

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Drive-In Theatre owners happy they can re-open

BY KARA KINNA

This spring and summer, going to a movie at a drive-in theatre will be a possibility sooner than expected after the province of Saskatchewan announced that drive-in theatres can operate as of May 15 with vehicles five meters apart and contact-free concessions.

Drive-ins were originally slated to open in phase four of Saskatchewan's plan to reopen, but the province changed that on May 8, an announced they could open in time for the May long weekend.

"We got the go-ahead to move forward on Friday, May 15, just in time for May long weekend," said Ray Boutin, the owner of Prairie Dog Drive-in at Carlyle, happily. "So we'll be able to provide a social outlet for all those who have a pent-up need to get out and have a bit of a return to normalcy."

"We are very excited. The theatre is celebrating 40 years this year so we are very excited that we can light up the screen for another season on the 40th year!"

Under the original plan that drive-ins could open in phase four of the plan to reopen Saskatchewan, Boutin said it left them with no real timeline for when to reopen, so he started holding popcorn fundraisers as a way to use his facility for something positive in the community until he could open.

"We had utilized the facility already to do some drive-through popcorn nights, one on April 25 and one on May 9," he says. "We celebrated by doing a drive-through popcorn night on each of those nights. The first weekend was a fundraiser for the food bank, where the good folks locally purchased popcorn and \$2,700 was raised for the local food bank. And then on May 9, over 200 bags of fresh popcorn was purchased and raised \$2,300 which is going to be going toward the Carlyle volunteer fire department, the Kenosee Lake volunteer fire department and STARS Air ambulance."

"The two nights raised \$5,000. We are really ecstatic about the community support that re-



Ray Boutin, his wife Frances, and two daughters Simone and Janelle at the Prairie Dog Drive-In.

sponded to that, and all of it is going to really good causes. We are blown away by the two drive-through nights. For us, that was exciting that we could be a part of that too."

Now that he can light up the screen, Boutin says the plan is to figure out what movies he can show this season to get things rolling.

On the May long weekend—May 15, 16 and 17—Trolls World Tour was scheduled to show.

"We've talked to our booking agent. The studios have halted

the release of movies because of the pandemic so there is a bit of a limited inventory of new movies, but whatever is available we will get our hands on," he says.

"We may resort to lighting the screen with some popular films that have already been released at a prior date. Initially we will open up with Trolls World Tour, then we are looking at perhaps Call of the Wild, or Ford vs Ferrari which was a good flick, so we may screen that. We are just going to kind of navigate with what we've got."

"We might even try a customer YouTube night where they come in and request their favorite YouTube video."

"Hopefully the studios start releasing some films soon. Anyways we are going to work with what we've got and get the screen lit again. We crossed over into the digital age in 2012 so we have an awesome projector that lights up the screen nicely, and the screen is still standing, so we have to light it up!"

Boutin says movies will be shown on Friday and Saturday

nights in May and June, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in July and August.

He says with social distancing the drive-in will be operating at about half the customer capacity.

"With the current restrictions we are probably reduced to 50 per cent capacity, vehicles need to be spaced five meters apart, so that will reduce the capacity a bit," he says. "The concession needs to be contactless pickup while practicing social distancing, so we'll probably allow around two clients in the concession building at a time, we will implement sneeze screens, we're going to have some signage out front to help with screening folks right off the get-go. We might do a takeout order as well. We plan on labelling the parking spaces so people can actually text in their order and we can take it out to them."

"It's going to be a little different season, but the good news is that we are giving folks an opportunity to get out of the house and get into a bit of a space where you can see other folks. I think there's kind of a pent-up demand for an outlet to get out and feel some sort of normalcy."

"It does kind of consume our summertime weekends, but we've been running it as a family operation and it's been real good to us since day one. We've had it since 1997, our oldest girl was two weeks old when we took it over. So for the girls, it's in their blood, it's part of their upbringing and they kind of identify with the theatre. And so do the locals. The theatre has actually been up and running since 1980, so it's kind of in the fabric of the community. In spring and summer it's time to go to the drive-in, and we're lucky with the local indoor theatre, we cooperate, they run in the winter and we run in the summer, and everybody wins."

"We're very pleased to be able to light the big screen and offer a venue for folks in these crazy times. We are excited for the season and prepared to do whatever is required to keep it safe and open for the season."

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Pictured above is Enbridge laying down straw as part of earlier Line 3 right-of-way reclamation work in southern Saskatchewan.

# Crew of 250 will be needed to complete work in SE Sask and SW Man: Enbridge plans Line 3 reclamation this summer

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Enbridge says the final surface reclamation work on the Line 3 right-of-way in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba is a priority for the company and it is planning to start that work with a crew of 250 in the Moosomin area in mid-June.

"The reclamation work is scheduled for mid-June but will depend on a number of factors," David Coll, Senior Communications Advisor at Enbridge said. "In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Enbridge continues to evaluate our existing and planned project work regularly while prioritizing work that is essential to keeping our system running safely and reliably. This includes final reclamation of the Line 3 pipeline right-of-way in southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba." The work that still needs to be done covers about 110 kilometres of the right-of-way, including grading, replacing topsoil and final cleanup.

The project will require a workforce of about 250 people. "We are finalizing plans for this work, however that will depend on a number of factors including the latest guidance provided by landowners, local, federal and international public-health and government authorities," said Coll.

When the work is done on the remaining right-of-way in the Moosomin area, Coll says it will be done with safety as the top priority. "At Enbridge, safety is our top priority. That is why we are taking robust, proactive measures to protect the health and safety of our employees and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across North America, we are operating at a heightened level of emergency response preparedness and staying closely connected to recommendations from public health authorities and medical experts.

"We are prepared and are rolling out plans to ensure the continued safe operation of our facilities, including a COVID-19 pandemic protocol to ensure we can continue to execute projects safely. The protocol sets common expectations and 'ways of working,' including proper social distancing, hand hygiene, site-access health assessments and other key activities. Regardless of start date, we will follow our COVID-19 Safe Work Protocol for construction projects which includes specific measures such as: specialized PPE and numerous hand wash stations; dedicated COVID-19 maintenance workers to continuously sanitize door handles, handrails, vehicles and surfaces with which workers and office staff routinely come into contact; social distance co-ordinators to ensure proper social distancing is being maintained at all times. Crews would stay in holiday trailers, campgrounds, motels, apartments, houses and private suites, and follow the same social distancing protocols as any others occupying these types of accommodations."

Both the federal and provincial governments recognize both energy infrastructure and agriculture as essential services. "The final Line 3 reclamation work will ensure the return of farmland to productive use as soon as possible," said Coll.

### Funding for communities

Coll said Enbridge is also trying to help organizations with funding in the communities where it operates.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a deep impact in the communities in which we operate," he said.

"We're providing support in our com-

munities by advancing funds to respond and provide relief to those who are most vulnerable. Our teams in our operating regions are working closely with our nonprofit community partners, our closest Indigenous neighbors, and local governments to identify where resources are needed most—including food banks, social service agencies, mental health organizations, first responders and healthcare providers."

### Pipeline completed in 2019

Construction of the \$5.3-billion Canadian portion of the Line 3 Replacement Pro-

gram is complete, and the new Line 3 began commercial service in December 2019.

The Line 3 replacement pipeline is a "mixed-service" line, meaning it carries a variety of crude oils, including sweets, light and high sours, and light synthetics.

Shippers are permitted to ship crude oil blends or types on Enbridge's liquids pipelines system that meet quality specifications set by Enbridge, and filed with the Canada Energy Regulator. This includes heavy crudes such as diluted bitumen. Crews were in the Moosomin area in the summer of 2018 to work on the pipeline in southeastern Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

Continued on Page 5

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# Oil to be shipped across Canada via Panama Canal

Irving Oil now has approval from the federal government to source Western Canadian oil for its Saint John refinery.

The oil will not be flowing through a pipeline across Canada, as TC Energy withdrew its application for the Energy East pipeline that would have carried Alberta oil from Hardisty, Alberta—and Saskatchewan and Manitoba oil added to the pipeline at Moosomin—to the Irving refinery at Saint John, New Brunswick.

Rather, it will be loaded onto tankers in Vancouver and transported through the Panama Canal to Saint John.

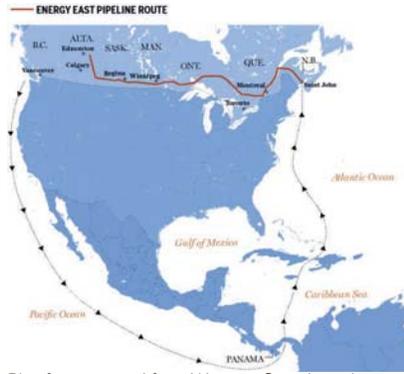
The Energy East plan included a pipeline from Cromer, Manitoba to Moosomin, and a separate pipeline, the Up-land Pipeline, to bring oil from Williston, North Dakota to Moosomin. The plan would have included a 1,050,000 barrel tank farm at the Moosomin Compressor station.

Irving Oil had backed the \$15.7-billion Energy East, which was initially proposed by TransCanada Corp. in 2014 to connect Western Canadian oil to the East Coast to replace imported oil.

As part of the original Energy East plan, Irving planned to build a new \$300-million terminal at its Canaport facility in Saint John to take shipments from the proposed pipeline.

The project was cancelled in 2017, after TransCanada had invested \$1 billion in the project, when the federal government set new environmental standards requiring the company to account to the National Energy Board for all upstream and downstream carbon impacts of the oil running through the pipeline.

