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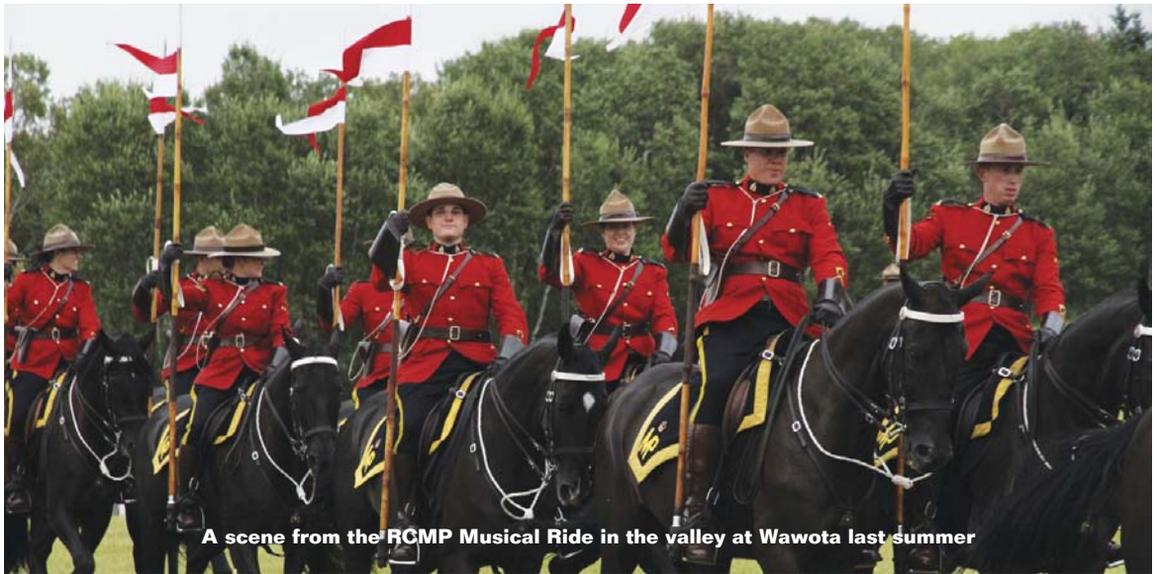


Mount Everest Climb
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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

June 2016 • Volume 9, Number 6



A scene from the RCMP Musical Ride in the valley at Wawota last summer

Event filled summer in SE Sask SW Manitoba

Moosomin Rodeo July 8-9 • Virden Musical Ride July 14 • Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo July 23-24

Moosomin Lake Fireworks July 30-31 • Wawota Ranch Rodeo July 29-31 • Elkhorn Western Days July 30-31

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

This is looking to be a very busy summer in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba, with lots of major events coming up.

MOOSOMIN RODEO WEEKEND

Moosomin's Rodeo Weekend July 8 and 9 is shaping up to be a busy weekend in Moosomin.

July 8 and 9 will be the 23rd annual Moosomin Rodeo Weekend. Friday will feature rodeo action at 6:30 p.m., and the Back 40 Drifters will perform in the beer gardens following the rodeo.

Saturday morning will be the Chamber of Commerce Rodeo Parade. Parade participants will meet in the parking lot of

McNaughton High School at 9 a.m. and the parade will begin at 10 a.m.

The parade will be followed by the chamber's pingpong ball drop in downtown Moosomin, where pingpong balls will be dropped from a lift.

Each pingpong ball will be good for a special offer at a local business, and one will be worth \$1,000 in Moosomin Bucks.

Following the pingpong ball drop, the Shrine Band participating in the parade will be putting on a short performance, and then the international community will put on a program in the parking lot behind the Moosomin Family Practice Centre.

A stage will be set up and different communities will offer a taste of their cultures.

The Filipino, South African, Korean, Latin American and Ukrainian communities will all participate.

The different international communities got together to come up with a plan to try to share a little bit of their culture.

The event is being planned to give the public a bit of an insight into the cultures of some of the newcomers to Moosomin over the last few years.

Back at the Rodeo grounds, there will be a bucking bull futurity at 1 p.m. Saturday, Moosomin Rodeo Idol at 2:30, and the second rodeo performance at 6:30 p.m. The weekend will wrap up with a Saturday night cabaret featuring Fenton Martens.

The Moosomin Rodeo committee always puts on a good show, and this year's

Rodeo Weekend will be the kickoff to a summer of big events in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba.

MUSICAL RIDE IN VIRDEN

On Thursday, July 14, the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the RCMP Musical Ride in that community.

The Musical Ride was at Wawota last year, and is always an entertaining show. The Virden event will kick off with Elkhorn's Kendra Kay at 6 pm, followed by the Musical Ride at 7:15.

There will also be inflatable bouncers, face painting entertainment, and food booths.

Continued on page 5

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Ride for the Breath of Life is a fundraiser for the Canadian Cystic fibrosis foundation. The ride left Regina Saturday morning, May 28 and it proceeded to Fort Qu'Appelle through the Qu'Appelle Valley to Indian Head. The riders gathered at the Davies Arena where a barbecue was waiting along with refreshments. A social gathering was held along with the dispersing of prizes.

Dan Loran photos



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Southeast College

Office admin, electrical, CCA courses being offered

BY KARA KINNA

Southeast College has reviewed its programs for the fall in Moosomin, and has decided to offer the Office Administration program again, as well as the Electrician course and the Continuing Care Assistant course in Whitewood.

Sheena Onrait, the manager of Marketing and Communications at the college, says the office administration course, which has been offered before in Moosomin, was not offered in 2015, but due to an increase in demand again, the course will be back this fall.

"We took a break last year," she says. "Sometimes we find that student demand goes down and we base our decision primarily on labour market demand. We found that had diminished slightly, and it could have been a number of things. It could have been the turn of the economy, it could have been just that we've had the program for a couple of years and that could have saturated that market a little bit."

But Onrait says the college has had requests for the 33-week office administration course again.

"Over the last year we've had lots and lots of requests, and lots of people asking to have the program back. We had the opportunity the last couple of months to reevaluate the programs we were going to offer and make some changes, and this is one of the really great changes that came out of that, which was being able to offer Moosomin office admin course again."



The electrical program in Moosomin usually fills up every year. Shown here, a student working as part of the program.

Onrait says the course has always been a success, with office admin students being able to find employers quickly.

"We usually have really positive labour attachment from this program, so we're anticipating that that will continue on with this academic year," she says.

Moosomin is the only location where Southeast College offers the office admin course.

The 21-week electrician program will also be back in Moosomin this fall.

"It's always been one that we've come close to capacity on filling, if not being at capacity," says Onrait. "It seems to be a little slower start this year, and that could just be indications in the economy, but we're confident that we will fill to capacity again this year in Moosomin."

The continuing care assistant has been a longstanding course offered by the college in Whitewood.

"We draw to that program from an extensive area. We have

students from Moosomin, from Wawota, from Whitewood, from the First Nations. It's a big draw because that program is only offered full-time in Regina, which would be the next closest. So it's a bit of a commitment when you look at relocating to Regina. I believe they also have a pretty extensive wait list for that program.

"We definitely have seats available in that program, and we have an amazing instructor. So if the students are interested they should give us a call very soon."

Why has the CCA course been so popular?

"I think it's the growing age of the workforce," says Onrait. "The health region seems to be in a position where they're always recruiting for and looking for continuing care assistants. Plus I think the growing population that's getting to that age where they're needing care is also creating more demand for people to care for them. I don't anticipate that to change anytime soon. It's a fairly high in-demand position."

Onrait says students looking to get into one of the courses should register soon.

"The sooner the better. We take students on a first qualified first admitted basis.

"We also have really awesome entrance scholarships. We have \$500 for each student that's enrolled in our full-time programs. But of course there is a maximum on that, so that's why we encourage students to apply early to get in on that entrance scholarship."

"Also recent graduates will qualify for a provincial government bursary which is another \$500 credit. There's a lot of incentive. Plus there's our regular scholarship and bursary program."

"We actually, as a whole, college-wide, this year we awarded over \$200,000 in scholarships and bursaries. When we combine our application process with our entrance scholarships, it's a huge draw for us. And we think that's something people are really interested in."



Fall 2016 Programs

Full time students may receive up to \$1000 in entrance scholarships. Ask for details when registering.

Continuing Care Assistant

31 weeks - Whitewood

This program provides the knowledge and skills you need to move into this rewarding field. The program combines hands on classroom learning with practical experience. Practicums provide direct experience in home care, long term care, special care and acute care settings.

Graduates may find employment in home care settings, long term care facilities, private care homes, acute care facilities, integrated facilities, supportive housing or special needs classroom.

Electrician

21 weeks - Moosomin

This program provides entry level skill training. You will learn how to make electrical installations and perform maintenance duties according to industry standards.

Graduates may find employment with electrical contractors, large manufacturing and mining firms, retail outlets or wholesale outlets.

Office Administration

33 weeks - Moosomin

This program provides knowledge and skill development related to the business office environment, with an emphasis on computer applications. Instruction is augmented by projects that will give you a hands on understanding of the demands and rewards of work in an office setting.

Graduates may find employment in a wide range of sectors including government, education, law, medicine, engineering, manufacturing, travel, insurance, banking and business.

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Moosomin Lake Fireworks July 30-31 • Wawota Ranch Rodeo July 29-31 • Elkhorn Western Days July 30-31

Continued from front

"Last fall, I was alerted to the fact that 2016 was the year the Musical Ride would be coming back to Manitoba, and I thought it would be a great event for Virden to host, as I could not recall when the ride had ever been held here," said Amanda Isaac, manager of the Virden Chamber of Commerce.

"It was only after the planning process had begun that I was informed that the last time the RCMP Musical Ride was held in Virden was 1978! The process was quite simple, with an on-line application on the RCMP website. There are a number of requirements the host community must be able to meet, and Virden easily met their expectations."

