

Plain & Valley

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McDougall Auction expands into Moosomin From the farm to online: auction business with local roots continues to grow

BY KARA KINNA

Thirty years ago, when Loren McDougall started McDougall Auctions on his farm near Langbank, the idea of owning his own auction house was just a dream. "This is our 30th anniversary," says McDougall. "I always dreamt that someday it would be fun to have a big auction somewhere, like an auction house. It was just a dream I had as a kid.

"It was always a social event when I started. My mother was my cashier and my dad was my ringman. Ray Donald actually had an auction company back then and he helped me with my first sale to get started in 1982."

McDougall started running auctions right out of high school from his farm. Little did he know that he was sowing the seeds for what would one day become a business with more than \$12 million in annual sales.

"My dad was very supportive in the business until his passing a few weeks ago," says McDougall, sitting in the boardroom of his company's new building in White City. "My mom, she used to perforate clerking sheets with her sewing machine. When we started, it was really basic.

"Some of our first ads are probably in the Spectator archives," he adds with a chuckle.

Today, while McDougall says rural values are still the heart of their operation, McDougall Auctions is a very different business from the one that started on the farm doing farm and household auctions.

Over the years, the company has been on a steady growth curve.

In 1986, the company expanded into Regina.

"It was hard to base a business just on agriculture, so we were getting more into commercial and agriculture," says McDougall. "In order to serve the commercial part of the company we had to open an office in the city, so that's why we expanded into Regina.

And for several years we kept a sub office in Langbank on the farm. And then from there we expanded into Saskatoon in 2000. One of my brothers went in and we opened up another spot up there."

But there was something yet to come for McDougall Auctions—something big. "Two years ago we developed our own software for an online auction on the internet and we called it McDougall Bay," says McDougall. "And it's grown in excess of 4,500 online customers right now.

"It would be fair to say that 85 per cent of our dollars sold in a month is online.

"We kind of helped our software programmer build this software. In 2010 we saw the shift and we kind of wanted to be



Amanda McDougall photo

Above: Loren McDougall stands in front of the McDougall Auctions location at White City. The company, which has its roots in Langbank, continues to grow and expand, including a new location in Moosomin.

Below: McDougall Auctions' new location on Park Avenue in Moosomin.



Jacqui Harrison photo

on the leading edge of it, so we designed our own software and started pushing for it."

McDougall says the online auction has revolutionized his business, allowing for items to be auctioned on a 24-hour basis and giving customers access to hundreds and even thousands more customers.

So how does McDougall Bay work? Unlike a traditional live auction, customers may put a number of items online, or simply one item. Bidding on that item takes place over a number of weeks. The software is smartphone friendly, so bidders can bid on an item at any place, any time. A closing date is set for the item. However, if a bid comes in during the very last minute before the closing time, another 10 minutes is added to the auction, giving competing bidders a chance to up the bid,

and allowing the sale to continue, just like a live auction. The sale will continue until a 10 minute period lapses without any bids, in which case the auction on that item finally closes.

The winning bidder will then receive an email saying they have the item, and have so many days to make payment to McDougall Auctions for the item.

If bidders want more information on the item they are bidding on, they may click on the item to see photos and even videos of the item, and read more about it. They can also call into the McDougall Auctions sales reps to find out more, or—if they are in the area where the item is being auctioned—they can go and see it over the weeks it is up for auction online.

McDougall says the online auction has changed things, not just for his company,

but for bidders and the customers who post items online.

"The benefit of it is huge in the fact that we are in a very busy generation," he says. "Everyone is swamped. So you can pick up at 11 o'clock at night and jump on a bid. We have a record of bidding activity all through the night. During the night shift, guys are online bidding all the time—24 hours.

"People enjoy buying from the comfort of their home or the comfort of their business. If you're standing at an auction beside your neighbor, you're reluctant to bid. Whereas if it's anonymous, you'll bid, you don't have to feel bad. You can bid without people knowing who's bidding and lots of people like that.

"It's perfect for farmland. Farmers can bid from the comfort of their home. So you have your dad and sons bidding around the kitchen table. The family can talk in the privacy of their own home and still bid, rather than sitting at an auction feeling pressured."

Aside from privacy, McDougall says the online component is also convenient for customers who consign their items.

"We believe it's an awesome way to market farm equipment or shop equipment or trucks or cars without freight being an issue," he says. "They don't have to freight it to the city, we can actually sell it right from their farmyard. So someone can get not just local coverage, not just provincial coverage but worldwide coverage right in their own quonset and actually have a live bidding method of sale.

"Nowadays fuel is expensive and time is valuable, so as far as people jumping in the car and driving four hours to a sale to bid on one or two pieces, it's not likely going to happen. But if they sit down online and bid on those same pieces, it's going to happen."

McDougall says that because items are auctioned online, that gives customers access to bidders from all over Canada, which in turn sees items being bid up to higher prices than during a traditional live auction.

"Take a restaurant auction for example," he says. "At a live restaurant auction we would get 40 to 60 people. . . . Online that same auction will get 250 people bidding from all over Saskatchewan and Manitoba, because a fridge is a fridge, a cooler is a cooler. If they need a cooler they will jump on and buy it.

"Corporations can bid from Calgary or Toronto. There's not the matter of the cost of going out to an auction, they can watch online the same as anyone else."

Despite the success of the online auction, McDougall stresses that his company still does traditional live auctions, and is happy to do them.

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MP Ed Komarnicki won't run again

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki has decided not to run in the next federal election, set for 2015.

Komarnicki was first elected in 2004, and will have served 11 years when the next federal election rolls around two years from now.

The MP says he has been thinking about whether to run again for the last few months, and once he made his decision, he wanted to make it public as early as possible.

"Souris-Moose Mountain is a very Conservative area, and I would think many people would be interested in running for the party," he told the World-Spectator Thursday.

"If I waited until the last minute to announce my intentions, it wouldn't be a good thing for our board or our party. I thought it would be best to make the announcement early, so anyone thinking about running has time to prepare."

He said he believes it is important for politicians to know when it's time to call it quits. "I think you have to figure out what your best-before date is," he said.

He said he enjoyed his years in Ottawa.

"I never really was a career politician, but I enjoyed what I did, and I'm proud



SOURIS-MOOSE MOUNTAIN MP ED KOMARNICKI

of what I accomplished."

Komarnicki won a hard-fought nomination for the Conservative Party in 2004. He faced several opponents for the nomination, including former Premier Grant Devine, who was barred from the nomination by the Conservative Party party through the race.

"The nomination was almost a bigger event than the election," Komarnicki says.

"I ran in '04, '06, '08, and '11, and although I thought I had it in me to run again, I thought that was enough. I fought a significant number of political battles in a short political career."

The MP said he had been interested in politics long before he ran for elected of-

office.
"I always had an interest in politics from the outside," he said. "I was campaign manager for Len Gustafson on two campaigns, and I was interested in the evolution of Conservative politics. I always thought if the right could unite we could be successful and make some changes in Canadian politics."

There are some moments Komarnicki will always remember from his career in politics. "The definition of marriage was a big issue, and I'm glad I had my say on that. One of the highlights of my career was speaking on that issue. Unfortunately, in my mind, that vote went the wrong way."

He said the vote to end the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly and to end the long gun registry were two of his proudest moments.

"Some of the more touching moments in house were the apology to Chinese Canadians for the way they were treated, and the apology to First Nations. Having the opportunity to make speeches at critical times was a real honor. I think I carried the feelings of our riding to Ottawa. Whether we won or lost didn't matter as much as representing the opinions of my constituents."

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Stockholm preparing for annual dinner theatre

Planning is underway and play practices are ongoing in preparation for the 20th Anniversary Dinner Theatre in Stockholm. The show promises to provide many laughs and a few surprises too!

This year, the Sow's Belly Soup Group is performing "The Bachelor King" by Martin A. Follse, a two act play which takes place in King Evian's castle. King Evian uses his last dying words to pass royal succession not to greedy Prince Daft but to Yokel, a foolish hillbilly. Everyone agrees Yokel needs a wife to help him run the kingdom, so the search for a perfect match starts. His staff brings in eligible young ladies to vie for the new king's hand, including; Agatha Peabody, a high-society matron; Priscilla Herperger-Shivak-Banga-Persson, a four-times-married gold digger; Sally Valley, a ditz cheerleader; Crushin' Kanisha, a gangster-type; and Jane Claxton, a true-hearted cowgirl. The five ladies are tested on their abilities in true American Idol fashion, followed by a Survivor challenge. Of course, Yokel has other problems to deal with as his self-appointed personal advisor Frederick Pilfer is busy draining

the royal treasury. Worst of all, the vengeful prince hatches a slew of unsuccessful, harebrained assassination plots against the new king. Yokel sorts through the contenders to find his true love and save his kingdom from ruin.

