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INSIDE FOR HOW TO
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THIS SUMMER!**



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Plain & Valley

May 2025 • Volume 18 Number 5

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Kim Poole & Romel Bermudeo photos

Photos from previous Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competitions at Moosomin Regional Park. The fireworks competition is coming back on the August long weekend this summer.



Living Skies Fireworks competition returns to Moosomin Regional Park this August Long

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Living Skies Fireworks Competition is back this August Long at Moosomin Regional Park.

Tickets go on sale June 14 and are available at Jeannot Electric, The World-Speculator, Glasser's TV, and at Moosomin Regional Park.

gional Park.

Kyle Jeannot, the Chair of the Entertainment Committee and Chris Davidson, the Chairman of the Regional Park say they are excited to bring back the traditional August Long weekend to Moosomin Lake this year.

"Land of Living Skies will be back this year at the lake," Jeannot said. "It will be Saskatchewan versus Alberta for the two nights of fireworks. Saturday night it will be Saskatchewan and the 605 Band will be playing. Sunday night will be Alberta and The Sean Taylor Band.

"The bands are both brand new this year. The band 605 is from Gerald and Sean Taylor band is from Winnipeg. They are both country rock bands."

Jeannot says food trucks will also be returning for the weekend.

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Moosomin raises \$31,600 in Smile Cookie sales

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin has raised \$31,600 for MacLeod Elementary School in Tim Hortons Smile Cookie sales, making it the second-highest fundraising location in Saskatchewan and 14th across Canada.

The Estevan Tim Horton's claimed top spot this year, raising \$50,046 for the Estevan Early Years Family resource Centre and Estevan Public Youth Centre.

"We couldn't be more proud of our team and thankful of the amazing community and the great success we had," says Moosomin Tim Hortons owner Greg Crisanti. "Again, nothing but praise and thanks with the amazing success of this campaign."

While the Smile Cookie week is always extra busy at Tim Hortons, Crisanti explained that preparations before the annual event also keep staff hopping.

"It's always a buzz of



World-Spectator staff and a young volunteer making Smile Cookies during Smile Cookie Week at Tim Hortons in Moosomin.

the excitement. I usually starts the weekend before as we're prepping to get

everything in the freezers, our tables ready, and our volunteer schedule going,"

he says.

Continued on page 19



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Friday June 27th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday June 28th TJ's Pizza Night! MOVIE IN THE PARK AT DUSK	Sunday June 29th GOLF CART PARADE IRON MAN COMPETITION ROAD HOCKEY	Friday July 4th SKOUT Beer & Wing Night!	Saturday July 5th KIDS FISHING DRAW ROASTED CHICKEN & HERB 5PM	Friday July 11th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday July 12th GTV Traeger Steak Night! CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT	Monday July 14th SWIMMING LESSONS START END AND ON THE 18TH
Friday July 18th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday July 19th TJ's Pizza Night! SCAVENGER HUNT MOVIE IN THE PARK AT DUSK	Friday July 25th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday July 26th JUMBO JENGA IN THE PARK HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOS 5PM EARLY BIRD TICKET SALES END!	Thursday July 31st SKOUT Beer & Wing Night!	Saturday Aug 2nd KIDS FISHING DRAW BEER GARDENS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FIREWORKS!	Sunday Aug 3rd BEER GARDENS WITH LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FIREWORKS!	Friday Aug 8th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM
Saturday Aug 9th KIDS CANOE RACES BOAT PARADE TRAEGER STEAK NIGHT 5PM Halloween	Friday Aug 15th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday Aug 16th TJ's Pizza Night! MOVIE IN THE PARK AT DUSK	Friday Aug 22nd WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday Aug 23rd ROAST BEEF DINNER 5PM	Friday Aug 29th WING & POUTINE NIGHT 5PM	Saturday Aug 30th SKOUT OKTOBERFEST!	Sunday Aug 31st MOOSE CREEK FINAL DAY!



Living Skies Come Alive

Fireworks Competition is BACK!



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Elkhorn girls leave for Africa on humanitarian trip

Chant and Frattinger excited for upcoming trip this week



Sara Chant and Shaylee Frattinger of Elkhorn.

BY ASHLEY BOCEK

Sara Chant and Shaylee Frattinger of Elkhorn leave for Zambia, Africa this Friday.

There they will be providing child care and volunteering at local day cares for two weeks.

Both Frattinger and Chant are home from university for the summer and excited for the upcoming trip.

"I grew up on a farm just west of Elkhorn with my mom, dad, and three siblings. I graduated from Elkhorn in 2024, and then moved to Saskatoon this past fall to start my Bachelor of Science in Nursing," Frattinger said.

Chant attends the University of Regina. "I am going into my third year of my Bachelor's in Education at the University of Regina. I work at the Elkhorn Manor in Elkhorn. I am home for the summer with my family.

"I have always been passionate about helping others, so I thought that this project would be great for me and to travel a little bit too," Chant explained.

Frattinger says they have three connecting flights to get to Africa.

"We fly out of Winnipeg May 16, myself, my mom, Terri, and Sara to Africa. We have three flights to get there. The

there are so many options."

Frattinger adds the kids will be fairly young. "We are volunteers in child care with ages one to six. My mom, Terri, is doing Health Care volunteer.

"We also have a few fun things planned while we are there like a safari and a sunset cruise. We will spend time learning about the culture as well."

Planning the trip

Frattinger explains this trip was in the planning stages for awhile.

"Years ago, Hannah Martin from Elkhorn went on a humanitarian trip with Live Different—an organization—and they built a house. My mom then came to the school a few years ago and gave a presentation on the humanitarian organization called Live Different to see if there was interest and there was, but lots were on the fence. So then we then decided on a Thailand trip to help women who have been trafficked and we had a group together for that and started fundraising, but that fell through."

Chant adds, "We ended up switching up our original trip plans in December last year and decided on Africa."

country is Zambia, and the city is called Livingstone where we are going."

Chant adds, "We will be there for about two and a half weeks. We are going to be volunteering at a children's day care. Where we will teach kids reading and writing skills, come up with activities for them."

Volunteering in child care

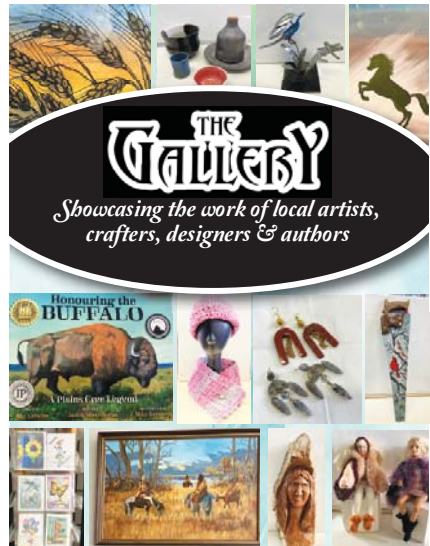
Chant explains their trip is organized through the International Volunteer Headquarters organization.

"We are going through International Volunteer Headquarters. They're basically a volunteer, for-profit organization that does a bunch of volunteer projects all over the world in so many different countries, where you can volunteer with animals, people, the environment,

Importance of trip

Chant says she spends a lot of time helping different sport clubs within the community, and enjoys volunteering.

Continued on page 18



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Junior Hockey coming to Moosomin

Steelhawks an expansion team in the Prairie Junior Hockey League

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

Moosomin is welcoming a new junior team for the 2025-26 hockey season.

The Moosomin Steelhawks will be joining the Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL) in the Junior B as the sixth team in Southwest Saskatchewan.

Blake Martyniuk, the franchise owner, from Saskatoon is looking forward to the team's upcoming season in Moosomin.

"I've been playing hockey since I was very young. I was born and raised in Ontario, I played AAA hockey my whole life, junior hockey, a little bit of minor professional hockey, and then naturally just got into the player development and coaching side of things."

50 years since junior hockey in Moosomin

Martyniuk says he was shocked along with others of the PJHL that Moosomin didn't have a junior hockey team.

"We couldn't believe there wasn't junior hockey in the community of Moosomin. According to our research, we knew you guys had the Junior Rangers I believe in the '70s so it has been about 50 years since you had junior hockey and just the people we know and the digging we have done—Moosomin is for sure a hockey town and there are a lot of people very excited about what we are doing—it does add a little extra pressure to be good out-of-the-gate, but we definitely take that pressure in a positive way and it motivates us to try to make that happen."

Martyniuk explains the Prairie Junior Hockey League is Saskatchewan's Junior B League.

"We are playing in the Prairie Junior Hockey League (PJHL), a very good and respectable league. Obviously, Saskatchewan has the Western Hockey League (WHL), and the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL)—which is a level of hockey just above us—but our league is still very good hockey, and very respected. You will see players still moving on from the league, not just as a senior, but to other opportunities."

"Our big plan is we want to run this to the best of our ability like a Junior A and SJHL team. We want players that have those goals of developing, then if we can send a kid to Melville or Estevan in the SJHL or Virden in the MJHL (Manitoba Junior Hockey League), we are happy to see players go and climb that ladder to pursue their hockey goals."

Martyniuk says he plans to be the general manager and head coach of the Steelhawks.

"I am set to be the general manager (GM) and head coach of the team. I am very excited about it. Right now, for the sake of the team—if there is somebody who has more experience than myself I am willing to consider letting somebody else do that if it is for the better of the team. I can't stress it enough—if I end up in the role—I am very excited, I love coaching, I love managing teams, but for the sake of the longevity and this doing well in the community—if there is somebody better than myself, willing and able to the job then



that will be considered as well."

Largest town in Sask without junior hockey

Martyniuk says they knew the Town of Moosomin would be a perfect fit for the new expansion team.

"We identified that Moosomin was the largest community without junior hockey. I know Meadow Lake is a little bit bigger, but they are in the Northwest and the way the league is currently structured they had six north teams and only five teams in the south. I have been to Moosomin a few times in the past and I like the community and I know it is only a town of under 3,000 people, but it is a very nice place, everybody I have bumped into are very welcoming people. If I am the GM or head coach I would be living in Moosomin or within the area and it is always nice if you are in a comfortable place while doing that."

Next Steps

It is a very busy time, there is a lot of work to do, and we are very excited about it. We already have players reaching out, but we need a really good team—we want to do that right out of the gate. Within the league rules—and we definitely respect that—but you can't sign players until June 1 so we are able to have conversations without putting pens to paper. The biggest thing is starting to reach out to respected players to try and put that really strong team together, and then looking within the community in terms of setting up billets for some of these players coming from elsewhere, we will definitely need a volunteer-base to help with the operations side of things, and another big one for us too is we are not really looking for kids who are still in high school that could still be technically playing U18 AAA or AA, we want the kids outside of high school so we can kind of get them a part-time job if they can, where they are obviously here to play hockey and that is their passion, but being in the community that way then it is kind of a win-win situation

for everybody.

Building a roster

It comes down to recruiting at the end of the day. We already know a few players, but again, we want the best team that we can put on the ice, we also want local talent as well, there will be local players of course, but people understand around the town that if we were to take just kids from Moosomin area we may not necessarily be competitive on a league scale so we may have to bring in a player from Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, or possibly elsewhere with the connections that we have. It comes down to a balance at the end of the day because we want local kids of course, but we also want to be competitive and I don't think anybody in the community will be complaining the day when we hopefully win a championship someday—that is the goal anyway."

We believe that the most efficient way in 2025 is reaching out to the community on social media and other forms of media and word travels rather quick. Just with the way the league AGM worked out, we just found out a few days ago that we were going to be an expansion team. It is not like we had a whole year to plan for this, but as soon as we found out early on at the meeting they said that we were accepted and we continued to stay the whole meeting and then it was like we have to get going here because we can start signing players on June 1 and ultimately we want to have as many players lined up as possible for that actual signing day."

Behind the logo

My dad and I were travelling and oddly enough we were in the Best Western in Moosomin and he happened to grab some pamphlets at the front desk and he was reading about the community and we all knew this was kind of in the works, but we had to wait for the meeting to hear the go ahead of course, but we were throwing around different names and we love the Rangers obviously all the minor and then the Senior Rangers—they all historically been strong teams for the most part and it was definitely a consideration, but we kind of wanted a brand to stand out in the community and be something just a little bit different and communicating that to

my dad, he did a little bit of research on those pamphlets and the internet and found that the town of Moosomin was basically built because of the railway there. So, the steel part made sense and I really liked it and then I had my wife's sister do the logo and I think she did a great job."

I would say at the beginning of this past hockey season it was talked about maybe even last summer and there is a lot that has to go into this. We want to make sure that everything is going to be right. It was several months, if not over half a year before we were actually able to sit down at the meeting and we got the go ahead some point in January and accepted enough to at least get us into the meeting, then there was a few more preparations from there, and then it came time for the meeting, and we are very fortunate that we were accepted."

Our program we are trying to mimic Junior 'A' to the best of our abilities although the PJ is a Junior 'B' league and with that there are some slightly different and the main one that I can think of is we are actually allowed a couple 21-year-olds—two per team, where I believe SJ is only allowed eight 20-year-olds. We are a bit of an older league in that sense and we are fortunate that it just gives us that extra year players to recruit for and essentially building the best team that we can. We are able to carry extras on our roster because if we want a good team and a player is able to jump up and go play in the SJHL for the Yorkton Terriers or Kindersley Klippers in Saskatchewan then it is one of those bittersweet moments that we unfortunately lost a good player, but it just looks good on the organization that we are a developmental team where we will push players toward their goals and the next levels they are trying to get too."

Future community involvement

It is admittedly a down-the-road thing, but of course. Anything that you see the Weyburn Red Wings do—any SJHL team—that is what we are trying to mimic. We are a different level than them and we recognize that, but nothing is stopping us from operating our organization in the same steps as them and other Junior 'A' teams. There are significantly more important things right now to focus on, but once the season gets underway, then we will look to see at what the future looks like for the organization."

