

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Russ Howard spends the day in Maryfield

BY KARA KINNA

People in Maryfield were treated to a rare opportunity to spend time with, and meet and greet championship curler and Olympic gold medalist Russ Howard last Thursday.

Howard spent the day in Maryfield after the village was one of two communities in all of Canada to win a competition to have Howard come to their community.

The "Any town, Anywhere in Canada" contest asked curling clubs big and small across Canada to demonstrate how they would benefit from a day with Howard.

Maryfield put a submission together and won the contest, along with Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The village had an event-filled day planned for Howard last Thursday.

The day started with a pancake breakfast in the morning, followed by a visit to Maryfield School and lunch at the Arlington.

In the afternoon, Howard held a clinic and a four-end game with junior curlers, followed by an adult curling game with him.

The day wrapped up with a social hour at the Maryfield auditorium, followed by supper, a program in which Howard gave a speech, and final visiting and photos afterward.

While in Maryfield, Howard also autographed copies of his book "Curl To Win."

People from around the area drove to Maryfield to meet Howard over the course of the day.

Howard has been to the Brier 14 times, and has a record of 107 Brier wins, twice winning the title.

He is also a two-time world champion, winning in 1987 and 1993. He has also participated in two Canadian Mixed Curling Championships.

In 2005, he called the shots for Brad Gushue's



Top photo: Russ Howard demonstrates to a group of youth the proper way to grip the handle of a curling rock.

Above: Howard helps a young curler correct his sliding technique.

Right: Howard smiles as he watches curlers during a curling clinic.

team at the Canadian Olympic Trials, while he played second. Howard, along with Gushue, lead them the right to represent Canada at the 2006 Winter Olympics, where they won the gold medal, defeating Finland 10-4 in the final match. The gold medal was the first time that a Canadian team had won the gold medal for men's curling.

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Championship curler Russ Howard (far right) gives advice to a youth team during a game at the Maryfield curling rink. Howard was in Maryfield all day last Thursday, and spent part of that day holding sessions for youth and adults.

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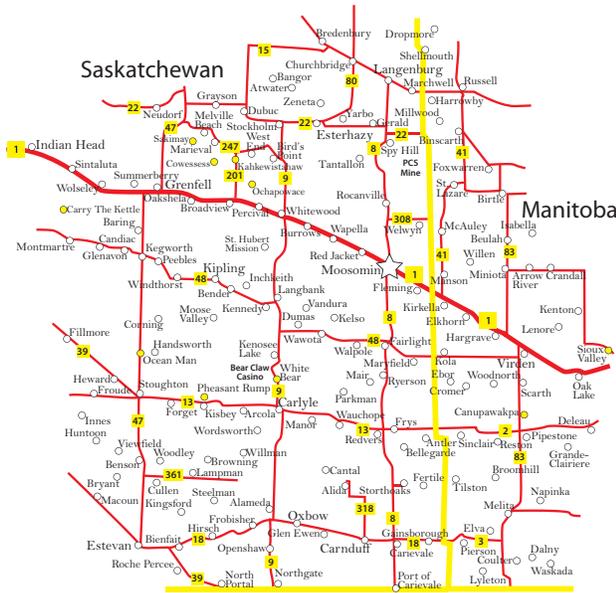
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Holloway Monarchs' Man of the Year

The Manchester Monarchs have announced right wing Bud Holloway has been named the team's winner of the IOA/American Specialty AHL Man of the Year award for his outstanding contributions to the Manchester community during the 2010-11 season.

Holloway grew up in Wapella, where his talent began to show in minor hockey early on.

Now in his third year with the Monarchs, he has become a fan favorite during his stint in Manchester.

Always one of the first members of the team to volunteer his services for the greater good of the community, Holloway takes pride in his community endeavors, always putting on a smile and willing to go the extra mile for those in need, according to the club. He enjoys talking about the Monarchs, hockey in general, and bringing fans into his world as a professional athlete.

Holloway is a huge advocate for the Monarchs Winning With Wellness program. This program allows kids to interact with players in an educational setting. It is geared toward both elementary school and middle school children and features Monarchs players visiting schools throughout southern New Hampshire to discuss the importance of living and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through a proper diet and exercise. Holloway jumps at the opportunity to go to local schools and speak with the children on a more personal level and share his story with them.



Bud Holloway in action with the Manchester Monarchs.

Kimberly Mueller, the Monarchs Vice President of Public Affairs, describes Holloway as the "text-book role model for our organization. His ability and desire to speak with children of all ages about reading or physical fitness through the many Monarchs Care Foundation programs is remarkable.

"He is able to effectively communicate the importance of reading, eating healthy and staying drug free - all values which Holloway speaks genuinely and candidly about to children," said Mueller.

In addition to the Monarchs Winning With Well-

ness program, Holloway has also participated in the Monarchs' annual Kids Club Party and Ticket Package Holder Meet and Greets, local DARE programs, the Read Across America program, youth hockey practices and the Monarchs Care Foundation's At Your Service Dinner.

He also opens up his world to the Monarchs fans by contributing to both a personal blog as well as Bud Vision, a video segment in which Holloway carries a High-Definition Flip Camera around with him and interviews teammates, giv-

ing fans a glimpse of life in the locker room.

According to the club, Holloway is very hospitable when it comes to post-game meet-and-greets as he makes some of the youngest fans feel comfortable in the unfamiliar territory of the locker room.

The Monarchs right wing also headlined a trip to Children's Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD), making a stop along the way to visit David's House, a place where families of children getting treatment at CHaD can relax and have a place to stay while visiting their child. In ad-

dition, Holloway fulfilled a special request from a local hockey team, stopping by to visit them at a local banquet prior to their

playoff run. Following the inspirational speech that he gave, along with one of his teammates, the youngsters have won their local playoff games and are now on their way to Nationals.

"Holloway is always one of the first players to volunteer his services, and it does not go unnoticed from top to bottom in the organization," said Mueller. "His ability to communicate effectively with youth makes them feel comfortable, allowing him to convey important messages with ease. His enthusiasm and energy is contagious and students are able to take that positive influence into their daily lives." Holloway is now one of 30 finalists for the AHL's 2010-11 Yanick Dupre Memorial Award, honoring the overall IOA/American Specialty AHL Man of the Year. The league award is named after the former Hershey Bears forward and AHL All-Star who died in 1997 following a 16-month battle with leukemia. The winner of the Yanick Dupre Memorial Award will be announced by the American Hockey League in the coming weeks.

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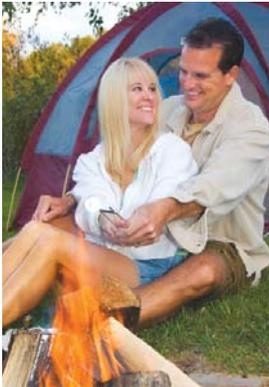
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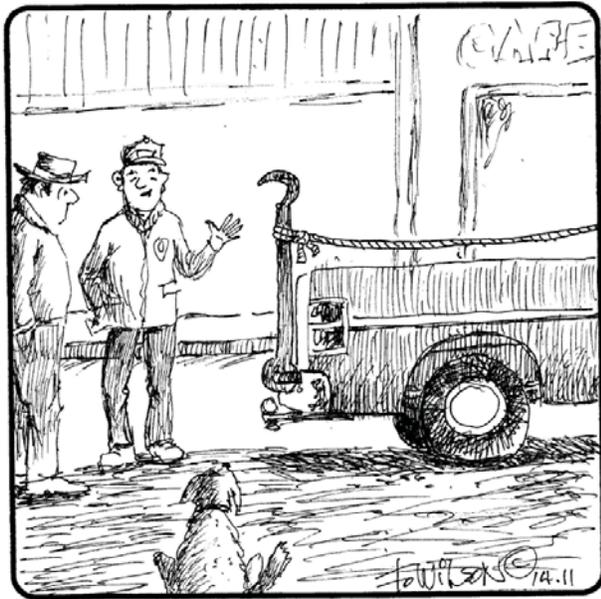


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Wall will be guest speaker at oil show

Some of the key speakers for the 2011 Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Show have been confirmed as plans fall into place for the sold-out event, to be held on Wednesday, June 1 to Thursday, June 2 at the Weyburn exhibition grounds.

Premier Brad Wall will be the guest speaker for the noon luncheon on Wednesday, when the Oilpatch Awards are given out, including inductions to the Oil Industry Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year.

The minister of Energy and Resources, Bill Boyd, who is also the honorary chairman of the Oil Show, will also be in attendance.

The Southeast Oilman of the Year will be awarded at the beef pit barbecue held Wednesday evening.

On Thursday, the guest speaker will be Scott Saxberg, president and CEO of Crescent Point Energy at the noon luncheon.

Setup for the Oil Show will take place on Monday and Tuesday, May 30-31, and Tuesday will be the exhibitors' golf tournament, with the steak and lobster dinner on Tuesday evening.

All exhibitors' spaces for the Oil and Gas Show have been sold out for months, and exhibitors packages have now been sent out by the Oil Show board office.

The Weyburn Oil Show board was first formed in the fall of 1984 to sponsor and promote a biennial oil and gas industry trade show in Weyburn, to provide an opportunity for the service and supply segment of the industry to show and display their wares and latest technology applicable to the oil and gas industry.

A total of 13 shows have been held since they first began in 1985, being held every second year in order to accommodate the Oil and Gas Show held in Calgary every other year.

The board is made up of local volunteers who are appointed each year by city council. The proceeds from each oil show have been turned over to the city and reinvested in the form of upgrades and improvements made to the exhibition grounds, such as development of the McFadden Building, paving of the grounds, and installation of power outlets to allow for expansion of the area for the outdoor exhibits.



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New policy in Fort la Bosse School Division and across Manitoba Late assignments, plagiarism now punishable

BY KARA KINNA
Teachers in the Fort la Bosse School Division will now be able to dock marks for late assignments and plagiarism, as will teachers in every other school division in the province of Manitoba.

Under the school division's policy, entitled "Academic responsibility, honesty, and promotion/retention," the school division states that "students should learn to do their own work, follow timelines, and give credit when they borrow ideas of others, and should be held accountable for these behaviors."

While a number of solutions are suggested for dealing with late assignments and plagiarism, such as contacting parents, and requiring students to redo the work, docking marks is included as a last resort.

The change in policy follows a provincial policy change that required all school divisions to follow suit by Feb. 1. School di-

"When I discovered this policy I said I really want to review this policy because quite frankly I just didn't feel it prepared students for the modern day world."

—Nancy Allan, Manitoba Minister of Education

visions in Manitoba have been asked to formalize division policies to conform to the provincial policy by September of this year.

"What happened was that there was a policy on the books that was 13 years old under a previous government from 1997, and basically teachers were not allowed to dock students marks for handing in work late," Minister of Education Nancy Allan told the World-Spectator last week.