Irving's new solution to access the oil will see West-



Plan for getting oil from Western Canada to the east

ern Canadian oil travel 6,300 nautical miles, or 11,771 kilometres, more than twice the length of the abandoned 4,600-kilometre Energy East pipeline.

Irving filed an application to the Canadian Transportation Agency on April 16 of this year, requesting permission to use the route through the Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal, the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

“on an urgent basis.”

The company said in its application it was already in discussions “for prompt acquisition” of Canadian oil “for immediate delivery to its refinery through the Panama Canal,” via medium-sized crude tankers known as Aframax.

Irving Oil is also planning to source Canadian oil delivered through ports in Texas and Louisiana.

Western Canadian oil flows through the Keystone Pipeline to Winnipeg and then south to the United States. The Keystone XL pipeline now under construction will shorten that route and will carry 830,000 barrels of oil a day.

The 590,000 barrel a day Trans Mountain Expansion project is also under way to expand crude shipments between Alberta and the B.C. coast.

“Given the choice, Canadians want to use Canadian oil and the nation’s largest refinery should have reliable access to oil produced in its own country,” Tim McMillan of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers told the World-Spectator last week.

“We have seen there are limits to the reliability of rail transport with the recent blockades and the cancellation of the Energy East pipeline leaves our country with few options to move our resources to the East Coast,” McMillan added. “In the short term, the Irving Refinery proposal offers a desperately needed expansion of our domestic market, even if it takes an unconventional route to that market.”

See page 20 for an interview with Saskatchewan Energy Minister Bronwyn Eyre on this issue.

## Crew of 250 will be needed to complete work in SE Sask and SW Man: Enbridge plans Line 3 reclamation this summer

Continued from Page 3

Crews were stationed in Moosomin for reclamation work on the Line 3 right-of-way in 2019, but the wet fall meant the work wasn’t completed in the Moosomin area.

### Decommissioning

The next step for Line 3 will be decommissioning the original line, which is scheduled for the Moosomin area in 2022. In advance of the potential decommissioning of a line, engineering and environmental assessments are completed in consultation with landowners.

“This summer, we will be reaching out to landowners, municipalities and Indigenous communities and filing a required decommissioning engagement plan with the Canada Energy Regulator later this year,” said Coll.

“We plan to begin field work for decommissioning of the Line 3 pipeline in the spring of 2021. Decommissioning of Line 3 will be completed in phases over two years and is anticipated to begin as early as the spring of 2021,

weather permitting. The work has been divided into four segments, from Hardisty to Gretna, each of which will require about 120 workers and take approximately 4-6 months to complete. The Regina to Cromer segment is currently anticipated to begin in 2022.”

Once the National Energy Board approves a decommissioning application, the process involves:

- Removing the vast majority of crude oil from the pipeline with specially designed cleaning instruments;

- Wiping and cleaning the pipeline, using a combination of cleaning instruments and cleaning solution;
- Physically disconnecting the pipeline and sealing it off from active operational facilities, such as pump stations;
- Segmenting the pipeline, where required, by creating permanent physical barriers inside the pipe (including gate valves and permanent segmentation plugs) to prevent the pipeline from acting as a water conduit.

### Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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# Yorkton area selected for dementia project

ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Yorkton and its surrounding region has been selected for the Interventions to Enhance Social Inclusion of Older Adults with Dementia in Saskatchewan project.

It's a five-year project that will fund three to four organizations to deliver services that support greater social inclusion of older adults living with dementia and their caregivers.

The project is being conducted through the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Unit (SPHERU), a research centre based at both the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan.

The project is being led by Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, a professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina's Prince Albert Campus.

The team also includes Dr. Tom McIntosh, professor in the Department of Politics and International Studies, and Dr. Nuelle Novik, associate professor in the Faculty of Social Work.

"We believe that Yorkton and the surrounding communities are ideal places to explore what interventions can best enhance the quality of lives of people with dementia that live in smaller communities and rural areas," said Jeffery.

"We are also confident that services and supports that are shown to be effective in this area can be expanded to other rural communities in Saskatchewan." "It's great for the province," said Jeffery. "Our particular project has a rural focus, which has been most of my research work for many years."

When the opportunity for the project came up, Jeffery saw it as the perfect situation to grow the work she was already doing.

"There was a call that came out from the federal government through the New Horizons for Seniors Program," said Jeffery. "They were asking for proposals for projects that would address social inclusion of older adults."

"We had already been working with the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan surrounding social isolation."

"So we were interested in pursuing this because we saw it as a way to extend that work and they were interested in working with us," said Jeffery.

"Then we put together a proposal and we were one of the projects in Canada that was selected," said Jeffery. "Pretty well every province and territory has at least one project so it was a competitive process."

The choice of Yorkton for the centralization of the project was decided based on multiple factors.

"When we applied for it we said, 'we will do this in small cities and rural communities in Saskatchewan,'" said Jeffery.

"Then when we were successful in getting the funds — there's only so many funds to distribute over five years — we thought,

we don't have the resources to spread this out over the whole province."

"We went through the process of looking at different regions of the province and we were kind of looking for a place with a smaller city as the hub that spreads out to other rural communities," said Jeffery.

"A couple reasons we selected Yorkton, it has one of the oldest population distributions in the province, we are working closely with the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan and they have a new office in Yorkton, and the project is at the University of Regina so the majority working on the project are there and we have staff that will need to go out to the communities a lot."

"We thought if we spread ourselves too thin then we wouldn't do as good of a job as if we concentrated on an area," said Jeffery.

"It is in Yorkton, but our hope is if these programs work in places around Yorkton and surrounding small communities then they can be transferred to other communities in the province."

There are multiple key components to the project, spreading awareness around dementia, offering better services for those with dementia and their care partners, and helping rural communities with getting the resources they need.

"We're hoping over the next four years we actually see a decrease of the stigma associated for people with dementia, and part of that comes from increased public awareness," said Jeffery.

"We also want to see whether some of the programs that are offered for people with dementia and their care partners are effective supports and to make sure it's effective if you live in a small community."

"It's one thing if you live in Regina or Saskatoon where support groups are readily available, but it's not as easy if you live in a small community in rural Saskatchewan."

The funding the project has received will go to multiple organizations to provide different types of services needed for those with dementia, their care partners, and to help spread community awareness.

"Part of the project is we got money — \$3 million and some of those funds go to support our infrastructure and pay our staff — and will be distributing those funds to organizations who will deliver programs at three different levels, we're just in the process of soliciting community interest at this point."

"There's three different levels, the first is individual level support and that's things like support groups," said Jeffery.

"The second is community level programs and an example of that is the Dementia Friendly Community Initiative that the Alzheimer Society promotes that's helping to make communities more accepting and supportive of people with dementia."

"The third one is organizational level, and to give an example, many small towns



Gordon Grant, an advisory committee member for the project who lives in Moosomin.

have a grocery store and the person goes to the store and maybe forgets what they're there for or gets lost, so we want to help work with organizations to train their staff to be supportive and inclusive of people with dementia," said Jeffery. "It could be with any organization, grocery stores, banks, libraries."

"We want to give them the tools to make their staff more aware so they can give good customer service to those people."

One of the biggest parts of the project is educating communities on dementia and those living with it to help everybody better understand.

"Often there's a lot of misunderstanding about dementia and I think most peoples minds go to somebody with end stage Alzheimers," said Jeffery. "But that's only one form of dementia, there are several forms."

"Many people with dementia continue to live in their own homes for a long time and can be active contributors in their community."

"It can be a really lonely and isolating experience for people, especially in small towns," said Jeffery.

"It's really important to spread awareness because if more people understand dementia then they're less likely to be fearful," said Jeffery. "Sometimes people are a bit afraid of it."

"A lot of us have our lives touched by disease and if you help people understand the different types of dementia and how to engage with people with dementia, it makes them more comfortable."

"There are lots of resources out there, that's why we're working so closely with the Alzheimer's Society," said Jeffery. "They have a tremendous amount of resources, really practical resources to help people out in this area."

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the world to go into isolation and it's giving everybody a glimpse of what the stigma around dementia can lead to.

"Most of us can talk about social isolation and it's always the other person experiencing it and we have our active lives," said Jeffery. "But this Covid-19 situation has raised the

them to these organizations so there's a lot of paperwork on our end," said Jeffery. "So we've developed an application form and a process."

"We're looking to fund three or four organizations so we've done a lot of reaching out to community organizations."

"We had planned to do a community meeting where we would give out information on the proposal, talk about what we're looking for, talk about the application process," said Jeffery. "Of course, that's not happening so we're doing a webinar instead of a face-to-face meeting."

"We're going to get out to Yorkton as soon as it's safe to do so, but in the meantime we're just connecting with people virtually."

"Everybody is in the same situation so we feel like it's moving along the best it can given the circumstances," said Jeffery. "We'll probably do a couple webinars to make sure we're really reaching out."

Edna Parrott is a former Director of Home Care for the Sunrise Health Region and sits on the advisory committee for the project. She was the caregiver for her husband who lived with dementia.

"This project will allow us to have programs developed by rural Saskatchewan people, for rural Saskatchewan people," said Parrott.

"Saskatchewan is a diverse province with many different cultures, so we can

take that into consideration and implement programs suitable for specific areas," said Parrott.

## Living with dementia

Gordon Grant lives in Moosomin and is on the advisory committee for the project. He lives with dementia.

"This project can give groups or programs the support, training, and awareness they may need to better provide assistance for those living with dementia in rural communities," said Grant.

"When there is more community awareness, this will hopefully reduce the stigma that prevents people from seeking help and support."

