by school groups, horse groups, and cross-country skiers. "They're as good a trail as you will find anywhere," he said. "People will come here just to use the trails. When I started as manager, I thought these trails are nice but the

guys who built these trails put a lot of sweat into build-ing them. I would like to see them used by more people. "I built the new entrance for it last year to make it more visible and more inviting. These signs will give people more insight, people can actually learn a lot from them."

Beckett said the park is looking at a summer student who could co-ordinate recreation for children at the lake, and the hiking trails will be a good resource for them

He said the signage project may not have been pos-sible without the support from Enbridge, as the park board has many costs to cover, including the major cost

of a new water treatment plant. "This falls right in line with what we want to sup-port," said Les Scott of Enbridge. "We all have to work together with the watersheds, and these trails are not very far from the right-of-way, and so many people use

the lake down here. When you have better signage, people will get more out of the trails.

The weak adverted to the trails." A summer student working for the Watershed Com-mittee worked on putting together the information on the signs, which touch on the ecology, plant life, and wildlife of the Pipestone Valley. "A big thing for us is education, helping people learn about the environment," said Tyler Fewings of the Lower Souris Watershed Committee. "This is a way of helping people learn about the environment. Twice this spring we were in Moosomin working with school classes. If we can bring them out here and incorporate this, it will be great. It will really add to it." "When we do our school trips, we can tell the teach-ers this is a good place to bring your students, for your summer picnic or for a field trip" added Lower Souris Watershed Committee chair Theresa Walker. "I think it will be very educational for a lot of people."

"I think it will be very educational for a lot of people."



September 2017

Tears, laughter, hugs as Elkhorn bank closes

BY ED JAMES For over 100 years the bank on the main street of Elkhorn, with its beautiful Elkhorn, with its beaufiful Georgian architecture, was a landmark in the com-munity. It has been there through two wars, good and bad harvests, and had second and third and even a few fourth generations of the same family come to its door to buy a home, a car, get a student loan, or the yearly farm operating loan

However in the space of a few hours it was gone because a decision made by CIBC. When the bank opened at 10 am that last morning, on August 18, until it served its last cus-tomer at 1 pm, there was a steady stream of custom-

ers, some doing business but many more coming to say goodbye, to drop off food, flowers and other gifts. Several would have sto-

ries about their dealings with the bank over the years which wold lead to laughter, hugs and even some tears on both sides of the counter.

However in the background were computer techs, head office staff, and security starting to shut things down. Outside waiting were sign remov-ers, the Brinks armored armored car, the moving truck and a cleaning crew to finish

the job. The staff were visibly moved by the whole event. Janet McLeod who had

worked there for 31 years will be retiring with a pen-sion, which is not the case with the other employees. It will be hard for them to find employment in our small but active community. As Janet looked over the counter she told me that she remembers well that she remembers well the day she was hired 31 years ago, with the man-ager being Darrel Bishop and head cashier Marie Huckluk. Later she would get a call, one of many that get a call, one of many that morning, from a customer who had opened her first account with Janet many years ago as a teen. The customer had gone on to be a successful manager at another bank of the same group

group. Many of the people who

came in said that what they would miss most was the friendly service, help and attitude of the staff, who

attitude of the staff, who always seemed to find a way to help you. Some special visitors who came by that day were former bank employ-ors to offer their best wish ees to offer their best wishes for the future and to also thank them for their help.

At 1 pm the doors shut and, as if it were the shot from a race starting pistol, the tear down crew went the tear down crew went to work. Brinks carried out the money, the cleaners started to remove all the bank decals off the wide front door, the locks were changed and the lock-smith started to dismantle the outside courier drop box, with great difficulty,

as the drop box had not been used in years and the key had long since disappeared!

If there was a final act that said that it was all over, it would be when the over, it would be when the Brandon Sign company re-moved the large sign that hung high above the doors and was like a beacon on the main street at night.

By 2 pm it was all over for the three permanent staff and some former staff members who came by to members who came by to help them. They walked out the door carrying the gifts of flowers they had received along with a few personal belongings. Outside as the crane truck lowered the sign to the ground, Al Earis, a for-mer manager of the bark

mer manager of the bank

who retired in the community, watched it being low-ered and said it was a very sad day for the community and its residents. I drove by last night and

I drove by last high and the building was dark and its windows covered in pa-per and it looked very sad. What the future holds for the building is unknown at this time, but it is hoped that it can be renumered that it can be repurposed as a community place of some sort. However of greater concern is what will be the effect on many of the community's senior citizens who were used to the local bank that gave them personal home-town service

August 18, 2017 was not a good day for the commu-nity of Elkhorn.



Left: CIBC Elkhorn staff leaving the bank after it closed for its last time on August 18. Right: The Brinks truck packing up the contents of the CIBC Elkhorn bank.





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Creative Vision performing 'Into the Woods'

BY KARA KINNA Moosomin's Creative Vi-sion Productions is gearing up for their next big musi-cal—Into the Woods— which will run Nov. 10-12

at the Conexus Convention Centre in Moosomin. There will be four performances—one on Friday, Nov. 10 at 7 pm, one on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 7 pm,

and two on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 1 pm and 7 pm. Into the Woods is Cre-Into the Woods is Cre-ative Vision's fourth play. The group has previously performed Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Les Miz, and The Music Man.

The Music Man. Sandra Poole and Sherri Meredith, who spearhead Creative Vision Produc-tions along with Raven Willoughby, and who are producing Into the Woods, say this play was chosen because it was time for comething naw. Creating something new. Creative Vision has to date favored shows with large casts and a chorus, but Into the Woods—with music and lyrics by Stephen Sond-heim—has a smaller cast with 21 roles and no cho-

rus. "We picked it because "We picked it because we wanted to have some-thing different," says Poole. "There are not a lot of shows with big casts and with a lot of chorus parts. We had never done Stephen Sondheim before and thought it was time." "It's a timely mice"

"It's a timely piece," says Meredith. "There was a movie recently released. So people are familiar with it so they might want to see how it looks on the stage Everyone can relate to the fairy tales and take some

life lessons from it. "We wanted something different. All of the productions we have done so far have their own flavor and this one will too."

What kind of play is it? "It's a fantasy with co-medic scenes and dramatic undertones," says Meredith. "I always assumed that

"I always assumed that Cinderella was excited to meet the prince. Well this Cinderella is apprehen-sive. She's not quite sure that she wants to jump into this," adds Poole.

this," adds Poole. "There's a little more meat to the roles and depth," says Meredith. "The fairy tales you thought you knew ... you dought you knew ... you

don't," says Poole.

"And then they get inter-twined," adds Meredith. Both Poole and Meredith say this play is going to be a bit more technically challenging, both musically and in terms of stage ef-fects. "They call Stephen Sond-



A scene from The Music Man which was performed by Creative Vision Productions in 2015.

heim the calculus for musicians," says Poole. "The melodies are very intricate and difficult. Some of them you can sing right away but others are very tricky. We have some five-part things happening where everyone is singing at once and you kind of have to fit it in instead of having all the harmony going along

as it is—everyone comes in at their own points, so it's a little trickier in that "Some of the sound ef-fects will be live within the

band, within the score of the music, it's almost like a running soundtrack the whole time," says Mer-edith. "It will definitely be the biggest challenge in terms of our pit band." "Joseph was the easiest and ure come to he pro-

and we seem to be pro-gressing into more difficult gressing into more difficult territory," says Poole. "The people (in the cast

"The people (in the cast and crew) are growing with us and so we can present more difficult or challenging things," says Meredith. "We might have flies or drops or lifts— there might be some more special effects we can work in that we didn't have the in that we didn't have the

ability to do before. "This play calls for a few more tricks than the other ones have. This one is challenging too because it's a stationery set but they have to be in all differ-ent places in the woods at one time. It's going to take some work."

Poole says the plot of the play interweaves three sto-

"Usually it's one story "Usually it's one story line but this one is three," she says. "There are three different parts of the stage. We have Cinderella and her family. We have Jack and his mother, and the other one is the baker and his wife. In comes Little Red Riding Hood and in Rapunzel. "There's lots to look at at first. That's what we like, it's different. You see all three at once and how

comes the witch who stole

they interact. They all kind of get to meet each other and that doesn't happen in regular fairy tales."

