

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba  
September 2019 • Volume 12, Number 9

## Mosaic wins at Western Mine Rescue competition

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Mosaic Esterhazy was overall underground winner at the Western Region Mine Rescue Competition, a first for Mosaic Esterhazy.

As 2019 Saskatchewan Mining Association Provincial Mine Rescue Champions, Mosaic Esterhazy's Mine Rescue Team attended the National Western Region Mine Rescue Competition September 5, 6, and 7 in Fernie, British Columbia.

This event features provincial champions from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories.

The Mosaic Esterhazy team were named the Overall Underground Winners, in addition to:

- Second in Written Exam
- Winners of the Bench Technician Event
- Winners of the Fire Fighting Event
- Winners Underground Donning Bench Event
- Winners Underground Obstacle and Recovery (Mine Problem)
- Winners Practical Skills Event
- Winners Smoke Search Task

The National Mine Rescue Competition showcases the knowledge, training, commitment, and professionalism that mining emergency response and rescue teams dedicate themselves to keeping their mines and co-workers as safe as possible, every day.

We spoke with the team's coach, Frank Falkevitch about the milestone. The complete interview follows

**Tell me a little bit about mine rescue. How many people are involved at the mine? Are you always preparing and training?**

You bet. I've got 44 mine rescue members and we train once a month from September til April.

The way it is broken up is that it follows each shift crew so each Thursday we'll have a different group in here.

Each member gets about 90 hours a year of training.

The things we train on are the self-contained breathing apparatus that we use—they are a specialty item that's a four hour unit opposed to a one hour or 30 minute unit that a firefighter would use on service.

We train on underground con-



ditions, ground control, mine gases, mine ventilation, everything that is specific to the hazards that we might face underground when we're going to be doing a rescue. We train on fire suppression.

We are kind of like a fire department specializing underground. We would have a lot of the same skill set as a fire department but we're doing ours underground.

**Are the people who are involved in mine rescue underground regular shift workers and they do this in addition?**

Absolutely. We have mechanics, operators underground, engineers, drafts people, supervisors so all walks of life. They come in one day a month and train.

**Was there special preparation going to this competition? Did you put in some extra hours training or anything like that?**

Going back to May, we came about two and half weeks of training to go to the SMA (Sask Mining Association) competition in Saskatoon.

The team went to that event and were successful. We came away from that as the Saskatchewan champion, which qualified us to go to Western Regionals in Fernie. We took about a week and a half to prepare for our training, so we took five days of training essentially and then a lot of preparation in getting the machines ready and everything packed, and then we made the trip. We left on Wednesday, which would have been the fourth. We competed on the sixth and we came home on the eighth.

**What was the reaction of the team members when they won?**

Everyone was happy but you know they showed a lot of dignity, a lot of respect for the other competitors. Of course they were happy that they had won. We thought we had a good day. We knew we had a fairly solid day but all these events are judged, so you might think you did okay but sometimes maybe the results don't indicate that—there might be things that you missed.

In this case the judging worked out in our favor and the results came through. We had five first places and a second place and we got overall championship.

*Continued on page 11* ESR

**Above:** The Mosaic Esterhazy Mine Rescue team. From left are Frank Falkevitch (Coach/Instructor), Jeremy Lundgren (captain), Jared Cook, Skyler Hladun, Scott Slinn (Vice-Captain), Colleen Parkin-Kempton, Clint Hollingshead (Co-ordinator), Aaron Polvi, and Bruce Fraser (Coach).

**Left:** The Mosaic team in action during the competition.

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# Paralympic swimmer Krystal Shaw speaking at Shrine event

Every year, at their annual supper and concert, the Shriners feature a speaker who can talk about their experience with the Shrine Club, Shrine Hospitals, and how the Shriners helped them.

This year's speaker is Krystal Shaw, who is a paralympic swimmer. Shaw will be speaking at the Happy Days Christmas Party being held in Moosomin Friday, Nov. 15.