The stigma around dementia has negatively impacted those living with it both in terms of reaching out for help and feeling accepted in communities.

"I was diagnosed quite a few years ago and with this the stigma is one of the big things," said Grant.

"People sometimes can't get the services or help they need because they wait too long or they're scared to come forward because people look down on them."

"That was one of the most important things for me with this project, to spread awareness," said Grant.

With a lack of services for those living with dementia and their care partners, this project is a big step forward.

*Continued on Page 7*

## If I Get Dementia...

By: Rachael Wonderlin

If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality. If I think my spouse is still alive, or I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things, I'll be much happier for it.

If I get dementia, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.

If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read and visit with friends.

If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.

If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.

If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.

If I get dementia, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now, if I don't eat I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.

If I get dementia, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.

If I get dementia, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's not your fault and you've done your best.

Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.

If I get dementia, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.

If I get dementia, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events or places. Take a deep breath-it's not my fault.

If I get dementia, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.

If I get dementia, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original places.

If I get dementia, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.

If I get dementia, know that I still like receiving hugs or handshakes.

If I get dementia, remember that I am still the person you know and love.

# Energy sector can kick-start Canada's economy

Canada's energy sector is facing unprecedented challenges as oil demand collapses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The toll is already visible, with layoffs coming at the worst possible time for families, as companies cut spending and put growth plans on hold in order to survive.

In this challenging time, anti-oil activists pour gasoline on the fire by pushing a plan to kill off Canada's oil and gas industry.

The so-called Green New Deal is an irresponsible approach that ignores basic facts about the important role this industry has played and will play in building the strong and resilient country we're lucky to call home.

As many Canadians know, the oil and gas industry is one of the country's largest economic sectors. It has a long track record of driving Canada's economy. And it can do so again, with production of safe, reliable, secure, and affordable oil and gas, rooted in world-leading environmental practices.

Canadians would prefer to use Canadian energy over foreign sources—especially from regimes that have little respect for women's rights, human rights more broadly and the environment.

Here are a few things you might not know:

- The energy sector generated \$359 billion in federal and provincial revenues between 2000 and 2018, building many hospitals and schools across the country, among other things.
- Canada's Indigenous nations are benefiting as never before as the result of energy projects that Indigenous



**Toom Olsen**

leaders say respect the environment and afford their people a way out of poverty.

- The oil and gas sector supports more than 500,000 jobs across Canada in direct and related industries.
- The energy sector is also the biggest investor in clean tech. If you kill the energy industry, you kill the investment in clean tech.
- Reports of subsidies to the sector are widely exaggerated. They are, in fact, far less than subsidies to the rail sector and the motion picture industry, for example.

At the Canadian Energy Centre, we've been looking at attitudes across Canada when it comes to oil and gas. The results are heartening: 58 per cent of Canadians support the industry.

Those people want to know the industry is continuously taking steps to improve environmental performance.

They also want to know there's an openness to alternate forms of energy.

It's important to note, this is not an either/or conversation. It's a conversation that includes all forms of energy to meet the world's needs, including responsibly produced

renewables, and biofuels, fossil fuels and hydroelectricity. The starting point, however, is that oil and gas will be the primary fuel source for many years.

According to the International Energy Agency, in the last quarter of 2019—before the full effect of COVID-19 was felt—global demand eclipsed 100 million barrels of crude oil a day. That demand is expected to rebound to 98 million barrels a day by December 2020 from its current depressed levels.

Before the downturn, even the most conservative estimates put global demand at 67 million barrels a day in 2040. According to the International Energy Agency, however, a more likely scenario is 106 million barrels a day over the same period.

As much as possible of that oil should come from Canada.

So let's have that pragmatic discussion and set aside debates that suggest the imminent shuttering of an industry Canadians are proud of.

Canada's energy sector leads the world in responsible development while investing in new technologies that could help reduce both greenhouse gas and particulate emissions.

It will not be an easy road, but Canadian energy can help kick-start the country's recovery from the economic devastation of COVID-19.

We should let it.

*Tom Olsen is chief executive officer of the Canadian Energy Centre.*

## Yorkton area selected for dementia project

Continued from Page 6

"This project is important to start as early as possible because there are time restraints on it," said Grant. "And rural Saskatchewan has limited services for those living with dementia and their caregivers."

"The longer these community groups have to work with this program the better chance of seeing services expand across the province in the long-term."

The key thing for Grant is seeing increased awareness for dementia and those living with it.

"I hope the project will increase commu-

nity awareness and bring services to rural Saskatchewan," said Grant. "People living with dementia can still be active and contribute a lot to the community."

"I hope that increased awareness will help reduce the stigma associated with dementia diagnosis."

"Reducing the stigma of having dementia will allow people with dementia and their care partners to feel supported and included while continuing to be active in their community," said Grant.

Dementia isn't something that stops members in the community from contributing, but the stigma around it does.

"It's extremely important to develop dementia awareness," said Grant. "The stigma attached to the disease creates isolation and loneliness."

"I hope more awareness will help reduce the stigma so that people with dementia continue to be active in their communities."

Grant would like the project to lead to services for those throughout rural Saskatchewan where they don't have access to help right now.

"It's really important to provide services to those living with dementia and their care partners in rural Saskatchewan," said

Grant. "Services can provide an opportunity to those with dementia and their care partners to feel accepted, understood, and supported."

Getting the project off the ground in an area that can reach smaller communities is a great way for this to build momentum and grow says Grant.

"I feel this project is quite important for all communities, but they have to start somewhere," said Grant. "With a community like Yorkton there's a lot of smaller communities close by."

"Hopefully this will evolve into something a lot bigger," said Grant.

## Message from Premier Scott Moe

"Saskatchewan has been confronted by an unprecedented challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our province, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab has imposed a number of public health restrictions.

Saskatchewan people have met this challenge, showing vigilance in respecting these restrictions, and reducing the spread of COVID-19. Thank you to each and every Saskatchewan resident for doing your part.

Let's keep at it. Let's keep pulling together by staying apart."



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[www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19)

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1-855-559-5502 — non-medical inquiries or to report non-compliance.

Resources for businesses and workers:

[www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-business](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-business)



# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## It's spring!

Yay, spring is officially here, according to the calendar at least! I couldn't be more excited about that, Old Man Winter was really getting on my nerves!

Many of us have been cooped up in our homes lately and with no certainty of when we will get back to "normal." Between that and the longer days and spurts of warm sunshine I think it's safe to say many of us are getting that "spring itch."

To keep you from getting too stir crazy I have come up with a few ways to "scratch that itch" all while giving your home a fresh new look!



**Shannon Houff**

### GET RID OF THE CLUTTER

While washing and/or painting your walls you've most likely removed all of your pictures, art, and decor. Before putting it all back up, take the opportunity to de-clutter and decide if each item is something you really want or if it's time to let it go. The items you are ready to let it go, consider passing to someone who has admired it in the past or take it to your local thrift store.

### ACCESSORIZE

This is the perfect time to give your rooms some life by changing out some of your accessories and adding in a few new pieces. I like to pack away the warm and fuzzy pillows and blankets from winter and throw in some fresh coloured curtains, pillows, throws, and maybe even replace the area rug.

### MOVE IT. MOVE IT.

I am constantly rearranging my things (I bet you would have never guessed that!). Move your sofa and chairs and switch things up a bit, then step back and see how you like it. It is a quick and easy way to give your room a fresh new look.



### CLEAN IT UP

This is the perfect time to get your home feeling fresh. From windows to walls, give everything a wipe down and deep cleaning. There is nothing better than clean windows to bring in even more of that beautiful spring sunshine.

### ADD SOME PAINT

As for the walls, a scrub down is a great way to freshen up your home but I like to take it one step further and give them a fresh coat of paint (my Mom always cringes that I prefer to paint instead of wash). It's like killing two birds with one stone, you don't have to wash the walls and you get an amazing fresh new look! Of course, some walls get a little greasy and grimy and need a scrub before painting. In that case add some TSP in your water to help prep for the new paint. I always say paint is one of the most dramatic and economical ways to make a huge impact and what better way to get you started on a fresh new spring look. Paint is also a great way put a breath of life back into a tired piece of furniture, taking it from something you want to hide to a feature piece in your home.

### ADD GREENERY

Lastly, one of the nicest ways to freshen up any space for spring is with plants. Real plants are great but I prefer the convenience of realistic faux botanicals. Don't get me wrong, I do love real plants and gardening is one of my most treasured pastimes, but when you want to enjoy lake life and vacations in the summer, faux botanicals tend to do a little better with no water!

So until next time, it's That Girl Shannon saying, "Got the itch....let's scratch it!"



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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## SPRING MAINTENANCE:

### 5 key things to inspect outside your home

When spring arrives, it's important to inspect the exterior of your home to make sure it hasn't been damaged over the winter. Here are five key things you should check.

1. The roof. A visual inspection from the ground or a window will indicate if immediate repairs are needed. In particular, look out for curled, wavy or missing shingles. Also, check the ceilings inside your house for signs of water infiltration.

2. Gutters and spouts. Make sure they're still firmly attached to the house and that nothing is blocking

water from flowing through them. Remove any debris that's accumulated over the winter.

3. Foundation. Examine the concrete for cracks or signs of water damage. Even the smallest fissure can cause big problems for your home. If you see any signs of degradation, schedule a repair as soon as possible.

4. Balcony or patio. Clean your deck thoroughly and secure any loose boards. Wood patios should

be stained every one to three years. If it needs to be done this spring, sand the surface and apply your chosen stain.