Actors making their debut performances this year are Megan Duchek, Courtney Radbourne and Kyle Ehman.

The actors/actresses and their characters for this year's performance are: Mike Wolfe—King Evian and Simon Towel; Scott Sefton—Prince Daft; Kyle Ehman—Mr. Conroy; Elyce Wilson—Hazel; Megan Duchek—Miss Knolls; Jason Nichols—Fredrick Pilfer; Sadie Sinclair—Lady Greensbush and Ms. Henry; Brent Drozda—Yokel; Courtney Radbourne—Mrs. Weaver; Kyla Cook—Mrs. Priscilla Herperger-Shivak-Banga-Persson; Melissa Duchek—Jane Claxton; Breanne Persson—Sally Valley; Carrie Junek—Crushin' Kanisha; Tanya Schwitzer—Miss Agatha Peabody; Megan Anderson—Paula O'Toole.

Behind the scenes for 2013 are the crew who are also a huge part in helping make each year's show come together: Michelle



Above left to right: Jason Nichols, Kyla Cook, Tanya Schwitzer and Carrie Junek.

Banga, Blair Banga, Angie Herperger, Brent Drozda, Carrie Junek, Kelly Junek, Kyla Cook, Jared Cook, Samantha Smart-Sondergaard, Jamie Smart-Sondergaard, Mike Wolfe, Tammy Wolfe, Courtney Polson, Carol Closson, Sheila Banga, Sophie Ackroyd and Skylar Herperger. Show dates for 2013 are March 15, 16, 22 and 23. Tickets are \$30 each and are available by contacting Michelle Banga at 306-793-2911.



Above from left to right: Breanna Persson, Melissa Duchek, Kyla Cook and Tanya Schwitzer.



Above left to right: Kyla Cook and Megan Duchek



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Auction business continues to grow

Continued from page 1

In fact, the company has just opened a new, 19,000-square-foot location in White City with three auction rings in the back, giving them the capacity to have three live auctions running at the same time.

With so much growth over the years, and the addition of the online auction component, McDougall says the company now sells everything from heavy equipment to jewelry.

And the business continues to grow and expand. With the online component changing the face of the business, plans are already in the works for locations in Alberta and B.C. McDougall says he has even been contacted about franchising his business model.

As part of their growth, McDougall Auctions has recently opened a location in Moosomin on Park Avenue (the former Wayne's Rental building) in hopes of growing his customer base in the area and introducing the online component to this area of Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba.

"We plan to run for three years there and look at the option of moving into a bigger centre or expanding into a larger yard depending on how business unfolds," says McDougall.

So why Moosomin?

"It's home," he says.

"That area—Wawota, Langbank, Kennedy, Kipling, Moosomin—it's that area that gave me my start 30 years

ago, and that's why when I have something new to offer, that's why I came back, to bring it back home.

"It's a smaller centre than we'd typically go into with our online. Normally we pick bigger centres. We're looking at Kamloops, and Calgary and Edmonton. It's just that Moosomin is my home area and there is a strong market there. I just think it's a real vibrant market area and it's right on the Manitoba border and it's just something I kind of wanted to bring back home.

"With the mining north of Moosomin and the oil south of Moosomin, I believe that even though it's a smaller market area, the economy is vibrant enough to support an online centre.

"(The online auction) is so new that no one really knows what it is. That's why we want people to come by the shop so we can sign them up. They can register at home too if they want. We welcome them to come by and learn what it's about and get onboard.

"I'll be in the area weekly overseeing sales while my brother Ron will be sales manager for Moosomin.

"We're going to be moving equipment and other stuff in. And we're going to be looking for a consignment basis in town and on farmsites and selling right from their yards as well.

McDougall says there will be an online sale closing every Thursday out of the Moosomin location year-round.

With 30 years of experience in the auction industry behind him, McDougall says he has gained a wealth of experience and still enjoys what he does today.

"The auction industry has been very friendly to me," he says. "I have sold for lots of different companies across Western Canada outside of my own company, so I've had a wealth of experience in the last 30 years selling for large right down to small companies.

"I've paid my dues over the ups and downs of the last 30 years.

"I get a lot of enjoyment out of it. I don't consider that I go to work every day—it's fun."

As for finally discovering that dream of having an auction house all of his own, McDougall has all that and more now, and says "it's kind of like being a doctor and finally getting the medical degree."

He now oversees his company's sales for Western Canada, is CEO of all operations, and spends much of his time on the road.

Despite being on the cutting edge of the Canadian online auction business, and the growth that has accompanied that, McDougall stresses that the company still strives to keep that family friendly atmosphere—the same one that gave the company a start at its location near Langbank 30 years ago.

In fact, he says that's what he enjoys about running a larger operation now.

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Komarnicki won't run again

Continued from page 5

Komarnicki says he worked hard to ensure that Souris-Moose Mountain communities received their share of infrastructure funding.

"Dealing with infrastructure in our constituency was a big job—trying to sort out the programs, trying to see how we could apply them to our constituency."

He said he learned to be patient in Ottawa. "The machinery of government works so slowly you sometimes wonder if it can work," he said.

He also learned to accept the decision of the political process, no matter what the outcome.

"Not everything goes the way you expect or you might like," he said. "In politics, you have to choose your battles."

"If you sense which way the wind is blowing, you can go a long way with the wind in your sails. If you try to go through a brick wall, you're going to get hurt."

"You have to work with what you have, and it may not always be the way you like."

Does he have any regrets?

"There are always issues you feel might have gone the other way," he says. "If I have any regrets it's not going farther, being more outspoken, on some issues."

Looking back over his career, Komarnicki believes the battle over the Canadian Wheat Board may have been the most important battle he fought.

"The CWB was a pitched battle, and there is no doubt that it was time for the monopoly to end. To have a piece of legislation preventing a farmer from selling something he produced himself without going through a government agency—it was time for it to go. I thought it was a proud moment to see that vestige of the past done away with."

Komarnicki says he expects a lot of interest in the Conservative nomination in Souris-Moose Mountain, which stretches across southeast Saskatchewan and includes Estevan, Weyburn and the Moosomin area.

"There will likely be a need for a candidate selection," he said. "I feel, with the decision made at this early stage, it will give everyone a chance to prepare, so the best person can come forward to advance the interests of this constituency."

Komarnicki is looking forward to retiring after the 2015 election.

"I still have a good two and a half years to represent Souris-Moose Mountain, so I won't look behind, I'll look ahead."

"I'll be 66 in 2015. I still have room for doing something, but I don't have any plans at this point."

What has he learned from his career in politics?

"I can say that politics takes a huge degree of energy that I might not have anticipated," he said.

"The work in Ottawa, the work in the constituency, the travel to and from the constituency—it's exhausting. There's a lot of separation from family. It's a pretty rigorous lifestyle, and after 11 years, I'll be ready for a break."

Komarnicki informed his constituency association of his decision last Saturday, and informed the Conservative caucus in Ottawa on Wednesday.

He said he enjoyed his time in politics. "I can say it's been a great experience for me and a great pleasure to represent the constituents of Souris-Moose Mountain, and to make specific representations on behalf of constituents."

"It has also been great to be a part of a government and to be involved in the many infrastructure investments throughout the constituency."

"I look forward to continuing to represent Souris-Moose Mountain until the next General Election. This is one of the great honors and privileges that I will always be thankful for."

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Focus on Agriculture

Aster Yellows—what to expect in 2013

BY WENDY SCHATZ LEEDS,
P.A.G., CCA AGRONOMIST
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As producers looked out over their fields last summer, it was a disheartening visual to see the flattened bladder-like pods on many canola plants. This symptom was the result of a much higher than normal aster yellow infection. Many producers are wondering if this disease will be of concern again this year. I am going to do a bit of mythbusting to help explain what we may expect.

True or False? Aster Yellows can be spread by soil, air or wind. FALSE

Aster yellows is a really interesting disease. It is caused by a phytoplasma, a bacteria-like pathogen that needs living plant and insect hosts to survive, spread and reproduce. The phytoplasma cannot live outside a plant or outside an insect. On the prairies the main insect that is responsible for carrying this disease is the six-spotted leafhopper (*Macrosteles quadrilineatus*).