We are still working out details. We will be putting things out on social media in the coming days or weeks talking about what we need at this time such as volunteers, billets, players, and sponsorships will be one of those, but we want to go out and prove ourselves and then we feel a lot more confident in approaching businesses and looking at what we brought to Moosomin and the standard we are trying to set as an organization moving forward and then after we will need community support in order to carry this on for hopefully decades to come, but we believe here and now with building a good team is our number one thing, and then we will worry about other details a little bit later on here."

Continued on page 7 »



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Bears bound for Alberta

Round Lake senior hockey team to join NCHL

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

When the puck drops for the Round Lake Bears later this fall, it will drop in Alberta. After years of trying to play with a league in Saskatchewan, the Bears have officially been welcomed to the 30-year-old North Central Hockey League.

"All the players are excited to be back in a league," said Bears manager Winston Bear. "I just wish we could have had it in our area, or that we had an AA or AAA here. We want to try and take a run for the Allan Cup."

The Bears will be playing out of the Enoch Community Centre, located on the Enoch Cree Nation on Treaty 6 land just east of Edmonton. They will be the 10th team in the league with a regular season of 18 games set to begin Oct. 4.

"Their league over there is played on the weekends," explained Bear, adding that he's got two charter busses secured for players making the trip. Also, the Bears will have a pick of players from Edmonton and Enoch in addition to locals already on the roster. Plus, there's some young hopefuls coming up that will be great additions to the Bears lineup in the future.

"We got a pile of kids there that just turned 18 and 19 years old," Bear said. "They're still in their junior years, and they're still playing junior, we don't want to take them away from that, so we'll get them at the end of the their season when it's tournament time."

There are plans to live-stream Bears games online, and the regular season is a bit shorter as playoffs are finished by the end of March.

Long time coming to find a home

Bear explained that the team has been around for about nine years, and finding a league has been an uphill battle. The most recent attempt was to join the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League, where the Bears were ultimately denied entrance.

"When we couldn't get in the league, we pulled some people off the couch and said, 'let's go play hockey,'" he said. "Then three, four years ago, we got a little more serious and we've been winning. I think last year we made \$128,000, the year before \$108,000, and the year before that was \$98,000, so we've been doing pretty good at tournaments. We got a lot of good sponsors and a lot of loyal players."

When asked if the Round Lake team would consider a Saskatchewan league if approached, Bear was hesitant in his answer.

"They kind of broke us down," he relied after a reflective pause. "We'd of gladly help in any kind of way."

Bear recounted how his team gifted the Kenaston Blazers with Senior A provincial champs items after the two



The Round Lake Bears are excited to be joining Alberta's NCHL

met in a best-of-three series back in March. Round Lake had claimed the first game of that series 8-4, but the Blizzard would return in Game 2 with a 7-5 win, then capping the series with an 8-3 victory over Round Lake in Game 3.

"In fact, the Round Lake Bears gave Kenaston championship caps and T shirts just like the NHL does, and they were able to put them on and get the pictures taken," Bear explained. "That just shows how much we wanted to help. We're not there to hurt anybody, we all work. We're not doing any damage to anybody, because we've got to live in the community."

Persistence has paid off as Bear detailed how the idea of joining an Alberta league came about.

"We called around, we've been calling around since last year when we didn't get in the league," he said. "We never got a call back this year, so we just said, 'hey, let's try over there.' I gave my presentation and they asked me to leave the room, I went to my truck, I just sat down and they called me back in. I thought, 'I guess this is another wasted trip,' it just happened so quick. And then I went up the steps, they said, 'welcome to the NCHL.' Then I called home."

Hockey bigger than the game

Having a place to call home is huge for the Bears, and has farther reaching effects than a physical realm. As Bear

explained, hockey has been a safe place for the young people in the community.

"Before Covid, when hockey was going full bore, we had a lot of kids that weren't doing drugs and they were in shape," he said. "After not being able to get in the league and not being able to play hockey, they just drifted away, and then they're hurting themselves. So we want to bring them back here again. We have to."

Even trying to form a Bantam-level team has proven difficult as players don't see a place to advance without a team to be there as they age. With the Bears securing the Enoch rink, that promise has returned.

"They want to play, we brought that back, and we're very proud to have done that," Bear said, excited for the coming 2025/26 NCHL season. "We're really looking forward to it, and it's going to be a dandy!"

Junior Hockey coming to Moosomin

Continued from page 6

Goals as new addition to Moosomin

The Senior Rangers they are kind of the biggest team in town and they are always very successful—I have watched a few of their games and it is a great environment and something to look forward to on the weekend and we hope we can essentially just be another team like the Senior Rangers for local Moosomin hockey players, families, and any hockey fan to come out and take a game in and even people from surrounding communities to come out and have a good product on the ice, and a good brand of hockey to enjoy throughout the season.

I would say 11/10 that is how excited I am. It is a very good league, it is Junior 'B' hockey, but it is certainly respectable and players move on whether it is Junior 'A' or other opportunities. It is good hockey and we believe Moosomin is definitely a hockey town and junior hockey to us is—there are fans in the stands and enjoy playing in front of a crowd.

I will feel a whole lot better when we hopefully have a very strong roster, but we have to give all the time we have right now to recruiting players and making sure they are the right fit, but individuals off the ice as well that will interact with the community. We want a good culture where they are good hockey players on the ice and respectful people within the community off the ice as well.

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Rocanville Fire Department

Kahkewistahâw First Nation receives \$133.6 million in Cows and Plows settlement

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Federal government dollars to compensate Saskatchewan First Nations for undelivered treaty benefits have started reaching the intended people. Recently, members of the Kahkewistahâw First Nation began receiving individual payments, directly deposited to their bank accounts.

In total, the Kahkewistahâw First Nation is set to receive \$133.6 million as their portion of the Cows and Plows settlement, of which \$37.2 million is devoted to a per capita distribution.

That distribution began April 17 with every elder receiving \$30,000; adults (18 to 59 years) seeing \$25,000 with a top-up of \$5,000 at age 60; and minors entitled to \$2,500 with top-ups at age 18 (\$22,500) and age 60 (\$5,000).

"It's going to be a really positive time for us," said Chief Evan Taypotat during a gathering at Kahkewistahâw on April 17, reflecting on the potential this new opportunity presents for all community members. "I am really proud of our reserve, because we've never just said 'each family is getting \$30,000.' That's a good thing, and I'm proud that we got to it. At the end of the day, we're pumping \$37 million into the local economy—that's a good thing. It's a good day to be on Kahkewistahâw."

The rest of the funds are earmarked for other areas to benefit the community with \$63 million placed into the Legacy Trust, \$10 million going to the Kahkewistahâw Economic Management Corporation, \$9 million toward the Operations & Maintenance and Fire Hall building, \$6 million for legal fees, \$3 million to Administration, a separate \$1.4 million devoted to an Elder's trip, and \$1 million each set aside for higher education, fire hall equipment, and pow-wow/rodeo/Treaty Days.

In preparation for the abundance coming to Kahkewistahâw, community safety has been a key concern. Once the deposits begin to flow, it is anticipated that 300 people per day would see the money come to their accounts with an estimated 850 in the queue.

"Money is hitting our accounts today, tomorrow, right until next week," Chief Taypotat said April 17. "But also, criminals are really smart, so they know that it's hitting our accounts. Just this morning, I posted about the people that are banned from our First Nation. In the last hour, I've got three houses on our First Nation that are selling."

Chief Taypotat was referring to a list of 10 individuals who have a history of selling illegal drugs in the community, stressing that such activity is not acceptable nor will it be tolerated. The community notice advised residents that if any of the named individuals were seen on Kahkewistahâw lands, to contact either the Community



Director of Operations, Vida McArthur, explains some of the main points of the safety plan in place.

Safety Patrol or RCMP.

As for the three residences in the tip, Chief Taypotat was going to deal with them that same afternoon.

"We never took this job to go and knock on doors and kick people out," he explained. "We took this job to more importantly, make Kahkewistahâw safe and make it a better place."

Part of that commitment to safety includes the already established KFN Safety Patrol, but also an outside security agency has been brought in for the next month.

"We have notified the RCMP of our plan," said Safety Services Co-ordinator, Stan Bobb. "They know that at any time they could be getting calls,



Chief Evan Taypotat is excited that \$133.6 million in Cows and Plows dollars are coming to Kahkewistahâw First Nation and the opportunity it brings to everyone.

so they're prepared to be in our community more than usual."

Continued on page 11



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Image: A Young Man - Smerecosky's Collection, Dr. Martin Kovacs Archival Collection, University of Regina, 2002-2 Box 83 Photo 1731

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Kahkewistahâw First Nation receives \$133.6 million in Cows and Plows settlement



Stan Bobb, Safety Services Co-ordinator, explains some of the efforts in place to keep Kahkewistahâw First Nation safe.

Continued from page 9

Director of Operations, Vida McArthur, also told community members what they can expect to see over the coming weeks in the community—including patrols, security checks, and RCMP check-stops.

"We're going to make sure our community is safe," she said. "You'll notice that we're going to have solar lights being put up at all the main intersections. You'll also notice on those solar lights there will be cameras installed at all our main intersections for the safety of all of our members here."

Implementing the plan prior to the

Cows and Plows money being rolled out involved a lot of work, and McArthur was quick to acknowledge all involved in making it a success.

"I'm just so proud of our team on how much work we put into that," she said. "We call it a six-week Agricultural Benefit Safety Plan, and we've never seen a plan like that anywhere."

As of April 23, most of the Cows and Plows payments had been made to individuals at Kahkewistahâw, with Chief Taypotat noting "everything going well, the snowstorm has helped keep things quiet as well."

31:1C



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The College is governed by a dedicated seven-person Board of Governors. With three vacancies arising due to upcoming retirements, the Board is seeking expressions of interest from individuals eager to contribute as Board members. Candidates will be assessed with preference given to those who meet the following criteria:

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- 1 representative for 'rural north communities'
- 1 representative from Weyburn or immediately adjacent communities

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Southeast College

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Please include a resume with your professional background, previous board experience, if any, and describe your interest/aims in serving on the Board of Southeast College. All submissions will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The board will review applications before making a recommendation to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Ministerial approval.

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HOME & GARDEN

7 golden rules for growing plants in pots



Are you ready to grow plants in pots on your patio or balcony? Try these seven expert tips for growing healthy plants, vegetables, flowers and herbs this summer.

1. Ensure your pots are big

enough. Select a pot that's wide and deep enough to allow your plants' roots to grow freely. A pot that's too narrow or shallow can stifle growth.

2. Choose a design that allows drainage. Drill holes in the bot-

tom of your pots or look for styles with built-in drainage. This will prevent you from oversaturating the soil, which can lead to root rot.

3. Use high-quality potting soil. Purchase soil specifically designed for potted plants. It should be lightweight, nutrient-dense and provide excellent water retention.

4. Prune bulky roots. If your plant's roots become intertwined, carefully trim them in a few places to encourage healthy growth.

5. Water enough. When you water for the first time, ensure the water drains out the holes at the bottom. After that, adjust your watering routine based on the specific needs of your plants.

6. Put them outside at the right time. Don't rush to take your pots outside.

Wait until the risk of frost has passed so you don't lose the benefits of all your hard work.

7. Add fertilizer. The nutrients in potting soil can deplete quickly. Regularly apply a suitable fertilizer rich in nitrogen and potassium, tailored to the needs of your plants.

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HOME & GARDEN

Cleaning your major appliances isn't rocket science!



Spring cleaning is a great opportunity to make your appliances sparkle and shine. Try these simple tips to keep your four most important appliances looking their best.

STOVE

Use soapy water or an all-purpose cleaner to wipe the cooking surface and exterior. For the interior, use your oven's self-cleaning function or clean it by hand using a paste made of water and baking soda.

REFRIGERATOR

Clean the interior with a mixture of white vinegar and lukewarm water. Don't forget to clean accumulated dirt and crumbs from the door seals. For the exterior, an all-purpose cleaner is all you need.

WASHING MACHINE

Run an empty cycle using hot water with either vinegar or bleach. Don't forget to wipe down the rubber seals to prevent mildew. Finally, clean the exterior with a mild all-purpose cleaner.

DRYER

Remove lint from the filter and vacuum up any remaining fluff. Also, prevent fires by ensuring the exhaust vent is unobstructed. To finish off, clean the exterior the same way you did your washing machine.

Happy cleaning!

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Haskaps

These cold-weather berries can be picked earlier than strawberries. They taste like a mix between a raspberry and a blueberry. If you want your haskap bushes to produce fruit, you must plant

at least two. Place them in full sun and space them about one metre apart.

Cantaloupes

Somewhat sensitive to the cold, these tasty melons thrive in sunny spots sheltered from the wind. Wait for the nights to warm up before transplanting them outside, and keep the soil consistently moist. Just remember, they require ample space to spread out.

Strawberries

These sweet treats grow easily in most garden soils, particularly sandy ones. Depending on the variety, they thrive in full sun or partial shade. If you want a bountiful harvest, make sure they have a constant supply of water and weed them regularly.

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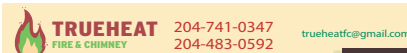
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Furnishing a small living room: expert tips

Does your living room feel cramped? Try these expert decorating tips to make your small space both functional and esthetically pleasing:

- **Choose light colours.** Light shades help create a sense of space by reflecting light. Colours like off-white, beige and pearl grey are perfect for creating a light atmosphere.

- **Pick your furniture wisely.** Look for small or multi-functional pieces of furniture, such as nesting tables and storage ottomans. Avoid bulky items that take up too much space.