5. Windows and doors. Check the caulking around each window and door, and replace it if necessary. Inspect wooden frames to make sure they don't show signs of water infiltration or rot.

If you notice any major damage during your inspection, be sure to make the needed repairs.



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## Small home? Maximize your living space!

Is your home feeling cramped? Before you consider an addition, here are some ways you can maximize the space you have.

**Repurpose space**  
Many people have parts of their home that are under-used. Consider turning the attic into a guest room, a storage space into an office or a closet into a reading nook for the kids.

### Design vertically

Use vertical space to free up more room. A loft bed in a kid's bedroom provides space for a desk underneath. And shelving units can hold lots of items without taking up a ton of floorspace. You can even install a shelf above the bathroom door to store toilet paper and cleaning supplies.

### Head outdoors

An outdoor living room allows you to gain extra square footage without sacrificing indoor space. You may not be able to use it year-round, but you'll undoubtedly appreciate it in warmer months. Install a firepit or outdoor heaters so you can keep using it once the weather gets colder.

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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## How to choose the right landscaping specialist

A beautiful exterior designed by a professional landscaper is a sure way to enhance your home's curb appeal and increase its market value. Here's how to find a landscaping expert that will know how to interpret your preferences and respond to your needs accordingly.

First, determine what it is that you want — an intimate, Zen-inspired terrace? A garden bursting with colour, or perhaps a functional yard for entertaining guests? The choice is yours! For inspiration, tour your neighbourhood, search the web or flip through landscaping design magazines. Next, find out which businesses offer landscaping services in your area. Ask to see a portfolio of their past creations to figure out if their style matches what you have in mind. A professional landscaping artist that values their clientele will take the

time to answer all of your questions.

Ideally, you want to get a price estimate from at least three different companies. Each estimate should include the landscaping design plan, estimated duration of the project and, of course, total cost (including materials, warranties and labour).

No matter which company you end up choosing, a written contract for your review should be made available before any work commences. Make sure to read each line attentively before signing away! Lastly, ensure the company will supply you with all of the pertinent information regarding the proper care of your new plants. Better yet, ask if they offer maintenance services so that you can enjoy your beautiful new yard without having to lift a finger!



*A beautiful exterior designed by a landscaping artist will inevitably enhance your home's curb appeal.*

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# HOME & GARDEN 2020



## Four unique ways to use tree stumps

Gone are the days of old tree stumps rotting away in the middle of the garden. Here are four unique ways to incorporate stumps in your landscaping.

### 1. As a pedestal

Thanks to their flat surface, tree stumps make perfect pedestals. Use your stump as a base for a bird feeder, a bonsai tree, a statue, a floral arrangement or even a fountain. As a finishing touch, surround the stump with flowers or decorative stones.

### 2. As lighting

Hollow stumps are great for hiding outdoor lighting in plain sight. Drill holes in the wood's surface or cut slats in the sides to let the light shine through. Use your stumps to subtly illuminate a tree, a shrub or a pathway.

### 3. As art

If you have certain artistic talents, why not turn your tree stumps into works of art? Sand then paint them to create unique decorative elements for your garden. You could even engrave or sculpt the wood if you'd like.

### 4. As a planter

Fill up hollow tree stumps with soil and sow some seeds inside. Choose plant varieties that spread quickly to add character to your garden in no time at all.

To find all the plants, materials and tools you'll need to make your project a success, visit a gardening centre or plant nursery near you.

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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## Spotlight on outdoor lighting

Do you long to admire your garden day and night? You can! Highlight your landscaping with strategically placed light fixtures throughout your yard. Once lit, your plants, your pathways and even your pool will give your garden a magical feel after sundown.

A well-integrated landscape lighting system will allow you to create the atmosphere you desire, whether

you wish to relax in a peaceful oasis, entertain in an enchanting atmosphere or impress your guests with the fanciest of backyards.

A few tips  
Lighting vertical surfaces such as tall trees or fences will make your yard seem bigger.

Combine function and form by lighting up your pathways, entrance and outdoor kitchen. Don't overdo it,

though: the goal is to be able to move around safely, not to see as if it were daylight.

Finally, shine the spotlight on the main features of your landscaping. You could use projectors to make your pool or water fountain shimmer. Other options include illuminating flowerbeds, shrubs or your deck.



Call in the pros to design an outdoor lighting system that's as functional as it is beautiful.



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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## Embellish your yard with a pond

Adding a pond to your property is an excellent way to embellish your outdoor space and give it personality. To incorporate a pond that harmonizes with the rest of your landscaping, keep these tips in mind.

### LOCATION

Determine the ideal spot for your pond. First of all, you'll need to consider sunlight, because your water feature might house various living species (plants, fish, frogs, etc.) with different needs. Make sure that your pond will receive enough sunlight for flora and fauna to thrive. Furthermore, avoid placing your pond next to a tree, because its roots may eventually damage it.

### SIZE

After finding the perfect spot for your water feature, you'll need to determine its size and shape. To choose the

appropriate size, consider how big your yard is. If it's relatively small, a giant pond would only make it feel more cramped. The opposite is also true: a tiny pond might go unnoticed in a sprawling yard.

Remember that your pond should complement your yard and that everything is a matter of balance. Preformed models (made of fibreglass, resin or polyester, for example) in various sizes and shapes are available on the market; you're sure to find one that perfectly matches your yard.

### FINISHING TOUCH

Once you've set up your pond, you'll be able to highlight it with plants, a sculpture, solar-powered lanterns, a rustic bench, or any other accessories you'd like.



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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

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# HOME & GARDEN 2020

## The benefits of installing a stone garden wall

A low stone wall can be a practical and attractive addition to your garden. Here's why you should consider including one in your landscaping.

### To prevent erosion

If your property slopes or has different levels, a stone garden wall can act as a retaining wall and ensure soil retention. Keep in mind that the structure needs to provide adequate drainage.

### To create zones

A stone wall is a classic way to delineate areas of your yard such as the garden, patio or pool. It also helps create a designated space for a flowerbed or stairs.

A stone garden wall can be either dry or mortared. A dry stone wall is built by stacking flat stones in an overlapping pattern to create friction and provide stability. The mortared variety, on the other hand, uses mortar to hold the pieces together.



## The advantages of permeable paving

Permeable pavers, such as interlocking stones, can be used to build driveways, walkways and patios. Here's why they're a great choice.

### They reduce runoff

Permeable paving allows water to seep into the ground. This means runoff is less likely to pool on the surface or end up in the sewer system. Consequently, you'll have fewer puddles when it rains and less ice buildup when it's cold. Permeable pavers also reduce the risk of flooding and erosion.

### They keep cities cooler

Permeable pavers remain cooler than asphalt because they're paler and absorb less sunlight. This makes them particularly suited for cities where large amounts of

asphalt create urban heat islands. In fact, some cities are beginning to make permeable paving a requirement for certain projects.

### They're a good investment

Permeable pavers are easy to install because they don't require the ground to be compacted beforehand. They're also more durable than asphalt so they cost less in the long run. Plus, they can increase the value of your home.

Lastly, permeable pavers can help filter out pollutants and replenish the water table with clean water. This makes them a particularly great choice for eco-conscious consumers.

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# WHL, MJHL have interest in Plaisier

BY ROBIN WARK

Virden's Ty Plaisier has some options when it comes to the future of his hockey career.

The 5-foot-11.5, 156-pound defenceman was chosen by the Regina Pats in the fourth round, 77th overall, of April's Western Hockey League Bantam Draft. His hometown Virden Oil Capitals auto-protected his Manitoba Junior Hockey League rights.

"I was so excited to see my name get called in the draft, and especially to such a respected organization," Plaisier said of being picked by the Pats. "I couldn't be happier to be picked by the Regina Pats, and I am so excited for a chance to go and prove myself in their training camp. I was also so proud to be auto-protected by the Caps! I can't wait to get a chance to play in front of all my friends and family in my hometown."

Plaisier had scored 10 goals and recorded 29 points in 36 games last season. He was the captain of the Southwest Cougars AAA Bantam team.

"He is a smooth skating blueliner that moves the puck well and competes hard in all situations," Oil Capitals head coach Tyson Ramsey said. "He is a natural leader on and off the ice and we're very excited to



TY PLAISIER

see him in an Oil Capitals jersey down the road. It is a great day when we can add a local player of Ty's calibre and such a great family to our hockey club."

# Karli Frederick joins Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference squad

BY ROBIN WARK

Elkhorn's Karli Frederick brought a lot to the Olds College women's hockey team this past winter.

After two standout seasons at Brandon's Assiniboine Community College, the daughter of Rodney and Bonita Frederick joined the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference squad. The forward led the team in goals with five and was fifth in points with eight in 24 games. However, the numbers do not represent all her contributions to the Broncos.

"Having Karli join our program has benefitted us in numerous ways," Olds College head coach Chris Leeming said. "First off, she is a great person with a sense of humor who is a positive influence to be around, and she is also a great teammate. Secondly, she brings two very valuable assets to our team: winning experience and leadership. She served as an assistant captain for the Assiniboine Cougars who were the (American Collegiate Hockey Association Division II) national champions last season. Karli has a very calm demeanor and character, but her work ethic speaks for itself, and when she does speak, everyone listens because she



KARLI FREDERICK

has a lot of great perspective and insight to share.

"In addition to her experience and leadership skills, Karli is a very intelligent and hardworking player. She has been enjoying more success in the second half due to her commitment to improving and the passion she has for the game. It is a testament to her character that she persevered through some challenges early on. Again, this circles back to her leadership capacity, which is an inspiration for her teammates to follow suit."