The Musical Ride will be held at the Virden Agricultural Society Fairgrounds, which is at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Lyons Street, located behind Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

The event will be a fundraiser for the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the event will go towards Chamber of Commerce initiatives, including the Tourist Information Centre. The group is hoping to raise at least \$5,000. They will also be donating \$1 from every ticket sold to local organizations.

Organizers are hoping to attract more than 1,500 people to the event.

Isaac says it will be a busy couple of days when the Musical Ride is in town.

"After they arrive on Wednesday, July 13, and once settled, the barns will be open until 9 pm to give the public a chance to meet the horses and riders," she



The Moosomin Chamber of Commerce is planning a pingpong ball drop for Saturday, July 9, during the Moosomin Rodeo Weekend. Each pingpong ball will be redeemable for a special offer at a local business, and one will be worth \$1,000 in Moosomin Bucks, which can be spent at any local business. Following the Chamber parade that morning and the pingpong ball drop, Moosomin's international communities will be holding an event offering a glimpse into their cultures. The Filipino, South African, Korean, Ukrainian and Latin American communities will take part.

says. "On Thursday, July 14, the gates at the event grounds will open at 4 pm, and we will have inflatable bouncers for the kids, face-painting, cotton candy, a canteen, live entertainment, 50/50, souvenirs and more!"

"At 6 pm, we will have a special musical performance by local country artist, Kendra Kay, and at 7:15 pm sharp, the RCMP Musical Ride will begin. Following the ride, there will be a

meet and greet with the horses and riders."

Isaac says lots of work has gone into planning the Musical Ride.

"This event has been organized by myself (Manager of the Virden Community Chamber of Commerce), with assistance from my Board of Directors. I would also like to thank the major supporters of our event: Farley Kempthorne CPA LLP, Plain

& Valley, and Virden Empire Advance."

MOOSE MOUNTAIN PRO RODEO

The 84th annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo in Kennedy will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 23 and 24. Saturday will start off with a pancake breakfast, followed by a noon parade on Main Street, and a demolition derby and quad mud flings. Rodeo action will start at 5 p.m.

Saturday with the grand entry.

Sunday will start with a Cowboy Church Service at the Rodeo Grounds at 11 am, followed by the rodeo events starting at 2 pm.

LIVING SKIES COME ALIVE

Moosomin Regional Park will host the seventh annual Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake July 30 and 31. This has become a huge event over the last few years. It's an absolutely massive event for the regional park to put on. If you've been to it before, you know why you don't want to miss it, and if you have never been you will have to check it out this summer. There will be fireworks both nights.

WAWOTA VALLEY RANCH RODEO

On the same weekend, the first ever Wawota Valley Ranch Rodeo will be taking place in the valley next to Wawota. This is the venue that was used for the Musical Ride last year, and it should make a great location for the ranch rodeo.

The MRRA Ranch Rodeo will go 4-8 pm Friday and 10-2 Saturday, and there will be lots of other events to round out the weekend.

ELKHORN WESTERN WEEKEND

The Elkhorn Elks Western Weekend is coming up Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31.

The annual event features two days of chuckwagon and chariot races. The races are set for 4 pm and 7 pm Saturday, and 1 pm and 4 pm Sunday.

The weekend will also feature a slo-pitch tournament, a four-on-four beach volleyball tournament, a pancake breakfast both days, and barrel racing.

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- Back 40 Drifters Performance at the Beer Gardens following the Rodeo

Saturday, July 9

- 9 a.m. Slack
- 1 p.m. Bucking Bull Futurity
- 2 p.m. Beer Gardens Open
- 2:30 p.m. Moosomin Rodeo Idol at the Beer Gardens
- 6:30 Rodeo Performance
- Wild Pony Race at Intermission
- Cabaret following the Rodeo featuring Fenton Martens

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Photos Courtesy of Lewis Images



The Joe DeCorby Memorial Car Show was held in Rocanville on Saturday, June 4, and attracted a lot of beautiful vehicles. At left, a beautifully restored Edsel. Above, Welwyn's Allan Johnston with his Rolls Royce. The car show was part of a day of events in Rocanville that included the quarter-finals of GX94 Star Search, and the grand opening of Borderland Co-op's new C-Store on Highway 8.

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Elkhorn Handivan has new van on order

BY TERRI EGER

When your personal vehicle is no longer operating it's a significant inconvenience. When the vehicle is used to transport numerous people as their only mode of transportation it's a major set-back. The Elkhorn and Area Handivan is a vital part of the community which was taken out of commission last year following a hail storm.

"We currently don't have a van and that's a problem," said committee chair Jill Canart. "It's something we need to address immediately."

The van is operated throughout the year and becomes an even greater service in the cold months. The van is used six days a week throughout the winter to transport residents from around the community to the Elkhorn Leisure Centre where they can play cards, games and stay in touch with one another. Residents of Elkhorn Lodge, the seniors' apartment complex in the community, also use the handivan to drive them downtown to get their groceries and to keep appointments.

In 2014 the vehicle made 205 trips totalling just under 3,000 km, a testament to the importance of the service.

Through the use of volunteer, unpaid drivers, the Elkhorn Handivan offers rides at minimal costs which is something that the committee would like to maintain.



The Elkhorn Handi-Van committee has a new van on order, and is currently raising money to pay for it.

A round trip to the Leisure Centre costs \$2 and trips to the grocery store can also be made for the same price if they are done as part of that regular loop.

If a trip is requested outside of the regular schedule a \$5 loading fee is charged on top of a fee of 50 cents per kilometer. However, Canart explained that if a group of people wants to attend an event out of town, the cost per kilometer is divided among the group and not charged to each individual.

"We don't want to increase the cost or make it cost prohibitive," said Canart.

While the service is operated by volunteer driv-

ers, these individuals must have their Class 4 licence.

"We've had fabulous volunteers assisting with the service," said Canart.

Due to the vital nature of the service in the community, the committee has a new van on order which is expected to arrive soon. At a price tag of \$73,000 a great deal of fundraising will be needed to cover the cost of the vehicle. One-time grant funding was

available for the initial van purchased in 2000 but is not an option for subsequent vehicle purchases made by the organization.

"We have never asked for personal donations for the handivan program and we are hopeful that the community will recognize the value of this service," said Canart.

The new vehicle on order is a Dodge Ram, Pro-master Window Van and

is equipped with accessible lifts.

"With the lifts it's so easy to take people with mobility issues to medical appointments. Without the van, many people were being forced to use an ambulance to transport them which is very costly and unnecessary."

The vehicle also comes equipped with seating on a track system that will allow for the removal or re-

configuration of seats with ease.

"The decision has been made to replace the van because we see it as a vital service in our community," said Canart.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Elkhorn Handivan can do so through the RM of Wallace office. Charitable tax receipts will be available for donations of \$50 or greater.

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MLA Bonk pleased with provincial budget

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
 Moosomin MLA Steven Bonk said he is pleased with the 2016 provincial budget.
 "I think this budget was really well thought-out in the way that it addressed the fact that we did have very significant revenue shortfalls yet we didn't cut back on services or increase taxes," he said.
 "I think this is a fair and balanced budget, especially on the agriculture side. I think farmers should be very pleased with what happened. We did see a huge increase, relatively speaking, in the budget to the agriculture projects that we have. Our government takes very seriously the concerns of our agricultural producers and we're hoping to work with them."

The Ministry of Agriculture's Budget for 2016-17 will increase by 7.5 per cent for a total of \$389.8 million. This includes \$254.6 million to fully fund business risk management programs, a \$14.6 million increase from the previous year.
 Bonk said he and other new MLAs had an opportunity to have some input in the budget process.
 "We did have pre-budget consultations, and I was pleasantly surprised to see how the opinions of all the new MLAs were taken at equal weight of the incumbents. It was really a collaborative process and they did take the considerations of each constituency to heart in this budget."
 Bonk said it was tough for

both health regions.
 "The budget includes funding for several highway projects in the Moosomin constituency.
 "As far as highways go, in this year's budget we did really well," said Bonk.
 Bonk said time will tell whether there is potential for cost savings in education and health care administration.
 "We don't really know yet because we're just starting this process. It's a transformational change process. Everything is on the table, from administration to how we deliver the services. Is it something the government should be delivering? Is it actually the role of the government? How best can we deliver the services? We're looking at every option, but nothing has been decided yet."

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Saskatchewan Roughriders alumni Don Narcisse hosted an All-Star Event for the first time in Moosomin on May 8. Narcisse says he hopes to make the football camp an annual event in Moosomin. Above are all the children who attended the camp along with Riders and Riders alumni. In the back row are Riders and Rider alumni Don Narcisse, Robert Mimbs, Victor Dean, Belton Johnson, Spencer Moore, Tre-von Armstead, and Andrew Greene.



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Above left: Andrew Greene instructing some of the older football players.

Kim Poole photos

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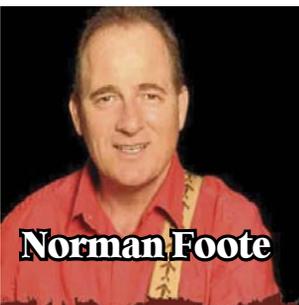
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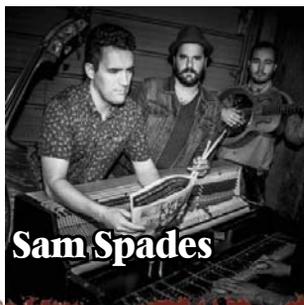
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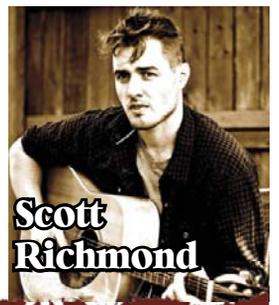
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Scott Richmond



Elkhorn's Spray Park is still in the planning stages. This image shows some of the elements that could potentially be included. A committee is working hard to raise \$375,000 to make the park a reality.