- **Decorate sparingly.** Leave as much free space as possible to avoid overcrowding the space. Instead, stick to a few carefully selected pictures or accessories to add

character.

- **Provide multiple light sources.** Use subtle, indirect lighting and accent lamps to compensate for a lack of natural light, which can make the living room feel even smaller. Wall-mounted fixtures are particularly effective because they free up floor space for a more streamlined appearance.

- **Play with mirrors.** Mirrors reflect light and create the illusion of depth. Place a mirror opposite a window to maximize natural light and create a feeling of openness.

Visit your local shops to find everything you need to create a living room you love.



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HOME & GARDEN

How to wash windows without leaving streaks



Spring marks the end of winter—and the start of spring cleaning. Washing your windows is the ultimate way to brighten up your home. However, cleaning glass without leaving streaks can be tricky. Follow these tips to make your windows shine.

SUPPLIES

You'll need the following supplies:

- White vinegar
- Warm water
- Spray bottle
- Lint-free or microfibre cloths

- Rubber squeegee
- Newspaper

PREPARE YOUR WINDOWS

Start by dusting the window frames and removing any dirt, such as insect debris and spider webs. To lift off stickers or adhesive residue, wet the area and scrape it off gently with a plastic scraper.

WASH THE GLASS

Make a homemade cleaning liquid by mixing a three-to-one solution of water and white vinegar in a spray bottle. Generously spray this solution onto the glass. Use a cloth or squeegee to wipe it

clean. Then, remove any liquid residue with a dry cloth. If you still notice streaks, dampen a piece of crumpled newspaper and rub it on the glass to achieve a streak-free finish.

If you don't have the time or prefer not to wash your windows yourself, you can get an impeccable clean by hiring a professional window cleaning company. This will help you quickly check this task off your spring-cleaning to-do list.



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What's the point of levelling your yard?



Do you own a plot of land or plan to buy one? Don't underestimate the importance of levelling your property. Doing so can save you a lot of trouble down the line. Here's why.

Protect yourself from rain damage

Rain is great for your lawn and flower beds, but when it seeps into your foundation, that's a different story. Levelling your

yard creates a slope that directs water away from your home. The slope gradually descends toward your property line, helping gravity do its thing to ensure water drains away ef-

fectively.

Conversely, a negative slope that directs water toward your home or indentations in the ground can cause water to accumulate around your foundation. This excess moisture can seep into your basement, compromising your home's structural integrity. Plus, dealing with this issue is stressful and can increase your insurance premiums if you have to make a claim.

Call the professionals

If you see puddles forming on your lawn after it rains or notice unusual dampness in your basement, poor levelling may be to blame. Levelling is a technical job best left to the experts.

Professional landscapers can add soil to correct slopes, fill in holes, dig trenches and install drains.

These tasks are crucial for protecting your home. Reach out to a landscaping expert in your area today.

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U of R, SE College, Southeast Tech Hub sign MOU

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A partnership that melds regional economic diversification, applied research and job creation in southeast Saskatchewan began last week with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in Estevan. The MOU signed was between the Southeast College, University of Regina, and Southeast TechHub, launching the Innovation Centre for Energy Development.

The Southeast College and U of R have had their own MOU since the end of October, 2022.

"Our two institutions have been aligned with the goal to more partnerships, more education and more applied research, and the Tech Hub is an initiative that came from the city of Estevan, and has grown to now be an independent nonprofit so that it can be more regional," explained Tania Hlohovsky Andrist, Executive Director, Innovation and Applied Research with Southeast College. "It also recognizes, as an organization that it needs to be economic development for the region."

The MOU between the three entities outlines a five-year commitment to work together—creating opportunities in energy generation and storage, small modular reactors supply chain, battery supply chains, and advanced manufacturing. Another key aspect of the agreement is to attract investment, support startups, and build a workforce ready with hands-on, industry-relevant skills.

"So when an investor, or when a company is trying to attract more international clients, they can look at a region and say, 'there's a lot going on down in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan with energy, we're interested—we want to be part of this too,'" Andrist explained.

Most important is the end result of actual, visible outcomes from that agreement. "This partnership is about creating space for new ideas and new businesses to take root in Southeast Saskatchewan," said Gordon More, Executive Director of Southeast TechHub. "We're bringing together industry, education, and research in a way that's focused on real outcomes—



From left: Dr. Jeff Keshen, University of Regina President, Sheena Onrait, Southeast College Vice President, Communications & Strategic Enrollment and Gordon More, Executive Director Southeast Tech Hub.

jobs, innovation, and long-term economic growth."

For Southeast College, ICED's objective to meld academic research with business and industry needs is just a larger part of what they already do.

"We see this as a natural extension of our role in the region," said Jody Holzmiller, President and CEO of Southeast College. "Through enhanced trades training and innovation, Southeast College is committed to helping grow the skills and talent needed to support a changing energy landscape. The partnership will strengthen Southeast's participation in

Applied Research, giving rural students an opportunity to solve specific, practical problems as well as improve existing practices, products or services."

As for the U of R, they bring research expertise to the table, plus the ability to help connect regional workers to national and even international networks.

"This is a meaningful step toward strengthening innovation in Saskatchewan," said Dr. Jeff Keshen, President and Vice-Chancellor of the U of R. "We're pleased to be part of a partnership that will support applied research, regional development, and opportunities for students

and faculty alike."

All three parties signed the MOU during the recent Critical Resources, Innovation, and Technology Conference in Estevan on April 23. The event itself was hosted at the Southeast College's Estevan Campus and brought 125 delegates from across North America.

No commitment for Moosomin campus

In early March, Southeast College announced the closing of their Moosomin campus location effective July 1, citing declining enrolment and underutilization. Only the 18-week Electrician program has been running out of the local campus, which will be relocated to the Whitewood campus starting in the winter of 2026.

As Southeast College grows its ability to do more research, it could mean expanding classes to the satellite communities.

"Especially because our computer science class—currently, we're offering it in person in Estevan, but there's also opportunities for computer science class to be really transferable, and if there's youth there that are interested, we don't have to have massive labs," Andrist said. "We just need to get the students together, get them working on a project in these communities, and that's a real goal of ours; to stretch that computer science training, which is delivered through Southeast College. It's not a program that would be through Sask Polytech or through the university, it's our programming and it's designed so that people can learn where they live."

As for the Moosomin bricks and mortar location, there's no solid word that any sort of campus will return. However, Andrist didn't rule out the notion absolutely.

"I don't want to make a false promise, but at the same time, that's what it's designed for—to stretch and to have these relationships," Andrist said. "We're already in Moosomin, we're already there in Whitewood. So absolutely, I can see a future where there's businesses that we can support in those communities with our projects."

Elkhorn girls leave for Africa on Humanitarian Trip

Chant and Frattinger excited for upcoming trip this week

Continued from Page 5

"I have done a lot of volunteer work and have helped with many projects within my community and I love being part of the community."

"I played school sports in high school, I am a figure skating coach—in Elkhorn and Kennedy, and so I like to be very involved so I thought this would be an amazing experience to expand that, but also be able to travel and give myself an opportunity to see different perspectives of the world."

Frattinger explains they want to help improve and add to the Zambian kids' education.

"I think it is important for us to see the difference between our lives and the opportunities we have here compared to the kids in Africa."

"I think it is important for them to get the best education they can as well, so as volunteers if we can go—we are only going for two weeks, but then if people can keep doing it then every bit helps. I just think education is very important and that is something we can help with."

Chant feels this experience will help her in her future career as an educator.

"I feel like this is also going to help me develop more as a teacher as well—experiencing a different culture, a new country, and how they go about learning and their education. I have been told that the children need to know both their native language and English to have greater opportunities or else it is really hard to get well-paying jobs and provide for their families. I think it is really important to go there and teach English, but also it is such a cool experience to see their culture and the different way of living."

Gifts for kids in Africa

Chant says they will be taking souvenirs to give to the kids.

"We were thinking of taking about 50 t-shirts of various sizes and putting the Canada flag on them because we were told from the volunteer headquarters that the children really like Canada and anything brought from here."

We plan to take some blow-up beach volleyballs, kids' toys, and I have some books that I am going to take, as well as some math and English flashcards for them."

Very excited

Frattinger says she is looking forward to travelling to Zambia and meeting the kids. "I am very excited and my mom is really excited. I am excited to see the kids, learn a new culture, and see some new places. It is going to be cool."

Chant adds, "I am also very excited. It is surreal. It's like 'I am going to Africa next week' that doesn't seem real. We are down to the last week and getting everything organized and I am going to start packing soon, so I am getting really excited."

Bringing joy to Africa

Chant says she hopes to bring some happiness to the kids within the two weeks. "I am hoping to bring some joy to these kids and show them that they have a purpose just as much as anyone else in this world. Show them that they can still make a difference and impact on the world—is what I hope to show them—giving them hope and some positivity into their community. I hope I can touch as many people as I can while I am there."

"I also want to learn some of their native language, I want them to teach me a little bit," Chant said.

"I want them to feel like they have a purpose, and see the smiles on their faces. I have heard stories that kids there are happy seeing new faces—I don't think they are hard to please," Frattinger added.

Lots of support

Family, friends and community members have gladly helped support Chant and Frattinger on their trip.

"We have had so much support with this trip as well—the community, family, and extended family, and friends," Frattinger said. "Lots of people from the community have

told us how cool they think our trip is, and are excited to see what we do there and can't wait to hear about our stories when we get back."

Chant says they held a 50/50 that helped their fundraising tremendously.

"We have had a lot of support from our community. We did a 50/50 fundraiser and it was amazing, the support was amazing. We have had so much support from our community and especially the care home where Shaylee and I work."

"My boss has been really understanding about me starting work later in my position this summer because of this trip. I have had loads of support from my family with helping me fundraise and get details on insurance and everything I need to go. There has been so much support and we are just so grateful."

Chant explains the funds will be contributed to helping their volunteer efforts. "All of our funds are going directly toward the trip and the volunteering aspect of it. They go toward getting things to take to the kids such as school supplies or anything like that, helping us with our accommodations while we are there in order to stay the whole time—all the funds are being directly put into the volunteer portion of the trip. We've also had to get a lot of vaccines for ourselves in order to be safe over there as well."

"Anyone can reach out to either girl to donate if interested. Reaching out to Shaylee or myself personally, anyone can donate if they are interested and we can let them know anything they are curious about the trip, where they can donate, and where their money will be directly going. We appreciate the amount of support we have received so far and we cannot wait," Chant said.

If you are interested in helping support Sara and Shaylee on their humanitarian trip to Africa to help and teach young kids, you can contact:

Sara Chant: 204-851-2992

Shaylee Frattinger: 204-596-5544

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See us online at www.plainandvalley.com

Second annual BBQ event in Kipling is KCBS sanctioned

26 teams signed up for event June 21-22

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Last year was Mathew Bonville's first foray into hosting a Canadian BBQ Society event in Kipling with the Smokey Skies BBQ Competition. The event drew eight teams.

But this year, Bonville has much more in store for all those barbecue enthusiasts out there with the competition planned for June 21-22.

"Last year, it was a Canadian BBQ Society event, which is obviously the Canada-wide one," he explained. "This year, it is sanctioned by the Kansas City BBQ Society, which is the largest barbecue society in the world. They sanction stuff, whether it be Australia, the States, here, all that fun stuff. You gain points, basically, if you belong to the Society, so as you win events and win different things, you gain points, and then you can get an invite to the World Series of BBQ."

So far, Bonville—who operates Phantom Smoke & BBQ—has 26 teams signed up for the second edition of the Smokey Skies BBQ Competition, including folks from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Bonnyville and Edmonton, Alberta, and a couple from North Dakota. There's still room for a few more teams as Bonville would like to reach the maximum

of 30.

"This is called a KCBS Master Class competition, which means it's a four-meat competition, and it meets all the requirements because it's sanctioned," he explained. "We have so many teams, it meets all the requirements to 'get invited to the show,' as they call it. The American Royal is held in Kansas City every year, and that's called the World Series of BBQ."

At the American Royal, there are two types of competitions teams can participate in—the Open and the Invite.

"The Open, anybody can go to and compete at, but the Invite, you need to become a Grand Champion at one of these smaller events like what we're holding that meets all the criteria," Bonville said. "So you have to win it overall to get the invite."

The Smokey Skies BBQ Competition will be the only KCBS-sanctioned event in Saskatchewan this year, with only 11 other events across Canada.

"The big difference is to become sanctioned, you have to guarantee money up front," Bonville said. "So it's not just we sign up as many people as we can and then we decide how much everyone wins on the last day. Through KCBS, we have to guarantee an amount of money three months before the event starts and how



Courtesy a metal crafter based in Assiniboia, trophies for the Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion and the first five places of each meat are heavy duty hardware!

much we're going to pay the winners. We also have to acquire reps, so we're lucky enough that we have some Kansas City reps out of Calgary, and they've offered to come out. They come out and make sure that we're following all the Kansas City rules so that we're eligible. Basically, they're like the refs, if you want to look at it that way."

In addition to the competition taking place in Kipling June 21 and 22, there's also the opportu-

nity for people to become judges through the KCBS Certified BBQ Judges course on the afternoon of June 20.

"It's about five hours of just eating professional barbecue and telling people what you think of it," Bonville says of what can only be classified as a dream job come true. "At the end of it, you get your certificate saying that you are a certified barbecue judge. You get a name tag with your number on it, but it opens up a lot of things."

Bonville is a CBJ himself, and explained how he had the opportunity to judge a state championship in California this past January.

"You can go anywhere in the world," he said. "You can be going to Australia on a vacation, and if they have a competition going there, you can register to judge at it."

Certified BBQ Judges are in demand, as a competition generally has a one-to-one ration of judge per team.