Frederick racked up five points and scored three goals in the 2020 part of the Broncos' campaign. However, all season long she enjoyed the relationships

and experiences that came as being part of the team.

"I've gained so many new friends," she said. "I think that's the best part and makes every day better when I get to spend it with them—whether it's at the rink or outside the rink."

At Olds College, Frederick is enrolled in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture program. She had previously earned an agribusiness diploma at ACC. While playing for the Cougars, Frederick was named to the ACHA All-American Team in 2018 before helping the squad capture a championship in 2019 in Frisco, Texas.

"I knew I wasn't done playing hockey and wanted to keep playing, and Olds (College) had the perfect opportunity for me to continue my education along with playing hockey," she said.

No matter where she has played, including with the U18 Yellowhead Chiefs, Frederick has had the backing of her family.

"They have given me so much support throughout my whole hockey career and supported my big decision to move to Alberta completely and I couldn't thank them enough for that," she said.

To contact Plain & Valley call 306-435-2445  
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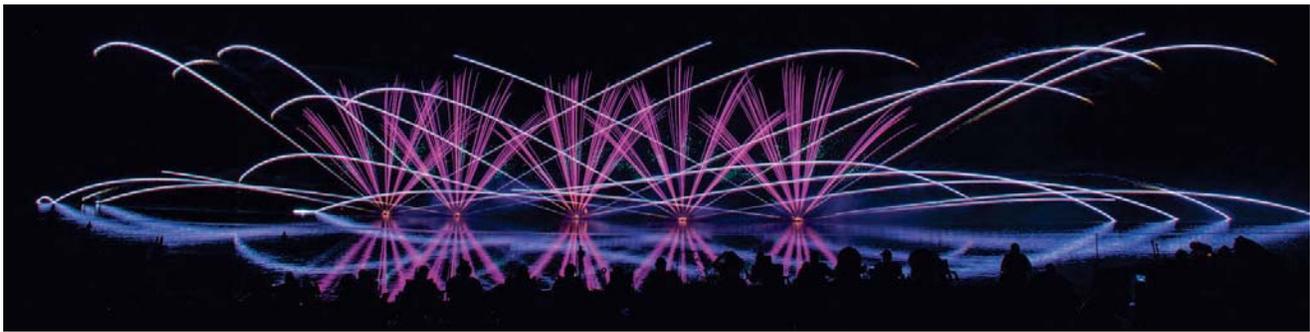
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**Postponed to 2021**

The Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition—one of the largest events in southeast Saskatchewan each year—has been cancelled for 2020 and postponed, as has Esterhazy's Rockin' the Park. Above is a photo from last year Living Skie show, and below is Streetheart performing at Rockin' the Park.

# Living Skies Come Alive & Rockin' the Park both cancelled for 2020

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK AND ROB PAUL

The board of directors at Moosomin Regional Park has made the difficult decision to not hold the Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks competition in the summer of 2020.

The two competitors planned for this year—China and the Philippines—will go head to head with their fireworks programs at Moosomin Lake on the August long weekend of 2021 instead.

The board decided to cancel the event based on the current restrictions in place in Saskatchewan on public gatherings, and the uncertainty over whether the competing teams would even be able to travel to Saskatchewan from China and the Philippines this summer due to restrictions on international travel.

The Living Skies Come Alive International Fireworks Competition has attracted thousands of spectators to Moosomin Regional Park each August long weekend for the last several years.

Chris Davidson of the Regional Park board said the board felt that cancelling the event for this year was the right thing to do with the uncertainty over where

regulations around gatherings will be this summer because of Covid-19.

"We were concerned. Our numbers have been as much as eight or nine thousand people for the fireworks event and we don't think it's right to be planning something like that right now," he says.

"Even Peter (Palmer, of Canfire Pyrotechnics, who helps organize the competition) is concerned about getting the fireworks here from China, and even getting the people here from China and the Philippines this summer could be a concern, so he had some reservations. We had our park board meeting on Tuesday night and decided we better postpone for this year.

"I know people will miss it," Davidson added. "It's been a really good event for us and the community. It draws a lot of people here. But that's the times we're in."

Esterhazy's second annual Rockin' the Park music festival planned for the September long weekend has also been cancelled for 2020. Esterhazy Recreation Fundraising Association President Brenda Redman had to make the decision to reschedule the event for August 2021.

"I signed a new contract last week that



we would postpone Rockin' the Park until 2021," said Redman. "Same lineup, same everything, we just have to postpone it for a year, but it's the same weekend."

The economic impact Covid-19 has had on Esterhazy and the surrounding communities played a big role in the cancellation.

"How we came about this decision is — of course Covid-19 has everything to do with it — because we depend on the

businesses in our town to support it and we just feel we cannot ask them for money at this time to help support Rockin' the Park," said Redman.

"We made the decision to postpone it because of that, but with that being said, the government not letting us know when these functions can even happen led to us saying there's just not enough time."

"But most of it was because of the businesses," said Redman. "We just couldn't be selfish and said, 'no we can't do this, we cannot ask them right now for money.'"

After the support Rockin' the Park got last year, Redman says it's a major disappointment to lose the chance to build on it. "It's a huge disappointment," said Redman. "Everyone that went last year had the best time and it is something that I definitely felt was going to get stronger and larger."

"I know people are disappointed. They understand, but they are disappointed just like we are that we can't go ahead with it."

## Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

On May 4, the province will begin cautiously re-opening some services.

To support our ability to progress through the plan's 5 phases, we need to keep the curve flat. It's important that Saskatchewan residents continue practicing the following:

- Physical distancing of 2 metres.
- Fewer than 10 people in a gathering.
- Frequent handwashing and cleaning of surfaces.
- Stay home if you're sick and call 811 if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Keep household contacts to a small, consistent group of family or friends.

On May 4, 2020, the following previously restricted medical services are permitted to re-open:  
Dentistry, optometry, physical therapy, optician services, podiatry, occupational therapy and chiropractic.

Boat launches ..... May 4, 2020  
Fishing (South zone only) ..... May 5, 2020  
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# Morey Fisk is World Reining Champion

BY DONNA BEUTLER  
World Reining Champion Morey Fisk of France/Germany has spent much of his life on a horse and was named the National Reining Horse Association Open World Championship winner in 2019. Fisk is a former resident of Moosomin and Oak Lake, Manitoba, and has been riding and showing horses virtually all his life.

"Both my mom and dad were into horses, so I guess a little rubbed off on me," Fisk said, explaining that while his older brother never "had the horse bug," both he and his younger brother did.

"We both started showing horses at a young age, participating in 4-H and local horse shows."

Fisk's hobbies included snowboarding and cars, but also a passion for reining. Fisk and his family left Moosomin when he was about 10 moving to western Manitoba.

"When I was about 14 I really started to get into reining," Fisk said. "There was just something about getting a horse to slide or spin that blew my mind. I loved it from the start."

This is something Fisk's mom would attest to, according to Fisk. "You can ask my mom, I spent hours loping up our driveway at the farm practicing stopping. Oh my God, that poor horse had to put up with me back then," he says with a laugh.

Fisk said it is all about the challenge of trying to improve his skills with the horse, and says that the challenge is still the same today.

"I guess that's why I'm still hooked," Fisk went on to say. "It's a never-ending learning experience, a kind of self-satisfaction, when you know you have taught your horse something and he tries to do it for you."

"Reining has been the thing in life that I have been chasing for the last 25 years. It's been the driver for everything in life, I guess I could say. Crazy when I think about it, but it has really been my life."

But it's more than just about a passion, Fisk believes, saying that it has also taught him so much about living.

"Respect, honesty, trust, determination, HARD work, and lots of patience," Fisk explains about what he believes he has learned throughout many years of dedicating his life to reining. "If you don't use these things working with horses on the level I do, you won't get far. And I have realized, in life it's the same."

Fisk says of his love for snowboarding that he hasn't had the time to do as much of it as he would like, but feels he is still a "shredder in his own right."

"For those who remember the snowboarder in the orange suit at the Ochapowace Ski Resort back in the day—that was me!" he says with a laugh. That goes back a few years, but it's obvious Fisk has some fond memories of his weekends on the hills at Ochapowace years ago.

Fisk finished high school in Manitoba and worked for a year at Cosgrove Autobody in Virden following graduation. When he got an offer in 1994 to go to Germany to work at a friend's ranch for the summer, he went and he has been in Europe ever since.

"I was in Germany for most of my time here in Europe," Fisk explained. "I moved to France six years ago. It was more or less just the facility that attracted me. We are only 15 minutes from the German border, so basically,



Above: Morey Fisk and Chicks Smokingun, aka "Blue," on the cover of the March 2020 issue of Reiner, the official publication of the National Reining Horse Association.

see in Canada or the U.S. His breeding program is small, he says, but very high quality, using the best mares and choosing the best stallions in the market.

Fisk competes on a horse named Chicks Smokingun but who he calls 'Blue' which is owned by a client of his. This stallion is one that Fisk uses for breeding as well.

"In 2017, I won the L2 Futurity in Oklahoma City on a son of Blue's," Fisk said of one of the milestones in his career.

"Blue has been with me for three years. I ride him an hour a day, six days a week, but mostly just for conditioning, he knows his job, I just keep him fit and happy most of the time. I school some manoeuvres sometimes, just to keep him sharp, but he retains everything so well. He's so smart and great minded, he always makes me look good. He is one of those once in a lifetime horses."