Community support builds for Elkhorn Spray Park

BY TERRI EGER

Funds continue to flow in for a new spray park in Elkhorn. Grant funding and donations have increased the account total to \$158,500, which approaches the half-way mark of the \$375,000 needed for the project.

Cassidy Asselstine, secretary/treasurer for the community committee spear-heading the efforts said a number of large donations have been received recently and the project is moving along. She explained that the Elkhorn and Area Foundation donated \$3,000 to the project in addition to handing over \$2,500 the foundation received through the Canada 150 Grant request for the infrastructure. The Virden Area Foundation presented the committee with \$5,000 recently and the Elkhorn Elks contributed an additional \$5,000, bringing the total the club has contributed to the project to \$10,000.

"The fundraising is coming along and we've had great support from the community," said Asselstine.

The new facility will replace the wading pool in the community which didn't open last year due to mechanical issues and staffing. Located in Elkhorn Memorial Park, just off Richhill Avenue, the community's main street, the spray park is expected to be a major draw for the area. The spray park will be wheelchair accessible and free to the general public. Touch pad sensors will allow visitors to easily turn on the spray functions which will be timed to automatically turn off in or-

der to conserve water. The nature of the spray park will allow for a longer season, longer hours and operation seven days a week. Public washrooms are also being planned as part of the design.

The committee is currently working on putting the finishing touches on the request for proposal which will be sent out as soon as possible, according to Asselstine. A timeline will be included in the tender process but the committee is still hopeful that demolition of the old wading pool could begin this summer.

In the meantime, volunteers are hard at work coming up with additional ideas to raise the remaining funds needed for the project.

Elkhorn Community Dayz took place on June 4 and 5 with a wide range of family activities. There was a great deal of support for the event according to Asselstine. Organizations throughout the community were encouraged to participate in the event in whatever way they'd like. Participating groups, organizations and businesses will donate whatever portion of their proceeds during the event to the spray

park as they wish.

"How much they donate is up to them," said Asselstine. "It's the first time we've had an event like this and we're hoping to make it an annual event with proceeds going to different causes each year."

A golf skills tournament, sidewalk sales, car wash, rummage sale, music in the park, bingo, barbecue and games filled the day Saturday. The fun continued in the evening with the meat draw and Chase the Ace as well as a Live Auction and Social at the Elks Hall.

The Museum was Saturday and Sunday with free admission. Music in the park continued on Sunday as well. Elkhorn's version of the Amazing Race took place Sunday followed by the Elkhorn Expos game, Motor Cycle Madness and a 50/50 Ping Pong Ball Drop.

In addition to the Community Dayz, the committee has also organized a Boston Pizza fundraiser until the end of June. Anyone eating at the Boston Pizza in Virden can simply tell the staff that they'd like to support the Elkhorn Spray Park Project and the business will donate 10 per cent of the bill to the park.

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Cheyenne Jamieson, above, in goal for the Moosomin Bantam Rangers.

Kim Poole photo

Jamieson named one of top U16 goalies in Sask

BY KARA KINNA

The Saskatchewan Hockey Association has named Cheyenne Jamieson of Moosomin one of the top 42 female U16 hockey players in the province, and one of the top six goalies in the province.

After her hockey season with the Moosomin Bantam Rangers ended, 14-year-old Jamieson attended a SaskFirst zone camp held in Balgonie from February 5-7 where she was pitted against other female players born in 2001/2002.

"The first round was in Balgonie, and about two or three weeks later they posted on the SHA website who made it and who didn't, and then from there you go onto the tournament which was in Regina," says Jamieson.

The tournament to pick the top 42 players in the province was held April 7-10.

"You go there and you

have practices and then you play games and they just evaluate you and they see your skills and weaknesses," says Jamieson.

"After that tournament was done there was an evaluation just for goalies. They just worked on movement and lateral movement, just to see who were the top players.

"After that, they posted the top 42 players and goalies."

Only six goalies made the cut—four from the north and two from the south—and Jamieson was one of them.

"Those are the top six goalies in the province," she says. "There were other goalies who tried out, but they weren't as strong as others."

Jamieson says she didn't know if she would be chosen or not.

"It's exciting," she says. "I felt like I had a good chance but I didn't know if I was

going to make it for sure. But I had a pretty good idea that I was.

"I was home for lunch and my dad called my mom and said 'tell Cheyenne to look at the email.' So I looked at the email and it's said 'congratulations, you made top 42.'"

Being one of the top 42 female U16 players and one of the top six goalies means that Jamieson will be attending a summer camp in Notre Dame from June 29-31 where she hopes to have a shot at being selected for the Sask Female U16 team. Only the top players are selected for the team, which goes on to compete nationally.

Jamieson has been playing hockey for as long as she can remember, and spent this last season playing with the Moosomin Bantam Rangers, as well as with the Yorkton Crushers, a female Bantam team that called on her as a backup

goalie.

The Rangers lost in the B side final in their league, and the Crushers made it to the A side banner, losing in double overtime.

Jamieson says she loves

hockey.

"It's competitive and it's social. You meet new people. You meet friends," she says.

Jamieson says her goal is to go as far as she can with

the sport.

"I'd like to make it to a high level, like the Olympics," she says. "I want to make it that far if I can. I'm going to work hard and try to get there."



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A number of contestants from Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba moved on to the semifinals after performing at the GX94 Starsearch quarterfinals in Rocanville on June 4. Above left, Carlie Geres from Langenburg. Top right: Cassandra Tomolak from Esterhazy. Below left: Jessica Lukin from Neepawa. Below right: Solange Simard from St. Lazare. Also moving on were Stephanie Munro from Estevan and Becky Neustaeter from Swift Current.

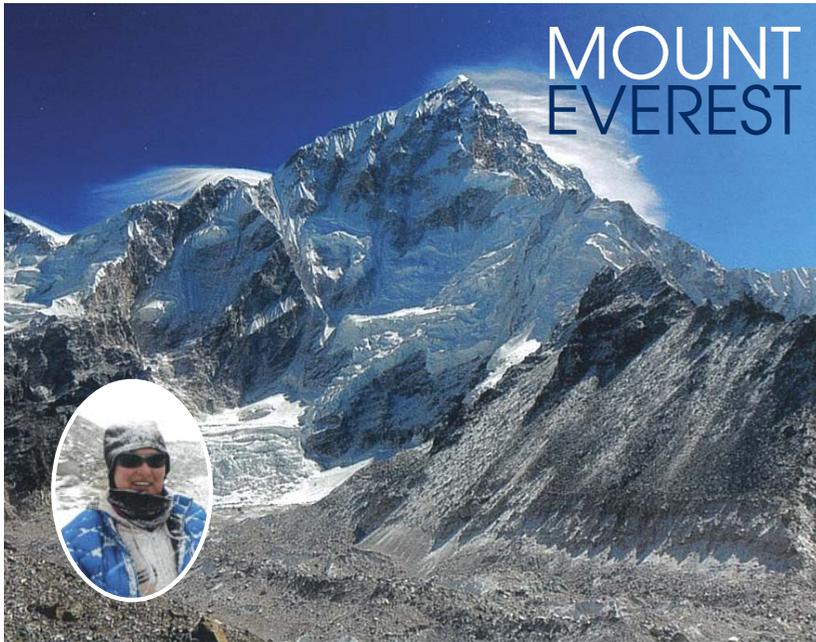


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Scattered thoughts of a mountain climbing granny—we are two sisters over 60, not in the very best of shape but being eternally optimistic we believe we can do anything we set our minds to, and we go and do it. I take on big hikes and large tasks because I'd rather try and fail than to say I had never tried at all.

BY BARA WIDGER

Still three miles above the earth's surface as we cruised over India toward Nepal, my sister Marjorie looked at the digital display of flight info and said, "Here, this is the altitude we are equal to at Everest Base Camp." A sobering thought as I look down onto the tops of puffy white clouds.

Upon landing at Tribhuvan Airport, Kathmandu, we pay our \$40 U.S. visa fee, get our passports stamped and taxi into the city.

Three days later we are back at the airport to catch our early morning flight to Lukla. After loading into a 12-seater plane, stuffing the complimentary cotton balls into our ears for noise reduction, we enjoy the scenery on our 35-minute flight. The airport in Lukla is a short inclined piece of tarmac that looks impossibly small. We land safely with a sharp, fast stop, gather our packs and watch the plane reload and take off on only about a ten minute turnaround. We film the takeoff, after an eight second run down the landing strip and off the edge of the landing strip into the open air on the valley.

Walking the length of the town's lone cobblestone street is like stepping back in time. There are no wheeled vehicles here. Dogs, sheep and cows amble amid the store displays, porters, tourists, and children. We stop for a quick photo at the "Gateway of the Mountains" monument. Stepping onto the well worn path we feel our adventure truly begins now. Following a first flowing, cerilian blue/white river we trek for hours to the village of Phakding (2610m), crossing the river several times on swinging suspension bridges or solid steel spans with wire guardrail sides. Our progress is not fast as we are giddy with photo ops of terraced hillsides, pack mule trains, cow trains, joppa trains (cross between cow and yak), heavily burdened porters, endless strings of prayer flags, the odd group of Buddhist monks in flowing saffron robes, and women and children going about their daily routines.

The next morning we enjoy a hot breakfast of Tibetan bread, sweet local honey, and hot tea. On the trail by 7:30 a.m. it is cold enough to see our breath in the brisk mountain air. We warm up quickly as the exertion of the trail and the sun hits us. Our trek today takes six hours to the town of Namche Bazar. This is the last stop for any supplies you may need. Again, a day of interesting photos of foot traffic, stupas, prayer flags strung between houses, trees, up hillsides, across valleys, bridges, and monuments. There are only footpaths here, no vehicles of any kind, everything is transported on the backs of porters or pack animals. The Nepalese are a small compact people, they carry unbelievably large heavy loads, many of these loads are more than twice the porters' body weight. The majority of these young men are barely into their teens or early twenties, they leave remote mountain villages to work to send money home to their families. The most awkward loads are building materials that must be transported by foot into the high Himalayas. These porters are bent double under loads of three sheets of 3/4 inch plywood, often topped with a few sheets of metal roofing.