"We saw her at a function a few years ago, and asked her at that time if she'd like to speak," says Bill Thorn. "Most of our speakers in the past have been young children. But Krystal has been through the system and she's been through the Shrine hospital, and now she has an active lifestyle, and she's a paralympic swimmer. She competes internationally for the Canadian paralympic team. She does a real nice presentation."

Krystal was born 25 years ago on Valentine's Day in Vancouver, Canada. Weighing in at just 3 pounds, 9 ounces, she was delivered eight weeks early. Born with a hole in her stomach, Krystal's bladder and intestines were on the outside of her body, and her legs were crossed and folded over her stomach. The name for this condition is arthrogyposis multiplex congenita (AMC). The doctors' prognosis was grim at best.

Krystal's fight had just begun. During her first year of life, Krystal's parents researched the care provided at several medical locations, hoping that something could be done to help their daughter. Krystal had club feet and no muscle growing in her legs. Her hips were dislocated and one of her knees was bent at 90 degrees.

A colleague of Krystal's father mentioned Shriners Hospitals for Children, and Krystal made her first visit to Shriners Hospitals for Children when she was three and a half years old.

Krystal underwent her first surgery at the age of five. When she woke from surgery, a "Lizzy," or Ilizarov apparatus, was attached to her leg. The Ilizarov apparatus is an orthopaedic external fixation device designed to lengthen or straighten bones or soft tissue. Krystal had the "Lizzy" on for a total of six months.

During her second trip to Montreal, she had a waist-to-ankle body cast applied. When the cast was removed eight weeks later, Krystal saw her legs and shouted, "Look



mom, I'm normal!" Her legs were now repositioned and turned forward.

Krystal took her first steps at the age of six. One day when she was near the coffee table at home, she took a decisive look and began to take a step, all alone and without help.

These first steps happened because of an extraordinary health care system called Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Krystal began to swim competitively when she was nine. She did not plan to go far with this sport, as her main goal was to gain muscle and flexibility in her legs. Yet at age 12, she competed in her first international-level competition and won two silver medals. She had found her passion. Krystal became part of the Saskatchewan team at age 14, and competed at the Canada Games where she won a bronze medal. When 15, she represented Canada at the World Championships in Brazil. Then, disaster struck

when she developed a blood clot in her leg. She thought her swimming career was over, as well as a huge part of her life.

Krystal had surgery to remove the blood clot from her leg. There were complications after the surgery which kept Krystal out of the water for almost a year. By this time Krystal was too old to rejoin her former swim team, and when she started university in Regina, she was denied a spot on the team. One day Krystal was in the pool swimming and was spotted by a coach who knew her from her days competing in the Canada Games, and when he asked her to join his competitive team, her swimming career began again. Soon after, she went to Sheffield in the U.K. for the Paralympic Swimming World Series and competed against the best of the best in the world.

Krystal continued to get stronger. Last February she returned from Melbourne, Australia, after competing in the Paralympic Swimming World Series.

She has continued to push herself both physically and mentally. And on the first weekend this April, she was again complaining. The results of that weekend in April? A coveted spot on Team Canada.

Next was the Para Pan Am games and in April she was off to Spain, and then to Lima, Peru in August. These games were the next steps leading up to the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

## Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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# Nutrien layoffs will not affect Rocanville

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Nutrien is planning to temporarily lay off workers at three of its Saskatchewan potash mines, Nutrien Rocanville.

The company said on Sept. 11 that it expects to take production downtime at its Allan, Lanigan and Vanscoy sites during the fourth quarter of 2019.

Between 160 and 250 employees at each mine are expected to be laid off for roughly eight weeks.

The production downtime is in response to a short-term slowdown in global potash markets, according to a Nutrien press release.

Despite the current market conditions, the Saskatoon-based fertilizer company says it remains positive on potash demand for 2020.

"We remain focused on a gradual ramp-up of production to meet demand and to ensure we operate the safest, most reliable and efficient potash business in the world," Nutrien said in a statement.

Nutrien said if all three facilities were idle for eight weeks, production could be reduced by roughly 700,000 tonnes and annual earnings could be reduced by US\$100-\$150 million.