"When I discovered this policy I said I really want to review this policy because quite frankly I just didn't feel it prepared students for the modern day world."

"I also didn't feel it was fair to the students who handed their work in on

time." Allan says she doesn't know for sure how many divisions were docking or not docking marks for such behavior.

"I think it was kind of a mixed bag," she says, "and we just decided that we needed to get everyone on the same page, that students needed to be accountable."

Allan points out that educators are not required to dock marks for late assignments or plagiarism, but that it is simply one option.

"What we really did is put the onus on the teachers to determine what the appropriate consequences are because they know their students best," she says.

Allan says there was a high degree of support from school divisions and the general public for the policy.

"When we first talked about this last May, it became quite a media issue," she says. "But I think as a parent, you teach your children that deadlines matter. And I think the learning facilities have to support that. There were no push-backs on this policy whatsoever."

Barry Pitz, the superintendent for the Fort la Bosse School Division, says it was not common for school divisions to dock marks for late assignments, and Fort la Bosse was no exception.

"Our policy was not to the extent that the minis-

ter is requesting," he says. "Best practices indicated that you don't take marks off for late assignments as it does not account for an accurate account of student ability. It is more of a responsibility issue, not an ability issue."

"Until this directive, the two have been separated. We would evaluate on ability, and on another section of the report card on social responsibility. That's how our division was set up, and the vast majority were set up that way."

Pitz says there was public pressure for the government to change that, but for teachers, it is often a topic of debate.

"I do think there is public support for the minister's announcement, but

when you are talking with teachers in our division, I do think any time you talk about assessment, it's a debatable topic," he says. "We are a bit of a mixed bag (on the issue) in Fort la Bosse, as are other divisions, not just us."

"We were made to comply, and in the end we were able to put together a policy that we were all able to live with."

Pitz says that late assignments and plagiarism are not really an issue that the school division and teachers have to deal with often, and that a small percentage of students in Fort la Bosse struggle with missing deadlines.

"With that in mind, it's (docking marks) not the first alternative," he says. "There are other steps the teacher takes prior to going the route of the reduction."

"It's not knee jerk. We do a whole lot more before we start taking marks off. Taking marks off is a last resort."

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- 77 IH 1086 tractor w/IH loader w/joystick, dual PTO, dual Hyd, 18.4-38 duels, 10.00-16 front, 16 spd trans, 131 PTO hp, 6780hrs showing, s/n2610177U017616
- 78 IH 1586 tractor w/dual hyd, 1000 PTO, 20.8-38 duels, 11.00-16 front tires (new), 12 spd trans, 162 PTO hp, 2729hrs showing, s/n265013-3U015228
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A sight rarely seen

With little more than 400 of the birds left in the world, the endangered whooping crane is no longer a common sight. Darrell Light from Moosomin took these photos of whooping cranes that were sighted on his uncle Gerry Light's plantation in Georgia.

The cranes have been wintering on the plantation for the past few years. At one time there were as few as 20 left in the world.



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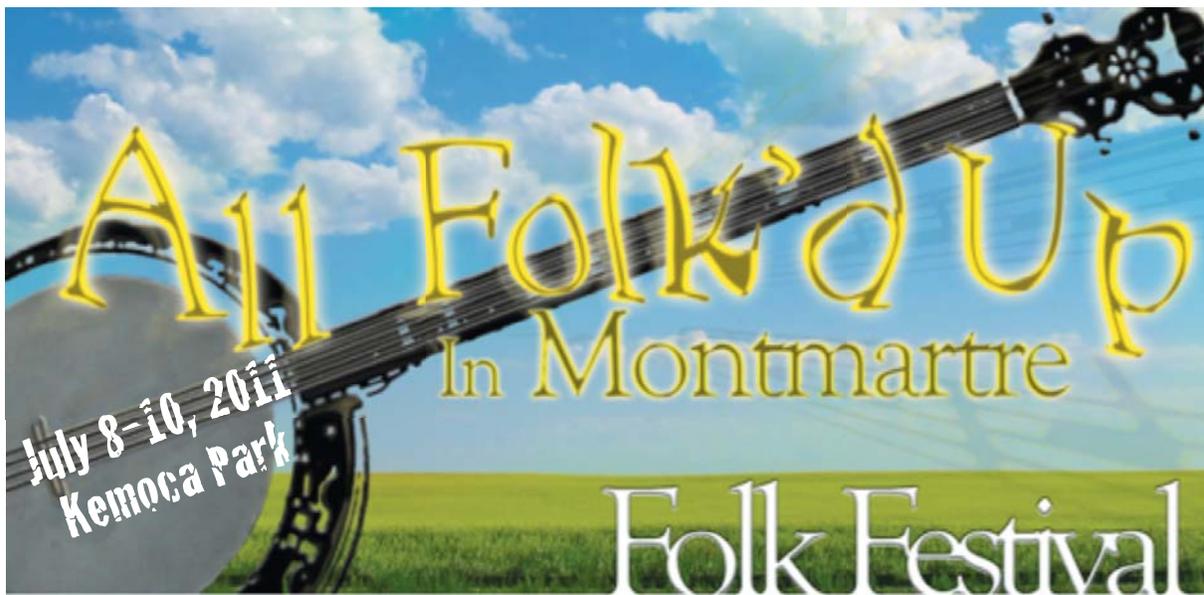
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Ten topics that make me go 'hmmmm'

Today is my 201st column.

I really thought 100 would be the big one, but that came and went, just like my 40th birthday and the last day with my "original" hair color. I missed marking the 200th column as well.

But today, as I pulled up the familiar template that I've filled in 201 times now, it kind of struck me as odd that I would have 201 important things to say.

As I scour through seven years worth of columns, I quickly see that I certainly *did not* have 201 important things to say. In fact, I wonder how I've been given the opportunity to write a column at all.

Walk with me down memory lane for a moment as we go over some of the column topics that must have made for some pretty long reads.

Here's my top-10 "why-on-earth-would-you-write-a-column-about-that?" list.

#10: A skating shack painted the colors of a bumble bee (really, it's in Scandia, Alberta and it must have been very fascinating to me at the time—column #154).

#9: Losing car keys in the middle of a cow-pie riddled pasture . . . in the middle of winter (honestly—column #88).

#8: Jelly salad (you better believe it, an entire column on jellied salads—column #7).

#7: My pioneering, perogy-making, chicken-canning grandma (column #30—still miss her nearly every day).

#6: An ice cream pail (and the dear sweet children who played with it many springs ago—column #93).

#5: Zucchini (yup, a whole 700-word essay on the zucchini—good thing this isn't billed as an "educational column"—column #123).

#4: Kitchen table (it wasn't the kitchen sink, but I'd say I was coming dangerously close—column #143).

#3: Cinnamon buns (it wasn't the kitchen sink, but again, too close—column #149).

#2: If rural women ruled the world. Here's just a few ideas expressed in this diatribe (column #144): 1. If rural women ruled the world . . . for starters, we wouldn't call



Christalee Froese

it "ruling the world." I think we'd call it something like "making the planet a better place to be." And, we probably wouldn't have a prime minister or a premier, we'd have a "council of like-minded ladies" who would meet on Mondays for coffee. 2. If rural women ruled the world . . . each town would be legislated to have a shoe store. Well, I don't think we'd legislate, so much as "kindly suggest" that if a community wanted to keep the Like-minded Ladies happy, they best be considering opening up a shoe store on main street. 3. If rural women ruled the

world . . . we'd have "Share-our-thoughts-and-feelings" nights once a month. Men would certainly be invited to these large gatherings, however, they'd be encouraged to listen, rather than to talk. 5. If rural women ruled the world . . . vehicles would come in all varieties—red, black, white, gold and silver. 7. If rural women ruled the world . . . all gas stations would sell purses.

Ah, but I digress.
This next one tops my "why-on-earth-would-you-write-a-column-about-that?" list:

#1: A starving puppy found on the side of the road. Turns out a reader from Vancouver liked the column so much, she flew the German Shepard puppy out to live a life of leisure on Vancouver Island.

Maybe this column-writing thing isn't so bad after all. Turned out pretty good for the puppy!

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



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In Southeastern Saskatchewan, Southwestern Manitoba:

Heavy spring runoff will cause flooding

BY KARA KINNA

Saturated soil, full sloughs, and an abundance of unmelted snow will all add up to an extremely wet spring and the potential for flooding in the Moosomin area, according to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

According to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's spring runoff potential map, as of March 1, Moosomin and surrounding communities were in for "well above normal" spring runoff.

"When we look at forecasting a spring runoff we look at what happened last fall—how wet it was," says Clinton Molde, regional manager for the southeast region with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. "We look at the amount of snow we have to date and how much we may get and the rate of the melt. They all have a role to play when it comes to spring runoff and whether it will be normal or lead to flooding."

"The summer last year was very wet for all of Saskatchewan. We had 120 millimetres above average (precipitation) just in the summer. As far as fall, we were probably more into the normal range. For the Moosomin area we went into the winter with a surplus of soil moisture—we were wet."

"When we look at the snowfall and we look at the amount of water in the snow, in that Moosomin area we're looking at 150 to 200 per cent the amount of normal water in that snow. What does that mean? We're probably in that 100 mm range of water in the snow, so roughly four inches of water in the snow."

"As far as our runoff forecast, you're in the area of the province that is well above normal."

Molde says how fast the snow melts will play a role in how high the runoff gets.

"You're going to see flows in creeks and channels that will exceed the channel capacity. You will see some flooding in creeks and channels. That's if we get a normal type of melt."

"If we have a melt where it gets hot relatively quickly, we could get higher runoff rates."

"If you get a fast melt, all that water comes at once. It stays for a shorter time, but it gets higher," adds John Fahlman, the acting director of base and operations with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

"The later you get in the year, the faster the melt. If it stays cold into early April and mid April, and the weather turns warm then, it can get warm overnight."

"It's not going to be a normal year. The question is, how bad is it going to get. But that is really hard to predict."

"The soils are saturated or close to saturated in much of that region, and they are frozen as well, so very little water will be able to enter the soil from the snowmelt," says John Pomeroy, a Canada research chair in water resource and climate change with the University of Saskatchewan.

"Lots of sloughs are full and normally they hold back a lot of that water and keep it from getting into the streams."

Pomeroy says that, like a full bathtub, when you add more water to already full water bodies on the Prairies, they will overflow.