On top of this sits a small bag of the porter's own belongings. He will be on the trail for days at a time. These men struggle under such massively heavy loads because they are paid by the pound. This is how they feed their families, transporting these awkward, heavy loads up steep rocky trails, through rain, snow, sleet, over

slippery stones, steep steps, over narrow bridges. It is a hard life, they routinely carry more than their own body weight balanced on their backs, bent nearly double, using a short, stout stick for balance.

Trails rules are: Yaks and porters have the right of way. People always step to the "mountain side" as yaks, ponies or joppas could easily knock them off the mountain if they were on the outside of the trail. There are numerous stone benches as resting spots for porters along the trail. Solidly built stone recycling stations for plastic, glass and tin line the trail right to base camp.

Agriculture is still spread up the valleys on terraced hillsides. Pastures and gardens are surrounded by dry-stack stone fences. Gardens are growing potatoes, onions, garlic, a spiky spinachy looking plant and cabbage. In the summer they will have crops of corn, wheat, and squash.

We reach Namche Bazar after seven hours of challenging uphill trekking. Just as we enter the town the rain turns to great white flakes of slowly falling snow—so beautiful. The town is perched in the bowl of a high valley. Narrow slate and stone streets look picture book perfect in their new mantle of pure white snow. We stay here in the nice stone "Nimanche Hotel" for two nights. Tomorrow we are scheduled for a rest day that includes an acclimatization hike up to 3000 metres. Hydroelectricity stops here. No more showers for eleven or twelve days. As Marj went to bed with wet hair last night she has awoken with hair of "50 Shades of UP" (anyone familiar with our current reading material?) "No photos" were her first words this morning.

We head out early on March 1, destination Tengboche, 3,860m. Again in sunshine and good weather, we round a corner at 8 a.m. to see our first glimpse of Mount Everest. At this point in the trek it is still only a small peak in the distance. For such a large, imposing mountain it stays shyly hidden by being tucked behind other equally impressive peaks. We continue on for six more hours, uphill and down, arriving at Tengboche by two in the afternoon. The guesthouse here has the tiniest tower ever, approximately seven feet by seven feet, just long enough for a single bed on each side of the room with a thin end table in between. We store our packs under the beds, head out for a look around the hamlet and are back for the evening prayers at 5 p.m. The monastery is quite large, the monks ring bells, drink ceremonial tea, and chant in the most unusual way. The vocal sounds are quite intriguing but the real show stopper is the interior decoration of the monastery, entirely lined with silk painted tapestries and fancily decorated large hanging works of art. The brick exterior is freshly painted a deep mauve color, the intricately worked wooden door and window trim painted in extremely colourful, busy patterns. Unimaginable hours of work have gone into this painting. Surrounding the entire building are several dozen prayer wheels, solid metal cylinders about 18 inches high that spin on a center post.

THE NEXT DAY

Up early again, we are on our way to Dingboche, a blustery windy, chilly six hours of climbing. We stop along the way for a Sherpa Stew at lunch time, discover Sweet Lemon Tea, our favourite drink so far. We enjoy it at an outside stone

table as the varied foot traffic flows by. Our group is my sister Marj, myself, our porter Bopaul and our guide Sonam, a great small group and a good team. Sonam is a wealth of information about the country and life here. Facts and figures may vary as we had different facts from different sources. Also, as the Nepalese language was traditionally only a spoken language, the spelling of place names differs from time to time. We are in the quiet season, about two weeks early for the main trekking season, so the trail is not so busy with other travelers.

We pace ourselves slowly to allow our bodies to acclimatize to the altitude, and to soak up the peaceful atmosphere and beauty of the surrounding mountains.

We are well above the treeline now with no firewood available. The fires are fueled with dried yak dung. We see women out on the hillsides gathering the precious fuel to be dried and stored under tarps.

The next day is another rest and acclimatization day. Silly me, when I heard this term I pictured a nice day reading, drinking tea, napping. NO. The rest part means no pack to carry, the acclimatization part means a six hour trek up to an unnamed peak in the way back we saw our first avalanche, what sounded like a low flying plane at first got louder as sheets of snow exploded down the mountain side sending up a cloud of white. Luckily it was across the valley and well away from our trail.

Day seven begins with easy rolling gradually rising land for three hours, than one hour steep up. Slower going now as the air doesn't seem to fill the lungs quite enough. At the top of this climb we are greeted with the sobering sight of over 100

flags flapping in the breeze, mementos and souvenirs from foreign countries set upon the rough surfaces.

We plant our own tiny Canadian flag and get the required photos. We look up to the peak of Everest in wonder. It is still a full two miles to the top. If we are short of air here I can't imagine what a struggle it must be to breathe at the top, where oxygen is only one-third of the amount at sea level. Over 5000m is the Death Zone, where energy is depleted, bodies begin to shut down, and the brutal truth is that if you can't make it on your own, no one can help you and you are left to die. There are many human dilemmas and moral questions that are a part of climbing the highest summit in the world. Extreme conditions are a part of life here.

Between here and the top is the Khumbu Ice Fall, a large, constantly shifting section of the glacier that must be traversed on your way to the top. Crevassees drop hundreds of feet straight down, some only a foot wide, some very large. The snow that falls can hide these dangers with a smooth blanket of snow that you fall through, or the whole glacier can be windswept to a sheer sheet of icy slipperiness. In one area there are 60-foot-tall pillars of ice formations, deadly traps that can topple at any time. This is one of the most dangerous and fatal places on the lower slopes. After this you reach the area of H.A.C.E. (high altitude cerebral edema) and H.A.P.E. (high altitude pulmonary edema). Altitude sickness can strike quickly and render you unconscious or dead within hours.

Going beyond base camp is for the very strong and brave. For me the answer is no thank-you! Way out of most peoples' comfort zones. Getting to the summit is the



rock cairns/monuments for the over 250 dead trekkers, climbers and porters, the most notable being the monument to Scott Fischer, Tibetan prayer flags are strung in every direction all around the area. The prayer flags are squares of silk material imprinted with prayers, symbols and messages, all strung on long length of cord. The romantic idea is that as the wind blows (and it seems to always blow up here) it will catch the prayers and take them up to heaven for you.

Snow is falling by days end, temperatures drop rapidly as the sun goes down. We don't know the exact temperature but guess it to be 15 or 20 below. Arriving at Labouche, 4910m, we eat, as usual, our room is the same temperature as outside. Commonly only the dining room is heated by a small cast iron stove. We sleep in layers of long johns, fleeces pants, long sleeve sweaters, a down vest, down parka, toque, mittens. We are tucked into a -30 degree sleeping bag and covered with a thick quilt. It's damn cold. I look over at Marj and she is curled up like a hedgehog under her pile of covers. She has always been small, wiry and thin and feels the cold. It is too cold to even try to read so we just settle down for an early sleep. Every morning our water bottles are frozen. There is frost on the windows, frost on the walls.

Hygiene and sanitation are lost to a great extent in the high Himalayas. We watch

Getting to the summit is the easy part, getting back down is when 80 per cent of people perish. Adrenaline will take you to the top but you need reserves of strength and stamina to get safely back down

the kitchen help pile the stove with dry dung chips, dispose it with kerosene, replace the kettle, go to the kitchen window and bring us our soup for supper. At 4910m (16,200 feet) above sea level with a cold wind blowing outside we are just happy to be in a table with warm food coming our way.

Day eight begins with tea and porridge. The trail starts with dry yellow grass, dark boulders and softly falling snow. We gladly leave Labouche behind as it is a not-so-clean village. The air is noticeably thinner now. We should be about six hours from here to base camp if all goes well. Following the edge of the Khumbu Glacier most of the day we are passed by yak trains and loaded porters. At nearly 18,000 feet we are breathing short, shallow breaths, stopping for a welcome tea break at the last civilization on the trail, the tiny stone hamlet of Gorakshep. We ready ourselves for the final two hours to basecamp. Three miles above sea level, 5,364 feet. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger" is about to be put to the test. There is a moment after a really steep part of the trail that I am tempted to throw up the white flag of surrender, by then we are within eight step of basecamp, so step by step I finally make it.

Three miles above sea level, Everest Base Camp. Marj is barely breathing heavy, spry as can be, me, not so much. We enjoy a few minutes at the rocky cairn, prayer

easy part, getting back down is when 80 per cent of people perish. Adrenaline will take you to the top but you need reserves of strength and stamina to get safely back down. Since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first summited in 1953, there have been more than 3,000 people who have followed his footsteps. It can be done, but is it worth the risk?

We are getting chilly in the constant wind and head back to Gorakshep for the night. On the two-hour hike down, we see several avalanches and rockslides roaring down the mountainsides. It reminds us just how powerful nature can be. The last hour we walk through snow falling so thickly at times it is like a curtain. Such a feeling of accomplishment, peacefulness and fulfillment comes over us as we look back to where we were. We walk on to the sound of nothing but our own footsteps.

Day nine sees our intrepid Marjorie up at 5:30 a.m. to begin the three and a half hour trek up Kalapathar Peak, 5,549m, to watch the sunrise with a 360 degree view of amazing Himalayan peaks. We then begin our descent to Labouche for lunch. Here we deviate from the regular Everest trail and opt for a five-day extension that will take us over Cho La Pass. As we cross a frozen lake and the wind picks up and it gets really cold, we are happy to arrive at Zhouma for the night, 4,800m.