True or False? Leafhoppers get infected and pass infection quickly. FALSE

It takes a bit of time for the leafhopper to become infected and then to transmit the disease. A leafhopper has to feed on an infected plant (eight hours for 50 per cent success of infection) and then incubate the disease in its gut. The incubation period can take between 10-18 days. Then the infected leafhopper must feed on a healthy plant for a period of time (again eight hours for 50 per cent success of infection) to pass on the phytoplasma. It can then take two to six weeks for the symptoms to express in the plant. We do not see phytoplasma transmission through leafhopper eggs in our crops.

True or False? Leafhoppers can overwinter here. TRUE

There is some thought that the leaf hopper could overwinter here in a mild winter—quite similar to what we might expect with Diamond Back Moths. Populations would be very low if the leaf hopper did overwinter. Our biggest threat is from infected migratory leaf hoppers arriving on air currents from the south eastern and central United States. In the past, we could expect these southerly wind patterns to occur in early May. However the last decade we are seeing the patterns shift to winds coming in early April. This could potentially allow an earlier arrival of the leaf hoppers.

True or False? Phytoplasma can overwinter in plant roots. TRUE

Biennial and perennial weeds and crops



Leafhoppers that become infected with aster yellows and pass the infection on to healthy plants.

can serve as a reservoir for aster yellows phytoplasma. The disease can get moved deep into the roots. In the spring as the plant grows the phytoplasma will move up and be present to infect feeding leafhoppers.

True or False? Leafhoppers are a canola insect. FALSE

Leafhoppers feed on a variety of plants. Aster yellows can be found in canola, flax, camelina, cereals, herbs and spices, peas, chickpeas, sunflower,

alfalfa and bromegrass. The insect often prefers cereals over canola. Some research has shown three to seven times more leafhoppers in cereal fields than canola.

True or False? Spraying for the leafhoppers in canola will be economical. FALSE

There is no economic threshold for chemical control of leafhoppers in canola. Leafhoppers are mobile and will have different peaks of population within the crop. The

gain you would see on a one time insecticide application in canola is very unpredictable and would do little to control overall population levels.

WHAT TO EXPECT

So with some of the

leafhopper myths busted, what can we expect this coming crop production year? The general consensus is that we will see aster yellows again this summer. But the severity of the infection is the

unknown—here is why. In the past we have seen years of separation between major outbreaks—for example the last outbreak was in 2007. Spring winds are arriving earlier each year but if the winds are early, will they be carrying infected or non-infected leafhoppers? This year the leafhoppers were very highly infected with phytoplasma—will this occur again? Due to the higher than normal levels in our crops last summer there will be more reservoirs of the disease present. We could also see the odd overwintered adult, but most of you would agree we have not had a mild winter. I think this risk is very low.

So what can you as a proactive producer do for this disease prevention? One of the best management practices we can do this spring is to ensure that perennial weeds are controlled. This will reduce potential reservoir sites for infection. Also note that this disease is often present at low levels of infection in our canola fields. We may not see anywhere near the yield loss from this disease like we experienced this year. Have a great spring seeding season!

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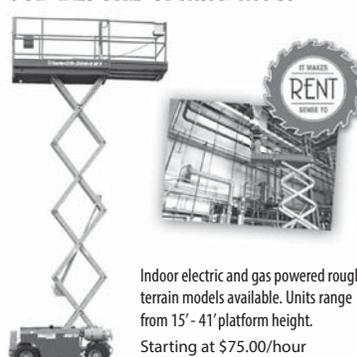
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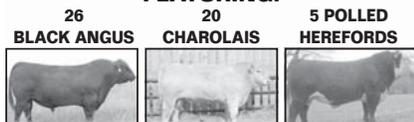
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Focus on Agriculture

Snow may impact spring seeding

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
Snow, snow and more snow. That has been the story for much of Saskatchewan this winter.

The amount of snow this season is well above average for this time of year, leaving many Saskatchewan citizens trampling through snow banks and constantly shoveling their walks.

A big reason for the accumulation is an early blizzard that swept the province in late October. This early storm was followed by steady snowfalls throughout winter. Some places, like Regina and Lloydminster, are already 40 cm over the average rate of snowfall. Regina typically reports 105 cm in a year. It is currently sitting at 125-150 cm, with two more months of winter still

to go. "The snow has just stuck around and piled up and up," said John Paul Cragg, warning preparedness meteorologist for Environmental Canada. "It's been around for a long time."

The abundant snow has left many Saskatchewan farmers worried that a quick melt will leave their fields under water when spring rolls around.

If Saskatchewan has cool nights and warm days this spring, the melting snow will infiltrate the soil, which would benefit crops. Flooding will only occur if the ground stays frozen and the snow melts quickly, leaving it nowhere to go but pool and create major seeding issues.

Kyle Heggie owns a 6,000 acre farm with his brother and father outside

Leross. His land is currently 30 cm over the average snowfall amount. Last year the family yielded a crop for the first time in three years because of previous flood waters. With all the snow this winter, the 2013 season looks grim, according to Heggie.

"We were just perfect going into freeze up and we figured a little snow cover would be all right but not this much. We'll have some issues again out seeding for sure," said Higgins, who now predicts a late May seeding because of the snow.

The threat of floods from snow waters varies from area to area across the province, according to Grant McLean, cropping management specialist for the Ministry of Agriculture.

"There are parts of the province where things were quite wet and that may be a hindrance to timing of their planting if they have large amounts of snow," said McLean.

"There's a concern about wet conditions in parts of the province (like) north of Prince Albert where they have had very wet conditions for three years. In the southern parts of the province, in most cases their snow only accounts for a modest amount of moisture," said McLean.

Miles Fuchs is a grain farmer near Fleming. He was devastated by the 2011 floods, but says those were due to high rain levels in

the spring, not melting snow. According to Fuchs, there are enough rivers, dug outs and reservoirs in the south east area for snow water to drain off.

"It's not the type of snow fall that's going to create an exceptional problem," said Fuchs. "The cold weather may be a forerunner of a more normal spring."

He does hold some concerns for his neighbors to the north.

"They have a tendency where it melts a little bit later and when it does, it melts quickly."

The Saskatchewan government announced recently that it will provide record coverage to the

Crop Insurance Program for 2013. The new budget will be a record \$198 million this year—nearly double what it was in 2007.

The boost in funding is due to the increase in crop prices, not a prediction of weather or seeding times.

Despite being dumped on by nearly 150 cm of snow, most farmers in the province are still optimistic that the snow will melt slowly and efficiently, according to McLean.

"For the most part, they welcome snow as long as it just doesn't melt quickly and run off," said McLean.

Farmers have until March 31 to apply for crop insurance.

High runoff expected

The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency has released the February forecast and first outlook of the spring runoff and with the snowfall received this winter, an above normal runoff is expected.

The last half of 2012 saw below normal rainfall which left most of the agricultural areas in Saskatchewan with relatively dry conditions going into the winter season. To date, there has been above normal winter precipitation and well above average water equivalent in the snowpack for this time of

year. If the precipitation conditions going forward remain the same as their historical averages, there will be an above average spring runoff this year.

The February forecast should be used as a general guide as local conditions may vary.

The full February forecast is available online at www.wsask.ca.

The Water Security Agency will be updating this forecast in March with the best available information.

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Focus on Agriculture

Increase in livestock cruelty cases this winter

The Saskatchewan SPCA is concerned with the increase in both the number and the severity of cases involving cattle and horses this winter.

There has been roughly a 76 per cent increase in cases involving horses, and an approximate 89 per cent increase in cattle case files this winter—Dec. 2012 to Feb. 2013—compared with the previous winter.

As well, the livestock cases have been more severe. In the winter of 2012/13, the Saskatchewan SPCA had a total of 11 Priority 1 files involving cattle and horses; in contrast, there were a total of two Priority 1 files for cattle and horses in the previous winter.

A Priority 1 case is one requiring immediate action by the Saskatchewan SPCA. These are cases involving dead or dying animals; animals without water, starving animals; or other situations where the life of the animal is at immediate risk.

This winter has been particularly challenging, with many areas of the province experiencing heavy snowfall and extended periods of extreme cold. The current high cost of feed is creating additional pressure for owners.

"Producers have an obligation to care for their animals, year-round, even when conditions are tough," says Kaley Pugh, manager of Animal Protection Services.

The Saskatchewan SPCA reminds producers to check on their cattle and



horses frequently throughout the winter in order to ensure they are maintaining an adequate body condition. Changes in feed and/or management may be required to protect animals from distress.

According to The Animal Protection Act, an animal is in distress if it is deprived of adequate food, water, care or shelter; injured, sick, in pain or suffering; or abused or neglected.

"The majority of Saskatchewan cattle producers and horse owners do a very good job caring for their animals," says Pugh. "That's why it's particularly disturbing when we encounter situations where animals have suffered

long-term neglect and are clearly in distress."