"It's a judge per team, so right now we're at 26 teams; we have to have 26 judges, but then it has to be divisible by six, so you have to have six judges at a table," Bonville explained. "So we'll have 30 judges."

With the Smokey Skies BBQ Competition a couple months away, Bonville has a lot of the

planning in place for the event, but more sponsors are always welcome to join the excitement.

"Sponsorships are always accepted because the more we could offer to the competitors and to the people coming to the event, obviously the bigger it will be the next year," he said, adding that there is a goal he would like to hit as far as team numbers go. "The largest barbecue competition in Saskatchewan ever was 27 teams, so we want to get at least two more teams so we can beat that."

The beauty of the world of barbecue competitions is the variety in experience levels and the camaraderie between teams.

"Out of the 26 teams, we have two World Champions already signed up, and then we have everything to a team that did his first competition last year with us," Bonville said. "So you don't have to be the best in the world, you just have to show up. You're not competing against the other teams, you're competing against the judges because it's all blind testing."

"If you want to see what a barbecue does and all the different kinds of barbecues, or learn anything, or just talk about food, I suggest coming out on the 21st and you can talk to pretty much anyone you want," he concluded. "They'll love to show you what they got."

Moosomin raises \$31,600 in Smile Cookie sales

Moosomin second in Sask and 14th in all of Canada for sales

Continued from Page 3

"It was a busy week, to say the least! From first thing Monday morning right through until Sunday, we're still selling those cookies, and there's lots of fun and excitement. Our team almost had blue Smurf hands by the end of it, because of all the cookies they were putting out! We can't thank enough the community, the volunteers, and everyone that picked up a cookie or two, during the week, it was just amazing."

MacLeod Elementary School is this year's beneficiary, and they're planning to devote the money raised to a playground on the south side of the school.

"It was another fantastic experience with Tim Horton's," said Tammy Cole, Principal at MacLeod Elementary School. "They have such a wonderful crew of people over there, it made cookie decorating so much fun!"

The playground will be used by both MacLeod students and kids from the new Play Fair Daycare building being built south of the school.

"We're going to start looking into getting the kickball backstop, that was the big dream to get that done, and so that's our first push," Cole explained. "We're going to use whatever the \$31,000 can purchase."

Future equipment the school is considering include a merry-go-round or some monkey bars.

"We're going to do some shopping here right away and try to get that done," Cole said. "We're pumped to have that money, and we're going to put it to quick use! We would like that backstop to go in for the summer so people can actually enjoy it."

"Our playground is a hub, and it is always busy all summer long—from picnicking families to tourists that come and let their kids have a break and play," continued Cole. "So our playground is a very busy space even during the summertime."

The school may also be eligible to apply for matching funds through a provincial government grant announced during the spring budget.

"The 2025-26 School Playground Equipment Grant program is currently in development with application intake expected to launch by fall 2025," according to the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport. "More information about the program, including guidelines and eligibility, will be shared

publicly in the coming months."

In Esterhazy, the Little Miners Community Daycare was the recipient of Smile Cookies sold at their location. During the campaign, a total of \$5,995 was raised for Little Miners Community Daycare.

"My team handled it beautifully," said store manager Rochelle Isaac. "It was actually good, because we had the support of both the mines—Nutrien and Mosaic—this year, so I think that's what helps boost our sales."

This year's Smile Cookie campaign was a record-breaker across all stores in Canada and the U.S., bringing in \$22.6 million to support more than 600 charities and community groups.

Camp Day is next

Tim Horton's staff will have a moment to catch their breath before the next big campaign—Tim Horton's Camp Day on July 17. All proceeds from every hot and iced coffee will be donated to the Tim Horton's Foundation Camps.

"We're looking forward to that," said Crisanti. "It gives our team some time to recoup, and we'll look forward to Camp Day in the summertime."

Since inception, Camp Day has raised more than \$262 million, sending over 320,000 kids ages 12 to 16 to Tim's Camps. Last year alone, almost \$12.8 million was donated to the Foundation Camps.

"For the first time ever, one local child from the Moosomin area will be taking off to the Tim Horton's Foundation Camp this summer," says Crisanti, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the Foundation Camps. "We're lucky to send a child who maybe hasn't been on an airplane before and traveled without their family members or guardians."

The destination is yet to be determined but there are six camps across Canada—two in Ontario, and one in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, and Alberta.

"So they could be going to Alberta, maybe out to our Quebec camp, Perry Sound, who knows," Crisanti said. "But we're really excited for that one."

There is a bit of a process behind sending a youth to one of the Tim's Camps. Crisanti says the local application started late last year.

"Not everyone gets the opportunity to send someone from their local community, but we've had great success in

the Moosomin area with our camp team members, and again, the commitment and the feedback from our community," he said. "So it was important for us to make

sure we get a child from our Moosomin area to send to our Tim Hortons camps this summer, and we'll be sending some other kids from the Brandon area."

TENDER FOR LAND AND BUILDING

The following land and buildings will be offered for sale by tender under the direction of the law firm BROOKS MACK LAW:

**Lots 11 – 14 Block 08 Plan 3604, including building.
112 Raikes Street South (Highway 80 South)
Churchbridge, Saskatchewan**

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 35 miles east of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, and 30 miles west of the Manitoba Border and located at the intersection of Yellowhead Highway #16 and Highway #80 south and Highway #8 north.
- 14 miles from Mosaic Potash Mine.
- 40 miles from Rocanville Potash Mine.
- Overall lot area is 21,900 square feet.
- 150 feet fronting onto Raikes Street and with a lot depth of 146 feet.
- Building: 3,456 square foot wood-framed building constructed in 1988. The building is comprised of a reception area, two washrooms, paint storage room and shop with a 12 foot x 14 foot overhead door. There is a 340 square foot mezzanine with office, washroom and storage area. The building is heated by natural gas radiant heaters. The building contains a 25 foot (l) x 14 foot (w) x 9 foot (h) downdraft paint booth.
- Three-phase power.

TENDER TERMS:

1. Tenders must state the purchase price.
2. Tenders can either include or exclude the paint booth.
3. Sale closing and possession date will be October 1, 2025.
4. GST will be in addition to the purchase price.
5. Property taxes will be adjusted as of the closing date.
6. The land and building is sold "as is".
7. The purchaser will be responsible for transfer fees.
8. A sale agreement incorporating the above will be executed by the parties.
9. The seller reserves the right to not accept the highest tender or any tender.
10. Tenders must be in writing and submitted to Brooks Mack Law, 114 Bismark Avenue, Box 250, Langenburg, SK, S0A 2A0 or info@brooksmacklaw.com or fax 306-743-5589, by June 30, 2025, at 5:00 pm.
11. All tenders must be presented with a deposit equal to 5% of the purchase price (non-refundable if tender accepted) with such deposit to be in certified funds (bank draft or certified cheque or wire) payable to Brooks Mack Law.
12. Any inquiries respecting the land and building can be directed to Brian Basken or Bruce Basken at 306-896-2622 and any inquiries respecting the tender process can be directed to Brooks Mack Law at 306-743-5520.

Living Skies Fireworks competition returns

Continued from front

"There will be four food trucks, the Peras Boys, Mexican King, there is a slushy truck for the weekend, and one other. They show up late on Friday."

He says the weekend will be filled with kids' activities.

"There will be kids' events happening throughout the weekend too—sand castle building, kids' games, beach volleyball, and road hockey."

"Beer gardens will be available Saturday and Sunday night again as well. I am assuming it will be good and people will be travelling to see family so we should have lots out."

Tickets

Jeannot says tickets will go on sale in early June.

"Tickets are available June 14 on early-bird sale for \$20. They are available at Jeannot Electric, The World-Spectator, Glasser's, and the toll booth at the lake."

"We want to still make it affordable so families can afford it. The advance tickets are \$20 early bird and \$25 after, and 5-and-under are free."

The committee will be posting a calendar of upcoming events happening this summer at the lake.

"On the lake site there will be an events calendar for the whole summer so everyone can see what is going on at the lake every weekend and it will also be in the Plain and Valley and the paper," Jeannot said.

Back to traditional August Long

Davidson says the committee has decided to bring back pre-pandemic August Long fireworks and events this summer.

"We are gearing up for what we used to do pre-pandemic. We are hoping 5,000 people each night."

Jeannot adds, "All of the power sites are already booked. We are booking overflow sites right now. We have lots of sites yet to go. It is a good turnout already though with lots of people booking that weekend."

Davidson says people can expect the full scale fireworks show like before the pandemic. "It will be similar to past years regarding the show, so people know what to expect with the fireworks. Archangel out of Winnipeg is going to run and manage everything and then they have a crew that will come out of Saskatchewan and Alberta. They are very excited to come out again this year. They did our smaller show on the July Long last year too."

Excitement in community

Jeannot says he has heard positive feedback from the community.

"People are excited and looking forward to it coming back. People were disappointed when it was gone with the pandemic, but now that it is coming back people are excited and it should be really good."

"We have had a lot of people ask 'Where are the fireworks?' The public and community missed it," Davidson said. "We tried the drone fireworks a few years ago, but people want the dynamite and explosions



Kim Poole photo

Photos from previous Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competitions at Moosomin Regional Park.

and sounds, so we thought we should get it back again."

"This is hopefully our plan to continue to get back to the way it was, and keep it the same from now on every August Long," Jeannot adds.

The committee is still looking for some volunteers for the weekend.

"Volunteers are the biggest thing right now," Jeannot explained.

"We are pretty well set. Our biggest thing is finding volunteers for parking. It is an out-in-the-sun job which nobody really likes, but we are trying to break it up into small shifts so we are still looking for volunteers for that. A lot of work goes into it. We've been working on it since the fall to stay ahead of it."

Jeannot says the weekend helps fund updating projects at the park. "It is about having a fun summer event for people to come out to and enjoy, and also it does help better the park and beautify it for people and maybe add more campsites or anything the water plant may need. There is no end to the projects we could do out there."

Davidson says the event has helped support many expenses for the park. "One year it was quite big when China was there and it helped pay for a huge chunk of the water treatment plant for about three years that we ran it. It paid for at least half of the water treatment plant when we built it back in 2018. Everything just gets more expensive—we have to set the ticket price point too where it is not so high that it drives people away, so we left the prices the same as they were last year. We talked about raising the price of tickets, but decided not to."

Great venue

Davidson explains the park is a great venue for different firework companies.

"It is a unique venue too. All the firework companies that come just love the venue—being able to light them from the other side of the lake and see them reflect in the water, and you get the echo of the sound up and down the valley, it is quite the venue."

Davidson explains how the fireworks

shows began at Moosomin Lake each summer.

"It has been a long time. Prior to the competition, we did it for a few years as well and it just kept growing. In the beginning there was some people from Windthorst and they were part of a fireworks outfit out of Regina and they would come and camp at the lake and they told us 'Let us camp for free, and we will do a fireworks display for you,' and that is how it started, but that was probably 30 years ago now."

"I also think it is very beneficial to the local economy here. People come down for the weekend and buy their gas, buy their groceries, booze, and stay at hotels and spend money within the community and the surrounding communities."

Jeannot says the committee and community are very excited to see the fireworks return this upcoming August long weekend.

"We are super excited. It is really exciting to be part of it and put something on for the community and surrounding communities. People are full of excitement that it is happening again this year and we've had a lot of people step forward to help this year which has been really good."

May Long Plans?

exp
REALTY

Open House
Round Lake Edition

Sunday May 18 | 1pm - 4pm | Amy Hudacek



4 WHISPERING VALLEY ESTATES AVE.
Round Lake, Sask
3 Bed | 3 Bath | 1940 SQ FT
\$1,200,000



Sunday May 18 | 1pm - 4pm | Kerri Shumay



307 B CURRIE AVE.
Round Lake, Sask
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 2188 SQ FT
\$599,988



Sunday May 18 | 1pm - 4pm | Hayley Beaudry



LAKE VIEW CABIN
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Indian Head couple recognized with Sask Volunteer Medal

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

A group of people received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal in Regina recently, including Dr. Bruce Neill and Laura Poppy from Indian Head.

The 29th annual presentation of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal took place on April 29 at Government House with 15 honourees from across the province in attendance.

Coinciding with National Volunteer Week, the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan presented the medals in person.

"The theme of volunteer week this year is Volunteers Make Waves," she said. "When volunteers come together and push towards a common goal, like waves on the ocean, they roll forward—building momentum, making powerful impacts, sending ripples outward to benefit others that they may never meet. In Saskatchewan, we send out volunteer waves out over the rolling grasslands, the endless rain fields and forests, and in the winter, over the endless snowdrifts and the beautiful ice covered lakes!"

Recipients of the 2024 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal are Valerie Bidaux, Eastend; William Brooks, Saskatoon; Creighton (Wayne) Cameron, Moose Jaw; Brenda Corman, Saskatoon; Audrey and Rod Euteneier, Regina; John Grant, Regina; Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Lyle Johnson OMM, CD, Moose Jaw; Harey Linnen, Regina; Sandi Loughheed, Beechy; Oswald Lutz, Lanigan; Dr. Bruce Neill and Laura Poppy, Indian Head; Rob Rongve, North Battleford; and Jayne C.M. Whyte, Regina.

McIntyre also noted how individual efforts go on to make large collective impacts in a community.

"We each make a difference in the areas that we have a passion for, and as a result, make a positive impact on our neighbours, organizations and communities in Saskatchewan," she said. "We are proud of our volunteerism, and rightly so. Your generosity and spirit are the heart and soul of our communities and it is the prairie way of building and sustaining all that we love. Co-operation, collaboration, and teamwork are powerful strategies that allow all of us to grow and thrive."