Day 10, pretty much "The Day From Hell." It started out well in the dark pre-dawn quiet. As we begin our trek, the last of the stars faded away in the dawnning sky. We were surrounded by tall white peaks, but we were not yet to see the sunrise. It is a spectacular sight. That is the best part of the day, from there we were going up, up, up for hours, a grueling climb to the top of Cho La Pass. Words can't really explain how hard this is. There are four-foot-high stone ledges that have to be scouted, tumbling rock underfoot, narrow trail in places, areas where you just make your way up whenever you see fit. I have relinquished my pack to Sonam as he can see I am struggling a bit. Or maybe I feel I hate to admit it. Staying on the left hand side of the glacier cross it at 5:30m, then survive the scrambling down the other side of the mountain. Far below us we finally spot the tiny cluster of stone huts at the base of a high cliff that is Thanga and our home for the night, 4,700m.

Next day begins with an easy three-hour hike across a glacier of a very different kind. Covered with three feet of rock, rubble and sand, it resembles a gravel pit more than a glacier. We lunch in the lovely town of Gokyo, then three hours down past high altitude lakes to Marchharo, 4,410m.

Day 12 is another hard nine-hour day to Kangjumari. An angry wind hammers us all day, lots of up and down, and we are happy to be back below the tree line again.

Day 13 and we are back to Namche Bazar and a hot shower. After ten days of being cold and unwashed this is like paradise. Never underestimate the luxury of hot running water and fresh sheets.

Days 14 to 16 back down the trail, nights in Pakhding and Lukla, then a flight on Yeti Air to Kathmandu and civilization.

We spend a few days in the city then fly to Chitwan National Park, ride elephants through the jungle, paddle down the river spotting crocodiles basking in the sunshine. We reflect back on the trail, the wonderful people we met, the accomplishment, awesome scenery, the cold, the heat, the beauty, the reality.

Nepalese are a people that live their religion every day. Most are Buddhist or Hindu. They seem to have a higher calling to spirituality than westerners, a genuinely happy people predisposed to being ethically. Many of them live a grim life by necessity, the poor footwork and backbreaking loads telling their own story. We feel greatly honoured to have been a part of their world for a little while.

Three Generals sign with Regina Thunder

BY KARA KINNA

Three former Moosomin Generals football players—Shane Krupa, Marshall Delorme and Karson Turpie—have signed with the CJFL's Regina Thunder.

The three players signed with the Thunder on June 1.

Turpie signed after playing for two years with the Westman Wolverines, and Krupa and Delorme are both fresh out of Grade 12.

Former Generals player Jack Easton will also be returning to the Thunder for his second season with the team.

Generals player Chase Wilson has also been invited to CJFL Winnipeg Rifles camp.

Moosomin Generals GM Jason Schenn

says signing with a CJFL team is big news for any football player.

"That's real big. It's the next level of football," he said last week. "There's not a lot of opportunity to move up in football. You think about Canadian football, with an eight-team league with 60 players on each team, that's not a lot of players who end up with full time jobs in football.

"So the CJFL is the next step. You have kids who are either going to university, they'll look towards the CIS, and kids that aren't going to university will be looking toward the CJFL, which is junior football.

"And from there the other opportunities to be recognized are to either go into the CIS if they want to go to school and look for scholarships, that avenue is open,

or they can be scouted for CFL teams or even NCAA programs in the states and that kind of thing."

Schenn doesn't hesitate to answer when asked why he thinks three of the Generals have moved on to higher level football.

"Their coaching," he says immediately. "Their all fantastic athletes. They're good athletes in their own right. They're all skilled they all work hard, they have the work ethic to go and get what they want, but they've also had the benefit of our senior coaches, Dexter Mondor and Dana Rookes, who have spent countless hours with those kids helping develop them and grow their skills."

Schenn says one thing he is especially proud of with all Generals players is the

amount of respect current and past players have for the program.

"We're proud of the guys for working hard and following their dreams to get to the next level, but they've also done it in a manner where they're not egomaniacs. They're teammates first. They work with the club. We're new enough in existence that they have the understanding that if we weren't here they wouldn't have that opportunity in the first place. It's a real humble group."

Schenn says he knew the Generals—still a young football program—could produce higher level players one day, but he didn't know how quickly it would happen.

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12 Generals make up winning All Star Team

Continued from page 18

"Did we know one day we'd have some players moving up? Yeah we kind of figured we would, but this many this quick that are getting the opportunities to play, that's a little surprising.

"It's great, it makes it all worth it. I've had lots of kids come up to me over the last six years—because we've had graduating classes—and say without starting this program and getting this thing together and getting it off the ground, I wouldn't have had that opportunity.

"It's kind of nice to be able to say in some small little way that we were able to impact their lives in a good way.

"And same with our coaches. As these guys are getting opportunities to play higher level ball and maybe make a little stronger path out of it, without us showing up in the first place it wouldn't have come to this.

"It's a big validation that all the work that you do is worth it."

Schemm says everyone who has anything to do with the Generals is the reason the club has become a real success.

"I like putting it all back to the volunteers too," he says. "Everyone who helps out with everything, from the field, to the bleachers, to the coaching, to the mess hall and game day stuff, everybody chipping in and doing their part helps make it all come together. I really like to share the whole thing with everybody. Because if one of those things aren't there we don't have what we have."

12 Generals make up winning All Star Team

Twelve Moosomin Generals players travelled to Winnipeg on Saturday, May 28 as part of the Rural Manitoba Football League's south all star team. The 12 Generals helped their team defeat the RMFL north team with a score of 32-14.

The all star game was resurrected three years ago, with the south losing to the north the first two years it was played. This year's win marks a first for the south team. The game is played at Investor's Group Field in Winnipeg each year.

The all star teams are made up of the best RMFL players in the north and the south.

"There are two different sets of guys," says Schemm.

"Those who were all nominated for league awards, they get an automatic roster spot on the team for that, and then each team, depending on their ranking, gets to nominate players to the all star team.

"It's just an experience. You are being recognized as a player that has accomplished in the league. The other teams when they are playing against you, they realize that you're out there and your talents are obvious.

"The experience of being able to go into the stadium

and walk the turf where CFL players have walked the turf and play the game is great. It's a neat experience to be standing right down on the field looking up at the stands."

This year the Generals had the most all star players compared to previous years.

"This has been the biggest year for us," says Schemm. "The first year we had eight and last year we had 10, and this year we had 12."

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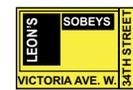
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A number of people took photos of a thunderstorm that blew up over the Moosomin area on May 26.

Left: An amazing photo of the storm approaching south of Moosomin Lake, taken by Jan Meidinger.

Above: Tracy Russell snapped this beautiful photo of a rainbow after the first part of the storm passed.

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- 36 Buffalo Wings & Rings
- 37 Fairfield Inn
- 38 Perkins
- 39 Hardee's
- 40 Home of Economy
- 41 Rough Rider Harley-Davidson
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Focus on Agriculture

Wheat midge forecast high in SE Sask

The 2016 Wheat Midge Forecast map indicates high risk for wheat midge infestations, primarily in eastern Saskatchewan. Most notably in the southeast an area of high risk extends north, into the East Central Region of the province. Pockets of moderate to high risk were also identified in the area extending from south of Prince Albert and north of Rural Municipalities 250 and 251.

In Saskatchewan dry conditions in the spring and early summer in 2015 in many areas affected wheat midge emergence.

Dry conditions and late emergence of adult wheat midge may not coincide with susceptible stages of wheat crops. Many drier areas indicate lower risk from this pest for 2016.

Areas of infestation indicating over 600 wheat midge per square metre on the wheat midge map may still result in significant damage and yield loss, especially if environmental conditions are favorable for wheat midge. In areas indicating levels greater than 1,200 midge per square metre, producers planning to grow conventional spring wheat as part of their crop rotation are advised to include the cost of insecticide application in their 2016 budget.

If spring wheat is planned as part

of a rotation, there are midge tolerant wheat varieties available as varietal blends (VB). For 2016 varietal blends are available in CWRS, CWES, CPSR and CWAD (durum) wheat classes.

Visit The Midge Tolerant Wheat Stewardship Team's website for information on midge tolerant wheat and varietal blends. Also refer to the Saskatchewan Seed Guide for information.

Crop rotation to a non-host crop should be considered to manage wheat midge. Since spring wheat is the primary host for wheat midge, planting a non-susceptible cereal crop (e.g. oats, barley) or a broadleaf crop (e.g. canola, pulse) is an option.

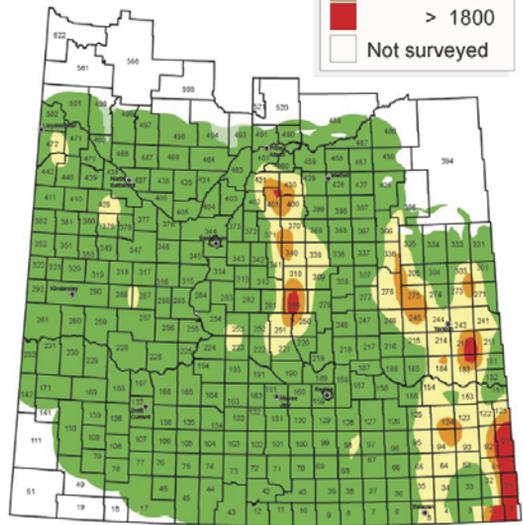
To determine midge populations and, if necessary, timing of an insecticide application, growers are urged to monitor conventional wheat fields during the susceptible period (when the wheat head becomes visible as the boot splits until mid-flowering (anthesis)). Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important to understand wheat midge population changes in a particular field. Temperature and wind conditions significantly influence egg-laying by the adult female midge. High temperatures and high winds tend to reduce activity of egg-laying female midge.