"If you are worried about animals that may

be suffering due to a lack of food, shelter, water or

care, please call our office as soon as possible to let us know about the situation: 1-877-382-7722. All calls are confidential."

Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Saskatchewan SPCA) is a charitable organization dedicated to animal welfare. Established in 1928, the Saskatchewan SPCA promotes the humane treatment of animals through education and prevention programs, and the responsible enforcement of animal protection legislation. Experienced Animal Protection Officers investigate reports of animal abuse or neglect, and work with owners to ensure the animals receive adequate care.

Saskatchewan SPCA is governed by a volunteer board of directors, with the head office located in Saskatoon.

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Spring 2013 Farm Equipment Auctions

APRIL 4 10AM Mel Friesen large grain and some potato farm auction, north of Assin

This auction is being conducted with Dave Nickel Auctions. Versatile tractors 2360, 835, 2210 t/wa, 276 Bi w/loader, Ford Genius 8770 t/wa, IH 1086, Jd 345 yard tractor, two highway tractors, Two sets of super 8 3 grain hopper trailers, two service body trucks, '08 Dodge dually, 10 tandem grain and live bottom trucks, 40-ton low bed 3-axle and other trailers, CIH 8010 & 2388 combines, '09 MF 9220 swather 488 hrs, 2011 Apache 100 ft. sprayer only 290 hrs, Two John Deere air seeders, and much more.

APRIL 18 10AM Craig Storey NE Darlington

1990 - CASE IH-9170, 4X4, 6750 hours, 855 A Cummins / BIG CAM, 12 speed powershift trans., 1997- CASE IH, 9370, 4X4, 6211 hours, N14 cummins, 24 speed, 1992 - CASE IH - 1680 combine, 2687 hours, cummins engine, 1015 P/U, MF - 220, 3/P swather, 1633 hours, 25ft., Ull-Pick-up Reel/Bourgault Air Seeder - 8800 cutt., 36ft., Roading Hitch, 2011 Fusion, 70ft., Heavy Harrow/Box 9'1/2" X 24" tires, 1980 HC - 2575, Semi-Truck-Day Cab, 3406 CAT Engine, this truck is safetied, 1992 - Load King, Load Handler 40ft. Grain trailer, this trailer is also safetied.

APRIL 11 11AM Large potato and grain farm Agri Tepper, Haywood MB

2004 New Holland TG285 MFWF Power shift, 4 remotes, 380/90R54 duals, on 36" spacing, 380/38" front, with dual rims no tires, Intellux computer auto steer, Front axle rebuilt at 3450 hrs total hrs 3694, serial # 31511, Two Thomas skid steer loaders, Kubota L4200 FWA, 3pth, 2290 hrs, Hesston model 180-90 Turbo, 3pth, 340 pto, two highway tractors, 7 tandem grain and live bottom trucks, Irrigation, Macdon 8140, 25 ft swather, etc.

APRIL 22 10AM Charbonneau, Allan and Annette NE of Manitou

Farm auction IH Tractors model, 1486, 15.86, 1086, 706 w/loader, case 4490 4x4, 1480 Combine, swathers Versatile 4400, 400, MF 885, and plow/s

APRIL 24 Baleja Farms

2009 JD 9430 4X4 475 hrs, 88 5603 FWA, Loader 370 hrs, Ford 8870 two, 1770 hrs, 2009 John Deere 9770 S15 combine, Bullet Rotor, fine cut chopper 615R Header with 3rd bell pickup, hopper loader, two sets of Concaves, 900/65/32 rice tires, 600 hrs, serial # 728924, John Deere 930 flex head with pickup reel, 2002 MacDon Harvest pro 8152 swather, 500/70 R24 tires, Wired for Outback auto-steer, power unit serial # 150002, only 850 hours, equipped with 972 Harvest header 30 ft with dual Reel and dual knife drive, 2005 Case IH 2388 Combine, Vin #HAJ 92443, Specialty Rotor, Rack Trap, 2006 Case IH model SPX 3185, 750 gal tonk, 90 ft Boom, two set of Nozzles, 320/90/P42 tires, Hyd. thread adjustment, wired for outback auto steer, only 400 hrs, 2003 Fleighliner Tandem grain truck, 60 series Detroit, 10 speed Ultra shift, - Concave 20 ft x 8.5 x 66" box, Roll Trap, MB Safetied, 1995 GMC Topkick tandem, 427 gas 5.8 2 transmission, 20 ft Midland box, roll tarp, this truck was purchased as demo unit and comes with 31000 one owner km, MB Safetied, Bourgault air seeder, 40 ft model 8810, w/ cart, etc

APRIL 9 10AM Terry and Doreen Rach SW of Morden

JD 8440 AND 3010 Tractors, 700 Versatile 4WD V8 Cummins Turbo with new inside tires 18.4 X 38 Approximately 6900 hours GMC/White Tandem Grain Truck, cat diesel, 20 x 8.5 66 Loadline box and hopst, Roll tarp, 3406 Cat B with 10 speed Fuller, 11 x 22.5 rubber on Aluminin Buds, Air Ride, Safety, JD 777 AIRSEEDER, CIH 1460 and 1680 combines.

APRIL 11 10AM Pinterits Farms north of Elle

2010 STEIGER QUAD TRAC 435, 1535 hrs, 30" tracks, diff, Locks, 2005 Challenger 2005 Challenger MT 465 B Front wheel assist, Serial # N 090020, creeper, left hand reverser, 3pth, 540, 750 & 1000 rpm Pto, with HD loader ML 96, 1999 John Deere 4700, High Clearance sprayer, 4 Wheel drive, 90 ft boom, cat Lexion combine on tracks and CIH 2388 COMBINES, Two Highway Tractors, various tractors, Two air seeders, 2007 Air Hoe Drill CIH ATX 700, 60 ft with H&K kit, with Dicky John Rate, 2009 Amity 40 ft Twin disc 44 run seed unit with 32 run Midrow Fertilizer

APRIL 13 10AM Fre-Mar Farms 3 west of Rosenort

JOHN Deere tractors, 9520T, 8520 FWA, 6430 FWA, Loader, and 2520 yard tractor, case 2390, antique JD AR, in H AND 1020, Case C, JD 9760 Combine, 936 Draper head etc, Trucks 2004 Mack tandem grain truck, 480 hp Mack, 13 tp, maxitorque Fuller, 1997 IH 9300 Eagle tandem grain truck, air ride suspension, 2010 Loadline full tandem all around 30 ft dual hopper grain trailer pup, and much more

APRIL 25 6PM Andrew Leyenhorst NW of Elm Creek

2000 John Deere 6310 MFWF, left hand reverser, Joy stick, with 640 quick tach loader, 7 ft Bucket, 3pth, Rops, 6430 hrs, 1980 John Deere 3140, new hydraulic pump, with 148 loader, and Bucket, independent loader valves, add on 3 pth, John Deere 510 Round boiler, Alfa Laval Agri 350 feed Mixer Wagon, pto with scale.

APRIL 27 10AM Rattai Brothers, James and Ellen NE of Beasejour

JD 8760 tractors 8760, 6420, 1830 with loader, CIH 7220 FWA, IH TD 6 Crowler, John Deere 9600 combine 1718 sep hrs CIH 2388 combine with 1780 sep hrs, 1998 Freight liner F180, Cat 3126 engine 300 hp, 6 speed automatic, Grate Truck only 44000 km and much more.

These are all partial listings. Please see our website for more info. Watch for our spring auction catalog in your farm mail by March 20.

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Focus on Agriculture

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1995 PREMIER 2900 30 FT



2008 JOHN DEERE 1830 61 FT w/1910 430 BUSHEL & 2010 PATTISON CB3200

AUCTION LOCATION: From GRENFELL, SK, go 8 km (5 miles) South on Grid 616, then 1.6 km (1 miles) West, then 0.8 km (0.5 miles) South. Yard on West side.

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2012 John Deere 9560R 4WD, 2011 Claas Lexion 7500T Combine, 1997 John Deere 9100 4WD, 2003 Case IH SPX3200 Patriot 90 FT Sprayer, 1995 Premier 2900 30 FT Swather, 2010 J&M 750 Grain Cart, 1996 Peterbilt 379 Truck Tractors, 2008 Castleton 3675A 36 Ft Grain Trailer, 2008 John Deere 1830 61 FT w/1910 430 Bushel Air Drill, 2010 Pattison CB3200 Air Tank, 1979 Kenworth W900 Grain Truck, 2010 Brandt 1390XL 13 In. x 90 ft Grain Auger, 2008 Degelman 7000 70 FT Harrows, 2009 Phillips 4505 45 Ft Rotary Harrows, Valmar 245 50 Ft Pull Type Fertilizer, Trucks, Trailers, Bins, Grain Dryers, GPS equipment, Tanks, Tires, Tools ...AND MUCH MORE!