"I appreciate the hu-mor," says Meredith. "There is a sense of humor in here that I quite like, but there is also a tenderness to it. There are life-anddeath situations and the characters come together in their time of trial, and so there is a good balance of sentimentality and humor

sentimentality and humor which is really nice with this piece." "And morals," adds Poole. "The way they solve things and figure them out. There is a moral question-

ing." The plays that Creative Vision puts on take months of preparation and a huge commitment from cast and crew members. Casting for Into the Woods was held in the spring and practices began in mid-August. Between cast and crew, Poole and Meredith es-

Poole and Meredith es-timate there are at least 60 people involved, not counting the volunteers, such as the people who sell tickets, serve the desserts the nights of the play, and countless other jobs that need to be done leading up to the play.

to the play. The productions involve people from Moosomin and the surrounding areas, and this year about 40 per cent of the cast is new to Creative Vision Produc-

tions Poole and Meredith says there was a huge response to their call for auditions. "We just feel blessed," says Poole. "You have

these big dreams and when people want to go along with it you're just so thankful. It's very humbling for people to want to join us

"Rehearsals started and it's so exciting. Everyone is just as excited as we are." "We know there's a lot

of work ahead of us but the time will go fast and be enjoyable because ev-eryone is just all in," says Meredith.

Meredith. People who are cast in main roles will dedicate three evenings a week to the play, while lesser roles will take one to two eve-

nings a week. "And then when we get to the last few weeks, it's all hands on deck," says Meredith "We see them more than

their family will," says Poole

Poole will be in charge of music, Meredith will be in charge of directing, and Ra-ven Willoughby, one of the founders of Creative Vision who now lives in Brandon, will be helping with set de-

sign. While the plays are tre-mendous work for every-one involved, Poole and Meredith say it's always worth it worth it. "When you're educators

you just love to see your students shine and grow and stretch," says Poole. "The same thing with the adults that we work with now too. As educators we just want to take them from here and see how far can

we get them." "I think that it shows that the arts are alive and well in Moosomin too," adds Meredith. "And I think that's so important. Things are just starting to come along, we are getting a bit more of a balance in town and that's great because it's a super place to live." "And you get all of these people who just love the arts together and they might not have known each other before and it's just another nice little community of people who have the same passion," says Poole

'And a production like this brings it all together," says Meredith. "You have your visual, you have your your visual, you have your dramatics, you have your music, you have your mu-sic and your dance. It's a perfect blend." "It's a celebration," says Backa

Poole Poole and Meredith sav that one of the best things about putting on these shows is celebrating local talent and introducing new talent to the community

"I always hope that they know how lucky we are to be living in a commu-nity with such talent," says Poole. "And people who have been to the shows before will be expecting that, and people who have not been before will be wowed."

Meredith says it also feels good to provide lo-cal people with a venue for

showcasing that talent. "When you're in it you don't realize it, but having the new people come out (to audition) shows that it

(to audition) shows that it is making a difference and that people are enjoying it, so I think that's very im-portant," she says. "I still have kids that say being in Les Miz or The Music Man is one of the highlights that they look back on, and that to me means a lot. It feels good." Tickets for Into the Tickets for Into the Woods will go on sale in

October

"And then when we get to the last few weeks, it's all hands on deck," says Meredith. "We see them more than their family will," says

Poole

Poole. Poole will be in charge of music, Meredith will be in charge of directing, and Raven Willoughby, one of the founders of Creative Vision who now lives in Brandon, will be helping with set design with set design. Continued on page 18

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Named Minister of the Economy: **Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk in cabinet**

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk has been named to

cabinet. Premier Brad Wall announced a number of changes to the provincial cabinet, including naming Bonk as Saskatchewan's new Minister of the Econo-

my. Bonk is also Minister responsible for Tourism Sas-katchewan, Innovation, and Trade.

Bonk said he officially heard that he would be in cabinet just the day before the new cabinet was sworn

in. Bonk believes his background in business and in-ternational trade will serve him well in his new posi-

tion. Bonk has worked on four continents in agricul-tural consulting and policy development. He lived in Europe for nearly a decade, where he was the managing director of livestock-based enterprises and worked as a management consultant to help companies grow and solve strategic challenges with the transition to a free market economy, particu-larly in post-Soviet coun-tries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

He speaks four languag-

es. "I think my experience has prepared me for this role, and I was the Legisla-tive Secretary for the Minister of Economy, Innovation, Trade and Tourism before this," Bonk told the World-

Spectator. "I am quite familiar with the files—it is a pretty nice fit for me. This is exactly what I was doing in the private sector. It is a very nice fit for me and I couldn't be



any happier." Bonk and the other min-isters are sworn in on August 30.

"We had a swearing in ceremony this morning. I have already picked up my briefing notes. I have some moderate, light reading to

do over the weekend!" How will he balance his duties of cabinet minister with his duties as Moosomin MLA?

There is quite a bit more additional responsibilities as the minister, but first and foremost I am the MLA for the Moosomin Constitu-

ency," he said. "I think, though, I might not be able to make it to quite as many events in the constituency, but time will

tell. "The files I have now are fairly time consuming. I ex-pect there to be a fair bit of work on the trade file espe-cially, and that will keep me quite busy." As minister responsible

for trade, Bonk will put a lot of focus on NAFTA initially. The North American Free

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be renegotiated, and U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to tear up the deal.

"The ongoing NAFTA negotiations is the main concern right now as well as opening our internation-al markets," said Bonk. He said trade is vital to

Saskatchewan.

"As you know, in Sas-katchewan one out of three jobs relies directly on inter-national exports," he said. It is very important to our economy The more diverse and wide ranging our markets can be the better off it can be for our producers

and manufacturers." Bonk said it's difficult to describe the feeling of being

chosen for cabinet. "I'm very humbled that the premier chose me for this," he said. "It is very

front. Standing at the far right is Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk.

humbling, it is a great hon-our to serve in this role." Five ministers will re-main in cabinet but change

main in cabiner but change portfolios: Deputy Premier Don Morgan becomes Minis-ter of Justice and Attorney General, while retaining re-reconcilities for Lebrace and sponsibility for Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board; Donna Harpauer be-

comes Minister of Finance; Kevin Doherty becomes Minister of Advanced Edu-

cation; Bronwyn Eyre becomes Minister of Education and

Minister responsible for the Status of Women: and

The provincial cabinet at Government House as they were sworn in, with Premier Brad Wall in

Dustin Duncan becomes Minister of Environment and Minister responsible for SaskPower, SaskWater, the Water Security Agency and the Global Transporta-

and the Global transporta-tion Hub. Five MLAs are enter-ing cabinet, including four who become ministers for the first time. In addition to Steven Bonk's new respon-sibilities as Minister of the Economy, and Minister re-sponsible for Tourism Sasatchewan, Innovation and Trade: Nancy Heppner re-enters cabinet as Minister of Energy and Resources and Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission;

Paul Merriman becomes Minister of Social Services and Government Deputy

House Leader; Larry Doke becomes Minister of Government Relations and Minister responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs; and

Gene Makowsky be-comes Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan[®] Liquor and Gaming Authority.

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Protection and Response Team Sask targets rural crime

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan's provincial government unveiled a new initiative to tackle rural crime recently, including adding additional RCMP officers and providing firearms training and firearms to highway traffic officers, including those stationed in Moosomin.

Saskatchewan Iustice Minister and Attorney General

Saskatchewan Justice Minister and Attorney General Gordon Wyant announced the creation of the new Protec-tion and Response Team (PRT) to aid in the reduction of crime in rural Saskatchewan. The new PRT is being created in response to recommen-dations by the Caucus Committee on Crime. The new PRT will consist of 258 armed officers who will have arrest and detention powers, and will be comprised of: • 120 police officers from RCMP and municipal police services:

services; • 60 police positions currently deployed to the Com-bined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS) Initiative;

30 new police positions;
30 re-purposed police positions currently funded by the ministry;

40 Ministry of Highways Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers (CVEO) with expanded powers; and
 98 Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers

(CO). All PRT members will receive a comprehensive training curriculum which will be provided to all officers regard-less of their designations. PRT expands on the successes of

Improve police response to emergency calls for ser-

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vices, including property crimes that are in progress. • Enhance uniform visibility and presence in rural Saskatchewan.

Increase the enforcement of drug trafficking on Sas-

katchewan's roadways. "The security and safety of the people of Saskatchewan is the number one priority of the Ministry of Justice," Wy-

ant said A total of \$5.9 million will be invested in order to support the new group and other recommendations in the

report. SGI will provide \$4.9 million directly to fund the additional officers and an additional \$1 million will come from the Ministry of Justice.

The Committee's recommendations also include ensur-Ine Committee's recommendations also include ensur-ing RCMP resources and personnel are used effectively in rural areas; reviewing legislation to allow municipalities to jointly administer alternative policing programs; pro-viding more funding for on-reserve programming and services; and other measures. The recommendations are the result of consultations the

Committee conducted beginning in November 2016. As part of these consultations, the Committee toured 10 com-

munities over 12 days and met with 58 stakeholders. "The Committee heard several issues on crime in rural and urban areas, and the absence of police visibility in rural areas was a main concern," Committee Chair Herb Cox said

In an interview with the World-Spectator, deputy minister of Justice Dale McFee said that overall crime in rural

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Saskatchewan has been declining, but in specific areas it has been on the increase.