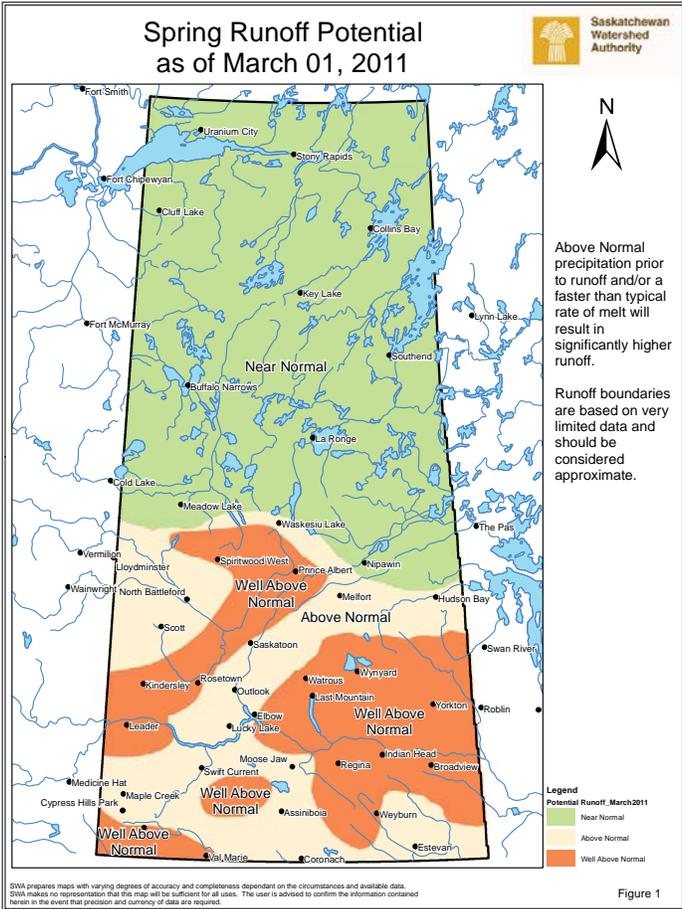
"Over the region, some flooding is guaranteed," he says. "What might have reduced the flooding is if the melt started early in March."

"If it stays fairly cool and then it melts quickly, those are conditions for severe flooding."

Pomeroy says the conditions will be some of the worst that people have seen. He says conditions look comparable to 1974, which caused some major flooding in Saskatchewan.

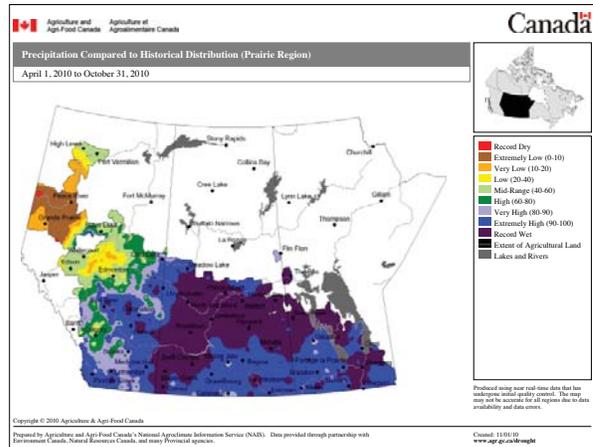
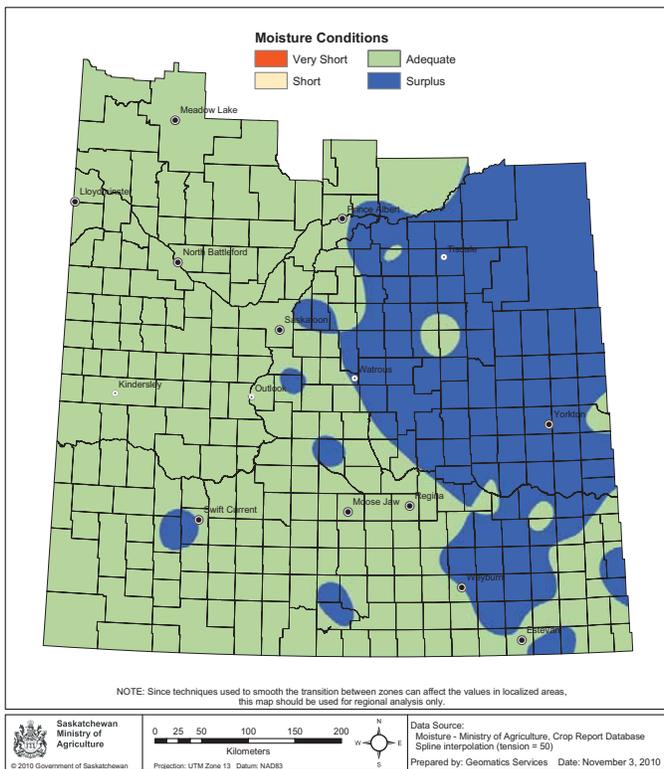
Pomeroy says if precipitation continues, it will only worsen things.

Spring Runoff Potential as of March 01, 2011



Cropland Topsoil Moisture Conditions

November 2, 2010



Runoff forecasts this winter indicate the high likelihood of flooding this spring, especially in the southern part of the province. In response to the potential high risk of flooding, the provincial government is providing \$22 million dollars to the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDPR), which will provide technical and financial assistance to protect homes and businesses against flood damage.

For more information about the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction program visit www.saskflood.ca and click "Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program"

"If the water is going over our dyke here, everyone in the Assiniboine Valley is in trouble."— Martin Dupont

"Eventually this will turn into rain, and then we get a rain on snow event which could cause very rapid melting, and that could be very disastrous," he says. "It would be very difficult for producers to get into fields. We will have washed out grid roads and flooded culverts, so getting around will be tough."

The provincial government has implemented a \$22 million program to help communities, RMs and rural residents protect themselves from spring flooding.

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority has also started the website www.saskflood.ca, providing an up to date flood report for the province.

Pomeroy says there are some things that can be done to alleviate severe flooding.

"It would be quite sensible to get sandbags ready, and make sure culverts are clean and free of debris," he says. "If farmer have water bodies that they can pump water out of, they should pump some water out if they can do it before the main flooding hits."

Martin Dupont, the mayor of St.

Lazare, says the village should be able to handle any flooding that comes this spring.

The village is located in the Assiniboine valley, right where the Qu'Appelle River meets the Assiniboine River.

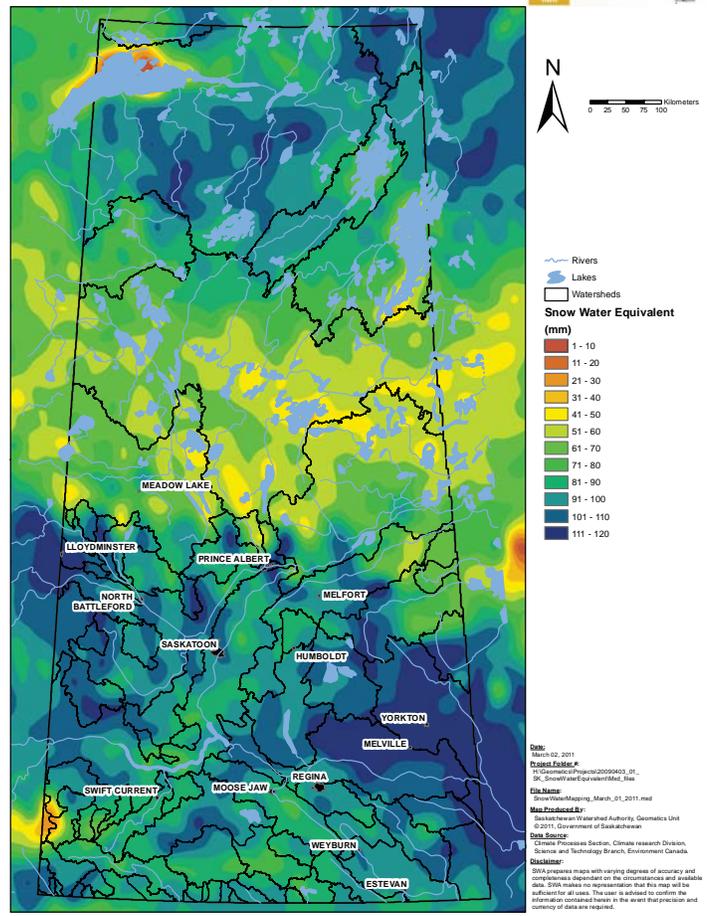
"When we flooded out last time in 1997, we applied for a grant and we built a dyke," says Dupont. "Our dyke was built four feet over any recorded high ever. We feel very comfortable that our dyke is high enough to meet the needs of the village."

Dupont says the dyke will likely be high enough to hold the water back from the village, but isn't ruling out flooding in the adjacent RM.

He says if water starts to near the top of the dyke, the village has a backup plan.

"If the water was to come as high as the top of dyke, we probably wouldn't sand bag, we would bring in loaders and build the dyke higher immediately," he says, adding "If the water is going over our dyke here, everyone in the Assiniboine Valley is in trouble."