Also joining the 15 award recipients were family and friends, some of whom McIntyre assumed were undoubtedly tapped to help as well.

"I also acknowledge the family and friends of the honourees for that all the you do when the volunteer is out volunteering," she said. "I expect that many of you have been recruited to help out where needed as well. In my family and circle of friends, it's become known as being 'volun-told'! Thank you for supporting these recipients in their valuable work. They couldn't do it without you. In closing, I want to leave you with one thought. Volunteers are not paid, not because they're worthless, rather because they're priceless."

Deputy Premier Jim Reiter borrowed a quote from Gandhi, famous for his views on non-violent resistance.

"Our recipients come from communities both large and small," Reiter said. "It's a testament to the strength of the spirit of volunteerism that has defined this province since its very beginning. The late Mahatma Gandhi once said, 'the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' Just reflect on that quote for a minute. When we give ourselves and our time to others, we fulfill our greater purpose."

He went on to acknowledge how volunteers often forgo their own wants and needs in favour of the greater good.

"This province and its people are better off because of you and the work that you've done," Reiter said. "If even one person was positively impacted by your time and dedication, it's a job well done to our recipients. I hope you allow yourself to feel a sense of pride in all that you've accomplished. Think of your friends and family, your loudest cheerleaders, you've led by example for decades, and I believe many people have decided to take up the mantle of volunteerism because of you on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan, I extend my sincere appreciation to all of you."

Also on-hand with congratulatory remarks was provincial NDP leader Carla Beck, who credited the award recipients as "shining examples of what we can accomplish in this province when we work together."

Continued on Page 27



Recipients of the 2024 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Back row (from left) are Laura Poppy, Dr. Bruce Neill, John Grant, William Brooks, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Lyle Johnson OMM CD, Harvey Linnen, Creighton (Wayne) Cameron, and Rob Rongve. Front are Brenda Corman, Rod and Audrey Euteneier, Jayne C.M. Whyte, Oswald Lutz, Valerie Bidaux, and Sandi Loughheed.



Left: Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre presents Dr. Bruce Neill and Laura Poppy of Indian Head with their Saskatchewan Volunteer Medals.



Deputy Premier Jim Reiter offered greetings on behalf of the province.



Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre credited the honourees for their dedication to making their communities better places to live.



The Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal was established in 1995, celebrating Saskatchewan's 90th birthday and the 10th year of a provincial honours system. Previously, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit paid tribute to volunteers, starting in 1985.



Elder Wendy Alexson speaks during the grand opening ceremonies of the new elder's centre at Kahkewistahâw First Nation.



Elder Amanda Louison cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Kahkewistahâw First Nation Elder's Centre on April 17 as community members look on, including (from left) Chief Evan Tappat, Councillor Michael Bob, FSIN vice-chief Fabian Head, and Councillors Cory Alexson and William Kaysaywaysemat.

New elders centre opened at Kahkewistahâw First Nation

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a moment many elders on Kahkewistahâw First Nation have been waiting for—the official grand opening of the new Elder's Centre.

"For the other elders, it's important, but to me, it's my dream," Wendy Alexson told the World-Spectator during a tour of the new building. "I've always wanted something for elders. I've lost five sisters. I had to grieve alone at home. This way, you come

here and you share. You know there's other elders probably grieving or sick, so we'll sit around the table, we'll have coffee or tea and talk about things and we'll even pray for each other."

Completed last November, the new building features a large indoor space with kitchen facilities, comfortable seating, a television with Starlink internet, an office space, and washroom/shower facilities. Many large windows allow for plenty of sunshine to fill the main space, decorated with local artwork including a

bison hide decorated by local school kids. Outside, the wheelchair-accessible entrance leads up to a wrap-around deck with ample room for a raised garden bed and other outdoor amenities such as a barbecue.

Another feature is the walking trail outside the elder's centre, approximately 1.5 km in length. This is part of a greater \$700,000 development that will also see the addition of trees, shrubs, and ground cover, and eventually a gazebo with electrical hook-up.

Continued on page 23

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Kahkewistahâw First Nation Chief Evan Taypotat (left) and Councillor Cory Alexson (right) present FSIN vice-chief Fabian Head with a star-blanket.

New elders centre opened at Kahkewistahâw First Nation

Continued from page 22

During opening ceremonies held April 17, Kahkewistahâw Chief Evan Taypotat credited Alexson for her tenacity in keeping the need for an elder's centre front of mind for Council, starting about four years prior.

"I applaud her for being respectful to the Council, but also being a little bit pushy because we got to be a little bit pushy at times if things aren't happening," he said.

A very important factor that Chief Taypotat pointed out was the location of the new building—between the Chief Kahkewistahâw Community School and the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre.

"We put the building where it is for a reason, and we put that building there so that the elders could go over to the school, or the children in the school could go over the elders," he explained. "And also so that the people that work in this building can go over to the elders, or the elders can come

over to this door. A lot of the time, we rely on our elders for guidance."

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations vice-chief Fabian Head echoed those sentiments on holding the elders close.

"It is vital for our elders that are here, they are knowledge keepers," Head said, adding that he relies on the advice of elders at his home nation regularly. "They have knowledge of what happened 30, 40, 50 years ago."

Head also noted the importance of youth and was very pleased to see so many younger members of Kahkewistahâw in attendance for the special ceremony.

"They're nation builders that are one day going to take our seats," he said. "One day, they're going to become Chief and Council. The Creator sent them here so that they'll remember this day, that they'll remember the elders sitting here, the chief and council, and they'll remember."

Long-time Councillor Michael Bob also



A bison hide is on display inside the new elder's centre, decorated by Kahkewistahâw First Nation students.

spoke on the importance of the new elder's centre, a much larger gathering place with more amenities than the previous one.

"It's a great day for Kahkewistahâw as we move forward in acknowledging the work that our elders have brought forward over the years," he said. "I had the opportunity to work with four chiefs over the years for Kahkewistahâw, and those chiefs—every one of them—always made sure that we take care of our elders and make sure we have something for them. Now we have a beautiful building here, and we're right by the school. Our children can go there, we can go there. We definitely want to make sure that knowledge is not lost."

There are 40 people who live on Kahkewistahâw First Nation that are aged 60-plus, with more living in the cities. Alexson

is looking forward to the community's upcoming pow-wow when those visitors will also be able to enjoy the new building.

"When we have our pow-wow in June, we're going to open it up to the ones that are out there," she said. "They'll come home to visit, and this is where they're going to come and socialize."

Community members of all ages gathered in front of the new elder's centre to witness elder, former Chief, and FSIN senator Amanda Louison cut the ceremonial ribbon.

"By the power vested in me as chief of Kahkewistahâw First Nation, I hereby declare this building open for tea and bannock," said Chief Taypotat prior to Louison slicing the red ribbon as those in attendance cheered in delight.



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Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

Moosomin's second annual Walk for Alzheimer's coming up

BY ASHLEY BOCHÉ

Moosomin is hosting its second annual Walk for Alzheimer's Saturday, May 24.

Registration will begin at 9:30 in the morning at the Legion, followed by the walk at 10.

This year Moosomin is considered an official in-person walk in Saskatchewan along with Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Prince Albert.

Bill Thorn, a member of Moosomin Alzheimer's Society, experienced Alzheimer's through his wife, Phyllis.

"My wife, Phyllis, had Alzheimer's and that interested me in getting more involved in the Alzheimer's Society.

"Seven years ago I joined the support group in town. Last year was our first year we took part in the Alzheimer's Walk—they called it—Walk-in-a-Box. This year five centres are having a walk across Saskatchewan and Moosomin is one of them. The others are cities like Prince Albert, Swift Current, Regina, and Saskatoon and Moosomin is the only town of the five centres hosting a walk."

Thorn says the walk is important to his entire family and they take part each year.

"The walk is important to us as a family—getting the community involved and knowledgeable about it is important as well.

"It is interesting to hear how many families have been impacted by Alzheimer's. When Phyllis passed away I couldn't believe how many people came and told us their connection to Alzheimer's."

"Unfortunately, there really isn't a whole lot you can do about preventing it. At this point they don't seem to trace it back to hereditary—maybe a little bit—but I can't help but think that it does run in Phyllis's family. Her mother, her sister, and her two brothers have all had Alzheimer's. It certainly seems to run in families. I know Les Gerhardt, his wife's family went through several members of his family who all had it as well."

Thorn says the disease is something families need to learn to adapt to.

"You grow into it as the disease starts running its course. It is just day-to-day activities that you just learn of what to expect and what might be down the road—like forgetfulness, less ability to do basic things like preparing meals, writing cheques, counting money, signing her name—she couldn't sign it on a straight line, but you learn to expect little changes every day. You don't realize until you look back 5 to 10 years later how change happens a little bit at a time."

Many years living with Alzheimer's

Thorn first started seeing signs during



An aerial view of walkers in Moosomin last year.

golf dates with his wife Phyllis.

"Phyllis started to show signs about 12 years ago. I think the first time I noticed it was when we would golf. She wouldn't remember her scores and that was never her."

"As it progressed, she was less engaged

in conversation when there was a group of us around. You could tell she wasn't following the conversations. Sometimes when she would want to make a comment it would be after three minutes or so had passed in the conversation. Then, she just withdrew more and more all the

time from group conversations. She could follow when it was a few people, but bigger groups—she would laugh when everyone else laughed, but I am not really sure she followed. There were times afterwards that she would ask me—when it was just the two of us—stuff that was already discussed in the conversation hours before as a group."

He said while the disease impacted Phyllis, it didn't change her personality as much as it affects some.

"It is funny how you just learn to cope with it. I was pretty fortunate because she was never got angry, she was never stubborn or difficult—she was very easy to deal with and we would go out for walks or go for a drive. It made it fairly easy, and that was more of her personality I think."

Alzheimer's tests and trials

Thorn says they travelled to Montreal to join an Alzheimer's trial after Phyllis's diagnosis.

"Her first time with Dr. Kerkhoff would have been about 10 years ago, and he gave her a basic cognitive test."

"He would say five words and then two minutes later ask her to repeat those five words and she would have trouble. He also asked her to draw a clock and adjust the hands to 10—there were multiple tests like that one and it showed cognitive signs that she couldn't follow."

"We took one trip shortly after that to Montreal for a clinic down there. It was two days of tests there, and mostly the result of that was our diet. So we went on this keto diet, but it had side effects—she lost a lot of muscle mass and she just couldn't do it anymore. We were on it for about a year or so, and I think it maybe helped her a little bit, but at the end of the day she was less mobile, and that made us decide to go off it."

Thorn says Phyllis struggled to understand her illness.

"She never accepted or understood that she was ill and that was one of the things that always frustrated me. I wish she would've because then she could've fought a little bit. I remember one morning sitting there and talking about her illness and she said 'I feel just fine, I am not sick,' she didn't understand. In fact, she broke down that day saying 'I feel just fine, what are you so worried about?' and I was trying to help her understand that she could no longer drive or cook meals."

Thorn says everyone experiences Alzheimer's differently.

Continued on page 35

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Indian Head couple recognized with Sask Volunteer Medal

Continued from page 21

"Saskatchewan is a small province that has always punched above its weight," she said. "We're blessed with abundant natural resources, but most importantly, we're blessed with the kind of people that are willing to put their hand up, dig in, and make communities better. Right across this province, we have 15 shining examples of that here today. These are people who care about their community, care about their province and the country that we live in, we are richer for all of your efforts."

Local couple humbled by award

As with all the volunteers assembled in Regina last week, Dr. Bruce Neill and Laura Poppy weren't motivated by recognition for their volunteering efforts. They are well-known, however, for their contributions in the community of Indian Head.

"Bruce and Laura are retired Agriculture Canada researchers," explained Jason Quillam, Saskatchewan Chief of Protocol during the duo's medal presentation. "They're passionate community leaders. Bruce champions conservation, outdoor education and sustainability. He's founded the Save the Shelterbelts committee. Laura supports environmental and youth programs through Scouts, Communities in Bloom and Nature Saskatchewan. Both obviously serve with the RCMP Pipe Band and have led numerous local initiatives. Laura and Bruce's volunteerism have earned them both the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal, and most recently with us, the King Charles III Coronation medal."

In conversation with the World-Spectator, Neill and Poppy were humbled by the honour.

"It really is an honour, it's amazing," Neill said. "There's probably many, many people who are deserving, but we were the lucky ones that got nominated and to receive it."

Poppy added that learning about the nomination for the SVM was indeed a surprise.



"We really appreciate the nominations, a lot of work went into that process," she said. "We realize that, so we're very honoured. It was a surprise, but it's an incredible achievement. It's not why we volun-

teer, but we've each put in probably over 10,000 hours of volunteerism over the years in multiple organizations in our small community, but we also represent our community while here and we're representing the RCMP Pipe Band, which is just one of the volunteer things we do."

In addition to the list Quillam noted in reading the couple's bio, Neill is also involved with the Indian Head Grand Theatre restoration for the past 12 years. Poppy has also been involved with the local food bank and canoe club.

"I was brought up to volunteer," says Poppy. "My father was a volunteer, and I grew up valuing that and seeing the benefit of that. Because when you volunteer, you give to your community, but you also grow. It's a super important thing for everybody to do. It's a busy world—everybody's busy—but to give to your community, you get so much more back."

Neill noted they first heard the news via a phone call around St. Patrick's Day, discovering that the Pipe Major from the RCMP Pipe Band the couple volunteers with had done the legwork gathering letters of support from various groups around Indian Head.

Left: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark stands with Indian Head recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Award, Laura Poppy and Dr. Bruce Neill.

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Chancee Joannette teaching ATV safety.



SaskPower's display on electrical safety and hazards.