## China suspends potash imports

Will Tigley of Nutrien told the World-Spectator Thursday that overseas market conditions—including China suspending the import of potash September 1—led to the inventory shutdowns.

"There are two big things—the recent softening in demand that was due to really weak palm oil prices in Indonesia and Malaysia that lowered potash import demand in 2019, and the other one is the temporary suspension of potash imports into China which started on September 1. Now, that's following record imports in the first half of 2019 that we had."

He said he doesn't know what led to China's temporary suspension of potash imports.

"I don't have insight into that. That might be something more for the Chinese government to answer."

## Lots of factors in temporary closures

Tigley said there are lots of factors that go into deciding which mines will temporarily cease production.

"We look at our entire network of mines throughout the province and it's not an easy decision. There are plenty of considerations to go in to which ones we have to

shut down and in this case the end we identified Allan, Lanigan and Vanscoy."

## Rocanville low-cost producer

Tigley said that Nutrien Rocanville is the low cost producer among Nutrien sites in Saskatchewan, which is one of the factors the company looks at when deciding where temporary shutdowns will take place.

"The lower cost does help Rocanville but when we make decisions like this it has to be across the network and so we look at a number of factors and costs may not be the only thing. We try and make the decisions like this on how it will play out in our network of six mines."

## Rebound in demand

would shorten shutdowns

Tigley said a rebound in the potash market could shorten the shutdowns from the announced eight weeks.

"We're really hoping that stands might be shorter than eight weeks. It all depends on how the market demand unfolds.

"The softness (in demand) does not change our positive medium- to long-term demand on potash projections. We continue to see the potash demand growth at a rate of like 2.5-3 percent per year as the world produces more food and that has been consistent with all of the releases and the announcements we have made.

"We will continue to stay focused on the gradual ramp up of production to meet sales demand and focusing on the next gen potash program that we've implemented to make sure that we remain the most safest, most reliable and efficient potash business in the world."

"Right now the market conditions are the main challenge. I think everything else is as expected. Other than that I think we're just hoping for some positivity next year and we'll see what that brings once we get through this shut down."

## Saskatchewan taxes among highest

Tigley said the taxes on potash in Saskatchewan are among the highest in the world.

"Saskatchewan is the highest for the taxes and regulations," he said.

"What we've always said is we just continue to look for consistency in the tax regime and want to make sure that we're able to produce our product at the most efficient way as possible at of course the lowest cost."

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Jaxon Chadney, far right, with his bronze medal at nationals.

**Fort La Bosse Wildlife archers compete at Canadians**

Fort La Bosse Wildlife had three local 3D Archery Shooters compete at Canadian Nationals in Prince Albert Saskatchewan hosted by Timberland Bowbenders Archery Club recently.

The Championship consisted of four courses of 20 targets in the beautiful northern Saskatchewan timber. These are 3D animal targets that are placed in their natural habitat much like a real life hunting situation.

The three local competitors spent five days in Prince Albert, competing three of the five days. They were Leon Laffin, his daughter Taylor Laffin, and Jaxon Chadney. Leon is one of our local archery instructors. Taylor has recently graduated grade 12, and Jaxon is a high school student. They are all from Virden. Leon Laffin finished 11th in his category, Taylor 6th in hers, and Jaxon brought home bronze for 3rd in his.

Jaxon shoots for Team Manitoba and Team Wolverine Supplies. Leon and Taylor shoot for Team Wolverine Supplies. These three competed in 15-plus shoots this year all over Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Fort La Bosse Wildlife Association was awarded the 3D Outdoor Provincials this past July. This was the clubs second annual 3D shoot and had a great turnout of 75 shooters. This was the highest attendance since 2009. There was 24 local competitors with the following placing:

- Skylar Andries: 1st female cub 14 & under
- Chay Stadnyk: 1st male cub 14 & under
- Jaxon Chadney: 2nd male cub 14 & under
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- Taylor Laffin: 3rd women's k50
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- Leon Laffin: 7th men's k50
- Dale Chadney: 10th men's k50

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# Organizers happy with Rockin the Park



Snake Oil, above left, and Streetheart, above right, performing. Below, the crowd enjoying the music.



BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Organizers are happy with the way the first Rockin the Park event went in Esterhazy on August 31.

The crowd was larger than expected, and the forecasted rain didn't materialize, adding up to a great event.

"We exceeded our expectations of people through the door," said organizer Brenda Redman.

"We had about 650 people through the doors. We're happy with that. We were hoping for 500 people and we hit 650, so we're ecstatic. And I think it's something

we can build on. We hear for next year people are talking about bringing their friends.

"I've had emails from people from out of town who attended and they said it was just the best event of the year and they will be back next year.

"Something of this magnitude is not always successful the first year, and we were successful, so we are happy."

"Our goal was always to have it as an annual event so we will keep pressing forward and start planning for next year.

"There are lots of ideas people have to add to it, but at the next meeting with the Esterhazy Recreation Fundraising Association we will sit down and we will go over the pros and the cons and what worked and what didn't work.

We will definitely have ideas of what we can improve on. It was the first time, so there is always going to be a learning curve, so at the next meeting we will have those out and see what we can come up with."

She said one thing that may be hard to improve on is the entertainment.

"The entertainment was phenomenal—they were all very good bands. And even now everyone is shooting out ideas, but how do you top that? They were so good.

"We heard that it was an amazing venue, the entertainment was outstanding, people enjoyed the food vendors—there was lots of variety and people appreciated that. We were fortunate to have the vendors that we had.

"As a committee we're exhausted, we're excited, and we are going to stay positive and learn from anything we did wrong and what we could do differently.

"I was talking to Jeff Neill from Streetheart. He gave me a big hug and said 'you know, for a first-time event you did great.' And he told me if I ever needed any advice or help I could give him a call.

"I heard of Snake Oil a couple of years ago. We were just going to have Snake Oil but then nobody knew who Snake Oil was, and that's when we needed to pull in the headliner. We needed the name everyone knows. But after this weekend everyone knows who Snake Oil is!"

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Richard Dimler points toward the 31-room three-storey hotel complex (left) that adjoins an 18-apartment condo that he and his wife Marcia are having constructed in their home community of Grenfell. Parking for the hotel and banquet room is seen to the front and left (west) of the hotel. The grounds (behind Dimler) will be developed for events and gatherings.

## Condo/Hotel under construction at Grenfell

By DONNA BEUTLER

When Grenfell residents Richard and Marcia Dimler bought a prime piece of property along the service road adjacent to the Trans-Canada Highway at Grenfell, they didn't have a specific plan for it, however it wasn't long before they were in the planning stages for a new hotel/condo complex that is now only a few months from completion.

In May of next year, the building project is expected to reach completion and will boast 18 two-bedroom apartments and a 31-room hotel complete with a conference/banquet room for a variety of events.

"This is the first time we have announced what it will be called," Richard Dimler told the World-Spectator in an interview at the Dimlers' Grenfell home in early September. "The hotel will be called the Legacy Inn and the condo will be known as the Heritage Community Adult Living Condo," he said.

A combination of things came together when the Dimlers were presented with the idea of a hotel/condo building by Steel Creek Developers including the unique idea of a combination hotel/apartment building. With the community of Grenfell showing interest and support for a community adult living complex, Richard and Marcia forged ahead with the idea.

Dimler traveled to many other communities, viewing condo complexes and hotels to ensure the building he and his wife would eventually build would be exactly what they wanted.

"The apartments are 1,200-plus square feet in size," Dimler said of the condos which are located on the east side of the complex. "They are all open concept design and each one has two bathrooms, a large kitchen, and a patio."

The Dimlers have been actively involved in the design and will be actively involved in choosing, for instance, colours, including the exterior colour choice that the condo is finished in.

In an on-site visit, Dimler pointed to the roof of the three-storey apartment building, saying there is a roof-top area accessible through the attic to where the air conditioners for each of the apartments are located. A large parking area, excavated by the Dimler family themselves, covers the south and west side of the hotel building, ready to accommodate hotel guests and those who are attending events in the banquet room.