When it comes to communicating with a horse, Fisk explained that with

or overdoing it," Fisk explained. "The horse is listening to my every signal from my hand, legs, seat and voice. And when they are tuned, it's just the slightest pressure for a signal. So you need a good feel and timing to get everything just right."

"I try to plan about three major events for a horse in a year," Fisk said, "and there are schooling events in between to prep them. In Blue's case, going for a world title, you need to get to at least seven shows just to qualify. So it's considerably more. You need a good strategy not to burn your horse out through the season."

Fisk estimates that most of the shows he goes to would be within 500-1,000 kilometres from home, a few about 1,500 km away. Reining requires horses to complete one of 16 patterns.

"The patterns all consist of circles, fast and slow, lead changes, spins, stops and rollbacks," Fisk said, "all to be performed at the highest degree of difficulty you can to earn points, but without losing finesse or control." And that, Fisk says is the hard part.

"This has been an awesome achievement for me, especially to Blue, to get the recognition he deserves, it's great that he can be seen as a world champion, it brought him to that kind of famous status in the horse world," Fisk proudly says of Blue. "And that's exactly what he deserves. I am just happy to be a part of it!"

"I guess getting here has just been a long haul of being in the horse business for so long, it's great to have these moments every now and then. It kind reminds you why you put in the countless hours that go into this."

Fisk also spoke about the partnership a rider has to develop with a horse in getting to know them so well, knowing what they are thinking, and that's what Fisk looks for—knowing what his horse is thinking at all times, so he as the rider can be ready and communicate and react accordingly.

Fisk's future will obviously be one where horses play a large part and his plans are to keep on riding, trying to get every horse to be the best they can be.



Above: Morey Fisk and Blue competing at the 2019 NRHA Open World Championship, where they claimed the title. Fisk and Blue were also the reserve champions in 2018.

I'm still in Germany, just a French location. I have kept all my German contacts, clients, and friends."

And life in Europe has been good to Fisk, he says, having been there now for the past 26 years. He has developed an appreciation for culture and history and speaks another language—German.

"I really like living here," he said. "The countryside is beautiful, every-

thing is a lot more condensed, but I like it. The climate is definitely not like a Manitoba winter, it didn't even snow here last winter. It was really mild. "The summer can get

pretty warm," Fisk says, "but you just have to get up early to ride before the midday heat hits."

Fisk says he raises some horses, but not on the same scale as you might

the horses that make it all the way to be a show horse, you know them so well, it's just a matter of "not screwing things up." "Not getting in a hurry

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# 'You can't make this up': Bronwyn Eyre on Irving plan

With the recent news that Irving Oil has been granted federal permission to ship Western Canadian oil from Vancouver to Irving's Saint John refinery via the Panama Canal, World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre about the move. The complete interview follows.

Were you surprised to see the way this oil is going from Western Canada to St. John, New Brunswick is going to be going through the Panama Canal?

Yes this is a big story. My reaction was you can't make this up. Here we are reduced to resorting to the Panama Canal of all things and this all links back to the cancellation of Energy East as you know. To imagine that the hurdles in our own country are too great to do this any other way. I can only imagine the cost of this. Certainly the distance is quite significant when you think about it. Talk about a round about route!

Irving is calling this a way to ensure energy security but of course we could have done that in our own country. I'm surprised at the Panama angle, but not surprised at the need to find some innovative solutions, shall we call them, to actually moving our oil. It's come to that.

You can't make this up. That we're reduced to resorting to these measures and to the Panama Canal. It almost sounds like satire.

When you see something like this, what does it say to you about the need for more pipelines for access of western Canadian oil to markets?

It shows that obviously we need them. We could be ensuring energy security. We could be ensuring energy unity right now by mandating (use of) Canadian energy through this very difficult time and for example not importing it from Saudi Arabia which factored into the situation that we find ourselves in, in the first place. It's at least partly as a result of the OPEC-plus price war. Of course Covid-19 as well, but Saudi Arabia has been a root cause of some of the situations and problems that we find ourselves in.

That is another thing I think of when I see this, that it is within the federal government's powers still to take Bill C-69 off the books, to take Bill C-48 off the books, to approve a west-east pipeline, but one can't happen without the other as we know. With the west-east, Energy East, solution pipeline, the regulatory hurdles are so significant with something such as Bill C-69 that companies such as Irving need to resort to this completely unprecedented solution when we can't move it across our own country. It's very unfortunate.

Do you see a scenario where the federal government at some point would change the regulations to allow an east west pipeline across Canada? Do you think with what people are learning about self reliance within countries with Covid-19, do you think there is any chance that the federal government may rethink some of those policies?

Well of course I can't speak for them and it is difficult to speculate. There certainly doesn't seem to be a move in that direction with Energy East or taking Bill C-69 or Bill C-48 off the books for that matter, so we find ourselves in a situation such as this where Irving has to navigate product around through the Panama Canal because of there being no pipelines in Canada going in the direction that would most suit them in this instance, and because of the regulatory hurdles.

The fact that we have the federal government okay, it seems, with importing Saudi oil but not okay most definitely with exporting our own from northern B.C. ports, we've gotten ourselves into this situation now. I would hope that they would revisit something like this and look at it with fresh eyes, particularly when you see a story such as this. They had to ask for approval to do this and got it, so there is a certain acknowledgement of the dilemma to get to this point right?

Is there anything the provincial government can do to help get Saskatchewan energy products to market?

Well we launched a new initiative. The premier announced the cabinet committee earlier this year, the Pipeline Action Committee. That's chaired by the finance minister, I'm on the committee, as the minister of the environment, and trade and export development, and we are looking at every single proposal that has any legs—certainly



SASKATCHEWAN ENERGY AND RESOURCES MINISTER BRONWYN EYRE

financial legs and prospects—that cross our desk. We're doing that and we continue to do that. Of course we've been in an unprecedented, challenging time the last few weeks, but with that work we've continued to discuss proposals and look at proposals. We are doing everything that we can going forward to see what options are available for us as a province to move projects ahead, because of the federal climate in which we find ourselves and have found ourselves leading to this point.

With that committee, was the province looking at potentially investing in pipeline projects if it looked like they made a lot of sense?

Well there was talk about making sure they were financially viable projects, financially viable proposals and that we would look at options around that and what we might be able to do if the time and the project is right.

What do you think the long term outlook is for the Saskatchewan energy industry? Would you think looking to the future that these problems are going to be solved and there is going to be a way somehow or other to get Saskatchewan energy products efficiently to market?

TMX will help if it's ever built. If that goes ahead it will help, and the Enbridge Line 3 replacement of course (will add capacity) and Keystone XL, the TC Energy project all will help in terms of transport of product.

That is if TMX all goes to plan and Keystone with the TC announcement looks positive (TC Energy recently announced it will proceed with Keystone XL), and as I say Enbridge Line 3—so those will help certainly, and we have also announced on budget day the export incentive which is all about looking at projects coming out of the committee that I mentioned earlier.

Proposals that come up and projects that come out of that process—when it's the right project and right proposal—we have announced this export incentive for projects that would and could qualify—projects that are infrastructural in nature, so pipelines would certainly be top of the list on that one.

We're doing what we can. We're hopeful that these other projects will also ease the pressure, so that the challenges that exist out there—and clearly at the moment we have substantial issues quite independent of everything else, about just basic production, of course, and potential storage issues and everything else we are seeing right now—but I remain optimistic.

The growth plan that we put out last November is certainly optimistic in terms of achieving higher production. In barrels per day right now it is about 500,000 and on the growth plan we've got that up at 600,000 as something that is possible in this province.

As those projects come on board, as the export incentive which we announced comes to fruition with the right project at the right time, I am optimistic.

It's certainly been a challenging intermediate phase that we've been going through right now, but I think we will come out the other end and certainly the sector will be stronger.



The original proposal for Energy East included a 1,050,000-barrel tank farm at Moosomin, and feeder pipelines from Cromer, Manitoba and Williston, North Dakota to Moosomin, making the Moosomin Compressor Station the on-ramp for Bakken oil onto the Energy East system. Trans-Canada PipeLines, now TC Energy, withdrew its application for Energy East in 2017. Oil will now be flowing east via the Panama Canal.

## Oil Infrastructure Investment Program

The Oil Infrastructure Investment Program referenced by Energy Minister Eyre in the interview offers transferable royalty / freehold production tax credits for qualified projects at a rate of 20 per cent of eligible program costs. OIIP recognizes all costs necessary to construct and bring an approved project into service.

The OIIP is open to new or expanded:

- Transmission pipelines.
- Feeder pipelines (including trunk and branch pipeline systems).
- Pipeline terminals.

Infrastructure investments that are directly linked and dedicated to an eligible project and are required to bring that project into service, may also be considered as eligible.

Natural gas pipelines, crude-by-rail infrastructure, and emulsion flow lines are not eligible for the OIIP.

The OIIP is open to applications until March 31, 2025.

Eligible projects must directly increase

pipeline capacity in Saskatchewan, must include at least \$10 million in eligible project costs, must not be operational prior to an OIIP application being submitted, and must not be a redundant service.

The credits are fully transferable which gives non-producers/non-royalty payers an opportunity to benefit from the program, because they have the ability to transfer credits to royalty payers under the contractual terms of their choosing. Also, OIIP encourages multi-company projects as costs can be incurred by a firm other than the principal applicant.

OIIP has a project-specific royalty credit cap of \$40 million (i.e. a maximum of up to \$200 million in recognized eligible costs per project).

Credits can be claimed at a rate of 20% of total credits in the first calendar year of operations, 30% in the second calendar year, and 50% in the third calendar year.