"Overall rates have gone down. What we are seeing, though, is there are pockets where they have picked up," he says. "A large part of our strategy when we were build-ing this plan was to look at that and how we can success-

ing this plan was to look at that and how we can success-fully increase visibility in those areas. Obviously those ar-eas don't always remain the same—they can change. That is the whole idea, to become intelligence-led and use the data and to put a team together that consistently deploys services and be in those areas where these trends are." He said the team is still determining where addition-al resources need to be located. "Logistically, it will be worked out with the group. There is actually a meeting today. When you put a provincial team together, you have got a bunch of resources that are currently in many areas in our province and it is more realistic to look to design that can make an impact on our whole province. Visibility In our province and it is inder tealsate to look to book of using that can make an impact on our whole province. Visibility is only one of the things that can reduce crime—there is lots of evidence in relation to that—but it also brings your resources in closer proximity should there be something in progress. It benefits in more than one way." MCFee said the Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS) letitation bas been guesceptic in adjusting brichwar

McFee said the Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS) Initiative has been successful in reducing highway collisions, and serves as a model for the new plan. "CTSS is exactly why we have expanded this to the pro-vincial program. What we've done is added additional ca-pabilities to that and looked at the success rate for instance where we had them in southeastern Saskatchewan the deaths on the highways have went from approximately 17.2 to almost 12 percent that is a huge reduction. That is a huge reduction in asving lives, serious motor vehicle acci-dents, as well as significant savings as well both in human and financial terms." One of the changes will be training highway traffic of-ficers, including those stationed at Moosomin, to carry firearms.

ficers, including mose statuties a more and fire arms, "What the intention is, is to look at training them in fire-arms," he says. "We have a police college and there are lots of ways to do hat, so there will be some further training. If you look at it from an individual perspective, when you are driving down the road, all of these people, whether it is the police or the municipal RCMP, SERM or highway traffic, they all have provincial jurisdiction. And when you have red and blue lichts on our roads, whether it is in rule have red and blue lights on our roads, whether it is in ru-ral Saskatchewan or a city, there is an expectation that is someone that you can go to for help. They will be trained with firearms. They are not going to be asked to change their duties in relation to take away from their duties. It will just be some expanded capabilities."

Continued on page 12 🖙



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Below, Rolling Barrage organizer Scott Casey speaks with Moosomin veteran Gordon Jones.

Rolling Barrage rolls through Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK The Rolling Barrage, a cross-country military veterans' motorcycle rally to raise funds for and awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, passed through Moosomin August 14.

The cross-country ride was organized by Scott Casey of Military Minds, which works on PTSD issues. The ride went from Winnipeg to Regina

that day, stopping in Moosomin for lunch at a local fundraiser that brought in more than \$1,400 for the cause.

than \$1,400 for the cause. "This is an initiative I wanted to put together over a year ago and I'm doing it so that we can fund programs we've designed to help veterans, active service members and first responders dealing with operational stress injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder," Casey told the crowd at the Moosomin event. "PTSD and OSI have affected just

about every service member in some way, shape, or form. It's very near and dear to

my heart. I've lost a lot of friends to sui-cide because of PTSD. "If's very important to me to develop and implement programs to stop that from happening. If we save one life, we've done a great job. "The funde wo're raising all go to the

"The funds we're raising all go to the troops. I'm the president and I don't take a wage. I'm a volunteer. This whole ride I'm paying for out of my own pocket for my-self so that every dollar goes to the pro-grams so the guys don't have to pay for it.

"To the people of Moosomin—fantastic, thanks for the show of support. I'd like to say a big thank you to Gordon Jones, World War II vet. Thanks for walking the walk." "It's going good so far," Casey said in

an interview at the event. "We have had somewhere around 700 riders involved so far. They've come in and dropped off as we've gone across the country. We have about 60 with us today." *Continued on page 16* FF



September 2017

Protection and Response Team Sask targets rural crime

Section Continued from page 9

How quickly will highway traffic officers be trained

How quickly will highway traffic officers be trained and issued weapons? "That discussion with all the stakeholders is taking place today," said McFee. "I want to be very clear that we will take the time required to do it properly. There are lots of requirements when we are talking about firearms. You can rest assured if folks are going to carry firearms folks will be properly and appropriately trained." He said conservation officers already have training similar to nolice officers.

To the solution officers already have training similar to police officers. "They are trained very similar to the police if you think about it. They carry firearms now. They are responding to serious incidents such as gun calls, people with firearms. So if we added some things to that, they can stop some vehicles on highways and, back to the red and blue lights, it just makes a whole lot of sense. And what makes the most sense is to put them in a team concept where their responsibility is about the citizens and the property." Where will the new positions be located? "It will be a combination of municipal police and RCMP services. We want a presence across the whole province and certainly we clearly understand that we have to increase and enhance our response in rural Saskatchewan." While some rural RCMP detachments are currently operating with less than a full complement of officers, McFee says he doesn't anticipate and difficulties in filling the mey sotitons.

McFee says he doesn't anticipate any difficulties in filling the new positions. "These are new positions. The only challenges that we have is obviously in the police positions. Some of them will have to go through a police college. Whether it's the Saskatchewan Police College which is municipal or the RCMP Depot, that takes a bit of time." How many unfilled positions are there currently in ru-ral detachments? "I don't know," says McFee. "I know that is a question the RCMP get frequently asked. One of the nexts of the

the RCMP get frequently asked. One of the parts of the plan is they are going redeploy 10 people from adminis-trative duties into relief teams to help staff some of those

McFee said the changes to staffing are permanent. "There is no reason that this shouldn't be ongoing,

but at the same time if there needs to be further evalu-ation and tweaking, we're not closing our minds to that too. This is all about measurements, outcome and about increased visibility. We need to have better response in rural Saskatchewan and those emergent situations when rural Saskatchewan and those emergent situations when people are in trouble. There is no reason that if we have a vehicle (SERM or Highway Traffic Board) closer, that is one of those vehicles that can't go to that call, or perhaps it is a prowler in the yard or whatever. When we are stop-ping vehicles let's train them so we can do a better job in stopping things like meth, fetanyl and all those drugs coming in our pervision that are discussion and have coming into our province that are disrupting and harm-ing a lot of lives of our citizens." How will the government measure the success of the

initiative?

"We have already evaluated the CTSS, and SGI did a thorough investigation of that," McFee said. "Certainly you have measurement with the number accidents that have gone down."

Curtis Zablock, the commanding officer of the RCMP in Saskatchewan, was happy with the announcement last

"We are very pleased with the response being taken to address the recommendations of the committee," he said. "Our priorities have always been the safety and secu-rity of the public and of our officers. The recommendations in this report bolsters our efforts to deliver on those

priorities. "As the Provincial Police Service in Saskatchewan, we must ensure we're deploying our resources as effectively as possible. As part of the ongoing review of our resourc-es, earlier this year we redeployed 10 regular member positions from specialized and support units to front line policing. This focus on front line policing will assist in addressing some of the inherent challenges of rural policing

licing, the annual of the new Protection and Re-sponse Team will enhance our ability to address crime in rural Saskatchewan. Existing combined units have al-ready proven they can be successful. Working in collabo-ration with our policing and enforcement partners makes us a more effective, efficient police service. The addition of 30 new police positions will result in enhanced police presence and visibility in rural Saskatchewan, increased enforcement around illicit drugs and safe roads and as-sistance to boost police response to emergency calls for service."

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Donna Simard recognized for her writing

BY KARA KINNA A local author of children's books from St. Laz-are has recently won an award for one of her books, and has also been asked to speak at a conference in Winnipeg in October. Donna Simard was re-

cently awarded a Word Guild award for her book "Shhh! It's a Surprise! A Sleepover at Grandma and Grandpa's Farm" published by Word Alive Press. The Word Guild is a community of Canadian writers, editors, speakers, publishers, booksellers, librarians and other interested individuals who are Christian. Simard won the national award for best children's book.