"You won't see air conditioners on the patios of the condo building," Dimler explained of the rooftop space for the a/c units. The construction also features well insulated and staggered double walls to ensure noise doesn't travel between apartments. "A common room has been integrated on the third floor," he went on to say, "where residents can gather with their friends." The common room will act as a coffee room and will have a small kitchen with a fridge.

The garage, unlike many condos in this area that have either basement or first floor heated parking, features an adjacent ground level garage for indoor parking. A

fire wall between the garage and the main building gives the complex a higher safety rating and an access door joins the garage to the complex. The garage door will face to the north and the street from which it is accessed will eventually be paved by the Town of Grenfell.

The backyard area of the condo complex will feature a concrete fence, gardens, gazebo and walkways, barbecues and a fire pit and will be accessible only to apartment dwellers and their guests. The Dimlers say they will do much of the design and construction of this area and envision it as a quiet and beautiful spot perfect for socializing and for walking.

"The yard will also be a safe space," Dimler explained. "No one will be able to enter that yard except for residents." As well, because of the dual concept, hotel guests, he explained, will not be able to access the private living area.

"Most of the corner units are already spoken for," Dimler said. "For our residents, we will be offering an out of town shuttle if they need to go to the city or to another town for appointments. We will have full-time staff on 24/7 because of the hotel and residents can always access help by calling the front desk. Cleaning services will be offered as well," he said, adding that there may also be an option for some meals to be offered from time to time. Dimler also explained that the building is entirely wheelchair accessible as will be the yard and the banquet hall.

Right next to the complex, to the west, Dimler says an Esso gas bar and convenience store is going to be built as well as a fast food restaurant, though he could not confirm yet which fast food enterprise would be established there.

At the front of the hotel, on the south side of the building and adjacent to the conference/banquet room, the Dimlers have plans in place for a beautiful front yard that can be used for birthdays, reunions, weddings and special events. The yard will include picnic tables and will be accessible through the patio doors of the banquet room.

"An event planner will be on staff," Dimler said, "and our staff will plan social events as well." The complex will employ several staff, including grounds and maintenance, cleaning, cooking, management and reception.

"It's because of our heritage," Dimler said, "that we are leaving a legacy here. Our great grandparents homesteaded here and we have made our livelihood here, our family is here, our business is here and we want to be able to give back to the community."

"We had the vision for this project pretty much right away," Marcia said, noting that they have pretty much stuck with their original vision and are now seeing it come to fruition.

"And it will spark some opportunities, growth, enthusiasm and jobs for young people," Richard said. As well he feels it will allow people who want to remain living in Grenfell the opportunity to do so.

Continued on page 13

# Not all parties showing up in local races 2019 federal election underway

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The 2019 federal election is underway, and for the first time in modern history the national parties did not all have candidates nominated in the federal ridings in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba—Souris-Moose Mountain and Yorkton-Melville in southeast Saskatchewan and Brandon-Souris and Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa in southwest Manitoba—at the start of the election.

All four ridings are held by the Conservatives, who won with large majorities in the last election, and the People's Party of Canada has candidates in all four ridings.

But in all four, when the election was called Wednesday there were no Liberal or NDP candidates nominated.

Although the other national parties have had poor results in recent elections, they have all fielded candidates in the past.

## Souris-Moose Mountain

There are just three candidates in Souris-Moose Mountain—Conservative Robert Kitchen, Phil Zajac of the People's Party of Canada, and Travis Patron of the Canadian Nationalist Party.

In the 2015 election, Kitchen was elected with 70 per cent of the vote, the NDP was second with 13.68 per cent of the vote, and the Liberals were third with 13.53 per cent.

## Yorkton-Melville

There are only three candidates in Yorkton-Melville—Conservative Cathay Wagantall, Ryan Schultz of the People's Party of Canada, and Stacey Wiebe of the Greens.