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Sask continues to lead the nation in agri-food exports

Saskatchewan is Canada's top agri-food exporting province for the second year in a row.

For the first time ever, Saskatchewan exported more than \$11 billion in agri-food products in 2012, and remains the nation's top agri-food exporter. In total, Saskatchewan accounted for 23 per cent of Canada's agri-food exports in 2012.

"Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers continue to provide safe, reliable and high quality agri-food products here at home and around the world," Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said. "Our government continues to invest in areas such as market development and

research to create opportunities for our producers to increase our agriculture exports in the future."

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth includes a goal to increase agri-food exports to \$15 billion by 2020. The record \$11.1 billion in 2012 agri-food exports is an increase of nine per cent over 2011, and an increase of 75 per cent since 2007, representing a significant step in achieving this goal.

Agriculture continues to have a major impact on the province's economy, accounting for over one third of all provincial exports. Canola seed continues to be the top agri-food export at \$2.7 billion in 2012. Canola seed exports

have increased 25 per cent since last year and 215 per cent since 2007. Other top agri-food exports in 2012 included wheat (\$2 billion), canola oil (\$1.7 billion), durum (\$1.2 billion) and lentils (\$673 million).

"We have been able to expand opportunities for producers to grow existing and emerging markets like India and China thanks to several trade missions where agriculture featured prominently," Minister responsible for Trade Tim McMillan said. "We will continue our work to secure improved access and ensure Saskatchewan's agri-food exports benefit from the growing demand in these markets."

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Jeff Vanrobaeys Joins Precision Ag As Carnduff Branch Sales Manager

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Vanrobaeys has joined the Precision Ag team as Branch Sales Manager for the Carnduff and southeast area.

Jeff brings over 20 years experience in the ag industry. He most recently worked as a Customer Service Rep for southeast Saskatchewan. He has also worked as a manager at one of the largest independent ag retailers in Manitoba, and an agronomist for an aerial applicator. Jeff was a sales rep for several chemical companies and worked in ag research. He attended the University of Manitoba and is a Certified Crop Advisor. Jeff and his wife are also involved in the family farm operations in southwest Manitoba.

Jeff looks forward to an exciting season.

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'10 Morris Contour (47) 12" DS \$98,500	Kubota M16950 DT w/lr MFC \$19,500
'05 Morris Max II (7.5) Spacing, 49" w/8630 tank CALL	Allis Chalmers 170 w/lr 540/1000 pto \$6,000
John Deere 1810 (52) w/JD 340 Tank \$80,000	1985 IHC 5488 w/duals Consigned
Morris 49" Maxim 10" spacing w/7240 tank \$59,500	
John Deere 1820 (50) w/Case 2300 Tank \$49,500	
Morris 8900 w/harrows 27ft, 6130 tank \$12,900	
Morris 9000 w/harrows, 29ft, 7130 tank \$19,500	
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Morris 7130 A/S \$3,900	'08 Hesston 1372 Discbine \$21,000
SWATHERS & HEADERS	MISCELLANEOUS
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'11 Westward M105 w/30" D60 150 hrs \$110,000	Elmers Swather carrier \$4,000
'08 Case 1203 w/36" Honeybee \$78,500	30' bat reel \$500
'02 Westward 9352 c/w 30" 972, 766 Engine \$79,500	'88 Used Contour Boots, paired row CALL
22' Co-op 722 PUR Cab \$13,900	Schulte Hitch for XH1500 \$4,900
IHC 8820 (25) PUR w/14' Auger Header, 2600 hrs \$26,900	'06 Kawaski 3010 Mule trans 950 hrs \$5,900
Case 18ft Auger header \$18,500	Schulte SDX 960 3pt blower \$5,900
'87 Westward 7000 (30) w/inew PUR \$18,500	
'03 MacDon 922 14' \$15,900	
'04 MacDon 912 (14') Auger Hdr. \$13,900	
Versatile 4700 3000 hrs, PUR \$12,500	
1981 Co-op 550 (21) Bat reel, exc \$3,900	
LAWN & GARDEN	
JD LA150 w/mover/blower \$2,900	
'02 Deines 20hp, w/front mtd (72") 550 hrs \$6,500	

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Focus on Agriculture

Ten-year-old donates allowance to charity

BY SANDRA DUDYCH

Learning about global hunger prompts Saskatchewan children to give.

She may be only 10 years old, but Emily Onofreychuk already knows about caring for others who have less than her. She recently chose to donate her allowance to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"We raised \$147.10—the money came from mine and my brothers' allowances. Our mom added ten dollars every month to help us with our donation," a beaming Emily explains.

Emily, her older brothers William and Mark, and their mom and dad live on a beef and grain farm in the small town of MacNutt, Sask. They annually attend the Manitoba Ag Days show in Brandon in January, and always come by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank booth to say hello and learn about their current programs to end hunger.

This year, while at the trade show, Emily presented Manitoba Regional Coordinator Harold Penner with a smiling face coin bank that contained the siblings' donation for the Foodgrains Bank.

"We wanted to help people less fortunate than ourselves," says Emily adding, that she and



Emily Onofreychuk and her older brothers William and Mark with a sheet showing how much was donated from their allowances.

her brothers chose to support the Foodgrains Bank as a way to share with others. "It has been fun to collect our allowances to raise money to help those who are hungry in other countries," she says.

Emily's mother Barbara says that teaching about global hunger has been an important message for her and her husband Peter to pass on to their children.

"We want our children to look outside of our world and learn about others who have less than we do. We believe in the good work being done by the Foodgrains Bank and as a family wanted to support it."

To help her children learn about the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Barbara says she uses global hunger resources that are available on the Foodgrains Bank website.

"The resources have been very helpful to expand their learning. The idea of raising money for the Foodgrains Bank came as a result of our children studying global hunger."

The Onofreychuk parents are visibly pleased with their children's generosity. "We are very proud of our children who thought beyond themselves and wanted to raise funds for the Foodgrains Bank," she says.

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Focus on Agriculture

Clubroot confirmed in Manitoba soil samples

A plant pathologist with Manitoba Agriculture says the confirmation of clubroot should serve as a warning for canola growers.

The provincial government department has confirmed that soil samples from six unrelated fields in the 2012 canola disease survey contained clubroot DNA, with samples from two fields producing clubroot symptoms on highly susceptible plants in a greenhouse setting.

Holly Derksen explains the 2012 test results are considered positive cases of clubroot.

The main clubroot prevention practices include removal of soil from field equipment, the use of disease-resistant varieties, and proper crop rotation.

Derksen notes unlike in Alberta, where the disease is well-established in some areas, crop rotation will still help in preventing the disease.

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3:1c



Focus on Agriculture

Manitoba's risk of flooding low this spring

By STEVE LAMBERT
THE CANADIAN PRESS
Most Manitobans should be able to breathe easy this year as the province gears up for its annual fight against flooding.

The provincial government says low soil moisture levels mean there is only a small risk of substantial flooding along major riverways.

Even if bad storms develop, "our outlook at the moment does not call for major or record flooding," Phillip Mutulu, chief flood forecaster, said Wednesday in the first outlook of the year.

As usual, much depends on the weather over the next several weeks: how quickly the snow melts, whether major dumps of snow or rain occur at the same time as the melt and whether unpredictable ice jams develop.

Flood preparations are

an annual ritual in Manitoba, where melt water comes from as far away as Alberta and South Dakota. In 2011—one of the worst years on record—thousands of people were forced from swamped houses and cottages along the Assiniboine River, Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. Many First Nations residents have not returned to their homes.

The cost of flood-fighting, repairs and compensation reached \$1.2 billion.

Last year was an entirely different story as low snowfall and nice weather made flooding a non-event.

The province has an array of weapons designed to keep water flowing smoothly along. Three amphibious icebreakers are used to break up rivers. There are dikes built around many smaller communities and diversion channels move water around larger cities. Winnipeg is protected

by the Red River Floodway—a 47-kilometre long channel that diverts water around the city to the east and north.

Even in good years, some farmland and roads end up under water and some small communities are evacuated as a precaution. That is expected this year as well.

"It could be road closures, it could be in terms of evacuations, and again, that could range to a much higher impact . . . if we have major storms," said Steve Ashton, the province's emergency measures minister.

The biggest concern is around The Pas in northern Manitoba, where soil moisture is above average. Agricultural land in the area is expected to be flooded.