Simard has also pub-lished a novel about her son Isaiah, who has Down Syndrome, and has been asked to be the keynote speaker at the Life Vision conference and banquet in Winnipeg in October. Simard says both the award and the invitation

to speak were surprises for her. She says she shed tears when she found out about "I cried," she says. "I didn't do this to get

awards. I did it because I love it. I have 15 grand-children and we have been married for 40 years. Life has been good to us. I cried because it is something that I can leave for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They will have a piece of me.? It is leaving something with

"I was really excited and I was really excited and I was supposed to go to the awards gala in Toronto. They had sent me some-thing saying that I was supposed to be at it but it was my first granddaugh-ter's graduation. Family is





Above: Donna Simard with her books.

first. There was no choice to be made then."

to be made then." Simard began to dabble in writing in 1988, but with a large family of 12 chil-dren, she says her writing often got put aside. In 2012 she wrote a book called Donna's Dozen for her children children.

children. "I have 12 children and in their baby books I would write silly little stories of things that they did," she says. "I thought it would be a unique Christmas idea for them. My sister helped me and we made a book with little stories of each of them." stories of each of them. Simard then started on a series of children's books

Her novel, Isaiah's Way, is based on real experienc-es with her son Isaiah and

Day.

ten a children's book called

'The Hiccups' Moving

es with her son Isaiah and his Down Syndrome. "It is about how one family's story of Down Syndrome is considered a blessing," she says. "It is kind of like Chicken Soup for the Soul. It is Isaiah's real stories that I jotted down. I am very pro-life. I feel that everyone has I feel that everyone has

a purpose and so I wrote stories down that might help someone that is overhelp someone that is over-whelmed if they have a child. And to see with the little struggles that you just have to sometimes think about it in a different way. "If one way doesn't work you just have to change your way of think-ing and try a different way. With Isaiah, he is speaking two different languages, and he shows us uncon-

and he shows us uncon-ditional love. He loves everyone he reaches. He em-braces life and he is a gift. He has brought a lot of joy into our life and our other children would agree."

Continued on page 15™



called "Shhh! It's a Surcalled "Shhh! It's a Sur-prise!" In each of the books the main character plays a guessing game that in-volves guessing a favorite animal. She has also writ-

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ght

Simard recognized for her writing Donna

🖙 Continued from page 13 Simard says the invita-tion to speak at Life Vision in Winnipeg came out of

the blue "Something connected and instead of going across to the States and getting



Right: Simard's book "Isaiah's Way" about her son Isaiah, who has Down Syndrome.

people in, they wanted come from children. somebody from Mani-toba," she says. "It kind of landed on me and I was kind of overwhelmed when she asked, but I thought if I can be used to change some minds then that is where I should be, so I'll dig deep and get through it. "I will probably start with Donna's Dozen, some

with Donna's Dozen, some of the stories, and Isaiah will be the bigger part of the speech, and I think I will even be bringing him up at the end. He will talk a little bit."

What is the common theme in Simards' books?

"I love inspiring others," she says. "We all have ups and downs in life, but if we can be that helping hand, we can make it a lot easier for others.

for others. "We do a fundraiser for Peru (in St. Lazare). It has been good for all of the children. We like to teach them that everyone has purpose and we need to be helping hands, and that is where you get your great-est joy. Don't limit people but you if you see someone but you if you see someone struggle maybe you could be the person to help." Simard says all of her inspiration in writing has

"I have always had lots of children here, not just my own-the other families that live around here, and our kids were raised with cousins. They all had birthday parties and we had to come up with games. It was just an ongoing thing. It is easy. I

don't find it hard to come don't find it hard to come up with writing books. It is fun for me. Some of the things kids do, you think 'ally good story.' I have a big imagination." Simard says she plans to keep on writing books, and is already thinking about writing a second book

about Isaiah as he moves into his next stage of life. She is also working on a book for older children.

15

Simard's books are avail-able online. They can also be purchased at Eddy's General Store in St. Lazare, at Reavie's Pharmacy in Russell, and at Birtle Pharmacy.







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A few of the veterans participating in The Rolling Barrage enjoy lunch at a fundraiser in Moosomin Aug. 14.

Rolling Barrage

Continued from page 11 He said people have been showing their support right

across the country. "There are people stand-ing out on the side of the



Mosaic

Ryan Bender entertains.

highways," he said. "You come by a township road and there's a whack of people out there. We've got people out there. We've got truck drivers honking their horns going by and people filming and taking pictures from their cars as we go by, and giving us the thumbs up. It's been great." What has he learned on the trin?

"T've learned that Canadi-ans are really showing their patriotism now. It's starting to come out. It's something that has been subdued over the years, but it's nice to see. "I'm humbled by it, honestly. I didn't know what to expect. People are volunteering and coming out and supporting it." He expects to make the

Rolling Barrage an annual event.

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The flag carrier who brought the flag from Regina passing it on to the person who took it to Brandon.

Invictus Games flag tour passes through Moosomin

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK The flag tour that passed through Moosomin on August 29 was a lot different than most cross-country tours for various causes, that usually consist of one or two people and people a cumpert up

Plain and Valley

people and possibly a support van. As the Invictus Games Flag Tour passed through Moosomin, however, a lot of people noticed the entire convoy of Jaguars and Land Rovers that accompanied it. The Invictus Games is an international

The Invictus Games is an international competition for injured service men and women. There will be 550 competitors participating in the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto later this month.

The Invictus Games National Flag Tour started in Victoria on August 16, and will travel as far east as Gander, Newfoundland, before finishing in Toronto on September 22 as the 2017 Invictus Games kicks off. The 37-day cross-Canada journey will visit 22 military bases, 15 Legions and over 50 communities who have been a part of Canada's rich 150-year history.

Canada's rich 150-year history. Prince Harry started the Invictus (meaning unconquerable) Games for wounded, ill and injured military personnel and veterans.

The inaugural Invictus Games took place in London in the fall of 2014 and attracted more than 400 competitors from 13 nations.

The second Invictus Games took place in May 2016 in Orlando, Florida, and built on the success of the London Games with more than 500 competitors from 14 nations.

The Invictus Games are meant as a salute to soldiers' and veterans' indefatigable drive to overcome, and the power of sport on their journey to recovery. *Continued on page 20*

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A scene from Les Mis which was performed by Creative Vision Productions in 2013

Creative Vision performing 'Into the Woods'

■ Continued from page 7 While the plays are tremendous work for everyone involved, Poole and Mer-

edith say it's always worth it. "When you're educators you just love to see your students shine and grow and stretch," says Poole. "The same thing with the adults that we work with now too. As educators we just want to take them from here and see how far can we

get them." "I think that it shows that the arts are alive and well in Moosomin too," adds Meredith. "And I think that's so imporance in town and that's great because it's

a super place to live." "And you get all of these people who just love the arts together and they might not have known each other before and it's just another nice little community of people who have the same passion," says Poole.

"And a production like this brings it all together," says Meredith. "You have your visual, you have your dramatics,

you have your music, you have your mu-sic and your dance. It's a perfect blend." "It's a celebration," says Poole.

"It's a celebration," says Poole. Poole and Meredith say the one of the best thing about putting on these shows is celebrating local talent and introducing new talent to the community. "I always hope that they know how lucky we are to be living in a community with such talent," says Poole. "And peo-ple who have been to the shows before will be expecting that and people who will be expecting that, and people who have not been before will be wowed." Meredith says it also feels good to pro-

vide local people with a venue for show-casing that talent. "When you're in it you don't realize it,

When you te in it you don't realize it, but having the new people come out (to audition) shows that it is making a differ-ence and that people are enjoying it, so I think that's very important," she says. "I still have kids that say being in Les Miz or The Music Man is one of their hidblights that they look back on and highlights that they look back on, and that to me means a lot. It feels good." Tickets for Into the Woods will go on

sale in October.





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September 2017

Plain and Valley

Frederickson, Mercredi to hold gallery show together

🖙 Continued from front

Frederickson says it has taken just over a year to get ready for the show. All the pieces, except for Bear Soul, have been cast in the last year.

Frederickson has shown his art at a number of local art shows in the area, but says the show at the Shurniak is a huge step for him as an artist.

"It's an absolutely fantas-tic gallery and it's a huge honor to be asked as an artist, especially as an emerg-ing artist," he says. "It's a big honor because there is big honor because there is a huge waiting list of art-ists waiting to have gallery shows at that particular gallery. The fact that he (Bill Shurniak) wanted me to have it there early is in to have it there early is in-credible. Obviously he sees something in my art that he really, really likes.

"After his first comments the very first day that I met him about wanting to be the one to host my first gallery show after only seeing one bronze, and it was the only bronze, and it was the only bronze that I had ever cast— to me there was no other gallery that I wanted to have my first gallery show at. It's a huge thing for me as an article artist

is kind of surreal. "Bill mentioned

him.

have an unbelievable ability to breathe life into my sculptures, and not every-body has that ability. This is a very cool comment from

"It's an amazing art gal-lery and the people involved in it are just incredible. They

are so supportive of emerg-ing artist too, Bill especially. He's always been supportive

that

"It's exciting. The realiza-tion that you have art sitting in a gallery where there's



Top left: "Wood Duck" and "Belleza" (Spanish for "beauty") by Ken Frederickson.