Wheat Midge Forecast 2016

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Midge / m ²	
Light Green	No infestation
Green	< 600
Yellow-Green	600 ≤ 1200
Yellow	1200 ≤ 1800
Orange	> 1800
White	Not surveyed



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Greg Voelpel



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Glinz Farms



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Swan Hills Farms



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Black Sun Farms



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2013 Case IH 550
Veregin, SK – July 20

Brandon Consignment Auction



2006 Case IH STX450
Brandon, MB – July 26

Rocky Pond Farms



2009 Rogator 1286C 100 Ft
Birtle, MB – July 27

Patience and discipline needed in current cattle markets

BY CRAIG LESTER
A spring rally was just not in the cards for cattle markets this year. As a result the manager and senior analyst for CanFax, Brian Perillat, believes cattle buyers are going to have to be careful in the current downward trend.

LONG-TERM PLANNING
“Patience and discipline are needed if you are buying any feeder cattle,” Perillat says. “It’s a big gamble right now to bet on the calves and on the market when we are in a down-sloping trend. You’ve got to be disciplined in buying cattle that you think will work and lock in profits where you can.”
Perillat says the feedlot sector is taking the brunt of the hit right now with a lot of the cattle they bought last fall or earlier in the year looking at substantial losses. He says equity drain has been high and

those losses are trickling down into the calf and feeder markets. “With more meat coming down the pipeline in North America in 2017 or the next couple of years, it could pass more pressure on to cow-calf producers,” Perillat says. Projections currently show potential for sub-\$2 calves.

SETTING EXPECTATIONS
“At this point in time, it’s about setting expectations at what some of your marketing targets for your calves are right now.” Perillat says analysts thought there would be some potential pick-up in demand and a bit of a spring rally. “The Canadian market just hasn’t performed, partly the dollar has continued to be rallying all through the first quarter and that’s definitely taken a bite out of our cattle markets,” Perillat says. He adds it’s general leverage shift.

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Focus on Agriculture

Using a hay share calculator

LORNE KLEIN, PAg
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Landowners who have seeded and established perennial forage stands have several options for marketing the crop.

One option is to sell the standing crop to a tenant for baling. A common arrangement is that the tenant and landlord will each keep a portion of the bales. The question then becomes "What is a fair split of the baled hay?"

The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a Hay Share Calculator that helps determine the hay share split, based on costs incurred by both the landlord and the tenant. Costs

for the landlord include forage seed, field preparation, weed control, seeding, land rent and annual nutrient removal of the baled crop. The cost of nutrient removal can be estimated from the Ministry of Agriculture calculator "Forage and Crop Nutrient Value Calculator." Costs for the tenant include cutting and baling. Other items to load into the calculator are expected average hay yield and years life expectancy of the stand.

Learning to operate the calculator is relatively simple with a minimal amount of instruction or coaching. Once you are comfortable with the op-

eration of the calculator, you can easily run multiple scenarios with different costs for the tenant and landlord. The calculator immediately generates a hay share split with each scenario.

The calculator has a second feature that helps determine a price for standing forage. The biggest challenge with this feature is determining what the selling price of the baled hay will be. The costs of cutting and baling are relatively constant from year to year. The price of baled hay can be quite variable from year to year. This calculation will help the landlord determine whether they should sell the crop standing, or custom hire the cutting and baling to retain ownership of the bales.

Another option of selling a forage stand is to sell it for grazing. This option requires an investment in fence and a water source. Depending upon livestock numbers, livestock size, length of grazing season and grazing fee, you can calculate a value for each ton of forage grazed. Compared to hay removal where all of the nutrients in the hay are exported, grazing animals deposit about 90 per cent of the nutrients they consume back to the land in their manure and urine.

For more information on pricing and marketing forage crops, contact Lorne Klein at 306-848-2382 or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

The changing face of Canada's farm industry

BY ALFONS WEERSINK

Mapping the evolution of Canada's farm industry is not as simple as just examining the numbers.

Every five years, Canada's federal government asks us to provide details on who lives in our household. The demographic information is used to guide decisions ranging from school planning to transportation infrastructure to government transfers.

Among the census questions is one that asks if you intend to sell agricultural produce. This may strike you as unimportant because 98 per cent of you will answer 'No.' However, it allows Statistics Canada to determine if you are a farmer. If you answer 'Yes,' you are directed to complete the Census of Agriculture on your farm operation.

The information gathered helps to characterize Canada's contemporary agricultural sector, including the total number of farmers and farms.

And a look beyond the basic numbers reveals a sector that is increasingly diverse.

The definition of a farmer and a farm is based on the potential ability and desire to sell agricultural products. It does not include a minimum sales criterion. Before 1991, such a threshold had to be met. And it still does in the United States, where a census farm is any operation that normally generates at least \$1,000 of agricultural produce. In Canada, however, farmers and the farms they operate are self-identified with potentially minimal sales.

The all-encompassing definition of a farm permits a measurement of total agricultural production. Someone who self-identifies as a farmer will be asked to detail the inputs used (i.e. time spent on farm work and area of land cropped) and the outputs produced (i.e. inventory of crops and livestock). Thus, total production of a commodity such as potatoes includes the volume sold by large full-time operators to major processors and those sold by individuals to friends and family.

Determining aggregate measures such as total production or farmland area requires measuring all potential farmers and farms.

However, there are cautions with using such a broad definition of a farm for other purposes.

The 2016 census will likely reveal a continuation of a trend noted over the last 50 years: a decline of about 10 per cent in the number of farm operators and farms over the last five years between censuses. Assuming the trend continues, there are fewer than 200,000 farms in Canada and approximately 275,000 farmers running these farms.

Another trend likely to continue will be the growth in the number of commercial farms with sales greater than \$250,000. In addition to its share of the total number of farms, the absolute number will have increased to approximately 50,000. Hence, the decline in the number of farms and farmers will largely be associated with demise of small commercial operations and not those with sales greater than \$250,000.

The increase in the number of large commercial farms and the number of small part-time farmers reflects a growing diversity in the farm sector. Two generations ago, the countryside was fairly homogenous with single full-time farmers operating farms that supported single families. Now, many farmers can be involved in a single farm, and a single farmer can run several farms. At the same time, approximately half of the farmers have full-time work off the farm.

The all-encompassing definition of a farmer requires us to be cautious when interpreting the total numbers and averages associated with those numbers. Totals will likely be lower than the last census but the number of farmers with meaningful agricultural production, and to which farm policy is targeted, are likely to grow.

Given the large and likely growing number of very small farm operators, average performance measures will be distorted if we use the aggregate numbers to assess the health of the sector.

Alfons Weersink is a faculty member in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (FARE) at the University of Guelph.



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Focus on Agriculture

New P&H fertilizer facility being built near Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA
Justin Watson, the national director of crop nutrients, procurement and sales with Parrish and Heimbecker, spoke at the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting in May about the new fertilizer facility being built at the P&H terminal just

west of Moosomin. The new facility will be 35,000 square feet and will have a footprint of three-quarters of an acre. "We've been expanding into the seed and chemical side of the business, and we are going to further expand within this geography and build a new fertil-

izer shed in Moosomin on our site just on the west side of the grain elevator," Watson told Chamber members.

"I've been in the industry for a number of years, and one of the first things when I came aboard was to tie together and bring on the crop nutrients business across Canada.

"Historically our organization has kind of dabbled in the fertilizer side, but in the last 12 to 18 months we've taken on some fairly significant projects."

Watson said the company has new sheds in Hamlin and Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, as well as Gladstone, Manitoba. He said a new build similar to the one in Moosomin also took place at Wilson Siding in Alberta, and in Moose Jaw they are tripling the capacity of their facility, plus building a facility similar to the Moosomin one in Biggar, Sask.

"Our footprint is growing fast and quick on the crop nutrient side of the business," he said. "Parrish and Heimbecker wants to be a full on supplier to farmer customers across Canada. We want to be in the grain business. We want to be in the seed, fertilizer and chemi-

cal business, and a service agronomy organization so that when you go to a Parrish and Heimbecker location, it's a full-on facility where farmers can do all their levels of business on the seed, fertilizer, chemical and grain side of the business.

"We have opened a new office in Regina to bring all these new assets together, get all these new assets off the ground and grow our business and expand our footprint."

Watson said Moosomin was his first answer when he was asked by the owners of P&H where they should be building next.

"One of the first questions I was given by the owners, Bill Parrish and John Heimbecker, is 'Where is the first place you would build our next facility?' and my first response on day one is that we do need to get something built in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. We feel this is one of the best opportunities in Western Canada today.

"If you look at the eastern Saskatchewan corridor versus the builds that have been going on in Alberta, Western Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the footprint of retail expan-

sion hasn't been as fast in Eastern Saskatchewan the last five years. I do think that's been hampered by the fact that organizations have looked at Eastern Saskatchewan and seen some of the risk because of excess moisture. There has been a lot of unseeded acres in the area and maybe some tougher times on the retail side and fighting those rain events from the farmgate standpoint.

"This area pulls a lot of fertilizer out of Manitoba, it pulls a lot of fertilizer out of Yorkton, and Saskatoon, to service this geography.

"The great thing about the investment we are putting in here—a 16,000 ton fertilizer shed—this will be one of the largest facilities in Eastern Saskatchewan.

"One of the keys is that we will be attaching it to our rail facility right here in town. It really gives you a connection to global suppliers around the world.

"The fertilizer game continues to change. It's not just a small local truck market like it was 10, 15, 20 years ago. We believe in the rail side of the business and we believe that being able to connect and bring in products like phosphate from around the world is

a competitive advantage and will be a great asset to growers in this community.

"Our target is to build retail capacity and sell direct to farmers but we do also have suppliers across Western Canada who are expressing interest in leasing portions of the facility in a throughput agreement to make sure they can connect and get product in to this geography direct.

"By having a new added facility in Eastern Saskatchewan, I think it's going to be a benefit to all players in Western Canada, especially if we can get into some wholesale supply agreements to get the cost more competitive in this geography for farmer customers, rather than paying all those extra fees to bring product in by truck and storing product 100 to 200 to 300 kilometers away.