OIIP can be used in conjunction with other incentive and grant programs available in Saskatchewan.

Costs incurred from January 1, 2018, onward may be recognized as eligible.



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The main beach at Clear Lake inside Riding Mountain National Park.

# Riding Mountain National Park closure impacting businesses

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Last week Parks Canada put out a press release regarding Riding Mountain National Park and its services remaining suspended amid the Covid-19 pandemic despite the Government of Manitoba allowing for the reopening of parks on May 4 as part of the first phase of its plan.

Riding Mountain National Park in Wasagaming, Manitoba is home to more than just campgrounds, with many seasonal businesses from restaurants to retail services to motels and cabins within the grounds.

With Parks Canada's decision to have all visitor services, facilities, vehicle access, camping, group activities, and events to remain suspended until at least May 31, it has led to some confusion regarding businesses.

Parks Canada says its aware of Manitoba's reopening plan, but will keep the closures at Riding Mountain National Park intact until further notice and will only allow for through traffic on Highways 10 and 19 and stated parking on the road is prohibited.

In a letter to Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson on April 30, MP for Dauphin-Swan River- Neeopawa Dan Mazier asked for the Ministry and Parks Canada to re-evaluate the situation.

The letter from Mazier said that in the context of Covid-19, he feels each park in the National System should assess and align their operations in conjunction with the public health orders issued in each provincial or territo-

rial jurisdiction and that the decision to ease restrictions may be better delegated by each individual superintendent who is aware and knowledgeable of current challenges and opportunities of reopening.

Mazier said Minister Wilkinson has acknowledge receiving the letter, but has yet to make any sort of response around the confusing situation.

"They're telling them they're open, but they've got road blocks set up in the middle of the streets and trails taped off with caution tape," said Mazier. "They're sending two signals."

"They did this right from the get-go from March 15 on. When they shut down Canada, they shut down the parks as well. At that time we were questioning the process of why they were doing that, especially to block off vehicle

traffic. In all that time they said, 'you can go in as a construction worker — we can't stop you — but just don't invite any friends.' That's where they were for that month and things are evolving with Covid-19, we're all learning."

"We were really hopeful that they (Parks Canada) would start following Manitoba's or the regional process as far as getting back to recovery," said Mazier. "All these provinces and regions are starting to get into that recovery mode and allowing businesses to reopen."

*Continued on Page 22*

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# Riding Mountain National Park closure impacting businesses

Continued from Page 21

"It's very, very unfortunate that they've chosen just to lock and load and hold down until May 31. I don't know what kind of safety protocols they're following by simply putting road blocks in the middle of a town. It's really disheartening and it does prove how out of touch the people demanding it stay shut are to the reality of what's going on."

The decision from Parks Canada during the pandemic has already impacted businesses within the park more than Covid-19 has the vast majority of businesses in Canada because of the complete closure.

"There was a business in Wasagaming who wanted to stay open and do curbside pickup, but they won't even allow vehicles into Wasagaming to come and do a pick up," said Mazier. "That's how ridiculous this is."

"I can go to any other town in Manitoba and go and pick up stuff from a restaurant and yet you couldn't do it at a National Park. I don't know why and it's very frustrating. It's frustrating and detrimental to those local business owners and their economy."

"We have people all around Riding Mountain National Park," said Mazier. "It's one of the only parks in Canada that's totally surrounded by people and it's part of our community. When the federal government comes in and isolates it like this with no regard to what the locals have to say, it's just a slap in the face to everybody. I'm not too impressed."

With the way businesses across Canada are reopening, Mazier doesn't understand why Parks Canada is calling their own shots.

"Safety of the employees? Every other business is doing this," said Mazier. "It's almost like they don't care. If you were an employee, I'd think you'd want to get back to work outdoors. It's not like you work in a confined space in these parks either. The first places you should be able to go is where you're outside, able to walk on a trail, and enjoy nature. This is supposed to be a government that wants people out camping and in the outdoors, but meanwhile they just shut it down. It makes absolutely no sense at all."

With businesses across Canada beginning to reopen, Mazier says it's putting businesses in Riding Mountain National Park even further behind.

"We've heard from lots of businesses in the area," said Mazier. "It's almost like you have to prepare for a return. Even though we're able to open in Manitoba, there are still businesses choosing to stay closed. We're all going to have to figure out these protocols."

"It's interesting. I went for a haircut yesterday in Brandon and in the morning they were still getting their protocols figured out and were working with authorities on how to do it right. Clear Lake doesn't have any of those opportunities right now to learn with everybody else to ease it in when the demand isn't there."

"There is going to be a point where there will be people lined up at the gate again and you're going to expect them to park on the street? I don't know what they're going to expect them to be doing," said Mazier.

"They won't have a chance to grow into the new normal. That's probably the most frustrating thing. They want to get back to business, they want to test it out, they want to do the right thing, everybody wants to do the right thing and the federal government is not allowing them to do that. That's just not right."

The added confusion around who and what's allowed inside the park grounds has led to more questions, but no answers.

"There's a lot of frustration," said Mazier. "They don't want you there, but they can't stop you. People are kind of scared because if they bring their car and park it on the street to go to a business then whose law are they breaking? Is it federal? Provincial? Does the RCMP give you a ticket? How much is the ticket? What are we stopping here and whose health act are we actually following? Just put the streets back open and put the protocols in place like the rest of the province and go on with life."

Mazier says there's a clear communication issue with Parks Canada and this problem is deeper than just the Riding Mountain National Park situation.

"The issue of taking into consideration the wants and needs of the region with that the mandate of the park is has been at many times at loggerheads," said Mazier. "It's very hard to communicate with National Parks in general."

"That is a huge gaping hole and as I find out more, it's a chronic problem that Parks Canada does not communicate very well with the locals. Instead of looking at what each parks does, what its benefits are, and how it could enhance the region, it's more of a state controlled entity that's out of touch. It's too bad and we have a long way to go to get those communications back. We'll start with this one and see how far we get with it."

"There's two different departments at play here," said Mazier. "There's the operations of parks and parks itself, there's also tourism at play here too. There's the whole tourism industry and how they're getting just slammed and how parks is standing in the way. That whole dynamic is the two things that fight back and forth when it comes to policy with development in the park vs. tourism policy. We'll tackle the park side first to get the management under control so that the businesses can get open and then we'll see what we can do for the tourism side."

Parks Canada said they didn't have anybody available for an interview, but stated in an email to the World-Spectator, Parks Canada has suspended camping, group activities and events at all na-

tional parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas across the country until at least May 31, 2020. Visitor services and vehicle access by visitors are suspended, and facilities remain closed until further notice.

"While there may be a barricades in place at Riding Mountain National Park, cabin and cottage owners can still access their property," Parks Canada said in their statement.

"Water and sewer service continue to be available. Parks Canada is encouraging residents to follow the advice of public health experts and stay home when possible, respect social distancing practices, and avoid public gatherings."

"Additionally, commercial businesses operating in Wasagaming have the right to access their leasehold premises. Individual businesses are making their own decisions regarding opening."

"If a business does open, they are required to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as directed by local public health authorities, as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada."

"Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities, and mitigate any negative impacts on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets."

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# Poole has strong rookie season with Rockets

BY ROBIN WARK

McAuley's Jake Poole was looking forward to the opportunity to compete for a national championship.

Poole's Kelowna (B.C.) Rockets were to host the Memorial Cup, the prestigious tournament used to decide Canada's best major junior team. However, the May 22-31 event, the rest of the Western Hockey League season, and its playoffs were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before the cancellation announcement, Poole said of the then upcoming Memorial Cup, "It's going to be fun for sure. ... The city, you can feel the buzz. ... (I'm looking forward to) seeing the top teams. Seeing the level you have to be at."

The cancellation of the season brought an end to a strong rookie campaign for Poole. The son of Robin and Dana Poole said his highlights of the season were making the team, scoring his first goal, and the Rockets clinching a playoff berth.

The 17-year-old scored four goals and recorded 12 assists in 59 games. Poole had two assists on Nov. 11 and Feb. 21. On Nov. 16, he collected a goal and an assist.

Towards the end of the regular season, Rockets assistant coach Vernon Fidler said of the 6-foot-1, 187-pound Poole:

"For a young guy he's



JAKE POOLE  
Matisa Baesker Kelowna Rockets photo

getting better every game. He's very coachable and has progressed as the season has gone on. He's learning as a rookie to get better and better every game. He's been pretty strong defensively and plays a heavy game, so when we need him to step into a higher role he can move up and down the lineup. I think he's been fairly good down the stretch for us."

When Poole, who played in 2018-2019 for the Yellowhead Chiefs, was asked about the adjustments he had to make in moving up to major junior from the U18 ranks, he said:

"The speed. There are a lot of high skilled players. You have to be ready. ... You got to do the little things right," he said. "If you don't, the puck will end up in the back of the net."

Other adjustments came off the ice. Poole enjoyed living in Kelowna, but switching schools was certainly a change. He went from McNaughton High School, with an enrollment of about 320, to Kelowna Secondary School with more than 1,800 students. Poole succeeded academically. He was named the team's Scholastic Player of the Year. Poole was selected as the Rockets Academic Achiever for November, January, and February. He said with long road trips he had to be focused and do lots of homework.

One of those long trips was to Brandon. Growing up, Poole watched and cheered for the Wheat Kings. Last December he found himself being the opponent.

"It was great to see all the family, friends, and old teammates," Poole said.