In the 2015 election, Wagantall was elected with 59 per cent of the vote, the NDP was second with 20 per cent, and the Liberals were third with 18 per cent.

## Brandon-Souris

There are four candidates in Brandon-Souris—Conservative Larry Maguire, Joseph Lussier of the People's Party of Canada, Bill Tiessen of the Green Party, and Rebecca Hein of the Christian Heritage Party.

In the 2015 election, Maguire won with 50 per cent of the vote, the Liberals were second with 37 per cent, and the NDP was third with six per cent.

## Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa

There are four candidates in Dauphin-Swan-River-Neepawa—Conservative Dan Mazier, Frank Godon of the People's Party of Canada, Katharine Storey of the Green Party and Jenni Johnson of the Christian Heritage Party.

In the 2015 federal election, Conservative Robert Soppuck won with 46 per cent of the vote, the Liberals were second with 30 per cent, and the NDP were third with 12 per cent.

Over the next three weeks, the World-Spectator will reach out to all the candidates in the local ridings on their policies in this campaign.



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## Mosaic wins at mine rescue competition

*Continued from front*

It's pretty rare to collect that many wins at a competition. I can't think of another time it has happened to be honest where one team comes in and does that, so we're pretty fortunate to have done it this time.

That is our fifth time out there. We went in 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017 and then this year. So going that many times you start to get a sense, and it hasn't been the same team, but you get that consistency from competition to competition. You pass on knowledge—what the judges are looking for, or kind of what to expect. It really helps out having been there four times before for sure.

**What do you attribute that to? The fact that you won the underground competition and the fact that you have been to this level of competition so many times? What makes a difference for Esterhazy?**

I think first of all our people in the program are top notch people that are very, very dedicated, very passionate about mine rescue. I attribute it to our management team at Esterhazy that gives us the ability to do these kinds of things. I know we are very fortunate to be able to get the training that we get and participate in the competitions and all of those kinds of things. A lot of our managers that are here now at one time were in mine rescue, so they understand what the teams are going through. They are in a position where they can support it and they definitely do. Some of our managers took holidays to come out to B.C. and watch, so that is how strongly they feel about mine rescue.

We have a really proactive emergency planning group that I'm part of. We do some pretty big drills every year and we learn from them. You can't attribute it to one thing. It's the whole package that leads to this level of being able to compete and having success at it.

**Is there a higher level than this? Do you have an opportunity to go to international?**

Absolutely. Once you win Western Regionals, you get invited to the International Mine Rescue Body Competition which takes place in 2020 in West Virginia. We'll get the invite, but we have to get approval from our senior people at Mosaic to see if

they are going to support that. Of course it is always a business decision if that can be done, but we're really optimistic at this time that that could happen, but that's not a 100 percent sure. We're in a commodity business and you just never know, but we're cautiously optimistic.

**Now, to get to Westerns you won at provincials, and before that was there a competition at the mine initially to choose who went to provincials?**

Absolutely. We have an in-house competition in April where we have four or five underground teams and three or four surface emergency response teams and we do basically the same events were going to do in Saskatoon. So this team won our in-house competition, as we call it, and then they won provincials, now they won Fernie and are hopefully off to the worlds where there is going to be China and Poland and European countries represented. It would just be such a fantastic learning experience if we're lucky enough to go there.

**You've been to the Western Regionals before, but this is the first time you have ever won at this level?**

Yes. We're really proud that we won, and it would be nice to compete at the next level, that would be really cool, but we are appreciative of the support we have with respect to Mosaic.