"So we do feel this is one of those geographies that has been ignored over the past few years."

Watson says the new fertilizer facility will be multi-faceted.

"The facility we are putting up is a first-class facility meant to have the type of infrastructure to service farmers' needs over the next four or five years. Farmers continue to get bigger across Western Canada and we want to build a facility that is large enough in size and scope that we can service the needs of the expanding growers' businesses across Canada, specifically this location in Moosomin.

"We will be able to dump 400 tonnes an hour, we will be able to load out 300 or upward of 400 tonnes an hour.

"Also from a quality standpoint will have a fertilizer conditioner within the facility, we'll be putting an oiler in the facility if you have any dust issues, anything we can do to make sure we have good quality product in the geography. We'll have microblending capabilities for micronutrients, microcoating capabilities. It will have a lot of bells and whistles."

Watson said groundwork for the new facility will start in June. He said this will be phase one of the build, with capability for further add-ons later.

"We feel this is a great location, a great area, with highway access, rail access and just a strong agribusiness community," he said. "That really is the basis of why we feel this is the next best place to invest money in a fertilizer shed."

One chamber member asked Watson when the facility would be up and running.

"We feel as though by February we will be able to bring inbound product in and then to put final touches on the blender facility would be about a 30-day project," he said.



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Focus on Agriculture

Manitoba Automobile Museum • Rocanville Museum • Moosomin Museum

Three local museums involved in world record attempt 125 threshing machines to process grain for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Three local museums will be involved in an attempt to set the world record for the most threshing machines. Teams from the Manitoba Automobile Museum in Elkhorn, the Rocanville Museum, and the Moosomin Regional Museum will be among the 125 teams participating in the world's largest pioneer harvest this summer in Austin, Manitoba.

On July 31, Harvesting Hope: a World Record to Help the Hungry will attempt to break the Guinness World Record of "most threshing machines operating simultaneously," by running 125 antique machines at the same time to harvest a crop of wheat.

The current record is 111 machines held by a group from St. Albert, Ontario. Previously, the Olde Tyme Harvest in Langenburg, Saskatchewan set the record in 2013 with 41 threshing machines.

ROCANVILLE MUSEUM

Two antique farming machines belonging to the Rocanville and District Museum of Rocanville, Saskatchewan will participate in the harvest.

Ron Hilgers, Vice President of the Rocanville and District Museum, participated in the Langenburg harvest and has volunteered the Rumely and McCormick-Deering machines to help break the record again.

"We broke the record in Langenburg," says Hilgers. "And they took it away from us, so we want it back."

Hilgers will be joined by fellow museum members Ray Behrns, Jerry Hilgers and Peter Finotte to help run the machines during the event. Other museum members are considering coming along as well.

Despite wanting to break the record again, Hilgers says the event is about more than competition.

"I know a lot of guys from the Manitoba Agricultural Museum, and it's for the camaraderie," says Hilgers. "It's also for the purpose of what the event's for. It's a good cause."

MANITOBA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

Three crews and three machines from the Manitoba Automobile Museum in Elkhorn will be going to Austin to help break the world record and raise money for the

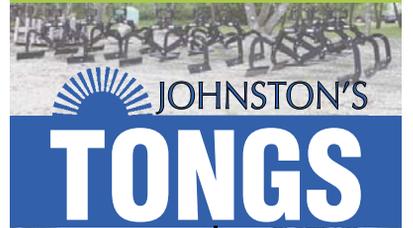
Foodgrains Bank.

"There will be three teams of six people per team," says Lynn Tutthill, one of the Elkhorn people going.

"We are going to thresh with them on July 1 (at the Canada Day celebration and Museum Day) in Elkhorn just to get them loosened up and ready to go and then they're going to Austin with us.

Continued on page 29

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Some scenes from the world record breaking threshing demonstration in Langenburg in 2013.



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How to choose the right mineral for summer pasture

BY NAOMI PALEY, BSA, PAG
REGIONAL LIVESTOCK SPECIALIST, YORKTON

For many cow-calf producers, free-choice feeding of vitamins and minerals is the only way to supplement their animals on summer pastures. Field studies have demonstrated that free-choice intake can be highly variable; however, there are things you can do to manage and reduce this variability. "Free choice" doesn't mean "set it and forget it." Supplement intake needs to be monitored. During the grazing season, mineral and salt are very important for gestating cows and growing calves. Most pastures do not contain adequate levels or balances of macro- and trace minerals.

Consider some of the following ideas for improving intake.

- Intake is usually better with loose rather than block supplements.
- Mixing loose mineral with salt, dried molasses or protein supplements can increase intake.
- Put out small amounts frequently to keep the supplements fresh.
- Locate the mineral feeders in areas where cattle tend to congregate, and make sure there are enough

for all cattle to have sufficient access (one feeder per 50 animals).

- Read the label. Calculate how long it should take your cattle to go through a bag when they are eating the recommended amount each day. Normal daily intake for mature cows is two to four ounces per head.

There is a lot of confusion when it comes to determining the type of mineral that is best suited to your situation. Mineral supplements are usually categorized by a number describing the ratio of calcium to phosphorous in them (i.e. 1:1, 2:1, 3:1). Generally, legume forages (alfalfa type) are higher in calcium; grass forages are lower in calcium. We need to keep the ratio of calcium to phosphorous in the total diet at a minimum of 2:1 (twice as much calcium as phosphorous). If you are grazing a grass pasture with little or no legumes, you may consider using a 2:1 or adding some limestone to your 1:1 mineral to bring up the level of calcium.

Once you have established the appropriate type of mineral to use according to the forage type being grazed, you need to select a product with adequate levels of trace minerals.

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Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Estate of James Sluz – Marlyn Sluz

Wolsley, SK | June 20, 2016 - 11 am



2002 Case IH STX425



2008 Case IH 8010



2012 Morris C2 Contour 61 FT



2001 Westward 9350 30 FT



2001 International 9200L

AUCTION LOCATION: From **WOLSELEY, SK**, go 8 km (5 miles) East, 6.9 km (4.3 miles) South, 0.4 km (0.25 miles) East. Yard on South side. **GPS:** 50.338000, -103.1400000

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 2002 Case IH STX425 Quadtrac - 1980 Case 4890 4WD Tractor - Allis-Chalmers 8010 2WD Tractor - 2008 Case IH 8010 Combine - 1994 Case IH 1688 - 2001 Westward 9350 30 FT Swather - 2001 International 9200L T/A Grain Truck - 1968 International 1700 Loadstar S/A Truck - 1989 16 FT/A Gooseneck Stock Trailer - 2012 Morris C2 Contour 61 FT Air Drill - 1993 Flexi-Coil 2320 Tow-Behind Air Tank - 1992 Flexi-Coil 2320 Tow-Between Air Tank - Morris CP731 35 FT Cultivator - 10 FT Pull Grader - Degelman R5705 Rock Picker - International 550 Manure Spreader - 1975 John Deere 430 Round Baler - John Deere 14 FT Self Propelled Mower Conditioner - John Deere 567 5 Wheel Hay Rake - Grain Bins & Augers - Livestock Equipment - GPS Equipment...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Jason Sluz: 306.535.1084
 Marlyn Sluz: 306.698.2785 (h), 306.901.7148 (c)
 Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager – Kevin Ortt: 306.451.7388 800.491.4494



61c

Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Greg Voelpel

Southey, SK | June 23 2016 - 10:30 am



1995 John Deere 8770, 1990 John Deere 610 41 FT & 2014 John Deere 1910



1995 John Deere 9600



2012 John Deere 6140D



2000 Apache 790 90 FT



2004 Honey Bee SP30 30 FT



1979 Ford 7000



1995 Massey Ferguson 200 30 FT

AUCTION LOCATION: From **SOUTHEY, SK**, at the Jct of Hwy 6 & 22, go 8 km (5 miles) East on Hwy 22. Yard on South side. **GPS:** 50.9284, -104.3914

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1995 John Deere 8770 4WD Tractor - 1974 Massey Ferguson 1805 4WD Tractor - 2012 John Deere 6140D MPWD Tractor - 1976 Massey Ferguson 265 2WD Tractor - 1995 John Deere 9600 Combine - 2004 Honey Bee SP30 30 FT Draper - 1995 Massey Ferguson 200 30 FT Swather - 1990 John Deere 590 Swather - 1979 Augers - Aeration Fans - GPS Equipment...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Greg Voelpel: 306.726.7381, g.voelpel@xplornet.com
 Ritchie Bros. Territory Manager – Kevin Ortt: 306.451.7388 800.491.4494



61c

Unreserved Public Farm Auction

Kerslake Farms Ltd.