Above: Frederickon's first bronze, "Bear which caught the eye of both Ovide Soul.' Mercredi and the Shurniak Art Gallery.

Top right: Frederickson's bronze "A Plain Memory" paired with Ovide Mercredi's poem "Buffalo Chaser."



Buffalo Chaser

I am a great Buffalo Chaser Running fast through tall prairie grass A Cree hunter rides on my strong back We head down to the Pembina Valley Where buffalo tracks were last seen I move with speed and grace At a gallop that leaves worry behind The hunter smiles, looking to feed his tribe I let him ride on my powerful back I'm a Buffalo Chaser, painted blue Ready to count kills at the greatest hunt Rushing to be near thundering Buffalo So that the hunter can release his arrows I see hunger leave, as Buffalo begin to fall A hunter's success that will be recounted In many night time retellings by my Rider When smiles cover human faces, their bellies full I'm a Buffalo Chaser, through and through

-December 29, 2008



Invictus Games flag tour passes through Moosom

20

Continued from page 17 "These Games shine a spotlight on the unconquerable character of servicemen and women and their families," said Prince Harry. "They highlight the competitors' In-victus Games spirit. These Games have been about see-ing competitors sprinting for the finish line with every-thing they have and then turning around to clap the last person in. They have been about teammates choosing to every the line torother These Games have been a display." cross the line together. These Games have been a display of the very best of the human spirit.

"Invictus Games competitors are the men and women who have come face-to-face with the reality of making a sacrifice for their country. They are the mothers, fathers,

husbands and wives who have put their lives on the line and have suffered life-changing injuries. These people are the embodiment of everything the Invictus Games stands for. They have been tested and challenged, but they have not been overcome. They have proven they cannot be defeated. They have the willpower to per-severe and conquer new heights. The Games shine a spotlight on the sacrifices these men and women made cornig their construct and their indefitienble drive to erving their country, and their indefatigable drive to overcome

sport—it captures hearts, challenges minds and changes lives." "The Invictus Games is about much more than just

Kathy Anderson carried the flag from Moosomin to Brandon

Brandon. "I put in my application to participate because of what they do for the Canadian Forces," she says. "I have a long history myself of working in multi-sport events and games. I've never had the opportunity before to partici-pate in a relay or torch run, or be a flag bearer, so this was a great opportunity, since I'm not working with the In-victus Games, to be able to participate in a different way. "I think the games are important because they bring attention to people who have eiven things up for our

attention to geople who have given things up for our countries and our freedoms. I think it's important to honor that kind of commitment."





Ag groups alarmed over proposed tax changes

The Saskatchewan As-sociation of Rural Municipalities (SARM) is teaming up with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA), the Agricultural Producers of Saskatchewan (APAS), and the Sas-



katchewan Stock Grow-ers Association (SSGA) to ensure that the concerns of rural Saskatchewan are heard as it relates to the Federal Government's rederal Government's proposed changes to the taxation of private cor-porations. The proposed changes will impact all Canadians who use private companies, including family businesses.

The partnering organi-zations understand the Federal Government's intention to level the play-ing field to ensure that the Canadian tax system is not unfairly benefitting the wealthiest Canadi-ans; however, this change could have adverse effects on farmers, ranchers, and small business owners across Saskatchewan and

"Ninety-eight per cent of Saskatchewan farms are family owned, and incor-poration is an important tool for transferring farms between generations and saving for future invest-ment," said APAS Presi-dent Todd Lewis. "We are very concerned about the future of our family farms

"These proposals, if im-plemented, make it more difficult to keep family farms and ranches within the family as generations turn over," explained the Chair of SCA Ryan Beierbach.

Continued on Page 26 🖙



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Plain and Valley

farm harvest from yesteryear

BY ED JAMES

It was a picture perfect fall day at the Ken and Anne Wilson Farm south of Wa-wota, where the Wilsons held their second annual old-time grain harvest and thresh-ing display on the September long week-

end, in which antique farm equipment as much a hundred years old could be seen in use again taking off the crop. For many people it was a full weekend event as they came with their campers and trailers to make it a special Labor Day weekend long quent

weekend-long event. To add to the event there was a display of several antique tractors, with most of them being bright red, but a few green tractors were on display as well. There was also a display of classic cars and trucks that got a

lot of attention from all ages. In fact, later in the day, Ken Wilson senior could be seen driving around one of the fields that was being swathed in his classic '50s era Chevy two door hard top. If you were hungry, the members of the "Raise The Rafters" Wawota United

Church group were on site offering a field lunch to be finished off with a piece of some of the great homemade pies they

However the main event of the day was the antique farm machinery that was working the fields with a group of eager volunteers who not only operated the equipment, but were ready to make onsite repairs and adjustments to the farm machinery. An important job was keep-



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Darwin Fedorowich operating his Rumley kerosene tractor that turns the long pulley belt that turns the gears in the threshing machine at the old time harvest held at Ken and Anne Wilson's farm near Wawota.

ing the many moving and noisy parts of the equipment filled with grease and lu-bricants. This seemed to be a very neces-sary task on the large metal threshing ma-chine as it rattled and clanged as it at the sheaves of wheat. From the spout at the rear of the machine a golden shower of yellow chaff made a large pile just begging for some children, or those who might be

young at heart, to jump into it. From another spout on the side of the thresher, the grains of wheat filled the long, bright green grain wagon, and when the wagon was filled, a team of farm hors-es, who probably knew the way there and back home, would take it to the nearest wooden grain elevator located at the local railway track.

When the grain wagon got to the eleva-tor, it was tilted back and the small door at the back was opened to pour the grain into metal grates on the floor. From there a sam-

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ple would be taken by the elevator man-ager to be tested and graded. The farmer would be given his delivery slip and the load value based on the day's grain mar-ket prices. From there the farmer and the team might head back to the farm or perhaps stop off at the local hardware store for something needed for the equipment, or he might stop off at the local hotel for a cold brew!

Also on display that day were four small stationary engines that, with much sinai statubility engines that, with much cranking of the large fly wheel,volunteers were able to get working for the public. As the threshing machine rattled and did its job separating the wheat from the chaff, the long heavy canvas pulley that gave power to the thresher was kept tight by the vintage Rumley Oil Pull kerosene engine ad to be diverged the treated as the did and it big fly wheel that rotated on the side of the engine.

Continued on page 25



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Grand opening for new Home Centre

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK A huge crowd turned out for the opening of Borderland Co-op's new 25,000 square foot Home Cen-tre in Moosomin on August. 17.

The Co-op had a long-term plan to build a new home centre near the C-store on Highway 1, but changed the location and moved the timing forward after competi-tor North American Lumber lost

That land was purchased and combined with land the Co-op already owned, providing enough space for the large new building, the largest home centre in rural Saskatchewan.

"Soon after the fire we started talking about what our plan was taiking about what our plan was. We had been talking about doing something with our home centre for awhile and bumped it up from in our development plans," says Borderland Co-op General Man-ore Leone Chome

Borderland Co-op General Man-ager Jason Schenn. Schenn said the plan from the start was to build big. "When we first did the food store it was far bigger than what we have in most rural centers and that was a successful venture," he said. "Looking at what we did with the C-stores, we wanted to go big with the home centre. We did our market studies to see what is out there and there really isn't see what is out there and there really isn't anything of this nature out there outside of the urban centres. We figured it would be a good step forward for the Co-op and for the community." He said the Borderland Co-op Board and Federated Co-operatives were on board with the idea.

"Everybody was right on side with this one," he said. "I told them what I was thinking and the board was like 'yup that sounds great.' We went to Federated to put our plan together for their part of it—they do a bit of investment into this type of thing now_and they exid 'yum for sure' at a bit of investment into this type of thing now-and they said 'yup for sure.' They said 'this sounds like a really good project—lef's go forward.' How has the project come together? "Fabulous," says Schenn. "The general contractors and all of the subcontractors

that were involved-everybody that was a part of this was really good to work with and it was by far the best project we have

had in our history." Schenn said other Co-ops are now look

ing at doing something similar. "So far us and Bonnyville, Alberta have this type of footprint of store in rural cen-ters. There are definitely lots of eyes on it ters. There are definitely lots of eyes on it to see how it performs and what the re-ception of it is, because from the Co-op's standpoint they are definitely looking at reinventing themselves in the terms of home centre offerings across the whole system, so this is kind of the start. We are in on the ground floor of helping to build that

in on the ground floor of helping to build that. "We were able to find a lot of staff right off the bat," he says. "We got them going in the old store and then were able to start transitioning over. We had lots of staff and they were all well trained and ready to go into the new place. We were able to find quite a few right around here. We didn't have to move in a whole lot. Most were on the ground here within the community. We just transitioned over as the project carried on and had people assigned to a transition team that worked with getting the new store ready."