The province is scheduled to provide an updated flood forecast at the end of March.



Ready to go

Children get ready to take a ride in a historic snowplane at the Moosomin Regional Museum's annual snowplane meet held on Sunday, March 3. See page 18 for more photos from the meet.

HayEast hopes to continue

CP—A program to deliver hay from the Prairies to drought-stricken parts of Ontario has run out of federal money but officials hope to continue with private donations.

The final figures are not in yet, but HayEast estimates the federal and Ontario governments to-

gether contributed about \$1 million to help cover the cost of transporting hay to livestock producers.

Farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan were hoping to supply up to 50,000 bales of hay to central Canada.

A drought last summer

devastated crops and pastures in parts of Ontario.

Mark Wales, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, says they are grateful for the help.

Some corporations and people across the country also donated cash to help support the volunteer-run program.

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Rorketon, MB

Fred & Edith Taylor · April 11

Winnipeg, MB

Ryan Farms · April 12

Dysart, SK

Norbert Kirsch
& Roger Miller · April 13

Earl Grey, SK

Sterling & Sherry Hall · April 15

Sintaluta, SK

Lyle Partridge · April 16

Grenfell, SK

Terry & Lynne Reeve · April 17

Dysart, SK

Robert & Carole Atkinson · April 18

Ituna, SK

Rudy & Bev Lekach · April 19

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Ken & Bernadette
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Kowdrysh · April 24



APRIL 5
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Cadet dragoons visit CFB Shilo

Friday, Feb. 22 saw a strong detachment of Cadet Dragoons go to Canadian Forces Base Shilo for their Winter Field Training Exercise. At Shilo, they met up with the Brandon and Shilo Artillery Cadets and did a joint exercise. The exercise was hosted by Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps No. 2520. The Cadets stayed at Shilo until Sunday, Feb. 24.

During the weekend the Cadets did a number of training exercises, from survival knowledge to sports. The Cadets were broken into two groups—the Green and Red Star Cadets were one group with

the other being the Silver and Gold Star Cadets.

The Silver and Gold Star Cadets learned how to pack a toboggan, light lanterns, stoves, snowshoe, set up a winter tent, and how to dress for extreme temperatures. Saturday night saw them go on a snowshoe trek and spend the night in a winter tent. No one suffered any cold injuries. The Cadets were outfitted with Forces' winter footwear.

Both groups and the staff used Individual Meal Packs for food and had access to both cold and hot refreshments. There was no lack of food for the teenagers.

The Green and Red Star

Cadets learned about survival and communications plus did sports. On Saturday afternoon they went and toured the facilities and equipment used by the First Regiment of Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1RCHA). It was an excellent tour. The 1RCHA also gave them the experience of riding in a Light Armoured Vehicle III. Several members of the 1RCHA gave up their Saturday afternoon to inform the Cadets of what they do as a Canadian Forces Gunner.

There were eight staff from No. 2520RCACC and No. 2528RCACC looking after the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. Also present was the Area Cadet Officer from Regina. From the Dragoons were the Cadet Liaison Officer from CFB Shilo and one Cadet Instructor Cadre officer (Charlie Oscar).



Above left: Cadet Dragoons D. Judd and A. Hooper are seen here taking a fix on a CFB Shilo landmark. The Green and Red Star Cadets had a map and compass theory lesson, then outside for the practical application.



Above: XII Manitoba Dragoon Cadets T. Wiltsey and T. Gibbert are seen here checking out a stove they and the others are taking on an overnight snowshoe hike at CFB Shilo. The Silver and Gold Star Cadets tested the lanterns and stove before setting out on a snow trek.

Below: Artillery and Armour Cadets are seen heading out to the deep snow for their overnight camp out. They were equipped with Arctic footwear and snowshoes. They carried packs and other gear in push pull toboggans. There were no cold injuries, but a lot of tired cadets when they returned from the now trek on Sunday. These were Silver and Gold Star Cadets from Virden, Brandon and Shilo.



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Flying across the prairie

The Moosomin Regional Museum held their annual snowplane meet on March 3 with snowplane enthusiasts bringing their historic machines to display to the public and offer rides.

A few hundred people came out to see the machines and ride across the open field in them.

Top left: A tracked Bombardier that would haul up to 18 kids to school.

Top right: A Fudge Snowplane at the 2013 snowplane rally. Fudge snowplanes were manufactured in Moosomin by Fudge Industries.



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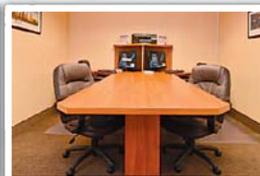


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Sask has lowest unemployment rate in Canada

Saskatchewan had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada in February 2013, at 3.8 per cent (seasonally adjusted), the lowest since November 2008 when it was 3.7 per cent and well below the national rate of 7.0 per cent.

Job numbers continued to climb in February, up 24,600 to 546,200 jobs, the most ever for the month of February (seasonally unadjusted). Jobs were up by 4.7 per cent in February 2013

over last February, the second-highest among Canadian provinces.

"So far 2013 is looking like another outstanding year for the Saskatchewan economy with job increases leading the way," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. "Growing job numbers is all part of the plan to grow our economy, and we will continue with initiatives that will make sure people of our province are able to fill those opportunities."

Full-time employment was up by 21,400 and part-time jobs increased by 3,000 on a year-over-year basis.

Other highlights include:

- In February, Regina's unemployment rate was 3.7 per cent, down from 4.1 per cent in January and from 4.4 per cent a year ago. Saskatoon's unemployment rate was 4.7 per cent, down from 5.3 per cent in January 2013, and down from 6.0 per cent a year ago. Re-

gina had the lowest unemployment rate among major Canadian cities, and Saskatoon had the fourth lowest.

- The youth unemployment rate was 9.2 per

cent, the lowest among the provinces and below the national rate of 13.6 per cent.

- Regina's employment was up by 6,500 (5.3 per cent) and Sas-

katoon's employment was up by 9,200 (6.3 per cent).

- Off-reserve Aboriginal employment was up by 800 from February last year (2.0 per cent).

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4X4, 6.2L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, GAT UD7 AP3 18"ALUM, HTD LTHR PDD PDF JF4, RED, 36,000 KMS
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4X4, 5.3L V8, KB6, LTHR BUCKETS, CF5 UVC UD7, NAV, AP3, 20"ALUM, BK1 JL1, WHITE DIAMOND, 25,230 KMS
STOCK# 13214A
WAS: \$45,995 NOW: \$44,995</p> | <p>2010 GMC K1500 SLE EXT
4X4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, PDD PCM AP3 17"ALUM PDF JL1, BLACK, 52,040 KMS
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STOCK# 13246A
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Delegation seeks employees in Ireland

A delegation of Saskatchewan employers headed to Ireland to recruit high-skilled workers to this province. The Ministry of the Economy and 13 employers attend the Working Abroad Expo in Dublin March 2 and 3, Cork on March 6, and some also exhibited in Manchester, United Kingdom March 9 and 10. More than 10,000 qualified candidates in fields including trades, engineering and health sciences were expected to attend the fairs.

"There is significant labour mobility in Ireland and a high unemployment rate," Economy Minister Bill Boyd said. People are looking for jobs and Saskatchewan has a labour shortage. It's a perfect opportunity for us to fill critical, high-skilled positions that have not been successfully filled by recruitment initiatives in Canada."

Saskatchewan welcomed more than 290 Irish families to the province following the 2012 recruitment mission to Ireland. Based on last year's success, employers expressed interest in returning to that country hoping to recruit at least 80 high-skilled workers this year, for positions such as heavy duty mechanics, welders, engineers and machinists among other occupations. Saskatchewan's labour shortage is a major barrier to

economic growth for industry, small business and communities. Saskatchewan is forecast to need between 75,000 to 90,000 new workers in the next five years.



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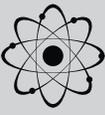
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Sask Sport grants help disabled athletes

BY JONATHAN HAMELIN

Sporting a jersey with "Avengers" blazed across it, Bryson Bolianatz is a force to be reckoned with as he flies down the ice at the Clarence Mahon Arena in Regina.

"I score a lot of goals," says a smiling Bolianatz, a 12-year-old Regina product. Even when he's not scoring goals, there will likely be a smile plastered on his face when it's time to play sledge hockey. Bolianatz is a member of the Avengers sledge hockey team. The Regina-based squad currently has 10 committed players of all ages and abilities.

Bolianatz was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair or walker to get around. Growing up, he always watched his twin brother Tanner playing hockey and wanted to join in. The brothers are now teammates on the Avengers—a team name, Bryson says, he thought of after watching Marvel's The Avengers.