**How much of a focus on safety is there at Mosaic?**

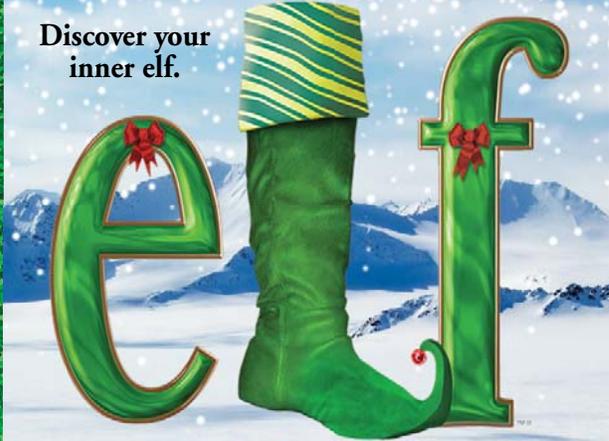
Our incident frequency statistics are probably better than world class, so we have a really, really high focus on safety. We have a lot of safety programs that our employees are involved in and have really bought into. That's what's keeping the place safer and ensuring that people are going home safely. That is our number one focus. Having good emergency response definitely fits in with that, but it's not our whole safety program here.

**Thanks for your time and congratulations on your win!**

It's still kind of sinking in. We thought we had a good day after the competition, but it turned out to be a very, very good day.

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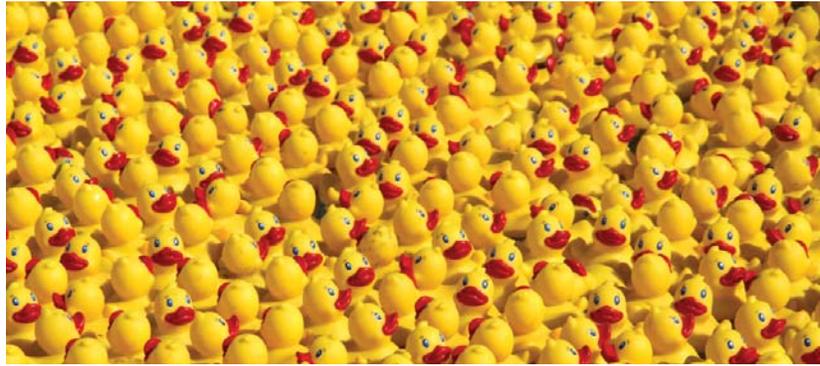
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Above: The ducks floating in the swimming pool waiting to be chosen.

Left: Harper Pritchard from Esterhazy helps haul some of the corporate ducks to the bounce tent.

### At the Tantallon Duck Derby

There was a great crowd on hand for the 2019 Tantallon Duck Derby on Sept. 7! Because of the slow current in the Qu'Appelle River, the ducks were placed in a pool, and the first eight ducks to be scooped out by the kids were winners. The corporate ducks were placed in a bounce tent and bounced around by the kids. The last one in the bounce tent was the winner.

The winners of the duck derby were as follows:  
 \$1000: Betty Gurney  
 \$600: Garnet Howie  
 \$400: Lois Lomenda  
 \$100: Tracey Bomboir, Morley Lowe, Fred Odgers, Daryl Godwin grandkids, Debbie Howie.  
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SEP	TIME	COMMUNITY	EVENT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
23	9:30 - 11:00 AM	CANORA	MEET AND GREET	WONG'S CAFE	113 MAIN ST
23	7:00 - 9:00 PM	KAMSACK	TOWN HALL	LEGION #24	324 2ND ST
24	9:30 - 11:00 AM	NORQUAY	MEET AND GREET	THE WHISTLE STOP	4 RAILWAY E
24	2:30 - 4:00 PM	STURGIS	MEET AND GREET	CHUCKWAGON DINER	434 1ST AVE SE
26	7:00 - 9:00 PM	FOAM LAKE	TOWN HALL	SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE	310 MAIN ST
27	2:00 - 4:00 PM	WADENA	MEET AND GREET	NICK'S PLACE	101 MAIN ST
28	9:30 - 11:00 AM	KELVINGTON	MEET AND GREET	V&S ESSO SERVICE	HWY 38 & 49
30	9:00 - 10:30 AM	WATSON	MEET AND GREET	WATSON MOTOR INN	202 PACIFIC AVE
OCCASIONS		COMMUNITY	EVENT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	7:00 - 9:00 PM	NAICAM	TOWN HALL	NAICAM SENIORS CENTRE	205 1ST ST S
3	1:00 - 3:00 PM	BIORDALE	MEET AND GREET	BIORDALE VALLEY INN	101 HARA AVE W
4	7:00 - 9:00 PM	PORCUPINE PLAIN	TOWN HALL	SUNSET CLUB	207 McALLISTER N
5	7:00 - 9:00 PM	HUDSON BAY	TOWN HALL	LEGION #130	303 MAIN ST
7	2:00 - 4:00 PM	PREECEVILLE	MEET AND GREET	CLUB 60 SENIORS CENTRE	38 1ST AVE NE
8	2:00 - 4:00 PM	SPRINGSIDE	MEET AND GREET	KWAN'S CAFE	421 RAILWAY AVE
9	7:00 - 9:00 PM	YORKTON	CANDIDATES' FORUM	GALLAGHER CENTRE	455 BROADWAY W
10	7:00 - 9:00 PM	ESTERHAZY	TOWN HALL	CANADA HOTEL	1301 PARK AVE
11	9:00 - 11:00 AM	LANGENBURG	MEET AND GREET	GOLDER BOWL	201 KAISER WILLIAM
11	2:00 - 4:00 PM	CHURCHBRIDGE	MEET AND GREET	TONY'S PLACE	121 BRIDGER AVE