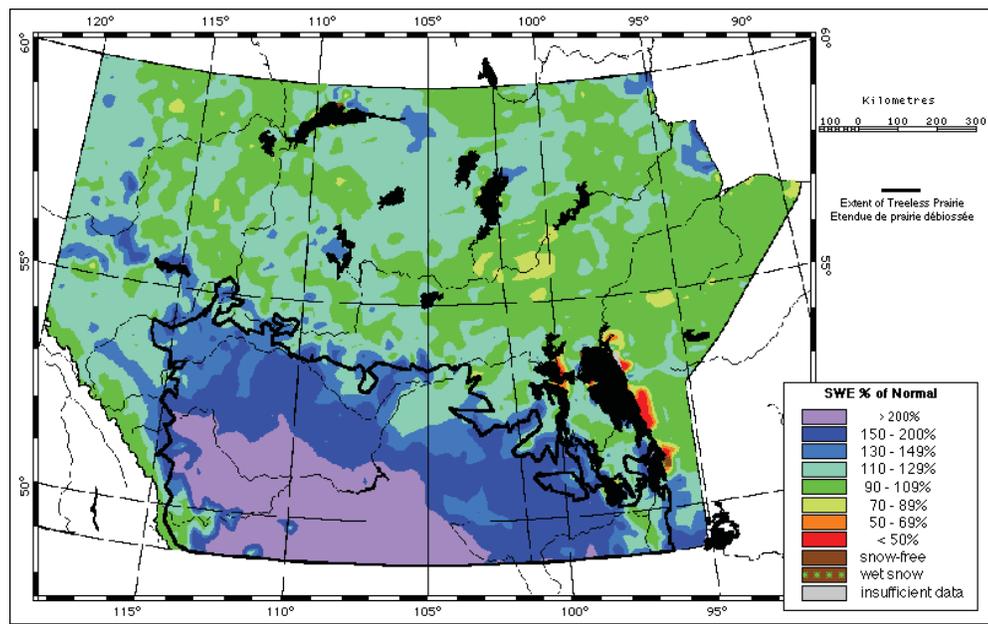
Snow Water Equivalent - March 01, 2011



Basin and Location	TABLE 2 - SPRING RUNOFF FORECAST						
	March 2011 Forecast			Historical			
	Peak Flow (m³/s)	30-Day Runoff Volume (x 10 ⁶ dam³)	Peak Flow Frequency	2010 ¹⁾ Spring Peak Flow (m³/s)	Normal Peak Flow (m³/s)	Recorded Maximum Spring Flow (m³/s)	Year
ASSINIBOINE RIVER BASIN							
Assiniboine River at Stepien	85	150	1:15	20	24	24	111 1995
Whiteland River near Canora	120	220	1:15	30	26	25	247 1995
Assiniboine River at Kamack	250	500	1:15	40	55	78	488 1995
QU'APPELLE RIVER BASIN							
Qu'Appelle River above Buffalo Pound Lake	35	40	1:15	20	12	11	107 1974
Qu'Appelle River near Lumsden	250	100	1:15	80	26	38	436 1974
Qu'Appelle River below Cleven	187	75	1:15	35	17	17	144 1974
Qu'Appelle River below Loon Creek	150	75	1:15	35	18	25	162 1974
Qu'Appelle River near Hule	200	200	1:15	45	23	30	206 1976
Qu'Appelle River near Welby	240	400	1:15	20	39	57	251 1955
Moose Jaw River above Thunder Creek	110	175	1:30	40	10	11	252 1974
Moose Jaw River at Burdick	120	200	1:10	40	17	17	368 1974
Wascana Creek at Regina	50	60	1:25	15	13	14	102 1974
Wascana Creek near Lumsden	80	200	1:25	20	17	18	153 1976
Lanigan Creek above Boulder Lake	20	20	1:10	12	3	3	51 2006
Pleasant Creek near Abernethy	25	30	1:15	6	7	4	47 1976
Cutram near Spy Hill	20	20	1:15	2	5	5	35 1955

¹⁾These forecasted values are based on typical spring precipitation and typical rate of melt. Above normal precipitation and/or rapid melt will result in significantly higher flows.

All of the maps shown here, as well as the spring runoff table at left, can be found on www.saskflood.ca, the website set up by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. Together the maps paint a picture of a very wet spring in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba.



March 1, 2011 Percent of Normal SWE (percent) Normals averaged from 23 years of satellite data (1988 - 2010)

Manitoba reduces education property tax

Premier Greg Selinger announced the basic Education Property Tax Credit will increase to \$700 in 2011 from the current \$650, giving Manitobans more tax savings.

"Our government is proud to meet our commitment to hard-working Manitoba families. We want to make life better for Manitobans and this tax credit will help keep our province affordable with benefits to over 293,000 homeowners and 128,000 tenants," said Selinger.

Homeowners will have the credit subtracted from their property tax bills starting this summer. Residential tenants will receive the increased benefits when they file their 2011 income tax returns.

"Our government has worked very hard to ensure that Manitoba is a great place to set down roots and raise a family. To help those hard-working families grow and succeed, we have increased the Education Property Tax Credit by

180 per cent to \$700 from \$250 in 1999," the premier said.

The increased tax credit will now see Manitobans save approximately \$16 million in additional tax relief for a total of \$151 million in annual property tax credits.

The Manitoba government eliminated the Education Support Levy on residential properties in 2006, further saving residents over \$145 million annually.

This year, Manitobans will save more than \$329 million in education property taxes than they did in 1999, allowing Manitobans to keep more money in their pockets, said Selinger.

"Our government has been moving Manitoba on the right track through steady and balanced leadership," said Finance Minister Rosann Wowchuk. "We know these savings make a difference in your wallet and we will continue to work with all Mani-

tobans to ensure that everyone benefits from these important tax credits."

This year, the government offered the Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) to qualifying school divisions. An unprecedented 27 school divisions accepted the TIG, up from 23 divisions the year before.

"Working co-operatively with school divisions means residents will not see an increase on their tax bills," said Selinger.

In 2011, the province invested \$21.7 million toward the TIG to keep property taxes low throughout the province, he added. In all, 30 divisions are holding the line on mill rates in 2011.

Statistics Canada has identified Manitoba as the only province in the country to see property taxes remain relatively stable since 2000. Manitoba saw only a 1.2 per cent increase overall, while the average Canadian increase was 33.7 per cent.

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Living the life at Right Cross Ranch

BY CHRIS ISTACE

"It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living," wrote Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Based on the year Jim and Sarah Anderson had in 2010, one might say the young couple has established the quote as fact.

"Some people would say we tried to conquer the world in 2010," said Jim.

On May 20 of last year, the couple took over what was the McBeth Uluru Shorthorn Ranch formerly owned by Gerry and Betty Wyatt and located about nine kilometers southwest of Kisbey, Sask. For the next five months, Jim, who is 25 years old, and Sarah, 24, toiled to make the place their own, renaming it Right Cross Ranch. The work included bringing in Red and Black Angus cattle, expanding and improving the feedlot and sale barn facilities, and spending countless hours through the summer months in a tractor cutting hay.

In the little spare time they had, they planned their wedding, which took place in October at Kenosee Lake.

Whatever it took to get the operation rolling was worth it to the Andersons. They're now living the life they've sought to.

"My parents helped us (by purchasing the ranch) and we're kind of working towards eventually owning it ourselves. That would be the end goal," said Sarah. "But the ranch lifestyle is pretty awesome. You decide what days to work hard and what days you want to kind of relax and take it easy."

Jim says both of them worked at jobs before taking over the ranch—after attending agriculture college, Jim took a year of welding—but they were not fulfilled by that. Both grew up on farms and the rural lifestyle seemed to be drawing them back.

"At the end of the day, ranching is in our blood and is ultimately what we enjoy doing," said Jim. "And it's something we like to think we're good at. It catches our interest, as far as running cows and riding horses, or whatever. That's something we thoroughly enjoy; not every day, but more often than not."

Rather than starting small and growing the operation over time, the Andersons have leaped into the industry. Right Cross Ranch has several facets to it. The Andersons own about 230 cows, manage another 25 shorthorns and serve 150 yearling bulls in the feedlot, which itself can host up to 750 head of cattle. They expected to calve about 210 cows this season.

But that's not all. They also handle bull testing for animals from both inside and outside their ranch, and operate a sale barn to market their cattle and animals from other farms.

The Right Cross Ranch hosted a Hereford sale and a shorthorn female sale last fall and have three sales scheduled for this spring, including a Hereford sale on April 8, a Black Harvest sale on April 13 and a shorthorn bull sale on April 16.

Jim and Sarah Anderson adore the lifestyle they lead on a multi-dimensional ranch near Kisbey, Sask. The couple may be young, but their ambition matches their faith in making the large cattle operation a success.

"(The Wyatts) built the sale barn. We have just taken it to another level. We've expanded the feedlot and we've got our own bulls in the bull test, as well," said Jim.

But the current concept of the ranch is not what they ultimately plan to do.

"For the first year or two here, we're going to find out really quick how it's going to be to survive on about 250 cows. That's depending on how our cash-flow runs," he added. "We may or may not need to expand that cow herd. We just need to make sure that we cover our bases as far as living and making payments, all that fun stuff."

Jim said they are also considering running a breeder calf program over the summer. Those animals would arrive at Right Cross Ranch in early June and leave in September.

"We both enjoy running yearlings and riding horses, doing some training on horses," said Jim. "I use dogs quite a bit, too, so it gives us a chance to have some fun."

To say that the Andersons have jumped in over their heads would be a mistake, though.

Jim grew up on a mixed grain and cattle farm near Rose Valley, Sask. That Anderson homestead is in its 105th year of existence. Jim's family formed the 4A Stockfarm and raised Red and Black Angus cattle.

As a youth, Jim was a member of the Kelvington 4-H Beef Club and purchased his first registered Angus cow in 2002. Five years later, he bought into the cowherd at the That'll Do Ranch in Westerose, Alta., giving him the opportunity to feed and sell his own bulls in That'll Do's bull sales.

Sarah, meanwhile, moved with her family to Ponoka, Alta. in 1994 where they formed Cornerglan Ranching. Dan and Dorothy Jeffery, her parents, kept 400 cows and operated a 600 head feedlot.

In 2003, Sarah used the money she earned from a 4-H champion steer to purchase six Black Angus heifers and created Black Envy Angus. That herd continues to expand both numerically and genetically.

Both the Andersons and the Jefferys have participated in several aspects of the cattle industry. Their operations have included cow/calves, yearlings, finishers, and purebred Angus.

Jim and Sarah both attended Lakeland Agriculture College, where they earned diplomas in 2007. Sarah moved on to the University of Alberta, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, while Jim took a stab at welding, which, of course, didn't pan out.

The couple met at college, but didn't start dating until 2009, a year before they



Above: Jim and Sarah Anderson at their ranch.

Below: Moving cattle; The Right Cross sale barn facility; Feeding cattle on the ranch.



were married. Despite their previous experience in agriculture, Sarah says they have still encountered challenges since opening Right Cross Ranch.

"My dad looked after my cows when I went off to school. At the end of the day, I could say I owned cows, but now, I'm 11 hours from home," she said. "The first time we had a disaster, I called my dad, but then I

thought, 'Oh, wait a minute. What am I doing? He's not going to do anything.' It's a pretty steep learning curve, but it's something that I wouldn't have learned if I stayed at home in Ponoka. My dad would always be there."

Moving away from family to the Kisbey area has strengthened Jim and Sarah's ability to work in tandem, said Sarah. They've had to learn their required

knowledge together and on the fly.

"We've had to lean on each other pretty hard at times, like when it was minus-40 and we've had four or five dead calves in a row," she said. "That makes us a better team, I think."

Jim said they complement each other well.

"We both have different qualities that help us out," he said. "Something I'm really good at, Sarah may not be good at, but it works vice versa, too. There are lots of things Sarah is really good at that I suck at. We come from the same background, but they're different, as well."

Living away from family and friends hasn't been a detriment to the Andersons, though. They say the residents of the Kisbey area have been incredibly welcoming and generous.

"I don't think we could have asked for anything better to move into, any better place," Sarah said. "We got here and everybody was super welcoming. There was pasture available, we had grass for our cattle right away and we had hay land to work. I think people were pretty accepting that we're young and that we kind of needed a kick start. People were here for that."

Jim said moving to a completely new community was "nerve wracking," but his nerves have since settled.

"If we ever need a hand, we've got umpteen thousand people we can call, which I'm not sure we would have had at home," he said. "It's been really awesome."

RANCHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Although the Andersons have stepped into an industry that has been entrenched in Western Canada for more than a century, the young couple has tied the entire Right Cross Ranch operation together with the most modern mode of marketing.

Sarah maintains the ranch's website—rightcrossranch.com—which includes sections for everything from an introduction to the Andersons, their operation and contact information to outlines on the Right Cross Ranch's bull tests, the sales facility, events and their herd.