"Now we are in that process of empty-ing out the old store and demolishing it." How big of a job was it to stock the new

store? "Huge," says Schenn. "It was a huge job.



Ribbon cutting for the home centre on opening day

To give you an idea, we were probably in the neighborhood of 5,000-6,000 items in the old store. We are upwards to 17,000 in

the out store. We are upwards to 17,000 m the new store. It is a massive change in the number of items plus multiples of them. Everything from warehousing to stocking on the floor, it's exponential how much it has gone up." What has the reaction been from custom-ore of the store of the sto

ers so far?

"Fantastic," says Schenn. "It has been re-ally good. Of course it comes down to the staff. We can build a building and put lots of stuff in it but it really comes down to the or stuff in it but it really comes down to the people doing the job to make sure that the community is happy with it, and I've had lots of great feedback from customers say-ing it's great, the staff is great, they just get to the store and staff members are already asking 'can I help you find something? Ev-erybody seems to have the right mentality roing into this "

going into this." Is 25,500 square feet big enough for the store

"There are always going to be people looking for something you don't have, even at 25,000 square feet," he said. "You look at your Lowes and Home Depot— those are 50,000-70,000 square feet, and you know we will never be able to have everything. But there is definitely and op-portunity for us to keep tweaking, chang-ing and adding, so that is one of things we are hoping to find out from people as they come in—if they are finding everything and is there anything missing, because we are keeping a list of what people want and keep adding to it. Stuff that doesn't move will come out and stuff that people are ask-

The keep adding to it. Stuff that doesn't move will come out and stuff that people are ask-ing for will come in." Borderland is already seeing an impact on sales from the new store. "I am actually surprised," said Schenn. "I thought with things being a little bit qui-et right now, with the sluggishness in the oilfield right now and a little uncertainty, there are not a lot of new projects really go-ing on in the residential right now. "We were expecting it to be a little slow-er than it is, but if we were talking about our hardware right now it is exactly what we were projecting right out of the gate, so it bodes well for when we get back to fir-ing on all cylinders again when projects are happening again."

decade

"We are probably on to \$62-63 million in sales this year and when I got here we were

at \$17 million, so in 10 years there has been a lot of growth." What is next for Borderland Co-op?

"We have a few things in mind," said Schenn. "We were looking to do something with food but I'm anticipating that we are going to get a food competitor here at some point, so we will see what comes and go from there. We have got other projects in mind but none of

and go from there. We have got other projects in mind but none of those is ready to go yet." There have been many build-ing projects for Borderland over the last few years, but Schenn says this project was different. "The petroleum sites have been a po beingen they have been easy

a no brainer, they have been easy to accomplish and provide the rewards quite quickly," he said. "This is a little bit more of a gam-ble because of the size of it. It is coint to be more of a regional turno going to be more of a regional type

going to be more or a regional type of home centre. "We are proud and excited about it. My excitement is always tempered because we have to see how it performs and make sure it still fits into the returns for the it still fits into the returns for the members and works for the com-munity and it doesn't affect our equity plans or community giving plans. It is always a delicate bal-ance and when you have a tough-er year when it's a little tougher in the ag sector or oil sector you worry a little, but ultimately in the long term I think it is going to be wonderful."

going to be wonderful.





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Part of the large crowd that came out to watch the old time harvest at Ken and Anne Wilson's farm.

over to the antique threshing machine.

A farm harvest from yesteryear

Continued from page 23 In the fields around the waiting threshing machine, inter the fields around the walnung intesting machine, vintage combines went up and down the swathed rows amid the heat, noise and dust, since these combines do not have an enclosed air conditioning, GPS, or a float-ing cushion seat and a radio in the cab. No, these cabs are wide open to all that nature can throw at it. The only luxury I can remember seeing years ago on this type of open seat combine was a big soft pillow, taken from the When the hay rack pul guest bedroom on the sly and a large and battered jury rigged umbrella over the driver's seat to keep the hot sun off .

By the side of the field waited a heavy duty open top grain truck, and the combines pulled up carefully beside

The growing pile of chaff left over from the grain threshing machine.

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Volunteers picking up sheaves to stack on the hay rack to be taken

it to auger off their loads. When the hay rack pulls up, piled high with sheaves of wheat that has been hand loaded by long pitch forks, with their tongs worn smooth over the years, there is no lack of willing and able volunteers to pitch the golden sheaves into the rattling machine, with stops every now and then to add some grease or to clean out a clog. These events went on until the late afternoon, when a pulled curper was held and you could check out the

bottlet supper was held and you could check out the colorful flower garden that Anne Wilson has grown. Later that night, as it got darker, a bonfire was lite and it was a time of fellowship and memories of farming

days of yesteryear. On that day Mr. Ken Wilson was a hard guy to pen

On that day Mr. Ken Wilson was a hard guy to pen down for an interview since he was all over the place making things happen, helping out and being very busy. But in a quick interview he said that he was very happy with this demonstration and get-together to remember and see how the harvest was done in the old days. "I really appreciate all the people who came out to watch," he said, "and for the help and support of my wife Anne, son Kevin and grandson Colton, and to the many kind volunteers from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota who share my same love for old farm equipment. I also appreciate those friends and neighbors who brought the antique tractors and classic vehicles for display. We will be back to do it again next year and hope for many more in the future. I was very happy with the way the weekend went and for the many people we brought back good old memories." brought back good old memories." The following day there was a demonstration of soil

tilling using a vintage '50s tractor that ran on steel tracks pulling a rack of rusty cultivating disc that soon became very shiny metal discs!



FREIGHTLINER ASSOCIATE PARTS DEALER

Ag groups alarmed over proposed tax changes

Continued from page 21 "They will also make it more difficult to manage risk on farms that incorpo-rated to include more family members in the business. There needs to be a way to Inere needs to be a way to achieve the government's goals without negatively affecting cattle producers and all of agriculture," Bei-erbach stressed.

"Additionally frustrat-ing," said SSGA President Shane Jahnke, "is that the Federal Government has scheduled the public con-sultation period for the proposed changes to run from July 18 until October

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2 of this year. "This timeframe coin-cides with the busiest time of year for agricultural pro-ducers," he added. "Farm-ers will be busy harvesting and ranchers will be putting up feed, weaning calves and shipping—these are not the sorts of things producers can readily put aside in order to make their aside in order to make then concerns known to gov-ernment officials. At the very least the government should consider extending

the consultation period un-til early 2018." The organizations will work with other like-mind-

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Cal Vandaele "The Rye Guy"

ed groups and experts in the field to clearly articu-late to the Federal Government the negative impacts these proposed changes would have on many Saskatchewan farm families and business owners.

"The agriculture indus-try and small business are critical to the sustainabil-ity of rural Saskatchewan," stated Ray Orb, President of SARM. "Rest assured that SARM is investigating the matter and will en-sure that rural concerns are brought to the attention of the Federal Ministers of Fi nance and Agriculture.'





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APAS calls on federal government for moratorium: **CP** Rail wants to close Moosomin producer car siding

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

BY REVIN WEEDMARK The Agricultural Producers Association disagrees with the Canadian Pacific Railway's decision to close at least 10 producer car loading sites in Saskatchewan, including one at Moosomin, and is asking for a federal moratorium. In a letter to Federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau, APAS is requesting a moratorium on the closure of pro-

ducer car loading sites until a full review of railway costs

is completed. The letter also requests legislative changes to ensure that the closure of urban and rural sidings are subject to the same requirements.

"Producer car loading is an important source of compe tition and innovation in Saskatchewan's agriculture indus-try," said APAS President Todd Lewis.

try" said APAS President Todd Lewis. "Shipping grain by rail is far more cost-effective than hauling grain long distances by truck and results in a much smaller carbon footprint."

Lewis also pointed out that once a loading site is listed for discontinuance, it is extremely difficult to have the site re-listed for service at a later date.

re-listed for service at a later date. "Although demand for producer cars has declined in recent years, our industry is very dynamic," Lewis said. "There is the potential that crop diversification and in-creased production could lead to more demand in the fu-ture. This demand will not be met if producers lose access to their local rail sidings." Grain producers have a legislative right to order rail cars through the Canadian Grain Commission under the Can-ada Grains Act. This is to ensure that producers have meaningful access

This is to ensure that producers have meaningful access

In is to ensure that producers have meaningful access to market their grains using Canada's rail network. However, in the last decade, Canadian railways have been closing public loading sites at an accelerated rate. If these closures proceed, the number of loading sites on CP rail lines in Saskatchewan will be reduced to 26, down from 79 in 2005.