"It's an opportunity for me to play hockey, plus I get to play with some of my friends and my brother," says Bryson, who also plays wheelchair basketball. One day, he hopes to follow in the

footsteps of his idol Billy Bridges, a star Canadian sledge hockey and wheelchair basketball athlete, and represent his country at the Paralympics.

"It's pretty easy once you try it a few times," Bryson continues. "Balancing isn't that hard and other than that it's just like normal hockey."

Sledge hockey has nearly identical rules and concepts as hockey. Instead of skating standing up, participants sit on their skates in an adaptive device called a sled. The sled has two skate blades and a runner in front to form a tripod. Finally, instead of using one stick, sledge hockey athletes use two shortened ones. Each stick has a blade on one end and a pick on the other to help athletes propel themselves across the ice.

Bryson and Tanner's parents, Bobbi and Rick, were the guiding forces in getting this sledge hockey team off the ground. There were already sledge hockey teams in Kindersley and Bruno, but the distance was too great for the family, who lives on an acreage outside of Pilot Butte.

Continued on Page 24



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Sask Sport grants help disabled athletes get in the game

Continued from page 23

Bobbi and Rick soon learned that the process of forming a sledge hockey team would be a costly affair. To that end, they applied for and received numerous grants. Two of these grants, totalling \$16,150, came from Saskatchewan Sport Inc. as part of its adaptive sport grants program, helping the parents purchase sledge hockey sledges and stick sets and assisting them with rental fees, coaching costs, training, etc. The financial support allowed the Avengers to begin practicing in the fall of 2012.

"If they wouldn't have had this grant, we couldn't have done it," Bobbi said. "The physical fitness people with disabilities can get is really limited, so it's great for them to be able to get out there, meet other kids with disabilities and play with able-bodied kids."

Rick is the team's main coach and Curtis Hunt, former coach of the Western Hockey League's Regina Pats and assistant coach of the Canadian men's sledge hockey team, is one of the other coaches who lend a hand. There is currently no league for the Avengers to compete in. For now, their practices—Sundays, 1:15-2:15 p.m. at the Mahon—are the main time when they come together to work on their technique and scrimmage.

But thanks to the grant, it's a promising start for the province's sledge hockey movement, which now also includes a new team in Saskatoon/Martensville.

According to Michelle Dezell, manager of athlete services for Sask. Sport and Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, that's exactly the point of the adaptive grant programs—to get leagues started up and promote physical activity.

"It's just an opportunity to enhance some of the good work that's being done by our provincial sport governing bodies," Dezell said.

In 2011, the adaptive sport equipment and club development grants were introduced in Saskatchewan, allowing provincial sports clubs to purchase specialized equipment and aiding those who want to form a new team for people with disabilities. Through financial contributions from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, \$150,000 is available each year to be allocated between the two grants.

The deadlines to apply are April 15 and Oct. 15 each year.

A total of \$289,702 has been distributed through the grants since the fall of 2011, showing that disabled athletes want to get active and have the right programs in place. Since only three per cent of Canadians with a disability are involved in organized sport, according to a 2001 Statistics Canada survey, and Saskatchewan has the second highest rate in Canada of people who live with a disability at 14.5 per cent, it would seem to be a positive step forward.

"The feedback has been very positive," Dezell said. "If



Bryson Bolianatz is a member of the Avengers sledge hockey team in Regina, one program which has benefited from the Sask Sport adaptive grants.

we can involve kids as participants, coaches, volunteers—people with disabilities will engage in the social community as well as the physical activity community and really that's the benefit of sport: social engagement, happier, more confident individuals and healthier individuals."

Jeff Whiting, a provincial coach with the Saskatchewan Ski Association's disabled skiing program, has seen the benefit sport can have for athletes with disabilities.

"Over the years we've seen that a lot of athletes develop better social skills and by being physically active they have less sickness and are stronger," Whiting said. "They're able to do transfers a lot easier—getting in and

out of the bathtub or getting in and out of vehicles."

Over the last couple of years, there has been a movement to develop a stronger para-nordic skiing presence in the province. Para-nordic skiing includes cross-country skiing and biathlon for people with a physical/intellectual impairment as defined by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The movement has been aided by \$6,610 from the adaptive sport grants. Using a portion of this money, Sask Ski was able to bring in Saskatoon's Colette Bourgonje as an instructor. Bourgonje is a world champion sit-skier and has won numerous Paralympic medals.

"She's got a good track record and she's able to go into an audience with a whole bunch of medals and say, 'Look what I can do,'" Whiting said. "Having that know face as part of the program—she has a street named after her (Bourgonje Crescent)—makes a difference."

Bourgonje, 51, was happy to offer her expertise. After all, she has achieved a lot thanks to the sport. She who grew up in Porcupine Plain and was an established cross-country runner before a car accident in 1980 left her paralysed at the mid-back level. Soon, she began competing and excelling at sit-ski. In 2010 she earned a Canadian Disability Hall of Fame nod.

"What [sit skiing] really helped me to do was continue down the path that I was going in an able-bodied life," Bourgonje said. "Cross-country skiing has given me the same satisfaction and even more than I'd already found with cross-country running. It's opened many doors and I've met many wonderful people from across the world in various countries."

"I've skied in a cross-country tunnel in Finland; I skied for eight summers in New Zealand on top of a mountain; I've had experiences that have been totally amazing. It's definitely opened many doors in my life and finding some future national team members that can have that same experience is really what I'm hoping can happen."

So far, the efforts seem to be working. Training sessions in the province now often draw 15 to 20 athletes.

"What's inspiring most of all is introducing the sport to people that didn't know they could get equipment in Saskatchewan," Bourgonje said. "I think that's really awesome."

"They try it and say, 'Wow this is great. I really enjoy it.' From what I've seen, it can absolutely increase their quality of life."

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Saskatchewan on track for balanced budget

Over the first three quarters of this fiscal year, Saskatchewan has remained the only province in Canada on track for a balanced budget.

The government's Third Quarter Financial Report, released last week, projects the province will finish 2012-13 with a pre-transfer surplus of \$8.8 million in its General Revenue Fund (GRF).

"Given the current world economy, preserving a balanced budget is challenging," Finance Minister Ken Krawetz said.

"While Saskatchewan's economy is strong, resource revenue is down because of falling prices. This decline is offset somewhat by record investment and revenue from a growing tax base, which has expanded thanks to higher employment and population growth."

General Revenue Fund expense is now projected to finish

the year at \$11.39 billion—up \$190.4 million or 1.7 per cent from budget, largely due to higher than expected usage of certain government services and unforeseen weather events, like flooding.

- The increases include:
- \$40 million for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (up \$110 million in total over budget);
 - \$51 million for Teachers' pensions and benefits;
 - \$47 million for AgriStability, AgriInvest and Crop Insurance;
 - \$10 million for snow removal and ice control on provincial highways;
 - \$10 million for increased use of the Research and Development Tax Credit in the 2011 tax year;
 - \$7 million for increased use of court services, corrections and prosecutions; and
 - \$4 million for increased use of the Graduate Retention Program.

"These expenses have been offset by expense management savings identified at mid-year and by an increased dividend from Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC)," Krawetz said.

"At budget, we expected the Crowns to generate 2012

net income of \$346.5 million and that CIC would provide a dividend to the GRF equal to about 90 per cent of this net income, excluding the net income of SaskPower, allowing the corporation to address its long-term infrastructure requirements."

In 2012, CIC Crowns, excluding SaskPower, generated net income of about \$135 million more than expected at budget time. About 90 per cent of this increase—\$120 million—will be provided to the GRF.

GRF revenue is now projected to finish the year at \$11.40 billion – up \$104.2 million or 0.9 per cent from budget, largely due to higher than expected tax revenue and the increased CIC dividend.

Government general public debt is forecast to be \$3.8 billion at the end of 2012-13, unchanged from budget and from the end of the previous fiscal year.

The province's Growth and Financial Security Fund is now forecast to finish 2012-13 with a balance of \$662.7 million.

"Fiscal responsibility continues to be our foundation," Krawetz said. "Given the volatility of world markets and unforeseen circumstances, we are pleased to be able to maintain a balanced budget."



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Organized by students: Fundraiser planned for Whelpton family

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
When word spread among a group of Moosomin and Rocanville students a week ago that a friend's father had been diagnosed with cancer, the students wasted no time in figuring out what they could do to help, and getting down to work.

On Feb. 27, Kevin Whelpton of Moosomin was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

The students found out about the diagnosis Sunday.

By the end of the week, they had fundraising plans in place, including a benefit hockey game, a supper, a silent auction, a 50-50 draw, and t-shirt sales.