# Martin proves himself with U.S. college team

BY ROBIN WARK

This past winter Elkhorn's Pierce Martin successfully made the transition to college hockey.

The son of Alanna and Brad Martin proved to be a solid defenceman for the Dakota College at Bottineau men's team, which competes at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division II level. The rookie blue liner had two goals and eight points in 31 games.

"Pierce played well on our backend and was a key contributor on special teams," Lumberjacks head coach Travis Rybchinski said. "Pierce definitely was one of our most improved players from the beginning of the season."

While many of his teammates and opponents played junior hockey, the 18-year-old Martin went from U18 AAA to the college ranks. In 2017-2018, he competed for the Yellowhead Chiefs. The next season Martin helped the Brandon Wheat Kings U18 claim a league championship.

He said what made college hockey different from U18 was the strength and experience of the players as well as the travel schedule. After competing against opponents around his age, Martin found himself defending some players ranging from 20 to 24 years old.

"The experience of the players was different from how the majority of the league had already experienced junior hockey or had moved onto other places after high school, so it was different in the perspective of them being experienced more in the game than the players in U18 who are just getting ready to move onto the next level," said Martin, who noted the his older opponents were also stronger.

While the Chiefs and Wheat Kings competed against teams in the province, the Lumberjacks traveled the midwestern and western United States. Road trips included destinations in such states as Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota. The team qualified for the ACHA national tournament. It was to be held in the Dallas bedroom community of Frisco,



PIERCE MARTIN

Texas, but was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The travel was different because the bus rides were a lot longer than I've experienced, but it was an enjoyable experience at the same time as I was able to get a chance to look at a lot of cool places during our travels," Martin said.

As well as the adjustments he had to make on ice and in travel, Martin had to adapt to college classes. He is studying business administration.

"I've always been so interested in the world of business and just how it works as a whole and that's what made me curious about pursuing this as a career in the future," Martin said.

When asked what he enjoyed most about playing for Dakota College at Bottineau, he said:

"Just all of the people ... how friendly and accepting everybody was in the program that made me feel right at home. The veteran players and the coaches especially made us young guys feel like we belonged and also made us feel like we were all important to the team's success."



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# McCull, Rookes taken in junior drafts

BY ROBIN WARK

Although no games were played, April was an exciting hockey month for Elkhorn's Foxx McColl and Manson's Kurt Rookes.

The Yellowhead Chiefs bantam AAA defencemen were both selected in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League Draft. Rookes was picked seventh overall in the first round by the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. In the second round, 19th overall, the Swan Valley Stampedeers scooped up McColl. He was also selected in the 10th round, 212th overall, by his home province's Winnipeg Ice in April's Western Hockey League Bantam Draft.

"It means the world to me," McColl said of being drafted into the WHL. "I feel very excited I have a chance to play at such an elite level of hockey. It means a lot more when I'm close to home and my family could drive a bit to come watch."

The 5-foot-6, 131-pound McColl had a very strong second bantam season last winter. He boosted his points total by 27. McColl had 17 goals—15 more than the season before—and 42 points in 30 games. The Stampedeers liked McColl's solid all-around game.

"He's a solid D-man defensively that can be a strong offensive threat on the offensive side," said Swan Valley head coach and general manager Barry Wolff. "As good of a hockey player as Foxx is, he is a better person. Both are important to the Stampedeers and the Swan Valley community. We were excited to add him as one of our draft picks."

Rookes, a 5-foot-9, 175-pound blue liner, recorded 12 goals, 41 points and 84 penalty minutes in 33 games. Waywayseecappo head coach and general manager Taylor Harnett said:

"We see him being a player that in a few years we wouldn't want on an opposing team in our league. So, the choice was simple. He has a physical presence on the ice, which we just couldn't pass up. He has a high skill set and sees the ice extremely well. One thing that jumped out while watching him was how aware he was of everyone around him. He has the ability to transport the puck and make smart plays while doing so."

Family support often plays a major role in players making it to the higher



FOXX MCCOLL



KURT ROOKES

levels.

"My family has been very supportive throughout my hockey career, whether it's my brothers helping me with game and my parents (Michael and Leanne) taking me to camps for skill development during the off-season," Rookes said, referencing older siblings Cody and Bray (who played last season for the MJHL's Virden Oil Capitals). "Also, my grandparents (Sharon Leslie and Jack and Betty Rookes) come to most of my games, which gives me a lot of support."

McColl, the son of Travis McColl and Jacqueline Rookes, praised his family's encouragement of him but also pointed to how growing up in Elkhorn has helped him.

"You know growing up in a small town, the rink is open 24/7 and everyone who was playing any level of AAA hockey at the time would come and have a game of shinny," he said. "Eventually they moved into higher levels, and playing with all those guys growing up is what impacted my game."

McColl and Rookes, along with the other players picked in the MJHL and WHL drafts, will have at least a year to develop before being able to try to crack a junior hockey roster as 16-year-olds. However, if fall camps go ahead as previously planned, the athletes will likely be invited to attend with the teams

that drafted them.

"I am excited to see how I compare to the other prospects and players," Rookes said. "I am also looking forward to meeting the coaches and staff of the team."

Other area players selected in the WHL Bantam Draft were: Ty Plaisier, Virden (defense) – Regina (Rd 2, 74); Aiden Ziprick, Russell (defenceman) – Lethbridge (Rd 7, 148); Carson Birnie, Arcola (forward) – Red Deer (Rd 8, 160); Ben Roulette, Rivers (right wing) – Red Deer (Rd 9, 182); and Aiden Sotas, Birtle (centre) – Portland (Rd 9, 198).

Other Manitoba athletes from the coverage area picked in the MJHL Draft included: Ben Roulette, Rivers (right wing) – Waywayseecappo (Rd 1, 4); Rylan Gage, Hamiota (centre), Dauphin (Rd 1, 5); and Aiden Sotas, Birtle (centre), Portage (Rd 1, 10). Aiden Ziprick was auto-protected by Waywayseecappo.



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# Is your farm business literate?

BY RICHARD KAMCHEN  
Running a farm comes with many risks beyond a producer's control. But when business literacy is firmly planted in the operation, you can better manage it and make informed decisions. Business literacy includes understanding and applying key pillars like business strategy, finance, marketing, and managing

people and technology, says Larry Martin, a principal in Agri-Food Management Excellence. It also considers the creation of a strategic and operating plan to manage a successful for-profit business, as well as withstand its risks, he says. "The importance to farmers is that it gives them a framework with goals and measures to use to gauge



hiring, crop selection and investing in equipment, Wright says.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
Wright stresses that business literacy also helps farmers better understand the value of good human resources management practices. Broughton says it's essential to understand the team, whether it's outside labour or family, and for them to work together and contribute to the farm's goals.

"Job descriptions, performance evaluations and knowing how to motivate your team members are all essential to a business, farming or other," Broughton says.

## APAS wants to see more from federal government

Continued from Page 25

- A direct grant to producers to offset feed costs required to maintain cull animals for which there is inadequate processing capacity.
- A Financial Stimulus of no less than 5% of Agri-Invest Allowable Net Sales (ANS), without matching producer contributions
- Ongoing Federal Tax Deferral Program to give producer greater flexibility to manage market volatility.
- Reintroduction of a Set Aside Program wherein feedlots would be provided a per animal/per day payment to retain/maintain the animal on feed for up to 90 days until they could move into the slaughter facilities.
- A federal food procurement strategy that involves the federal purchase of Canadian produced meat and other food.

With the recent closures and slowdowns at the Cargill and JBS Brooks meat processing plants due to Covid-19, APAS is worried about supply-chain disruptions going forward, especially for smaller processors.

"Part of the announcement for processors was that \$70 million is going to personal protective equipment," said Lewis. "That's paramount now in the processing plants that they're able to provide a safe environment for their employees and for food safety."

"There's a number of small food processors in this province that money should be targeted to. In Saskatchewan's situation there's lots of small processors that don't have the money up front to make those investments and that may limit their capacity."

"With companies like Cargill, those are big companies with deep pockets and they can afford to put those measures in and they have the opportunity to recapture those costs when they pass it along to the consumer," said Lewis. "And we're already seeing increased costs with some cuts of meat at the consumer level and that will pay for the added costs to those processors."

"In the small processing sectors they may not be able to do it right from the get go and won't have the opportunity to go through a production cycle and pass those costs along," said Lewis.

"I think this money needs to be put towards small processing plants, local processors like we have a lot of in rural Saskatchewan. It's important that money gets to the right people."

their management performance, identify problems and take action to improve them," Martin says.

**GETTING STARTED**  
Producer Heather Broughton of SWG Farms says business literacy begins with understanding key indicators in your financial statements by using ratios to identify where there are problems or successes within the business. These ratios can be measured against benchmarks of other farms and the historical trends of a producer's farm.

"Understanding financial fundamentals and true financial position provides much greater clarity and confidence in strategy and decision making," Broughton says. "Financial analysis and understanding are key when you're developing a business strategy as it significantly impacts what you can do."

**BUSINESS BENEFITS**  
The well-being of the operation can depend on

mastering business literacy. It can reduce the risk of cost overruns and mounting debt, while increasing opportunities for profitability and success, says Jennifer Wright, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council's senior HR advisor. It also contributes to creating operational efficiencies like reduced waste and time and equipment management. It also helps with informed decision-making on expansion,

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Business literacy is key to making a business run at its best in an uncertain sector like ag. As producers make educated and calculated decisions, understand and assess risk, and act with confidence, they're more likely to avoid cost overruns. To begin, review farm financials and use ratios to identify key indicators.

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