Although the number of sidings have decreased dramat-ically over the years, the railways are currently compensat-ed for maintaining the same number of sidings that existed in 1992.

The Maximum Revenue Entitlement program's formu-

"What we are saying to the Minister is no more closures until we get a costing review to bring it in line with today's

operating environment." Under the Canada Transportation Act, railways can close a loading site after 60 days of publicizing the notice

close a loading site atter 60 days of publicizing the notice in a local newspaper. APAS is also asking that that time frame is extended to give municipalities and affected producers more notice and ensure they are adequately consulted. If no moratorium is granted, the Moosomin siding could be discontinued by mid-September along with sindings at: Tompkins – RM of Cupar Markineb – RM of Cupar Markineb – RM of Cupar

Cupar – KM of Cupar Markinch – RM of Cupar Grand Coulee – RM of Lumsden Wilcox – RM of Bratt's Lake Tisdale – RM of Connaught/Tisdale Qu'Appelle – RM of South Qu'Appelle Duval – RM of Last Mountain Valley

Lewis said APAS found out about the closures after CP placed a notice in the World-Spectator to announce the Moosomin closure. Sinc Harrison read it and contacted APAS

While federal legislation requires railways to notify the public in the case of a closure, there is no requirement for consultation once notice has been given.

aw requires notice but not consultation

"The one requirement they have is to advertise it and then they can go ahead and close it," said Lewis. "That is part of the issue. If it were a metropolitan site it is a lot more rigorous to close a siding. You have to notify the minster of highways, you have to notify the local municipality, the transportation authority, it is a lot more of a rigorous process. Once notice is given you can't close it for 12 months. But that is not required for a rural site. That is problematic in itself. CP has taken no consultation—they are just going to close these sites.'

Lewis said farmers will still be paying the cost of main-taining the sites through freight rates once they are closed.

"The really crazy part of the whole thing is that farmers won't save a nickle because under the maximum revenue entitlement those sites are included in the calculation as all the sites since it was reviewed, which was 1992. All those sites are part of the MRE calculations, so farmers will con-tinue paying for those sites until there is a costing review. We won't have the service but will still be paying for the cost of the service even though it does not exist anymore.

APAS calls for

moratorium on closures Lewis said he's hoping the federal government will step in and stop any closures at this point. "We have asked the minister to put a moratorium on any

closures at this point." CN is not planning any closures. CP plans to close 10 sites in Saskatchewan, six in Alberta, and two in Manito-

ba—18 sites altogether. According to CP, the closures will allow the railway to provide better service, but Lewis doesn't buy that.



CP plans to close a number of rail sidings on the prairies

"CP is saying it is about service and everything else. Well that is part of the issue—the rail system has been so un-predictable. A perfect example—if you had ordered a pro-ducer car from CP there were lots of weeks last winter that

ducer car from CP there were lots of weeks last winter that you had a 50-60 per cent chance at best of receiving it. "So if you would have ordered a car for Monday, the third week in January, and had all your trucking lined up, and all the grain in place and the car didn't show up, what would you do? If you didn't know when it was going to come, how could you order producer cars? The service has been so poor—it is very difficult to run a business that way. They need to get some of their ducks in a row as far as service. If you had reciprocal penalties—if you ordered a producer car and it wasn't delivered and you were going to get paid for that lost time—that may make more of these sites more valuable as well."

"We haven't had time—this is right in the middle of har-

vest," he said. "This happened in August. We are getting this information out now and we only have 60 days to talk about it.'

Lewis questions the timing of CP's announcement. "You sure wonder about the timing. Certainly with the changes in legislation—and the new legislation has not even been passed yet—I think the minster should wait to see how it affects pieces of the puzzle like producer cars." Lewis believes there is a future for producer cars as the medication gratement for a producer cars as the

marketing systems for agricultural products change. "As the grain industry evolves, there are lots of smaller players that want to buy producers' product and get it into export position," he said. "Some of those players are look-ing directly at producer cars to ship their product to the

coast

"I think it is an opportunity that is probably going to grow, not lessen. If you close these sites there are other sites available, but they are farther away and would have more of an impact on municipal roads and highways, and be a higher cost to producers." The Moosomin siding was used to ship 60 producer cars in the 2014 2015 being assess and the site in the 2015

in the 2014-2015 shipping season, and none in the 2015-2016 season.

"That is pretty significant, especially for those producers that used them," said Lewis. "That could be the majority of their crops, depending on the size of the farm. 60 cars out

of Moosomin is pretty significant. "Producer cars are entrenched in legislation and should be made available. The producer car system provides good balance because if you have wide swings, crazy swings in basis, if the basis get too high you can order a producer car, which saves you quite a bit of money and makes it more worth row ukblo. worth your while

worth your while. "If there are other means of moving your crop through an elevator system or if a company is taking too much off the top and you think can do it better, you can load it your-self with the producer cars. It just adds balance. The avail-ability is pretty important.

abuity is pretty important. "There is not much sense to have it in legislation if you don't have sidings to put cars through. Really the notion that these sidings are costing CP a bunch of money is ri-diculous—they are getting paid for those sidings. We pay as producers. We pay for the upkeep of those sidings."

No word back

from federal government

APAS has not yet heard back from the federal government.

"It was just this week we put this out so we haven't heard back," said Lewis. "Sadly things don't move that quickly." He said he is hopeful the federal government will listen to APAS's concerns

to AFAS s concerns. "We certainly expect a full hearing and certainly the concept of a moratorium at this point should be a fairly easy concept to grasp, because of the legislation changes that are coming. Just on the reciprocal penalties alone, the producer car may end up being a lot more viable option for producers if it is on the railroad and they make sure they at these reciprocal penalties have been dealed. producers if it is on the railroad and they make sure they get those cars delivered on time just the same as they do for any of the grain companies. The railway has to be held to task if they don't fulfill their orders. That should help the producer car situation as well."

Lewis thinks the federal government would be wise to issue a moratorium so the sidings aren't closed before producers have a say and before new legislation comes into effe

"I think it is the minister's call," he said. "It is a short time frame. The minister has to make a quick decision and that's what we expect. A moratorium can be a set amount of time—it doesn't have to be an open moratorium.

"With the new legislation not passed yet, perhaps their is opportunity to change some of the wording in the legisla-tion to answer some of the questions with time lines and certainly the consultation process. Right now it is really not a consultation process it is just a notification process. CP, with the press release they put out, are saying that the sites are going to close at the end of September. There is no mention at all about consultation inst civing notice that mention at all about consultation, just giving notice that they are closing. It is pretty important infrastructure. It is infrastructure that has been there for years and what is the harm in leaving it there until we get some of these things figured out?"

APAS is asking its members to lobby the government on "We have asked our member RMs to help. We have sent

out a template to our membership, hoping that those councils will send a letter to Minister Garneau."

Low usage doesn't mean producer car sidings not needed

Sinc Harrison is a retired Moosomin-area farmer who served for years as reeve of the RM of Moosomin, and as president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

After he saw the notice from CP in the World-Specta-tor, he notified both APAS and SARM, which is how they found out about the planned closures.

found out about the planned closures. He said the low usage of producer cars is not indicative of a lack of need. "The reason they were put in there decades ago was if the elevator system is not working or in the eyes of the producer, they can go directly into the producer car. So the fact that they are not being used right now is not a good indicator of whether they are required or not. Just by being there as an option, they're doing what they were intended. "If this site is discontinued, the closest one I understand talking with one of the commissioners at the grain com-

talking with one of the commissioners at the grain com-mission is Virden.

"That means that somebody would have to haul their auger to Virden, and haul their grain to Virden, which is costly and leads to more road repairs and all that.

"You can see why the elevators would be pushing for this, but it wouldn't be good for the producers. In Mooso-min's situation I don't know if it means removing track or whether it is just a designation, because the Grain Com-mission cannot spot a producer car unless there is a desig-nated site there."

He said he believes the Moosomin producer car site is

"It has been used in the past and I think it is very impor-

tant it be maintained in the ruture," Harrison said. "The grain handling system continues to evolve. We have a terminal in Moosomin which is fine, but it's pro-ducers' choice if they choose to haul to any elevator they want of if they want to load to a producer car. That should be an option that is available and I think it is extremely there they take the second s important that this be maintained." He said the timing of the announcement couldn't be

worse for producers.

"I think in the eyes of a producer, they announced this just before harvest when the producers are busy which means producers probably have other things on their mind than producer car sites. "The timing wasn't good and it is extremely important

that it be maintained as far as I am concerned. And I did that it be maintained as far as I am concerned. And I did meet with the RM council a couple weeks ago at the last meeting, and I haven't been back in to see what they did with it, and I did talk to Ray Orr the president of SARM and the president of APAS about it. They weren't aware of these closures. I found about it by reading it in your paper. I noticed it was in the paper and that is part of the legisla-tion—that if they are going to discontinue it they have to provide notice, but everybody is busy."