"We're both the kind of people that when we do something, we do it right," Sarah said. "We decided that in today's world, everybody is on the internet. Not the older generation farmers, but most of the up-and-coming, younger generation. If they go to our website, bam, all the information is there."

Jim realized the website would be a valuable tool when he found himself searching for animals to purchase through the internet. Once they decided to develop the site, he wanted theirs to be original and captivating.

"We find a lot of web pages (for other cattle operations) are easy to get around on, but at the same time, boring," he said. "We didn't want to be one of those people with a boring website. We wanted to stand out."

The Right Cross Ranch website was created by Laura Bodell of Bella Spur Innovative Media in Rocky Mountain House, Alta. Bodell has experience in agricultural-themed websites, something the Andersons were looking for while hiring a developer.

"We've had a lot of people say we've got an awesome website," said Sarah, who maintains the ranch's online presence. "It's pretty cool because you can go there and they can write directly to us through the site."

Communicating with potential customers is not the only mission of rightcrossranch.com. The site contains a variety of photos of Jim and Sarah—including some from their wedding—alongside their animals. Sarah also maintains a blog where she outlines what it's like working on a ranch like theirs.

Ultimately, Sarah wants to communicate with the general public as well.

"The blog idea was my idea to kind of make a difference in agriculture," she said. "I'm trying to explain to people who don't really know what we do how things go on a ranch. People in a town or a city think they know and really think they understand, but they have no concept at all."

Like the ranch itself, Jim and Sarah are far from finished with advancing the site's capabilities.

"We're always looking for something new to throw on there," said Jim. "We're expanding a little bit on our horse market. Pretty soon, you're going to see some videos of horses we've trained and we're hoping to sell. Possibly some stock dogs, too. We continually consider something new, something that sets us apart. We're always looking for something different."

The site will also soon include a bull-sale catalogue with videos of the sale animals, Jim added.

RANCH CARRIES MORE THAN A DOLLAR VALUE

When you consider everything the Right Cross Ranch encompasses, Jim and Sarah find it hard to put a monetary value on the operation. Jim admitted there was "absolutely no way" they could have purchased the ranch themselves, however.

"It's fairly substantial. It's tough to put a dollar value on it," Jim said. "It keeps us busy, that's for sure. There's enough work for both of us."

The Andersons do not seem to lack the required faith and enthusiasm to achieve what they are setting out to accomplish. What may set them apart from others, however, is clear vision, ambition and the lack of fear young entrepreneurs seem to carry with them.

One may get a better picture of the Right Cross Ranch by putting a dollar value on the operation.

But what dollar value to put on a dream?

Sask needs new area code

SaskTel Minister Bill Boyd announced that the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CAN) which assigns phone number blocks and area codes in the country has advised that Saskatchewan is running out of 306 phone number blocks and will need to add a new area code.

This is a result of our growing population, an explosion of cellphone numbers and more competitive carriers operating in Saskatchewan. The CAN has indicated Saskatchewan's 306 area code is expected

to exhaust its supply of telephone numbers by May 2013.

"This is one more sign of the tremendous growth our province is now enjoying," Boyd said. "As prosperity brings more people and more companies to our province we are committed to changing and keeping pace with our new realities."

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), which provides the regulatory oversight for the process, will issue

a Telecom Notice of Public Consultation. No decisions have yet been made on how the new area code will be implemented. A Relief Planning Committee will be formed, which will analyze all options and develop a recommendation for the implementation of a new area code in Saskatchewan. Included in the options analyzed by the committee will be a geographic split or a provincial overlay of a new area code. The new area code will be confirmed after the CRTC has approved the Relief Plan-

ning Committee's recommendation.

Following the CRTC approval, the implementation of a new area code will begin. Upon CRTC approval, SaskTel will follow the public notification process and will notify its customers of the impact.

"The implementation of a new area code will affect us all," Boyd said. "We would like to assure SaskTel customers that we will work to minimize the impact and will provide detailed communications prior to the changes taking effect."

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Sask's population tops 1,050,000 for the first time

Saskatchewan's population has hit an all-time high of 1,052,050 as of January 1, 2011 according to figures released by Statistics Canada.

"Our strong economy and great quality of life are attracting more and more people to Saskatchewan," Premier Brad Wall said. "More people are choosing to stay in Saskatchewan and more people from outside our borders are discovering the Saskatchewan advantage."

Saskatchewan grew by

15,078 people or 1.45 per cent in 2010. That was the fastest growth rate of any western province and the second highest growth rate of any province, just 0.01 per cent behind Prince Edward Island's rate of 1.46 per cent.

Saskatchewan had net inter-provincial migration of 2,689 people or 0.26 per cent in 2010—the highest rate of any province. Saskatchewan experienced a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 4,890 and net international migration of 7,499 in 2010.

Wall said strong population growth has become the "new normal" in the new Saskatchewan - noting that Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 45,000 people in the past three years (January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2011).

"That's the highest population growth in any three-year period since 1928 to 1931 - 80 years ago," Wall said. "Saskatchewan is moving forward and our government is working hard to make sure we keep moving forward."

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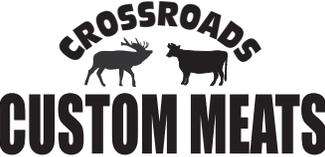
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Flaman Sales has big plans for Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA

In April, Flaman Sales and Rentals will take ownership of Wayne's Rental in Moosomin, and the company has major expansion plans for their new Moosomin location.

According to Tyson Becker, general manager of Flaman's Yorkton, Swan River and Moosomin locations, the Moosomin location will be expanded into a full size yard site like the one in Yorkton, and will sell a full line of ag implements and equipment—such as bins, aeration fans, grain carts and grain augers—and will include a store with a full retail area, fitness equipment, service bays and a rental area.

Becker says that Flaman will need about 12 acres of land to accommodate the new site.

"Yorkton started off with just me 15 years ago, and it has evolved into 25 employees," says Becker. "I can see the same thing happening in Moosomin."

"It's going to be comparable to the Yorkton location as far as people trying to get the gist of what's coming down the line."

Moosomin will be Flaman's ninth store in Western Canada. The company—which was started in 1959 in Southey, Sask. by Frank Flaman and is still privately owned and operated by his three sons—also has 110 rental locations across Western Canada and

21 fitness locations.

Becker says Flaman is looking to have the new location in Moosomin open by 2013. Until then the company will use the current Wayne's Rental site to serve its customers, adding almost a million dollars worth of rental equipment, trailers, water fittings, pumps and water tanks, and a full line of retail inventory that will change monthly.

Becker says that Flaman is optimistic about coming into Moosomin.

"We see Moosomin as being a very strong community and a good fit for Flaman," he says. "We have a lot of customers in that Moosomin area that have supported Flaman over the years, and we felt we needed to be there to look after them better and to serve them better."

Becker says that people from the Moosomin area used to drive to Flaman's Southey location to buy ag and fitness equipment. When Flaman opened its Yorkton location 15 years ago, Flaman saw a growing customer base driving from the Moosomin area to do business in Yorkton.

"We've always had our eye on Moosomin. It was just about the right timing, and we feel the right timing is now, with the ag prices they way they are, and you do have a large livestock community here. It compliments our products with what we are going to do.

"Moosomin is growing, we all know it's growing. It's a bit of a hub there. . . As more business comes, it's going to attract more business."

"With the potash, oil and the windmills, Moosomin has a lot to offer a lot of businesses who want to seek a part of that community spirit you have."

"Just because of the economic structure around Moosomin, with the resources you have, there is a lot more optimism in that Moosomin area than we see in other parts of the country and province."

"For the last five years we've been looking at the town. We've always gotten along well with Wayne (Beckett) and we feel the fit is right as far as purchasing Wayne's Rental. He felt the same way and this is why this marriage came to be."

"He wanted a well-run company that's not all about being corporate, and that values its employees. Flaman is a family-run company and they look after their people well, and if we can come in there and mesh with the community and employees off the start, that's what we are trying to accomplish."

Becker says Flaman is a company that values being a large part of each community it's in.

"Our philosophy is to give back to the community as much as we can," he says. "There will be some

charities in the community that we will be looking at over the next year. It's definitely important for us to give back to each community that we have a business in, and we try to do that as much as we can."

All in all, Becker says Flaman is looking forward to their years ahead in Moosomin.

"We are very excited to come to Moosomin. There is a lot of optimism with the Moosomin location, and

with Wayne and his staff," he says. "It's exciting, the growth coming ahead of us in the Moosomin region, and building a new store, hiring more employees, and growing is always exciting."

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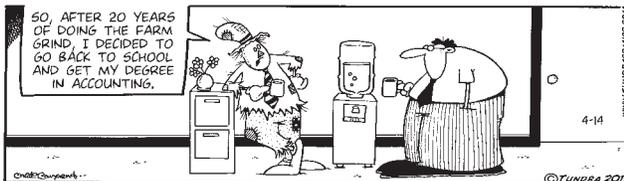
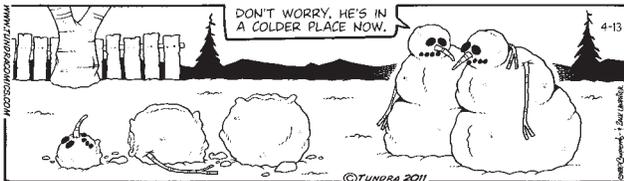
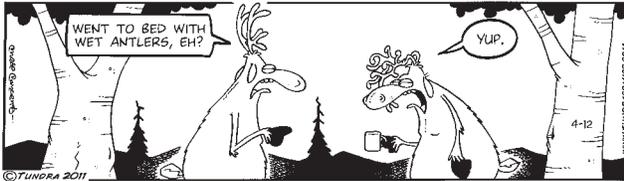
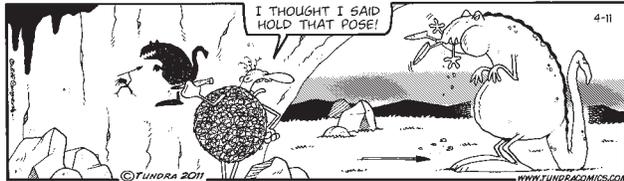
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FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Paloma Farms Ltd. Alberto De Marchi - Virden, MB
Tuesday, April 12 at 10 a.m. DST