Redvers Ag Safety hosts successful farm safety day April 9

BY ANGELA ULRICH

The Redvers Agricultural Safety Committee hosted a successful Safety Day on Wednesday, April 9 at the Redvers Recreation Centre, bringing together students from the surrounding area to raise awareness about the importance of safety in agriculture. The event featured interactive presentations, hands-on demonstrations and informative sessions aimed at educating youth on how to stay safe on the farm and around agricultural equipment.

Redvers Fire Chief Brad Hutton and committee board member explains, "Going back a couple of years ago, I had an idea that we should do a safety day focussing on the school age children of our community. There was a Progressive Ag Safety Day hosted in 2019 that was well attended with great reviews from teachers, children, and parents. After putting some thought into it, I decided to get a board together and make this happen for Redvers.

Heather Adair with Redvers EMS agreed to be assistant co-ordinator and then we got it rolling.

"We contacted The Progressive Agriculture Foundation to get started on the online training that is a requirement for all co-ordinators to complete for the event. Then we had the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions (SAASE) invite our board members to their annual convention in Yorkton to complete further training. Our volunteer board consisted of myself (Brad Hutton), Heather Adair, Breanne Barber, Chancee Joannette, Shelby Joannette and Katy Soroka. We invited Kindergarten to Grade 6 students from Maryfield, Bellegarde and Redvers schools totalling 230 children. We gathered volunteers to run 18 different safety booths and group leaders for 18 groups of children to tour through. The day was set up to operate like a trade show style with individual booths to keep the children's focus on that safety

topic."

A variety of safety topics were taught to the students. They included grain bin safety, auger safety, quad/ATV safety, household chemical look-a-likes, large animal awareness, fire safety, and home emergencies. There were live demonstrations with a tractor and auger to show the dangers of a PTO entanglement and what could happen if a person is caught in an auger. They also demonstrated the danger of a loader bucket coming down on a person if they happen to be playing under one. The final demonstration of the day was how to properly extinguish a grease fire on the stove with a fire blanket and what happens if you were to use water.

Overall, the day was a huge hit with all students and teachers that attended.

Continued on page 38



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Manitoba government providing \$150 million for agricultural producers

Province announces \$10 million in additional matching funds for Federal AgriStability Program

The Manitoba government will provide farmers and producers with more than \$150 million in supports, including \$10 million to match federal AgriStability funding, Premier Wab Kinew announced today.

"We're standing up for Westman and Western Canada, and protecting your jobs," said Kinew. "With \$150 million in supports for agriculture, we're making sure that farmers and producers can weather the economic uncertainty we're facing and protecting jobs in the agriculture industry."

The Manitoba government will provide \$10 million in additional matching funds for the AgriStability program, as well as \$140.8 million for business risk management programming including AgriInsurance, Wildlife Damage Compensation and AgriInvest.

The premier noted the province is also working with farmers, producers and businesses to protect jobs, strengthen Manitoba's economy and respond to tariffs from China and the United States, in addition to working with Keystone Agricultural Producers toward a number of shared goals to support Manitoba agriculture including:

- identifying opportunities to remove regulatory barriers to grow value-added food processing businesses;
- advancing trade work in Manitoba's interest including collaboration with other provinces and engagement with key U.S. states critical to Manitoba's trading relationship that will be hurt by potential tariffs; and
- advocating to the federal government and working to deliver policies and investments in value-added processing, improvements to business risk management programs and access to the capital producers need.

"As Manitoba's general farm organization, advocating for the interests of all Manitoba farmers is our top priority," said Colin Hornby, general manager, Keystone Agricultural Producers. "We are committed to working collaboratively with the Manitoba government to have the perspectives of all Manitoba farmers reflected in any government efforts to address today's trade challenges and we thank them for giving us a seat at the table."

Budget 2025's tariff budget sets aside contingencies to support Manitobans in the face of U.S. tariffs, including \$100 million in support for farmers and producers, bringing Manitoba's total support for agriculture producers to as much as \$250 million, the premier noted.

Manitoba government makes \$13-million investment in downtown agriculture exchange

Gate will diversify trade, expand Manitoba agriculture on the global market: Premier

The Manitoba government is investing \$13 million for Cereals Canada to develop the Global Agriculture Technology Exchange (Gate), a world-class centre in downtown Winnipeg that will support grain producers and processors in their ongoing efforts to establish new international trading partners, Premier Wab Kinew, Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation Minister Jamie Moses and Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced today.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Manitoba's economy and this investment will protect jobs as farmers and producers are facing a trade war on two fronts," said Kinew. "This new exchange will help showcase Manitoba's grains to the world and help drive up global demand for high-quality Canadian grain products."

"We're working with Cereals Canada to drive innovation and provide their technical expertise to help

bring more investments to Manitoba," said Moses. This partnership will protect Manitoba jobs and deliver opportunities for long-term growth in Manitoba.

Funds will be used to support the building and equipment costs to develop a new building in Winnipeg's Exchange District, with research and innovation space for specialty milling, a pilot bakery, pasta extrusion, as well as training and office space.

"Canada produces some

of the highest quality grains in the world and that gives us a unique advantage," said Kostyshyn. "Retaining Cereals Canada in Winnipeg will solidify Manitoba as the centre of the Canadian grains industry and a hub for global trade."

"This is a substantial investment from the Manitoba government for the future of Canadian cereals," said Dean Dias, CEO, Cereals Canada. "Gate is an essential investment in diversifying our mar-

kets and mitigating trade risk, providing global buyers with trusted technical knowledge and expertise, and maintaining Canada's leadership as a trusted and consistent supplier of high-quality cereal grains."

This new investment is part of the Manitoba government's commitment to the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg, improving safety and bringing businesses back to the downtown core, noted the premier, adding the invest-

ment in Gate will complement provincial funding for the Your Way Home homelessness strategy, the redesign and creation of the Portage Place Health Centre of Excellence, investments in the downtown YMCA and bringing people together for Winnipeg Jets whiteout celebrations.

Sask showcased at Food, Fuel, Fertilizer Global Summit

Third annual summit brings together business leaders from across Canada

On April 8, Premier Scott Moe delivered the keynote address to more than 300 business leaders and policymakers at the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Food, Fuel, Fertilizer Global Summit in Regina.

"It has never been more clear how vital Saskatchewan is to ensuring food and energy security around the world," Moe said. "The Food, Fuel, Fertilizer Global Summit emphasizes the province's critical role in global trade and sustainable development, which is of utmost importance during this time of uncertainty. More and more countries are understanding the value that we bring to the table, realizing that choosing Saskatchewan is not just a good choice, but the right choice."

The summit explored the global role the province plays, particularly in the

sectors of agriculture, mining and energy. Through his keynote, Premier Moe discussed food, and energy security, cutting the carbon tax, the province's tariff response plan and the importance of diversifying export markets.

"Saskatchewan's approach to trade and investment has helped position our province as a reliable global partner in food, fuel and fertilizer," Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO, Prabha Ramaswamy said. "With international engagement offices in 9 countries across the world, Saskatchewan is poised to diversify markets, expand market access for businesses, and supply these vital resources to the world. Events like the Food, Fuel, Fertilizer Global Summit showcase the leadership and resilience that make Saskatchewan a steady and trusted partner in uncertain times."

In 2024, Saskatchewan's exports reached over 160 countries, with eight markets that totaled over \$1 billion. Last year the province saw international merchandise exports reach \$45.4 billion, a top three record for Saskatchewan.

Private capital investment in Saskatchewan increased last year by 17.3 per cent to \$14.7 billion, ranking first among prov-

inces for growth. Private capital investment is projected to reach \$16.2 billion in 2025, an increase of 10.1 per cent over 2024. This is the second highest anticipated percentage increase among the provinces.

Statistics Canada's latest GDP numbers indicate that Saskatchewan's 2023 real GDP reached an all-time high of \$77.9 billion, increasing by \$1.8 billion,

or 2.3 per cent. This ties Saskatchewan for second in the nation for real GDP growth and above the national average of 1.6 per cent.

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Saskatchewan farmers celebrate end to Railway Carbon Tax Surcharge

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) celebrated the positive steps taken by CN and CPKC to eliminate their rail carbon tax surcharges, effective April 1, 2025, for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and New Brunswick. This development follows the federal government's elimination of the consumer carbon tax (fuel levy), a move enthusiastically supported by APAS.

"This is massive for farmers," APAS President, Bill Prybylski, declared. "Axing the surcharges puts more cash where it belongs—in our pockets and back into our rural communities. It's a huge lift, especially now, with trade uncertainty. Between 2019 and 2024, Saskatchewan farmers have been saddled with about \$200 million in carbon surcharges by the railways. We've fought tirelessly for relief, and seeing it finally come to an end is incredibly rewarding. Eliminating these surcharges not only ensures farmers feel the benefit of scrapping the federal consumer carbon tax but also keeps us competitive on the global stage."

APAS highlights the critical nature of this success, pointing out that railway fuel surcharges were set to cost Saskatchewan farmers an estimated \$80 million

this year alone, underlining the significance of this decision.

APAS welcomes the changes but remains vigilant about the still-active Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) in British Columbia, which might increase shipping costs for grain from Saskatchewan to BC Ports by raising railway fuel costs. Additionally, following the removal of the federal consumer fuel levy, APAS advocates for transparency and detailed analysis of how the federal Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) impacts farm input costs.

"Moving forward, it is crucial that we have clarity on the implications and application of the continued provincial carbon pricing in British Columbia on rail freight costs for our producers," added Prybylski. "We also need the federal government to ensure complete transparency around the OBPS and its impact on our sector as climate policies evolve, reinforcing the need for close collaboration with agriculture to avoid placing undue burdens on food producers."

"The successful removal of the carbon tax is a testament to the depth of APAS's policy work, focused advocacy and its relentless efforts to support the interests of farm and ranch families."





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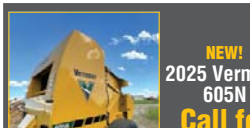
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	Rent to Price Ratio	MIN	MAX	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio	Rent to Price Ratio
BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AB	2.35%	1.25%	3.65%	2.40%	2.60%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%
SK	3.10%	1.80%	4.60%	3.10%	3.10%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
MB	2.40%	1.15%	3.60%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
ON	1.20%	0.45%	2.25%	1.25%	1.40%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
QC	1.60%	0.60%	2.90%	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%
NB	2.00%	1.10%	3.35%	2.00%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
NS	2.00%	1.25%	2.90%	1.80%	1.25%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%
PEI	4.10%	3.25%	5.15%	4.35%	4.35%	5.20%	5.20%	5.20%	5.20%	5.20%	5.20%
Canada	2.50%			2.52%	2.55%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.70%	2.70%

Table 1: 2024 Rent to price ratio by province, with minimum and maximum range by province, including RP ratio since 2020.

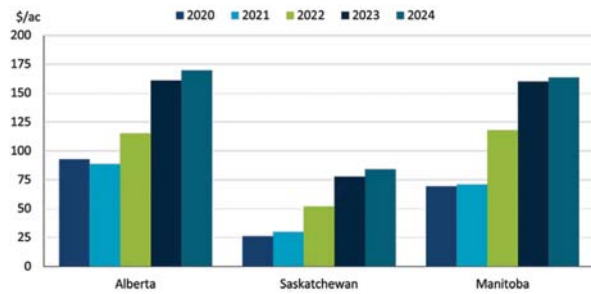


Figure 1: Per acre difference in profitability for renting vs newly purchased land in the Prairies

2024 Farmland rental rates: Renting or purchasing depends on many factors

BY LYNE MICHAUD, É.A.

For the past five years, FCC has been closely monitoring Canadian farmland rental rates and examining the impact of farmland value growth on these rates. According to the FCC Farmland values report, there was a significant increase of 9.3% in average farmland values in 2024.

While this growth rate is slower compared to recent years, it remains notably high. In contrast, the trends in cash rental rates have been more moderate. Over the last five years, the Canadian rent to price ratio has fluctuated from 2.70% in 2020 to 2.50% in 2024.

Renting land is an important business decision to manage financial risk. The duration, conditions and options negotiated when renting land has a large impact on the rental market trends. This can lead to rental agreements lagging farmland value changes in the short term.

Rent to price ratio analysis

While there are different kinds of rental agreements used in the agriculture sector, like crop sharing; this analysis focuses on cash rental agreements, which is measured as follows:

$$\text{Rent to Price (RP) ratio (measured in \%)} = \frac{\text{Cash rental rate per acre}}{\text{Value of cultivated farmland per acre}}$$

The national average RP ratio in 2024 was 2.50%, very similar to the previous year's rate of 2.52% (Table 1). No rates are published for British Columbia as data in multiple regions of that province were deemed insufficient to provide an accurate average RP ratio.

Saskatchewan and New Brunswick saw no change in the RP ratio for 2024, despite strong increases in farmland value in the same period. Rental markets in these provinces quickly adjusted to reflect changes in farmland values. Other provinces showed slower responses, with little or no change in dollars per acre rental rates resulting in a lower RP ratio.

Renting has improved annual cash flow over purchasing farmland

Renting can be an integral component of a business's strategic plan when aiming to expand its land base and grow operations. To compare any cash flow advantages of cash rental agreements versus purchasing land, we subtract the costs of land rental from new land purchase costs, assuming a 25% downpayment and a 25-year amortization (Figures 1, 2, and 3). Based on the province-wide RP ratio, the cash flow benefits of renting versus buying can vary significantly across different regions.

Continued on page 34 »



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Legislation introduced to support municipalities with pilot framework for safe disposal of derelict structures

On April 9, Minister Eric Schmalz introduced amendments to The Construction Codes Act to support the Government of Saskatchewan's pilot framework to assist municipalities in dealing with derelict structures.