Windthorst, SK | June 25, 2016 - 10 am



1998 Case IH 9390, 2004 Morris Maxim II 49 FT & 2013 Case IH 3430



2008 John Deere 9870STS



1992 John Deere 9600 & 1999 John Deere 9610



2014 MacDon M155 30 FT



2009 Case IH 4420 100 FT



1974 Caterpillar DBK



1999 Link-Belt 2650 Quantum



Soucy Rubber Tracks

AUCTION LOCATION: From **WINDTHORST, SK**, go 0.8 km (0.5 mile) West, then 4.5 km (2.8 miles) South. Yard on East side. **GPS:** 50.0689, -102.8366

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1998 Case IH 9390 4WD Tractor - 1998 Case IH 9350 4WD Tractor - 2001 Case IH MX110 MPWD Tractor - 1983 Case IH 2294 2WD Tractor - 2008 John Deere 9870STS Combine - 1999 John Deere 9610 Combine - 1992 John Deere 9600 Combine - 2010 John Deere 6400 40 FT Draper - 2014 MacDon M155 30 FT Swather - 1999 International 9400T/A Grain Trailer - 1982 International F1954 Grain Trailer - 1999 Link-Belt 2650 Quantum Hydraulic Excavator - 1974 Caterpillar DBK Crawler Tractor - 2004 Morris Maxim II 49 FT Air Drill - 2013 Case IH 3430 Tow-Behind Air Tank - John Deere 7000 16 Row 2 PH Hitch Planter - 2009 Case IH 4420 100 FT High Clearance Sprayer - 2001 New Holland 688 Round Baler - Grain Bins & Fans - Jiffy 920 Bale Processor...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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Curtis Kerslake: 306.695.3534 (h), 306.736.3090 (c) kerslakefarms@sasktel.net
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61c

Unreserved Public Farm Auction

W&D Shotter

Fillmore, SK | June 29, 2016 - 11 am



1993 John Deere 8570 & 1994 Morris 8900 27 FT w/6130



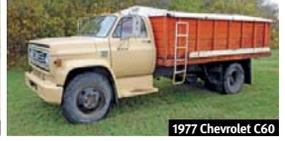
1996 John Deere 9600



1980 John Deere 8820



1981 International 5000 24.5 FT



1977 Chevrolet C60

AUCTION LOCATION: From **FILLMORE, SK**, go 8 km (5 miles) North on Grid 606, then 1.5 km (0.9 miles) West on Grid 711, then 1.5 km (0.9 miles) North. **GPS:** 49.9817, -103.4736

A PARTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST INCLUDES: 1993 John Deere 8570 4WD Tractor - 1975 John Deere 8430 4WD Tractor - Case 930 2WD Tractor - Allis-Chalmers Antique Grader - 1996 John Deere 9600 Combine - 1980 John Deere 8820 Combine - John Deere 230 30 FT Rigid Header - 1981 International 5000 24.5 FT Swather - John Deere 590 30 FT Swather - 1977 Chevrolet C60 S/A Grain Truck - 1968 Chevrolet C50 S/A Grain Truck - 1970 International 1610 Cargostar COE S/A Grain Truck - Lode King 40 FT/A Grain Trailer - 1994 Morris 8900 27 FT Air Drill - 1994 Morris 6130 Air Tank - John Deere 1600 36 FT Cultivator - Morris CP25 26 FT Cultivator - Flexi-Coil 50 FT Harrow Packer - Custombuilt 10 FT Land Leveler - Degelman R5705 Rock Picker - Grain Bins & Augers - Swath Rollers...**AND MUCH MORE!**

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61c

Focus on Agriculture

Manitoba Automobile Museum • Rocanville Museum • Moosomin Museum Three local museums involved in world record attempt 125 threshing machines to process grain for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Continued from page 26
 “We were in Langenburg when they broke the record there and we thought we may as well continue on.”
 Tutthill says Manitoba wants to take back the world record from Ontario.
 He says it’s also about museums banding together to help each other out.
 “Museums have to help each other these days. If they don’t, there’s not much that happens.”
 “I’ve been doing it for quite a few years now and I really enjoy it. We’ll keep on with it.”

MOOSOMIN REGIONAL MUSEUM
 The Moosomin Regional Museum will be taking a threshing machine and tractor, as well as a crew of six to Austin.

The crew is being led by Dean Godon.
 “I’ve been interested ever since I first heard about it, and I was going to do it myself, but then I approached the museum and they decided that they’d be interested in doing it so I jumped in with them,” says Godon.

“We had our machine up at Langenburg when the record was broken up there, so now we want to go to Austin and try to break it again.”

He says that many machines running at once is a sight.

“It was great to see so many machines all running at the same time, it’s just amazing to see it all going.”

MORE THRESHING MACHINES NEEDED
 Darwin Fedorowich, a Saskatchewan representative with the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin, more threshing machines are needed to reach the targeted number of 125 machines.

“Right now we are a solid 90,” he says. The event is both a fundraiser for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Manitoba Agricultural Museum.

“Half the proceeds from the gate at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum go towards the Foodgrains Bank as well as half the proceeds from other items, like t-shirts, as well as supper tickets they are selling,” says Fedorowich.

“It’s for a common cause, for trying to help hungry people around the world, and that’s what the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is all about—feeding hungry people.”

He says it should also be an impressive display.

“It will be quite an impressive sight to have over 125 machines operating simultaneously . . . The equipment has to be up and running and in good order. And considering most of this stuff is close to 100 years old that’s a tough job.”

Fedorowich says anyone wanting to participate with a machine and a crew can call him at 306-452-8200.

EVENT DETAILS

Proceeds from the event will support the efforts of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help end global hunger and the Manitoba Agricultural Museum’s work to preserve Manitoba’s rural heritage.

To set the new record, all threshing machines must operate simultaneously for at least five minutes. Harvesting Hope’s organizing committee plans to run all threshing machines for at least 20 minutes and thresh 75 acres of wheat. The event will begin at 4 p.m. in the east field at the 62nd Manitoba Threshermen’s Re-

union and Stamped.

For more details or to make a donation, please visit www.harvestinghope.ca or follow us on Twitter @harvestinghope2016).

ABOUT HARVESTING HOPE:
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 On July 31, 2016 Harvesting Hope: A World Record to Help the Hungry will cre-

ate the world’s largest pioneer harvest near Austin, MB. Over 500 volunteers from 100 Canadian communities will operate 125 century-old threshing machines to harvest a field of wheat. Harvesting Hope is a joint partnership of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Manitoba Agricultural Museum and will take place in conjunction with the 62nd Manitoba Threshermen’s Reunion & Stamped.

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Warm, dry summer predicted for region

AccuWeather reports much of Canada is in for a very warm summer this year as extended periods of hot and dry weather grip large areas of the country.

The most intense heat will focus on British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, worsening the drought and increasing the risk for wildfires.

Meanwhile, the threat of damaging storms will stretch across parts of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

DROUGHT TO WORSEN AS DRY, HOT PATTERN DOMINATES CENTRAL AND WESTERN CANADA

A hot and dry weather pattern will dominate much of western and central Canada, worsening the already present drought conditions across British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

"The worst drought conditions are currently across Alberta and northeastern British Columbia and we do not expect any significant relief through the summer," Anderson said.

According to the most recent assessment of the drought conditions, large swaths of Alberta are in a moderate to severe drought, including the cities of Calgary and Edmonton. Some portions

of southern Saskatchewan and northern British Columbia are also in a moderate drought.

Similar to areas farther east, those across central and western parts of Canada can expect a summer that is hotter than normal.



"The summer will be slightly warmer than normal along the West Coast, thanks in part to the large area of above-normal sea surface temperatures over the northeast Pacific Ocean," Anderson explained.

He added that the increasingly dry soil across the interior will enhance summertime warmth, resulting in an unusually high number of days reaching above 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees

Fahrenheit).

Wildfire season to worsen following early start with Fort McMurray fire

In addition to contributing to a worsening drought, the hot and dry conditions will also heighten the threat for wildfires.

"The 2016 wildfire season got off to a quick start and we expect another active season across the West," Anderson said.

The Fort McMurray fire was an alarming start to the wildfire season, forcing the entire city to evacuate before the blaze engulfed the area. This single fire may end up being the costliest disaster in Canadian history, according to the Calgary Sun.

Other fires are also burning across the region with more likely to start in the coming months due to a combination of lightning strikes, impending heat and dryness.

"Widespread smoke from these fires will be a factor through the summer months, resulting in lower air quality and an increase in hazy skies," Anderson added.

Smoke from these wildfires will be carried thousands of miles downwind, potentially being seen in the skies over eastern Canada and parts of the United States.

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Focus on Agriculture



It's obvious that Bill Mulligan has a real passion for antique John Deere tractors.

Mulligan passionate about tractors

BY ANDREA JAJENEN

Bill Mulligan of the Elkhorn area has built up quite the collection of antique John Deere tractors over the years.

Mulligan has 21 tractors in his collection, with the oldest one from the 1940s.

"I've always like John Deere, my uncle and my grandpa had John Deere. I always loved driving them. The first tractor I picked up was the 1948," says Mulligan, who farms near Elkhorn. "My uncle had one of them, and I drove one of those. We made a lot of bales with it over the years," Mulligan says.

"The 1949 is the first diesel John Deere made—that's my favourite. My uncle had one and I drove it when I was a kid. Between summer and fall that's all I did."

Mulligan says he is very particular about what goes into his collection.

"I collect mostly the two cylinders," he says. "I like to have the sets, but it costs a lot of money. I'll only get more tractors if they fit in," he explains. "I've got an 80, 70, and

a 60, and if I could find a 50 or a 40 it would be nice to have them in the same series."

He says that, in his taste in tractors, he bleeds green. "I've always been partial to John Deere," he said.

Collecting and restoring antiques can be an expensive hobby.

"Since the oil price has gone down, I don't have as much money to spend on these things—it can be expensive," he says.

"When I bought the 60 it was in really good shape—nice and clean, and it wasn't bent up at all. I cleaned it up and sanded it, painted it, and got decals and a new seat cushion. It was \$800 by the time I got it done. You can spend a lot of money real quick."

Mulligan shows off his tractors in the Elkhorn parade each year, and will be taking part in other shows as well.

"I go into Elkhorn's parade on the first of July. I had 12 in there last year—but you have to find guys to drive

them all, and haul them in there and turn around to haul them home. It's a lot of work, but I enjoy it," Mulligan says.

"It's a lot of work for a half an hour ride around town. This year I got talked into going to Austin. They're going to set a world record for threshing machines, and they don't have enough tractors. So I'm supposed to bring a couple of my older tractors down to run some threshing machines. They hope to have 125 threshing machines, I don't know how they're going to do it."

And what does he enjoy most about his collection?

"Just having them. I enjoy firing them up. These diesels all have a little gas motor and you start it first, and then you start the big diesel. I've always like the sound of them when they start up," he explains. "It's just nice to have some and have them running good. I'm not much of a mechanic, but I enjoy trying to straighten the dints out and cleaning them up and painting them. I'm pretty happy with them."

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