Sale includes: 1996 NH 9682 w/ 20.8R clamp-on duals, 4 remotes, return line 3,942 hours; 1993 Versatile 895 w/ 20.8 x 38 clamp-on Triples, 4 remotes, Atom Jet return line. Rebuilt engine at 7,800 hours. 9,036 original hours; 1992 Versatile 160 Bi-Directional w/ loader, bucket and grapple, 3 pth 5,435 hours; 1985 Hesston 1890 DT w/MFD, 20.8 x 38 clamp-on duals, 3 pth, 3 remotes, 4,774 hours (MFD needs axle repair); Kubota B5100 diesel yard tractor w/ mower deck, 3 pth, 540 PTO and snowblower; 2 - 1990 JD 550 SP combines w/ 914 headers, hopper hoppers, 3,942 and 3,307 threshing hours (Green light in 2007); 1995 PMI SP diesel 27 1/2' double swath header w/ PU reel; 1997 hours; 2 - JD 930 30' straight headers w/ batt reels; Versatile 2400 - 24' header for Bi-Directional; 1980 Kenworth diesel tandem w/ 20' Lode Line box, roll tarp; 1979 IHC gas tandem w/ 21' Midland box, roll tarp; 1978 Chevrolet 65 - 3 ton cab over w/ 16' Canade box, roll tarp; 50,217 original KM's; Morris Magnum 49 air drill w/ 12' spacings, NH3 kit, Carbide boots, 7240 air tank w/ 40/60 split and loading auger; Morris 50' heavy harrows w/ like new teeth; Bourgault Convert A bar HR560 harrow packer w/ sprayer bar; White 272 - 33' tandem disc w/ smooth blades; Rock-O-Matic PTO drive rock picker; Valmar 2420 w/ booms; 1996 Rogator R54 sprayer w/ 100' booms, foam marker, 23.1 x 26 rubber, 2,946 hours; Set of 4 300/95R46 Rogator tires and rims (like new); Set of crop dividers; 2004 Buhler 170 side swing auger; Westfield 7' x 51' auger w/ 16HP B and S motor; Westfield 7' x 36' auger w/ 11HP Honda; 2000 Brandt 4500 grain vac; Vertec VT 3630 continuous flow grain dryer w/ auto moisture control and wheels; Case IH 3650 soft cover round baler; Morris 881 Hay hiker; CI 716 - 16' hay hiker; EZ Guide 500 light bar guidance system; EZ steer TM 500. Plus a complete line of other equipment and shop tools.

Russ & Gloria Holowenko - Fleming, SK
Friday, April 15 at 10 a.m. CST

Sale includes: 2006 MF 5465 MFD w/ 18.4 x 38 rear 14.9 x 28 front radials, 3 pth, air seat, 540 & 1000, 4 remotes, 95 hp. Only 1869 hrs. Sells w/ MF 1080 quick attach loader. 1985 Versatile 856 w/ 4 remotes, 18.4 x 38 clamp-on duals, new batteries, 7700 hrs. IHC MD w/ loader, IHC w/ saw mandrel (seized), IHC W6 w/ belt pulley, 2001 IHC 9100 tandem diesel w/ Cummings ISM, 10 spd., 6R22.5 rubber, 20' 2009 Canade box, roll tarp (Saffied), 1987 Dodge Power Ram 250 w/ steel flat deck, 5 wheel hitch, V-8, 4 spd. 1982 IHC gas w/ auto trans. and NH 790 spreader. 1974 Chev C65 tag axle w/ 20' Canade box, roll tarp, 1000 x 20 rubber, 5 & 2, 55,140 miles. 2008 Featherite 24' aluminum stock trailer w/ 5th wheel & ball hitch, 16" rubber & 2 divider gates. 1988 Bob-Go 14' tandem gooseneck stock trailer. Tandem axle bumper hitch w/ 28' bale deck. Tandem gooseneck w/ 450 gal. water tank. 1994 NH TX 66 SP combine w/ Strawmaster PU, chopper, 2820 threshing hrs. 1998 Case IH 8225 turbo diesel SP swather w/ 30' header, PU reel, 1763 hrs. IHC 730 - 30' hyd. fold PTO swather w/ batt reel. Versatile 400 - 18' SP swather. Walings 510 grain vac w/ 1000 PTO. Westfield 10' x 51' side swing auger. Sakudhart 7' x 37' auger w/ 18hp. Wheathart 8' x 36' auger w/ Honda 20 hp elec. start. 2006 Kabota RTV 900, 4 x 4 w/ tilt box, hyd. 25' wheels, windshield. 1993 Golden Falcon (Tour Edition) 29 1/2' fifth wheel travel trailer w/ large slide. Star Craft 15' boat w/ 40 hp Merc. 33 HP Evinrude & trailer. 1998 Honda Foreman ES 4 x 4 Quad. Duncan 100 motor bike. Bourgault 536 - 40 Series 40' air seeder w/ 2155 air tank, air nozzle on front, harrows. Flexi-coil 55 - 70' sprayer w/ 525 gal tank, auto fold, hyd. pump, windcreens, foam markers. Herman 53' hyd. harrows. JD 610 - 41' DT. Flexi-coil 70' harrow packer bar. Degelman ground drive rock picker. 2007 Vermeer High Line 605 M baler w/ all updates, net wrap & twine auto cab control and hyd. PU. Morris 881 Hayhiker. 1994 NH 116 - 16' hydros swing. Farm King Y100 roller mill w/ 5 hp elec. Hi-Qual chute squeeze w/ self catch head gate and palp cage. Shafar trailer type post pounder. High Line 6800 bale shredder w/ 1000 PTO. Plus lots of other equipment, shop equipment and tools.

Terry & Helen Patmore - Pipestone, MB
Monday, April 18 at 11 a.m. DST

Sale includes: 1995 Ford 9480 w/ 20.8R42 clamp-on duals, 4 remotes, return line, 12 spd., \$2000. check over fall of 2010, only 3982 hours. 1980 Case 2290 power shift w/ 18.4 x 38 factory duals, 6668 hrs. 1978 Case 970 power shift w/ 20.8 x 34 rubber, 5936 hrs. Case 930 diesel (round fender) w/ hand clutch. 2003 Case IH 2388 SP combine w/ 2015 PU header, 1284 rotor hrs. (Complete check over fall of 2010). 2005 Case IH 2042 draper header w/ PU reel. 1998 Case IH 9220 hyd. fold PTO 25' swather w/ PU reel & Kear shear. 2001 Morris Magnum 11 40' air seeder w/ 10' spacings. Midrow banders, packers. Sells w/ 2001 Morris 7180 air tank. NH3 hitch & Raven auto rate NH3 control. 2002 - 2000 gal. NH3 tank (Saffied). 1450 gal. NH3 tank (Saffied). 2000 Degelman 70' Strawmaster 7000 heavy harrow. 2000 Brandt 2500 quick fold 110' field sprayer w/ auto rate control, single boom option, wind cones & foam markers. 2002 Brandt 4500 grain vac. 2006 Wheathart 10' x 70' side swing auger. Farm King 10' x 60' side swing auger. 2007 Westeel Magnum F1620 epoxy coated hopper bin on pads. Trimble GPS with auto steer. 1995 Ford Aeromax L9000 diesel tandem w/ Tracker 20' x 8' x 62" box, roll tarp 11R22.5 rubber, 9 spd., Roadmaster Series 60 Detroit only 584,700 km's (Saffied). 1982 Chev 70 w/ 16' Canade box, 1000 x 20 rubber, 366 V-8, 5 & 2, roll tarp, 80,425 km's (Saffied). 1980 GMC 6000 w/ 16' Canade box, 1000 x 20 rubber, V-8, 4 & 2. Sells w/ telescoping arm only 70,864 km's (Saffied). Plus lots of other farm equipment and shop related.

Lynn & Faye Shaw - Gainsborough, SK
Wednesday, April 20 at 10 a.m. CST

Sale includes: 1982 JD 4440 w/ 20.8 x 38 factory duals. 1982 Versatile 895 w/ 24.5 x 32 clamp-on duals, 4 remotes, Atom Jet pump, GPS auto steer. approx. 8000 hrs. 1979 Versatile 835 w/ 18.4 x 38 clamp-on duals, 4 remotes, approx. 9000 hrs. Case 730 diesel. 1997 Ford L8000 diesel w/ 11R22.5 rubber w/ 1700 gal. low profile poly tank, 500 gal. poly tank w/ 2' Honda pump. 1988 Mac tandem diesel w/ 15 spd., 350 Mac engine, 11R24.5 rubber, 20' Umbido box, roll tarp. 2003 Norbert 7' x 20' gooseneck tandem stock trailer w/ 2 divider gates. 1996 - 24' tandem flat deck gooseneck w/ side tilt. 2002 Bourgault 40' 8810 air seeder w/ 10' spacings, Mid-Row banders, packers. Sells w/ 5300 Bourgault air tank w/ NH3 hitch & winch. 1994 Degelman 70' 7000 Strawmaster heavy harrow w/ 3265 Valmer. 2003 Melroe 4640 High Clearance sprayer coupe w/ 80' booms, foam marker & triple steering bar. Degelman Super Packer 11 PTO rock picker. Morris 53' 912 DT w/ harrows. Frigstad 45' field cultivator. 2002 Hay Saver 10 wheel V/ creeper. NH 1475 HS Series 18' hydros swing. NH 855 round baler. JD 750 mixmill. 2 Cypress Industries 250 bus. creep feeders w/ gates & wheels. Hi-Qual squeeze chute w/ self catch head gate, palp cage, 5 alley and crowding tub. 1995 Sakudhart 10' x 2000 side swing auger w/ 540 pto. Brandt auger w/ new 13 hp Honda elec. start. Kwik Clean 5 roller screener w/ elec. motor. Walings 510 grain vac w/ 1000 shaft. Inland 102 DD 3 pth snowblower. Outback GPS light bar. 2004 Polaris 400 Sportsman 4 x 4 w/ only 4682 km's. Plus other equipment and shop related items.

Barry & Harriet Gooden - Carlyle, SK
Monday, April 25 at 10 a.m. CST

Sale includes: 1997 JD 9100 w/ 20.8 x 38 factory duals, 24 spd., 4 remotes. New compressor in 2009. Only 3000 original hrs. 1980 JD 4240 w/ 18.4 x 38 rubber, 2 remotes, 8300 hours. Sells with JD 148 loader, bucket and grapple. 1994 JD 9500 SP combine w/ 14' JD PU header, long auger, JD chaff spreader. Green light in 2009. 2200 separator hours. JD 224 straight header w/ new wobble box w/ heavy mover 2002 Premier # 2952 - 24' double swath SP diesel swather w/ 1700 header hours Westfield 10' x 61' side swing auger. Brandt 7' x 35' auger w/ hyd. mover and Onan 16 hp. 1995 Ford 8000 diesel tandem w/ 18' Del box, roll tarp, 11R22.5 rubber, remote tail gate. 339,000 km's. 1984 IHC 2500 (motor seized). 1982 Ford F100 (runs good). 1967 Ford 600 w/ 15' box & hoist. 2003 Degelman Strawmaster 7000 50' heavy harrow w/ 9/16 tines. JD 340 - 15' offset disc w/ new bearings in rear. 1992 JD 610 - 35' DT w/ 8" spacings. Degelman harrows and JD 777 air tank. Brandt 60' field sprayer. Melroe 216 spray coupe w/ 54' booms, cab 7 fans, foam markers. Blumhart truck mount 60' sprayer. New Honda 20 hp motor. Plus lots of other farm equipment, shop equipment, new bolts and more.