"Municipalities are in the best position to ensure the long-term safety and prosperity of their communities," Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz said. "By updating this legislation to support our derelict buildings pilot framework, the Government of Saskatchewan is helping local leadership practically and effectively address the challenges posed by municipally-owned derelict properties."

Derelict buildings can present economic, financial and social challenges for municipalities and can be costly to maintain or remove. At the Saskatchewan Association for Rural Municipalities' annual convention in March, the provincial government announced the development of a pilot framework intended to help eligible municipalities dispose of these structures as well as provide a training opportunity for local volunteer fire departments.

"We have heard from SARM, SUMA and other



municipal leaders that have asked for this opportunity to provide training scenarios for our world class vol-

unteer firefighters that are the cornerstone of our rural communities," Environment Minister Travis Keisig

said. "We look forward to seeing the continued collaboration that will benefit many across our province."

The pilot framework's parameters are being developed in partnership with multiple ministries

and agencies and details will be available to municipalities in summer 2025.

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2024 Farmland rental rates: Renting or purchasing depends on many factors

Continued from page 32

As the 2024 RP ratio in the Prairies remained stable, the cash flow advantage of renting land increased slightly compared to purchasing. The increase ranged from \$5 to \$10 per acre, influenced by lower interest rates that helped offset some of the rise in farmland values related to newly purchased land payments (Figure 1). Since 2020, Alberta's rent advantage increased by \$77 per acre, Saskatchewan's by \$58 per acre, and Manitoba's by \$95 per acre.

Ontario and Quebec producers have also experienced better cash flow with rental agreements than purchasing land. From 2020 to 2024, Ontario's rent advantage increased by \$620 per acre, and Quebec's by \$368 per acre (Figure 2).

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have seen improved cash flow from rental agreements compared to land purchases (Figure 3). From 2020 to 2024, New Brunswick's rent advantage rose by \$103 per acre, while Nova Scotia's increased by \$44 per acre, the lowest growth in Canada. In 2020, Prince Edward Island (PEI) producers experienced better cash flow from purchasing land over renting, the only region in the country. The RP ratio in PEI has dropped the most in Canada over the last 5 years due to rental market adjustments, which improved the cash flow advantage for renting by \$147 per acre.

Despite the advantages of improved cash flow by renting in 2024, it is always prudent to carefully evaluate production costs before entering into new land rental agreements to fulfil operational requirements.

Purchased land appreciation since 2020 highlights benefits to owning.

The previous charts have demonstrated the annual cash flow advantages of renting farmland in recent years compared to purchasing. However,

this analysis does not account for one of the major benefits of purchasing, namely land value appreciation. With the RP ratio data history available, we can compare purchasing versus renting in 2020 and the impacts on cash flow against land appreciation over five years. For simplicity, we will assume that the rental rate was fixed for five years at the 2020 rate, the purchased land was locked in for the same period, and additional cash flow generated was capitalized at the 10-year Canadian bond rate.

Renting land has been more advantageous for cash flow relative to purchasing in all provinces except Prince Edward Island (Figure 4). Saskatchewan producers gained \$140 of additional cash flow per acre over five years, Alberta \$490 per acre, Manitoba \$365 per acre, Quebec \$1,430 per acre, and Ontario \$1,975 per acre by renting vs purchasing in 2020. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick also saw rental advantages. In PEI, purchasing land in 2020 actually led to a higher annual cash flow due to the highest rental rates in the country at that time. Consequently, opting to rent in 2020 would have resulted in a cumulative cash flow of -\$210 per acre compared to purchasing.

On the other hand, if an operation had bought land in 2020, it would have experienced increases in land values. For example, in the Prairies, farmland increased \$1,200 to \$1,500 an acre (Figure 4). In Central Canada, land values have gone up more dramatically since 2020 with Quebec farmland values growing nearly \$6,000 and Ontario increasing nearly \$9,200 on average. In the Maritimes, that growth ranges from \$500 in Nova Scotia to \$2,200 in Prince Edward Island.

Bottom line

The choice between renting and buying farmland depends on various factors, such as compar-

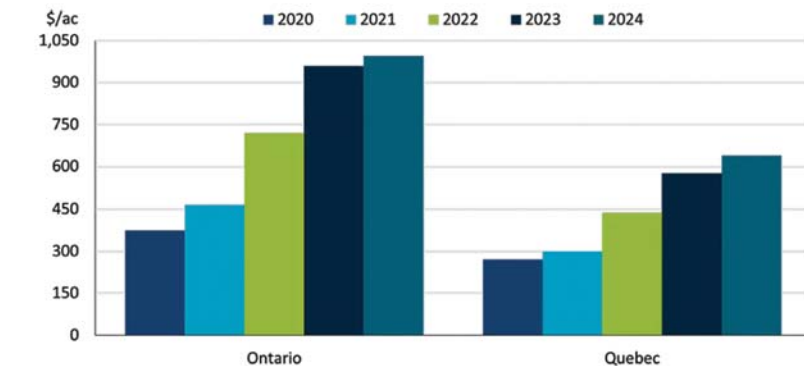


Figure 2: Per acre difference in profitability for renting vs newly purchased land in Ontario and Quebec

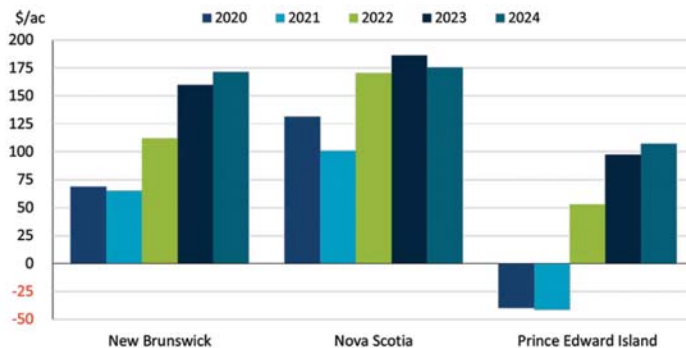


Figure 3: Per acre difference in profitability for renting vs newly purchased land in Atlantic Canada

ing the cash flow benefits typically associated with renting to the asset appreciation demonstrated by the notable rise in farmland values nationwide. As producers evaluate their options, they must consider their unique financial situations and future expectations for rental rates and farmland values, ultimately balancing short-term profitability with long-term asset growth.



Figure 4: Looking back at choosing to buy or rent farmland in 2020 related to cash flow and farmland value appreciation

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Moosomin's annual Walk for Alzheimer's coming up

Continued from Page 25

"The disease is different with everyone. There is a saying that 'when you meet someone with Alzheimer's, you have met one person' because it isn't the same with every person. You just learn to live with it."

Thorn says he learned aspects of living with Alzheimer's from community members living with a loved one affected by Alzheimer's.

"My friend's situation helped me a lot because he became so upset with the system and he was mad at the world because his beautiful wife was less of a partner than they wanted, and I didn't want to live that way."

"His experience helped me to understand that life has to go on and there is no sense in beating yourself up. I think we handled things fairly well."

Phyllis moved into Cobblestone House a year and a half before her passing in January.

"It was interesting—after she was in the care home—how many people made comments to me of how I looked more relaxed and I never felt it when I was going through it—I never felt as if I was stressed, but people told me how they noticed a change in my expression and how I walked."

Thorn explains he comforted himself through their memories together during Phyllis's illness.

"I always took comfort in the fact that we had a good life together. We had a great time and a lot of fun together. We had good healthy kids. It was just accepting of what we were dealt. I don't think we could have done anything different with her health."

Cobblestone opening

Thorn says the new Cobblestone House opening in town was perfect timing for his wife Phyllis and him.

"Cobblestone opening up when it did was perfect for us. Within two weeks of being there she knew that was her home and accepted it."

"Some people don't want to go back, they want to get out of there, but she was never like that. It was an excellent place for Phyllis, for the year and a half she lived there. The girls and staff there were really good."

Research into Alzheimer's

Thorn hopes to see more research published on the disease in the future. "I hope to see more research be published with Alzheimer's and there has been some, but



The Thorn family with Phyllis before the walk in Moosomin last year.

not a lot," he said. "They keep saying it is a build-up of impurities in the blood system that causes the cells and veins to not be able to move oxygen and blood properly—that is what causes it. It is a lack of oxygen to the brain—some blood veins get clogged in the brain and can cause Alzheimer's. I keep trying to warn my kids to keep exercising and stay healthy—you know kids though—they think they are bullet proof."

Last year's walk

Thorn says last year's walk exceeded the group's expectations raising over \$140,000.

"It was an overwhelming walk last year. There were a lot of people there. We were really impressed with the turnout we got and the funds we raised. We had one large contributor, a family friend that was more than overgenerous and really put Moosomin over the top with his donation of \$100,000. We were really pleased with the number of people that showed up. We had over 114 people register that day. Three of our family's closest friends came from Weyburn and some people from Redvers. We didn't expect that size of crowd there at all and so it was really nice to see. We raised over \$140,000 in total. I think it was cool to see Moosomin do so well. There are lots of families within the community who join the walk as well which is just amazing."

What to expect for 2025 walk

Thorn says the Alzheimer's Society group never set a fundraising goal, but

hopes to see around 100 or more people again this year.

"If we could raise around the \$40,000 mark this year that would be great. We never really set a goal, but I think we could hit that mark. We know passing last year's is unrealistic, but I would like to think we could raise around the \$40,000 mark. I hope to get around 100 people in town out walking again this year as well."

The Thorn family will be participating in the walk again this year in memory of Phyllis.

"My whole family is going to be there. We have special shirts in honour of Phyllis," Thorn said. "They have asked me to say a few words before the walk—the program is more official this year since we are a more official walk. My role with the Alzheimer's Society isn't nearly as big as Claudia and Diane—they have actually attended other meetings and get quite involved with the advisory councils and I know Diane's family will be there that day as well."

Alzheimer's Society Moosomin

Thorn explains the Alzheimer's Society group meets every month. "We meet once a month at the United Church every second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon for two hours. I know there is an online posting as well. Confidentiality seems to be important as well, and that is one of the things we remind people when we meet—this is a confidential group. We meet regularly and chat. We also have pamphlets we are giving out at the walk

with contact info to let people know of our group."

Meaning of this year

Thorn says this year the walk will be special in remembering his wife, Phyllis.

"The walk will probably raise some memories of what we went through as a family with Phyllis. Hopefully if people want to talk to us about their family members then I can let them know to give me a call to chat. Sometimes it is easier to chat with some friends than it is to chat to professionals. So if there is a friend out there going through something I would really hope they feel comfortable reaching out."

Thorn says, "You can't change it, so learn to accept it and not let it ruin your days. A friend of mine always says, 'You can't kick a flat tire, it is still a flat tire at the end of the day' and thinking about that philosophy there are certain things you have no control over and can't do anything about. That is what I have learned from our journey. My mom would always say too, 'Worrying doesn't solve anything' and thinking about that—worrying about something what the heck is that going to do. It really doesn't help you at all."

Importance of Alzheimer's Walk

Thorn says the walk is important to raise awareness and to help others speak about their loved ones and ask questions.

"Part of this fundraiser is to continue the work the Alzheimer's Society does and the research and letting people in the community become aware that there is a disease out there that needs to be looked after as best as we can."

"You can learn a little bit and be prepared, should you have to deal with Alzheimer's, and know who to talk to if you need help. There are people out there that might be able to help you through a tough situation. That is also so important—to know who to talk to and know you aren't alone."

"People are that way—people really don't mind being leaned on. Sometimes people feel they are imposing on your spare time or leisure time, but most people like to be asked. It doesn't matter if that means helping coach a ball team, helping someone ill, or just helping a neighbour mow their grass because they can't do it themselves. People don't mind helping really. Sometimes we think we are imposing on our friends, but in most cases we aren't and it is nice to help when we can."

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Farmers, farm groups say the next government needs to do more for agriculture

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local farmers say they hope the next federal government takes interests and concerns of the agriculture industry more seriously.

"I think the biggest thing with any politician—whether it's federal or provincial—is we have to stop using food as a political football," said Moosomin-area producer Trevor Green. He pointed to the example of China imposing 100 per cent tariffs on Canadian canola oil and meal in response to the equal Canadian tariff on electric vehicles from China.

"Canada puts EV tariffs on China. What does China do? They flip-flop back, and they put tariffs on canola oil, which they don't buy a lot of anyway," Green said, adding that the 25 per cent retaliatory tariff the Chinese have imposed on Canadian pork has been quite impactful.

"It's really hurting our pork industry," he said. "There's all this talk of who's going to protect supply management in Canada. Every time Quebec wants to protect supply management, the U.S. hammers our beef. It's food sustainability, and we have to quit using food as a political football."

The tariff situation in general has ripple effects across the board, establishing an environment of confusion.

"When the tariffs were announced, we took a pretty significant hit on our canola prices," said Bill Prybylski, President of the Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan. "They've since rebounded somewhat. We would like to see some resolution to that as soon as possible, with some type of a negotiated settlement."

Another push from APAS has been for export sales data so producers know what kind of playing field they're working with.

"We can know what type of sales are on the books and where's all this commodity stuff that we're growing, where's it all going," Prybylski said.

The uncertainty is what producers would like to see removed.

"It all creates instability in the market, and it creates fear," explained Green in reference to beef prices. "Any time there's instability, it always affects the price a bit, but we're a long ways away from selling calves. We hope that it's all straightened out by then, and everything's on a steady course by fall. Same with the crops, there's a little bit of crop in the bins, but not a lot."

In the case of the Chinese canola tariff, the real impact is on canola meal, which has a more finite shelf life than other forms of the product.

"They're our second largest market," Prybylski said of China. "And certainly, we'd like to diversify our market to a certain extent. Seed is one thing, but the canola meal is another; that market is an on-demand market. It's pretty hard to store canola meal. Canola seed can store for a fairly lengthy time, but the canola meal is a perishable item that has a very limited shelf life, so it needs to get to its final destination quickly."