Harrison believes the call for a moratorium is the right move

"Any delaying tactic is good," he said. "If that means they are not titled to remove them in the future, that would be a good thing. If they do choose to take this producer car loading out I can't imagine what you would have to go

through to get it reinstated. "The phrase is use it or lose it. But in this case the fact that it is not being used isn't a good indication for the need for leaving it there.





People shopping at some of the Red Market Barn booths on Sunday, Sept. 3.

Red Market Barn finishes its summer season

ву Ер James The Red Barn Sunday Flea Market at Kenosee Lake finished its summer season on Sunday, Sept. 3 with and estimated crowd of over 2,000 people pass-

ing through its gate. Harold and Brenda Johnston took over the site in 2013 that for many years had been a popular dance club and antique shop. Over the past four years the Johnstons have made a number of im-provements that include a children's play ground area complete with toys, additional washrooms, picnic tables, and enlarg-ing the outdoor stage for its weekly band with and

14

area for dancing in front of the band that has a good crowd of dancers who show up every week. As for the flea market it-

self it has a wide variety of items, from tasty snacks, fresh farm produce, arts and crafts, jams and jellies, jewelry, hand-made cedar

furniture and clothing. The weekly market starts in May and ends on the September long week-end. Because of its loca-tion on Highway 9 and its close location to Moose Its close location to Moose Mountain Provincial Park, the market gets a high flow of traffic. One of the unique experiences of the flea market is that out-ofcountry people driving

THE SEA

Moose Mountain

along Highway 9 stop in for a visit and enjoy the friendship.

When the site is not having its weekly flea market, the rustic indoor lower level of the barn is lower level of the barn is popular for weddings and birthday parties, while the loft of the barn is a unique art gallery, open during the flea market.

There is never a shortage of vendors wanting places, and the Johnstons do their best to offer some different sellers each week, and always have people on a waiting list to sell there.

The musical entertainment is a big drawing card each week, with dif-ferent local bands from ferent local bands from around the area. In fact many people come early in the day to stake out a picnic table or piece of ground by the stage with lawn chairs to spend the day listening to the mu-sic, dancing or enjoying the various snack food on offer. Min donuts are a offer. Mini donuts are a very popular item!



Southern Country performing at the Red Market Barn on Sept. 3.

The owners, who live on site in a wonderfully on site in a wonderfully restored home, will be back next year, without any major changes to the market. At the end of the Sept. 3 flea market, the Johnstons came on stage to thank everyone for their support and hoped to see them again next year. Shortly after, one of the vendors on behalf of

FUEL INJECTED, AUTON

the other vendors came on stage to thank the John-stons for all their efforts to try to accommodate all the special requests, and for the smooth operation and cleanness of the site and. They said they look forward to coming back next year. With that the band

Southern Country played their final selection

which was "Orange Blos-som Special" led by Len Downer who had his fid-dle strings a smokin' and

able enough, there was only one Sunday over the whole season where there was a bit of rain however they did have a few windy

the dance floor swinging. And, as if this weekly event itself was not enjoy-

days







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Westman focus group meets to discuss economic growth

BY ED JAMES Many small communities in the Westman area are becoming bedroom communi-ties with the loss of local

commercial services. The result of this is that people in these areas will drive to larger centers for their needs, thus causing a further decline in the few remaining businesses. In the past, many of these

smaller communities offered all the basic needs that would be needed on a daily basis

However, all that would change with better cars and highways that would draw customers to the big box stores and chain restaurants

of the larger communities. So what is the solution? Smaller communities must get organized, work togeth-er and fight back to keep rural southwest Manitoba

alive and growing. An example of how this can work can be clearly seen by the strong economic development and growth in the nearby community of Moosomin.

Recently in the Westman area a number of economic growth focus groups have been held to develop a fu-ture long-term economic strategy for the area. The strategy for the area. The meetings were chaired by reps from MDB Insight of Winnipeg and Calgary, an economic development think tank. At the recent Elkhorn meeting, several reps from Virden, Kola, Pipestone and Elkhorn rep-resenting business, local government and the oil in-dustry came out to the meet-ing to listen and share a variety of concerns and some suggestions. The official name of the local group is Dennis County Investment Attraction and Economic

Attraction and Economic Development Strategy. Some of the topics brought up at the meet-ing were an examination of what present services they have, what they are in need of, the creation of more public awareness of what services we have to offer and how to promote these services, community these services, community water issues, the development of more community infrastructure, population growth and housing that should include seniors housing, day care challeng-es, the use of community clubs and service groups, the economic and social role of the development of the area's oil patch and potash resources, health care services, internet services and the role of tourism, the in-flux of foreign workers into our communities, local tax rates verses services provid-ed, the loss of young people to the cities, a stable housing market price not subject to the boom or bust of the oil industry, plus many oth-er ideas that came forward that evening. "The overall consensus

was that the smaller com-munities have to work closer together and have and area game plan that develops their individual strengths," said Barb Stambuski, local elected LUD rep. "This is an excellent opportunity to meet with residents, ratepayers and business people to assist in recognizing our strength

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and weaknesses, so that we can initiate more growth in our business community by attracting new businesses anywhere in our combined geographical area, and we

will be able to experience the betterment in all our communities. We need to keep the businesses that we currently have and to ensure that they continue to

survive. A strong and grow-ing business community will ultimately benefit the rest of the area with jobs, increased population and confidence in the future."





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Massive crowds

Art Fleury took these aerial photos of the crowds at the Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks competitions on Saturday (left) and Sunday (right) nights of the August long weekend with his drone. They show the massive crowds at what has become one of the largest events in southeast Saskatchewan, with 12,500 people through the gates this year!

Living Skies Come Alive biggest event in SE Sask

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The Living Skies Come Alive Interna-tional Fireworks Competition at Mooso-min Lake has become the largest single event in southeast Saskatchewan. In 2016, the three-day Estevan Fair and

Rodeo had 2,000 more people through the gates than Living Skies Come Alive— more than 9,000 people at Estevan com-pared to 7,100 at Moosomin Lake. The three-day Estevan Fair and Rodeo was the cost atty dod current in Cartheast Coste bath best attended event in Southeast Saskatchewan that year.

ewan that year. But this year, there were more than 12,500 paid admissions to the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition, while the Estevan Fair and Rodeo was between 9,000 and 10,000– making Living Skies Come Alive the best attended event in all of southeast Sas-batchourse act of Rogins and couth of katchewan—east of Regina and south of the Qu'Appelle Valley. The thousands of extra people meant

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vendors at Living Skies Come Alive were

vendors at Living Sides Come Alive were overwhelmed. "I ran out of everything. I couldn't sell a pizza," says Roman Chernykh. "I had to run and buy flour on Monday morning to make dough so I could re-open. I was out

"I could have sold more, but I physi-cally couldn't do any more."

cally couldn't do any more." Stores and restaurants in Moosomin were busy through the weekend. Moosomin Regional Park manager Wayne Beckett said the park was able to handle the large, unexpected numbers. "We rely on a lot of volunteers to help out with setup and cleanup which really helps," he said. "We try to get everything organized ahead of time so we don't have issues the day of the fireworks. "We laid out a grid for overflow camp-ing, providing space for the campers and access in and out for campers and emer-

gency vehicles. "We also had campers pre-register, which saved a lot of time. When they showed up at the booth they had a pack-age with their name ready for them. "That helped a lot. On Thursday alone we had 125 campers show. It takes some co-ordination to get them to where they need to be need to be.

"Through the weekend we were for-tunate. There were no power issues, no water issues, very little security issues—it really made our job quite easy throughout the weekend." Beckett said he was surprised by the

number of people who showed up for the fireworks weekend this year.

"We knew there would be more on Sun-day, but we didn't think it would be as many as it was," he said.

"I would have guessed we would have had 1,000 more people on Sunday, but we had twice as many as last year."

He said the weekend put the park close to capacity. "We could handle a few more camp-

"We could handle a few more camp-ers—we might have been able to squeeze in a dozen more campers, but the cars that came in Sunday is pretty close to our limit. I think there were 1,200 cars on Sunday— it's hard to get that many in. "When you think of how many people we had, it all went remarkably well. "At the store, we did all the cooking outside at the burger bar. The store con-centrated on groceries and ice cream and drinks. We had to only let so many people in at a time.

in at a time

in at a time. "I can't believe how much ice cream we sold, the girls were scooping ice cream from morning til night." The fireworks committee will present their report to the Moosomin Regional Park board in October, after which the board will make a decision on what to do next year. next year.