Jim & Jocelyne Lorette - Fertile, SK
Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. CST

Sale includes: 1981 2590 power shift w/ 18.4 x 38 clamp-on duals, 1000 pto. Approx. 7919 hrs. 1980 IHC 3588 (2 & 2) w/ factory duals, 3 pth 3800 hrs. 1983 Gleaner L3 SP combine w/ Renn PU Approx. 2614 separator hrs. 1983 Gleaner N6 SP combine w/ Melroe PU, P3 processor, chrome bars. Approx. 2700 separator. 1994 Allis 30' straight header. IHC # 75 - 24' pto swather. Westfield 10' x 51' side swing auger. Blanchard mini air seeder. Rock-o-matic pto drive rock picker. Hyd. drive 12' rock rake. CCIL # 204 - 33' DT w/ harrows. Smith Rolls 12' blade (fits 2590). NH # 52 mixmill. Cattle chute w/ self catch head gate & palp cage. 1976 Chev 3 ton w/ steel box. Ag Shield 3 pth 60' sprayer w/ foam markers. Blumhart truck mount 60' sprayer. New Honda 20 hp motor. Plus lots of other farm equipment, shop related and more.

Edmor & Ruth Thomas - Birtle, MB
Saturday, April 23, at 10 a.m. DST

Sale includes: 2001 - Kubota M-120 MFD w/ 18.4 x 38 rubber, shuttle shift, high speed turn, 3 pth, 540 & 1000. Sells with Kubota M960 loader only 2707 hrs. 1981 White 2 - 135 w/9000 hrs. Oliver 1555 diesel w/loader. MF 1100 diesel. 1981 JD 8820 SP combine w/ hyd. assist rear wheels, Melroe PU. 3500 hrs. 1987 CCIL 722 SP diesel swather 26' w/ batt reel. 2109 hrs. 2002 Dodge 3500 w/ Cummings diesel Dually, 5 spd. Standard w/ 10' flat deck. 2000 Western Star highway tractor w/ double bunk, air ride, 13 spd., 60 Series Detroit 475 hp, 244" wheel base, new inter cooler, 1,556,353 km's (Saffied). 1997 Doepker Super B flat decks w/ hay racks, 11R24.5 rubber, 32' & 28' (Saffied). 2005 Darco 6 1/2' x 20' gooseneck stock trailer w/ new paint job. 1975 Ford 3 ton w/ box & hoist. 2008 Mac Don R80 rotary disc. (has all updates done only 300 acres). 1999 NH 590 big square baler (3' x 3' x 8') done about 6000 bales. IHC 8610 bale processor. NH 679 manure spreader. 10 ton fast bin (hopper bottom). 1930 bus. hopper bottom. 3 - 1650 bus. hopper bottoms. JD 3970 forage harvester. NH 890 forage harvester. Plus a full line of farm & livestock equipment, shop tools and more.

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In Rocanville on June 1

Plans firming up for RCMP Musical Ride

BY KARA KINNA

Plans are falling into place for the RCMP Musical Ride, which will be performing in Rocanville, Sask. on Wednesday, June 1.

A committee and sub-committees have been formed to help host the event, which is expected to bring in between 2,500 and 3,000 people.

According to organizers, the ride itself will be at 7:45 p.m. that evening, but the gates open at 4:30 p.m.

There will be entertainment before the ride, and people will have a chance to meet the horses and riders the day of the event at the Rocanville rink where the horses will be stabled. The rink will be open, and the general public will be welcome to tour the stables, to see the horses, and speak first-hand with the riders.

First Nations hoop dancer Terrence Littlelent will be performing before the musical ride, as well as the Cowessess First Nation drummers and dancers. The McAuley 4-H Club will also do a formation riding demonstration.

There will also be a concession on site during the event.

According to Rec Directory Kathy Brown, a number of subcommittees have been formed to help plan for and carry out the event, but volunteers are still needed.

"There are lots of before



Riders and horses in a formation during the RCMP Musical Ride. The ride will be in Rocanville on June 1.

and afters," say Brown. "Setup and teardown will be huge, and then the day of, we will need people to help at the gates, etc."

Because the ride is held on a Wednesday night, and not a weekend, set up and teardown must happen close to the event.

The ride will be held on the Rocanville ball diamonds, and extra bleachers are being moved into

that area so that there is enough seating and people have a good view of the ride. However, more bleachers are still needed, and the committee is in the process of finding those bleachers.

The bleachers will need to be set up on the day of the ride, and Brown says there will be a lot of work that goes into preparing the Rocanville rink as sta-

bles for the horses.

"They want six inches of dirt that can pack, so that the horses don't slip, then six inches of bedding over that, and then cleaning," says Brown.

Brown says lots of volunteers have already stepped forward to help with the event, but more will be needed to pitch in before the ride and on the day of the ride.

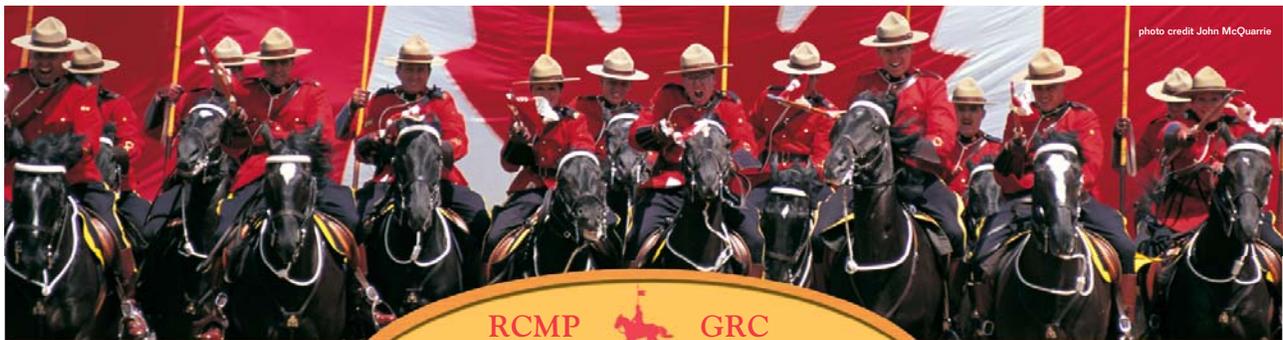
Committees have been set up for entertainment, food, stables, grounds, fundraising, volunteers, transportation, parking and bleachers.

Brown says the ride will go rain or shine, and tickets for the event will be sold at the gate.

Proceeds from the event will be donated toward two community projects. The first is Dream Big

Childcare, a group that is working to set up a day care in Rocanville. The second is the Rocanville Dial-a-Van. Rocanville does not have a dial-a-van, but the community is planning to fundraise for one.

Brown says anyone wanting to volunteer or donate toward the event can call her at the Rocanville rec office at 306-645-2164.



The RCMP Musical Ride is coming to Rocanville, SK
Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Ride starts at 7:45 p.m. — Gates open at 4:30 p.m.

Entertainment prior to ride:
Hoop Dancer Terrence Littlelent.
Cowessess First Nations drummers and dancers.
McAuley 4H Club formation riding.
Concession on site.

Horse barn open for viewing prior to the ride.
Come meet the horses and their riders!

Tickets:
\$10 Adults
\$5 Age 6-12
Preschool free
Call (306) 645-2164
for more information.

All proceeds from this event will go toward the Rocanville daycare and the Rocanville Dial-A-Van. We welcome your help! If you'd like to volunteer our donate to this event please call (306) 645-2164.

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Harsh winter a blow to deer population

BY KARA KINNA

If deer are becoming a common sight on town streets and in farmyards this March, that's because this winter has been an exceptionally hard one for the animals.

Excess snow, extreme cold temperatures, fluctuating weather, and a late spring all add up to a winter that could significantly cull deer populations by as much as 40 per cent.

"Any time we have above-average snowfall and the kind of weather we've been having where it's cold and then warm, and then cold, and then really cold, that all has an impact on wildlife," says Adam Schmidt, an area wildlife biologist at Melville with the Ministry of Environment.

"The main thing is the amount of snow we've had, and the cold too. Anytime we've had these conditions in the past, we've lost deer."

Schmidt says the ministry of environment already knows that it has been a tough winter and that deer are dying due to it.

During a normal winter, he says it's normal to lose between 10 to 15 per cent of the deer population, but during a tough winter like this one, he says 30 to 40 per cent, or higher, can die off.

Schmidt says reports of deer in towns this winter means it has been a hard year for them.

"Normally deer don't wander into towns, but this winter they have been in several towns," he

says.

"They are trying to get away from the deep snow, so they get onto a road, and that road leads into a town, and they start nibbling on shrubs and trees.

"Most deer try to winter in big chunks of bush, but once they fill up (with snow), they end up on roads and in yards, and that's an indication they are having a tough time. The general rule is that if there is more than 18 inches of snow in protected areas in the bush, the deer have trouble moving around.

"It restricts where they can move around, and so they stick to trails, and it restricts how much food they can get."

Schmidt says warm weather followed again by cold weather creates a crust on the snow, which leads to higher rates of predation on the weak and hungry animals by coyotes and other predators that can walk on that crust.

Schmidt says the ministry of environment "knows that it has been a tough winter and that there have been animals that have died already," but says they won't know until spring finally comes just how much of the population died off.

"We really won't know because it's not over yet," he says. "It really depends on how fast the snow goes in the spring and how quickly it warms up and how quickly the plants start to grow.

"Deer like to get onto green growth plants as



Tracy Olson photo

A deer stands in a farmyard in the Kelso area. Deer have been coming into yards, and even into towns, this winter to find food.

soon as possible to revive their energy reserves, especially if the does are pregnant with fawns.

"If we have cool weather, we will still be losing animals right into April and May. They just can't get enough (food) to compensate for what has happened."

Luc Syrenne, the conservation officer for Moosomin, says there's no doubt that deer in the area are starving.

"Deer have been coming into towns and communities, foraging on trees and shrubs and cedars, and people are getting frustrated with the fact that they are doing a lot of damage to trees," says Syrenne. "And you find that deer have congregated into farmers'

fields where the farmers are actively feeding their livestock in the pasture, and the deer are feeding on hay in the field for the livestock and getting into the feed for the livestock, and that is causing problems."

Syrenne says he has gone out and measured the depth of the snow in areas around Moosomin, finding it to be up to 24 inches in some places, meaning that the snow is past the height of the deers' bellies.

He says he knows it has been a harder than average winter for the animals, since complaints about them started coming earlier this year.