The supper and hockey game are set for Friday, March 22.

Maddi Reed of Rocanville is one of the organizers. "Steven (Whelpton) was texting me about his dad," she explains. "He told me he had gotten sick. I was texting Caleb Riess and Dawson Davidson. We decided we should do a hockey game, and from there it just grew.

"I contacted Mike Schwean and he donated the ice time and I contacted Paul Stapleton and he said the Senior Rangers would be willing to come play. Dan Davidson is the coach of the Melville Bantam AA hockey team. He was very helpful—he said said yes, Melville would be there playing."

The kids have got their parents involved. "The parents all stepped up," says Maddi. "Caleb's mom, my mom, Austin Johnston's mom and others all stepped up."

Before the hockey game



Fundraiser organizers

These young people from Moosomin and Rocanville are organizing a fundraiser for Moosomin's Kevin Whelpton family. Kevin was recently diagnosed with cancer, and these students decided to organize a fundraiser for the family. From left are Dawson Davidson, Austin Johnston, Caleb Riess, Maddi Reed, and Paige Hutchinson. Missing is Ashley Simon, who is also helping to organize the event.

there will be a roast beef supper at Moosomin Baptist Church, with sittings at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30.

The church is providing salads and dessert, and the youth group will be serving the meal.

The Moosomin Generals are organizing a silent auction. "I called Jason Schenn, and he said they would help," says Maddi.

"Jocelyn Willms will be organizing it, she will be the contact person for any silent auction items anyone wants to give. The items can be left at MNP, and they will be on display at the Co-op before the fundraiser, to give people a chance to bid."

And that's not all the students have planned.

"We ordered t-shirts," Maddi adds. "They are going to be here sometime next week. They say 'We Believe in the Power

of Prayer' and they have the cancer symbol underneath. People can have them for a \$20 minimum donation.

"Austin Johnston, Jayce Woods, Dawson Davidson, Drayson Skulmoski and Tom Kerkhoff are going to be selling them at McNaughton, and Paige Hutchinson, Caleb Riess and myself are going to be selling them in Rocanville School.

The t-shirts will also be available for purchase at the supper and hockey game, and at the Baptist Church.

The students are also organizing a progressive 50/50 draw, with the tickets sold in advance and the draw made on the night of the game. Maddi

says Barb McGonigal has offered to split concession earnings at the rink that night. Admission to the game will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for those 10 and under.

Supper tickets are \$15 apiece and will be available in advance only.

There will be only 100 tickets sold for each sitting.

Maddi says plans for the fundraiser have come together quickly because people have been willing to help.

"Everyone is really helpful," she says. "What I keep hearing is 'if you need anything else, let me know.'"

Why is she putting time into the fundraiser?

"Stephen is a really

good friend of mine," she says. "We went to youth group together. He's a really nice person. The Whelptons are a really great family, Stephen is a good friend to everyone. They are always trying to help people. They're always there when you need them. We thought we would lend a hand back."

Caleb Riess of Rocanville is another of Stephen's friends who is helping with the fundraiser. He went to church with him, went to youth group with him, and played hockey with him.

"I think it's a good thing

to do to help someone out," Caleb says. "If you have a problem, they'll help you out."

Austin Johnston of Moosomin is also a friend helping with the fundraiser. He played hockey with him and went to church with him.

"I'm friends with Steven and they're the kind of people, they're there as soon as you need them," he says. "I'm just trying to do the same for them."

Paige Hutchinson of Rocanville is helping with the fundraiser as well.

"I went to youth with Maddi because she invited me to go and I met Stephen there," Paige says.

"I only know them a little, but I want to help because things like this bring people together. You can help people."

Dawson Davidson of Moosomin is also helping with the fundraising effort.

"I want to help because my grandpa died of cancer and I know it's pretty hard to deal with something like that," he says.

"Stephen's a friend of mine. He's in my grade, he's been in my class a few times, we've been on the same hockey team, we've always been friends. I've known him throughout my whole life, his dad would do renovation projects, would come and renovate our house.

"We've already had two people in our class lose their fathers to cancer."

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Plans coming together for Wawota Relay For Life

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Plans are kicking into high gear for Wawota's Relay for Life coming up June 15 at the Wawota Forum.

Wawota's event is the only one for a large area of southeast Saskatchewan this year, and organizers hope to attract teams from around the region.

The event kickoff is coming up Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Wawota School.

Organizer Kristen Murray said there are a lot of questions about Relay—questions she hopes to answer with the kickoff event.

"It is going to be an information night," she said. "I assume people know everything about Relay For Life but I'm wrong, I've been in seven of them, so I know about them, but a lot of people have questions. "Our staff partner from the cancer society will come and do a presentation on what Relay For Life is, and each of our chairs will make a presentation. We will have tables set up—survivors can sign up, sponsors can sign up, teams can sign up."

Wawota's Relay For Life has five teams signed up so far—all from Wawota itself. Organizers are hoping to attract teams from the surrounding area as well.

Wawota has 20 people on the organizing committee and they are hoping to get 175 volunteers, 30 teams, and 75 survivors involved with the event, and raise \$50,000.

Murray says it was easy to pull together the organizing committee. "It was very easy to get people to commit," she said. "When we had our first meeting, we had over 25 people there. It makes it very easy when we have that kind of support from the community."

There is a lot of talk about the relay around Wawota.

"We have had a lot of people say they're planning to put together a team," she said. "I think there's a lot of interest, but there are a lot of questions, too, which is why we made our kickoff event like an information night. We want people to understand what Relay is all about."

Kristen and Shawn Murray had the idea of hosting Relay in Wawota because no other relays were planned for southeast Saskatchewan this year.

"There's usually been one in the south-



A scene from a Relay for Life event. Wawota will host a Relay For Life on June 15 at the Wawota Forum. To avoid weather issues, the event will be indoors at the Wawota Forum. A kickoff event for Wawota's Relay For Life is coming up Monday, March 4 to help explain what Relay is all about.

east," Kristen says. "Moosomin has done it twice, Carnduff and Whitewood have had them, and the last one was in Redvers two years ago.

"Last year there wasn't one. We had been asked by the Cancer Society to run one, and we thought this was the year we wanted to do it."

Murray has personal reasons for being involved in Relay For Life.

"I have been diagnosed with leukemia, and I participate in Relay For Life so no one has to go through what I had to go through with cancer," she says.

"It's the Canadian Cancer Society's biggest fundraiser and it gets the word out there about what's available for people with cancer. I've had cancer and didn't realize everything that's out there.

"There's a lot available, and Relay For

Life helps fund those programs. Of the money raised, 94 cents from every dollar stays in the province."

Wawota's Relay committee is looking for volunteers, sponsors, and teams to make the event a success.

The track will be set up inside the Wawota Forum, and weather permitting will continue outside as well.

"They did it indoors at Redvers, and had a table for each team at the rink," Murray says. "Doing it indoors saves a lot of money—you don't have to rent those big tents, and here in Wawota, we have use of the rink for free. We're going to try to do tent sites within the rink, and will have tent sites outside as well—that way people can decorate their tent sites, which is one of the fun things about Relay."

Relay For Life is a massive fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The event takes place in communities across the country. Participants form relay teams, raise money through pledges, and spend 12 hours—usually overnight—walking or running around a track.

Every Relay For Life event includes a luminary ceremony, in which luminaries are lit in memory of those who have lost their battle with cancer.

In 2011, across Canada nearly 39,000 people volunteered at Relay events, and 16,000 team captains and 162,000 participants raised \$55 million in support of the Canadian Cancer Society.

The cancer society set a goal of \$58 million for 2012 and \$60 million in 2013.

In Saskatchewan alone last year, 2,092 participants participated in the survivors' laps at the 23 Relay events, 6,521 participants took part, 18,525 luminaries were lit, and 2,380 volunteers ran the events.

Saskatchewan relays raised \$2.4 million for the Cancer Society last year.

Relay For Life is more than just a fundraiser, however.

It is an opportunity to get together with family and friends and celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and fight back in the hope of finding a cure for cancer.

The three main elements of a Relay For Life event are:

Celebrating the lives of people who have battled cancer.

Cancer survivors join together at Relay For Life to walk the Survivors' Victory Lap—the first lap of the event. Their strength and courage gives hope to others.

Remembering loved ones lost to the disease.

At Relay For Life, luminaries are lit during a ceremony at dusk. Their light pays tribute to loved ones and provides inspiration to participants all night long.

Fighting back against cancer.

Participants take part in Relay because they have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease. It's an opportunity for participants to make a personal contribution and fight back against the disease.



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