Canola is an extremely important crop in Saskatchewan, and not just for those growing it.

"You look at the whole canola industry just in Saskatchewan, the jobs that are created, all the crush plants, right from construction, there's lots of jobs there in constructing these, the upgrades that they're doing now and building on," said Blake Duchek, who farms in the Atwater/Stockholm area. "And then, once they're up and running, they employ a lot of people. There's lots of spinoffs from the canola industry, and that doesn't seem to matter to them."

He also pointed to the rebounding price of crop, which took a slight hit when the Chinese tariffs were first reported.

"The States, they actually buy more of our canola than China does," Duchek said. "And surprisingly, when that Chinese tariff was announced, canola went down to \$12.50 a bushel."

Recent numbers now indicate \$15.50 per bushel.

"It went down for a week, and all these buyers make their money off hedging and everything, and now the price is higher than it has been in the last year," Duchek



APAS president Bill Prybylski

said.

The whole canola tariff situation has some producers wondering if perhaps alternative markets aren't such a bad idea.

"It might be short-term pain for long-term gain if we develop new markets," said Moosomin-area producer Jeff Warkentin. "It gives us more options going forward."

Ultimately, Warkentin isn't shaken by the events, and still plans to put canola in the ground this year.

"It hasn't changed any of our plans," he said. "If you don't sow canola, what else do you sow? Nothing else is showing record profits. Grow a little bit of everything. There's volatility in the markets right now, but volatility breeds opportunity, too."

Calling for change

Some producers say they feel agriculture is simply forgotten about by federal leaders. This is coupled with indifference and apathy in how speaking up for agriculture seems to fall on deaf ears.

"It would be a common sentiment in the West that everybody's looking for change," said Warkentin. "No matter who gets in, we just want somebody that's pro-agriculture, pro-energy, and will pay attention to us out here in the West."

Duchek agrees, and is not anticipating much change in local ridings.

"I don't think it matters much to the local ones, because they know they're going to get elected here," he said. "In a rural setting, the Conservatives know they're going to get in."

Regardless of what political stripe people align with, the overall confusion of the past few months have had their toll.

"All that uncertainty, it's hard on our business," said Gerald-area producer Kevin Hruska. "Everybody just kind of shut their wallets and are riding the storm out, the chaos. Still, the worst tariff we've ever experienced is the carbon tax. We need a Conservative government, and that's all there is to it!"

Government response

How governments have responded to tariff threats has created differing results. On the federal side, Green says knee-jerk reactions while in the midst of a Liberal leadership race and an election have not been beneficial.

"We haven't had a functioning government since De-

"It would be a common sentiment in the West that everybody's looking for change."

—Jeff Warkentin

cember 17," Green said. "Our trade partners see that. Our neighbours see that. If you're in the business of buying products from people and the company that you've been buying products from is showing a lot of instability, CEO's getting fired and CEO's not showing up for work, it kind of makes you question whether you're going to buy products from those people."

Conversely, the provincial government took a more moderate approach.

"I think [Premier] Scott Moe has handled it very well," Green said. "He has not shot off from the cuff, he's kept his rhetoric very low. Sometimes, not doing a lot when you're dealing with a guy like Trump is maybe the best course of action."

Members of the Saskatchewan government including the Premier, Ag Minister and the Minister of Trade and Export have all hit the road for various meetings and trade missions.

"There's always trades going on," Prybylski said. "We haven't seen any significant amounts going to other countries, but I think the seeds have been sown that their government has made those contacts. We certainly appreciate the effort that they've put in to making those contacts in those other countries. Any time those types of relationships can be built, it certainly will provide fruit down the road. I'm optimistic that there will be opportunity for sales into other countries, but I'm not aware of anything as of yet."

Some positives

There are places where some producers say the government has managed to get things right—for example when the federal Agriculture Minister, Kody Blois, was the lone Liberal MP who voted against Bill C-234 that sought to include the carbon tax on grain dryer usage.

"I've known Kody for quite a few years, and while we probably differ on our political views, I certainly appreciate the work that he's been doing for agriculture," Prybylski said. "I think he did more in the only week that he was in as ag minister than what had happened from that department in the last couple of years."

"He was, he was definitely in favour of removing the carbon tax," Prybylski continued. "He's done a few things just in that week with changes to the agri-stability program. At least there's some recognition that there's a potential for some harm in the ag sector in Western Canada."

However Prybylski said there's always room for improvement, pointing to tweaking the terms in the federal government's agriculture programming as an example.

"Things like the Advanced Payment Program, I would like to see that limit increased to \$350,000 and become a permanent every spring," he said.

Other examples include placing the Canadian Food Inspection Agency back in the Agriculture portfolio instead of its current placement in Health Canada.

"That never made a whole lot of sense to me in the first place," Prybylski says.

Making good on the National Supply Chain Task Force's May 2023 recommendation for the federal government to expand railway inter-switching zones is another idea with roots.

"Extended inter-switching on the railroads was something that the federal government introduced as a pilot project, but we would like to see that become a permanent fixture," said Prybylski. "And some extended inter-switching miles, rather than limiting it to a smaller distance."



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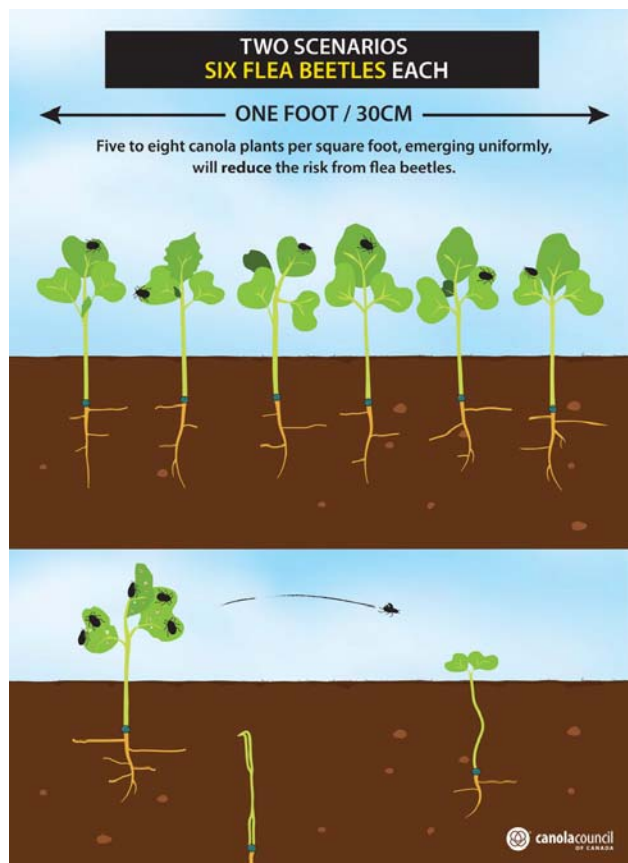
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How to **reduce flea beetle risk** with strong stand establishment



- 1** Seed shallow into warm, moist soil
- 2** Target 5 to 8 plants per square foot
- 3** Use safe rates of seed-placed fertilizer

Find more tips at **CanolaWatch.org**

Quick crop establishment lowers flea beetle risk

by Keith Gabert

Flea beetles remain the top ranked canola pest, according to the latest grower survey. The Canola Council of Canada 2024 grower survey asked respondents to name the diseases, weeds and insects of greatest economic risk to canola. Flea beetles were the most common answer in 2024, as they were in the 2022 and 2020 surveys.

While flea beetles seem to be unavoidable, growers can reduce the risk. John Gavloski, entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture, says canola crops that reach the four-leaf stage within three to four weeks of seeding are less likely to need protection from a foliar pesticide spray. Canola crops that require in-season foliar sprays are often slow-establishing and non-competitive.

Weather can be a major factor in rapid stand establishment. Canola sown in warm, moist soil will emerge quickly and uniformly. Warm conditions without moisture will often favour flea beetles over the crop. Whatever the weather, the following agronomy steps put the crop in the best possible scenario against flea beetles.

Target 5-8 plants per square foot

Canola crops that establish quickly and have five to eight plants per square foot usually face minimal risk from flea beetle feeding. More plants mean fewer beetles per plant – a situation more likely to keep leaf area loss below the threshold of 25 per cent. The graphic below is a visual representation of this point.

Seed shallow into warm, moist soil

A later seeding date may reduce the flea beetle risk if it means warmer soils and faster growth. Note that later-established canola crops could be flowering on hotter days and may have increased fall frost risk.

Consider advanced seed treatment

Advanced seed treatments will improve flea beetle pro-

tection in high-risk areas. However, seed treatments don't work as well or are not actively taken up when the plant is not growing or when moisture is inadequate for the transfer of active ingredient from seed coat to seedling. Flea beetles need to take a bite of the canola seedling to take in the seed treatment insecticide.

Use safe rates of seed-placed fertilizer

The recommendation is to use only phosphorus in the seed row and no more than 20 lb./ac. of actual phosphate. Higher rates of seed-placed fertilizer add more stress, slow the pace of growth and reduce the stand.

Till versus no-till

While canola planted into warmer blackened soil may emerge faster, that same warm ground cleared of obstacles also tends to attract more flea beetles. Also consider that crop residue retains soil moisture, which can contribute to more rapid emergence when moisture is limited.

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Redvers Ag Safety hosts successful farm safety day April 9

Continued from page 28

"We are so grateful for everyone involved including the organizing board, group leaders, session presenters, Maryfield Fire for the smoke trailer and the fire members operating it, the Redvers Activity Center for preparing and serving lunch to the volunteers and the Rising Phoenix Café for providing the af-

ternoon snack," said Hutton. "This day could not be possible without all the volunteers that put in the extra time to make this day a success. The sponsorship that we received and commitment to agriculture safety from the board will allow this event to continue for many years to come."

The SAASE Provincial Safety Day pro-



Right and left: The safety day presentation with a tractor and auger showing the dangers of a PTO entanglement

gram began in 2012. Since then, SAASE's Agricultural Societies are hosting over 15 safety days a year, with over 5,500 students attending from schools across Saskatchewan. In 2015 over 500 volunteers—donating over 4,000 hours of their time worked on safety days to teach children about safety.

Since the program was set up, SAASE

has been able to develop partnerships which include Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), SaskPower, Farm Credit Canada, the Saskatchewan Safety Council, and the Prairie South School Division.

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Understand the ins and outs of grain payment deferral

BY TREVOR BACQUE

For decades, farmers have opted to defer some or all their grain payment cheques when they deliver to their local elevator.

This strategy is often used as a tax planning tool: farmers will sell their grain but wait until sometime in the future, usually the new calendar year, to accept payment. It's a way to manage taxable income. Grain payments can be future-dated up to 364 days from the date of being issued a cheque.

A common practice

In the 1990s, the practice was largely unused, likely because of low farming profits. Yet, as farm size and income steadily grew and farms incorporated throughout the 2000s, the practice of deferred grain payments became more common. The income cut-off number is now \$500,000 - once a farm's net income exceeds that, tax rates increase.

Chartered accountant and Saskatchewan farmer Lance Stockbrugger says there is a valid reason why farmers carry on the deferment tradition: deferring grain payments means farmers can bring in more income within a year and still benefit from a lower tax bracket. Similarly, for farm operations registered as sole proprietorships, any income not deposited into a bank account is simply moved to the next year. Less cash inflow means lower taxes.

"When farms incorporate, they can earn significantly more net income and pay it at a lower corporate tax rate," he adds.

However, Stockbrugger says there's cause for caution when considering whether de-

ferred payments are right for your farm operation.

Potential red flags

Farmers should consider the financial position of the grain company they deal with, Stockbrugger says.

Can the company handle all the deferred payments being cashed at once? Stockbrugger points out how, in 2003, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool nearly went bankrupt when thousands of farmers cashed their deferred payments in early January. The Wheat Pool barely survived and had to restructure its business immediately following its brush with financial death.

"What a lot of people don't understand, is the risk of that business going bankrupt or not coming clean financially and their ability to pay that deferred grain cheque," he says. "People will defer millions of dollars with a grain company to save tax and they have no idea what their financial position is like."

Stockbrugger estimates about two-thirds of all grain farmers use some form of deferrals as a tax management tool. And while it can be a useful strategy, it's still taxable income.

Timing is everything

Jeanine Courteau, head of audits at the Canadian Grain Commission, believes farmers need to understand the risk of deferred payments where the grain company may go bankrupt, and makes it clear it's better for farmers to err on the side of caution.

"We want to see the producer get paid," Courteau says. "We want to see that produc-



er take that cheque right away, cash it and if it clears the bank, great. Then it's no longer a liability for the licensee and the producer has money in their hands."

When the producer goes to cash their cheque, timing is critical to ensure the grain company has the funds to cover the cost of deferred payments. Under the Safeguards for Grain Farmers Program, producers are eligible for compensation within 90 days of the date of their grain delivery, or within 30 days of the date a cash purchase ticket or cheque was issued and delivered to them. The lesser of the two applies. The faster farmers get and cash their cheques, the lower the risk to their bottom line.

"But if the company suddenly fails to meet its obligations three or four months later,

you're at a loss because you deferred your payment into the new year and are now outside your eligibility period," Courteau says, adding that the Canadian Grains Commission is mandated to protect producers and staying within the deferred payment parameters is important to making that happen.

"It's going to boil down to the personal risk appetite on whether or not producers are willing to accept the risk and the implications," Courteau says.

Overall, while deferral of a grain payment can be a valuable tax management tool, it's critical to know the financial position of a company. Otherwise, you could find yourself in a problematic situation, especially if you are outside the Canadian Grain Commission's compensation window.




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