"Traditionally in a given winter you'll start to see problems come in after

Christmas, but this year it was earlier because of the earlier onset of snow, and the snow has been deeper. The snowfall has been pretty regular and it keep accumulating."

Syrenne says there have been complaints of deer and elk coming into towns and eating bushes, shrubs and fruit trees, or of elk feeding on stored feed.

"Now we're getting a lot of deer that are dying and people are saying they've got a dead deer in their back yard.

"You can tell the condition of the deer if you can see their bones. If you can, they are not in good shape, they are starving."

Schmidt says that this is not the first winter in the last decade to hit deer hard.

The winter of 2000 was rough on the animals, as were back to back winters in 1995 to 1997, and 1984 to 1985. He says tough winters cull deer populations every few years.

Schmidt says the ministry of environment simply tries to monitor the situation. In the 1980s they tried a feeding program for the animals, but he says it was expensive and 30 to 40 per cent of the population died regardless.

"It's going to affect hunters next fall," he says. "We may have to make adjustments to how many antlerless licenses we issue.

"We'll just have to adjust our management and hunters will have to adjust their expectations based on the winter.

The Moosomin Chamber of Commerce 2011 All Candidates Meeting

11:45 a.m. - Tuesday, April 12
The Uptown Banquet Room
Moosomin, SK

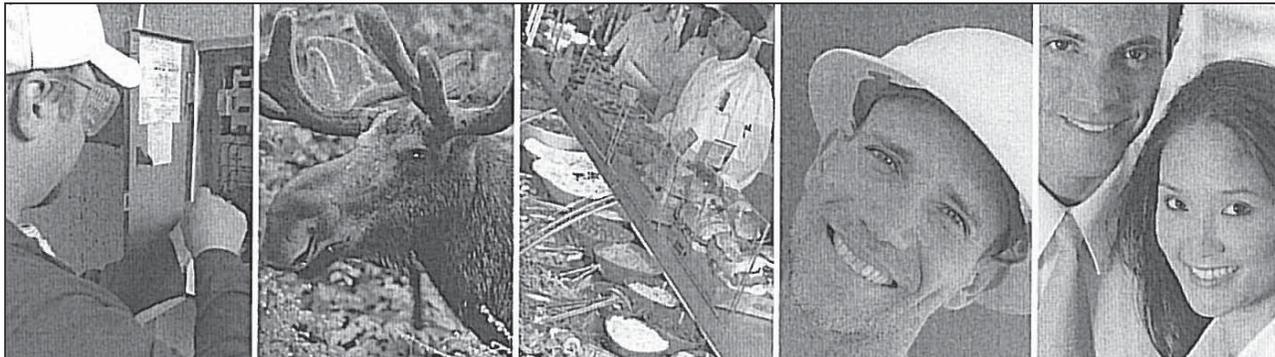
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Come out and meet the candidates in Souris-Moose Mountain!

All the candidates have been invited.

Conservative candidate Ed Komarnicki, NDP candidate Allan Arthur and Green Party candidate Bob Deptuck have confirmed their attendance.





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Remote Services



Big Sky Drilling donates truck to regional park

Big Sky Drilling donated a truck to the Moosomin Regional Park recently. The truck—a 2007 GMC Sierra with four wheel drive—is worth between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and was a former fleet truck. The company donated the truck after Moosomin's Jason Light, who works with Big Sky, asked the company if they

would be willing to donate a used fleet truck. "I knew we could get hold of one, and the park trucks needed to be upgraded," says Light. Big Sky agreed and the donation was made. Above, from left, are the Moosomin Regional Park's Gerry Fawcett and Chris Davidson, along with Jason Light in front of the truck.

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Political irrationality



Edward Willett

This week, in honor of the Canadian federal election coming up May 2, I'm revisiting a column from a few years ago that seems apropos.

It's all about political irrationality, and if you read that phrase and immediately assume it's referring to the obvious irrationality of the political beliefs of those who plan to vote for candidates belonging to that stupid/evil/corrupt other party, well, think again: by making that assumption, you're actually the one demonstrating political irrationality.

Political disagreements tend to turn hot very quickly. And that's just one way they're unusual, says Michael Heumer of the University of Colorado in Boulder. In "Why People Are Irrational About Politics," posted on his website, the associate professor of philosophy notes that political disagreements are also unusually widespread (any two people will probably disagree politically about something-or-other) and unusually long-lived.

There are four theories why:
The miscalculation theory says political issues are so difficult that people make mistakes in reasoning them out, then disagree with others who have either not made mistakes or have made different mistakes.

The ignorance theory says political issues are divisive either because we don't have enough information, or because different people have different information.

The divergent-values theory says political issues are divisive because they tend to be based on fundamental moral values, which vary widely.

Then there's Heumer's favorite, the irrationality theory, which says that political opinions are simply not arrived at rationally.

Neither miscalculation nor ignorance explain the certainty people display regarding their political beliefs, Heumer says. Someone who has reasoned out a complicated mathematical problem tends to be tentative about her answer, especially if she lacks mathematical knowledge and especially if someone else got a different answer. But people tend to be completely sure their political "answers" are correct, and the fact others apparently

reasoned their way to an entirely different "answer" doesn't affect their certainty in the slightest.

The divergent values theory, meanwhile, doesn't explain why political differences seem impervious to facts. Heumer's example: socialists blame capitalism for Third World poverty, while capitalists believe capitalism is the solution for Third World poverty. The effects of capitalism or socialism on Third World poverty should be something that can be factually determined—but people on either side of the debate hold their beliefs so strongly they can't even agree on the facts.

Heumer says people's political beliefs, even when irrational, are actually chosen for rational reasons: the psychological rewards of holding certain beliefs, rational or not, outweigh the slight harm that results from holding false beliefs.

Thus, people choose to hold a certain political belief to fit into a social group, maintain their self-image, or simply because that belief meshes well with their other beliefs. They convince themselves their belief is entirely rational by giving supporting evidence more weight than contradictory evidence, focusing on arguments that support their beliefs and ignoring those that don't, collecting evidence only from sources they already agree with, and relying on subjective, speculative and anecdotal claims.

For Heumer, political irrationality is "the greatest social problem humanity faces," because it prevents us from finding solutions to other problems, such as war, poverty and environmental degradation. But if people realize their beliefs may be irrational, they can adjust

their confidence in those beliefs, particularly in areas they're likely to be biased about—and if they realize other people's beliefs may also be irrational, they can learn to be wary of the information others present them with, understanding that it may be false, misleading or incomplete.

Heumer also offers tips for discussing politics rationally. First, he says, don't make the discussion personal—avoid insulting the other person or groups with which he might identify. Second, he suggests, both sides should identify the facts on which they're basing their claims. You may be arguing in an absence of knowledge, and can then agree to suspend judgment while you gather more information.

Finally, Heumer says, it's important to be fair-minded, acknowledging the parts of your argument based on incomplete evidence, being willing to bring forth and address evidence that undermines your position, and acknowledging fair points made by the other person.

Of course, this is not the way our "professional" political debaters (politicians, pundits, newspaper columnists and bloggers) usually conduct arguments.

But don't you want to be better than them?

Edward Willett is an award-winning writer of fiction and non-fiction from Regina.

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May 2, 2011
 Exercise your democratic right and vote in this years' federal election. Your vote counts!

Centre 48 gearing up for concert, Perogy Run

Centre 48 in Montmartre was happy to change the dates for two of its events this year in order to avoid overlapping with other events being held in the region.

The Masters and Students Concert has been moved to Sunday, May 8, while the Perogy Run has been moved from the last weekend in May to Saturday, June 11.

"We realize that May 8 is Mother's Day, but we are

hopeful that an afternoon of great music fits into people's plans for the day," said Centre 48 coordinator Pauline Long-Wright.

Centre 48's Masters and Students Concert will feature Centre 48's music students who have spent the last year studying piano, voice, guitar, drum and kids music.

The Perogy Run on June 11 is Centre 48's only fundraiser, with all proceeds being used to subsidize

classes like music, art and fitness.

Some classes featured at Centre 48 this spring include a health and wellness clinic (started April 5) taught by Ingrid Tourigny who is a Certified Chopra Center Perfect Health Instructor. This class will focus on meditation, yoga, diet and how to maintain a healthy body weight and outlook on life.

"You will learn about the three primary mind-

body personalities which will help you to access the power of your body's inner pharmacy to heal, nourish and maintain balance," said Tourigny, owner of Ingrid's Acupuncture and Wellness Clinic in Katepwa.

On April 9, renowned Saskatchewan artist Marilyn Malo will teach kids and parents how to paint using various methods. This class takes place in Wolseley at Malo's expan-

sive home-based studio where canvasses, paints and brushes can be purchased.

Recording artist Lorri Solomon of Carlyle will offer a songwriting workshop on April 10 in Montmartre. Solomon says you don't have to play an instrument to take the class, you just have to have an enthusiasm for music and a willingness to be creative. The completed song will be performed at

Montmartre's All Folk'd Up Festival, July 8-10.

Marlynn Malo will be in Montmartre on April 16 at the Seniors' Centre to offer acrylic landscape painting.

On May 14, connect with horses during a one-day workshop that will have you doing ground work with ponies and full-sized gentle horses.

More information can be gained by calling Centre 48 at 306-424-2166.

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Ed and Judy Missinne • Deloraine, Manitoba
5 miles east of Medora, MB to mile 138, ½ mi North
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Tractors: 1985 Versatile 876 4WD, 4 spl hyd, 6050 hrs; 1983 John Deere 4450 2wd, dual hyd, 5800 hrs; Trucks: 1980 IHC tandem truck, 350 Cummins, 13 spd trans w/ 19' Midland box and hoist; 1980 Chev C70 3-ton grain truck, 366 gas, 5-2 trans, 16' Canade box; 24' Sokal flat deck; Harvesting: 1993 John Deere 9400 SP combine w/ 914 pickup header, hydraulic chaff spreader, 2400 sep hrs; JD 925 25' straight cut header; Tillage: Bourgault 32' airseeder, 528-34, 2155 air tank w/ rear hitch, Pattison liquid kit, HD trip, knife openers, poly packers, granular kit, new 4 row harrows; Bourgault LFC 3000, liquid caddy, double piston John Blue pump, Honda transfer pump, like new; Morris Magnum II 731 35' deep tiller, 3 row harrows, 510 Walinga grain vac; Liquid Fertilizer tanks: 1-9000 usg, 3-3000 usg, 1-1650 usg Consigned Equipment: Marcel Vanstelant. 204-747-2495 1975 Versatile 700 4WD, Series II, 3-spl hyd; NH 855 round baler, new chains and bearings; 900 Jiffy bale shredder; NH 357 mix mill, bale feeder, long auger, shedded; 24' Sokal flat deck with beavertail ramps, plus more!

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