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# Condo/Hotel under construction at Grenfell



Continued from page 9

"Grenfell is on the brink of new beginnings and new happenings and new growth," Dimler continued. "It looks promising that we will get a new Level IV care home here," he added, "and there may be the opportunity for a strip mall to be built in the future. There is a potash mine coming six miles south of Grenfell, though this project was in the planning stages before we heard about the potash mine. This facility is needed and it will bring employment," he said.

Dimler still actively farms though their two sons manage and operate the business which employs 12 full-time staff as well as some part-time staff. This new venture will employ approximately 20 part-time and full-time staff.

"Marcia and I really felt compelled to do this for our community, for people to stay, to live and to visit," and with a belief that Grenfell is ready for growth and that it is an exciting place to be, the Dimlers want to spread that enthusiasm. They are looking forward to May 15, 2020, when the complex they have invested so much of their time and heart into will be complete and ready for residents and visitors alike.



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# Sound of Music chosen as next Creative Vision production

BY KARA KINNA

The Sound of Music has been chosen as the next Creative Vision Productions performance, set for November 8, 9, and 10 at the Conexus Convention Centre in Moosomin.

This marks the fifth musical produced by Creative Vision Productions, which holds its performances bi-annually, and has also put on Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, Les Miserables, The Music Man, and Into the Woods.

The heart and soul of Creative Vision Productions are Sandra Poole and Sherrie Meredith, and this year, Raven Wood, one of the original founders of the group along with Sandra and Sherrie, will also be helping out from Brandon, Manitoba with set design.

"The Sound of Music has lots of kids in it and a wonderful nuns' chorus of beautiful singing, and it's different," says Sandra. "We haven't done much showcasing of kids."

"I love that The Sound of Music is a classic," adds Sherrie. "I don't know anyone who doesn't know The Sound of Music and it has an appeal to young and old, and I think that it will be fun to try and put our own spin on the classic piece of theatre."

The pair say that they are looking forward to involving a lot of local talent in the performance once again.

"We're always looking for crew," says Sandra.



A scene from "Into the Woods" which was the last Creative Vision Productions musical performed in 2017.

"We need people on stage and behind stage, and there are sets to build, props to find, desserts to organize, and we have people that we do call on and are really great, but we want to add to the family whenever we can," says Sherrie.

As always, with productions of this size, the pair say the more hands the better.

"I would say it takes close to a 100 people to pull it all together, and there is the band too and all the backstage people," says Sherrie. "I would say close to 100, especially if you include all the people that so generously donate desserts and all those facets as well."

While the show takes place in November, spring

and summer is when all of the prep work gets underway.

"On my end of things, I meet with the people that are on set design and we get started with that in the spring so that we have the summer to start getting the pieces that we need," says Sherrie.

"Our costume people are always on us," says Sandra. "We need to tell them in January what our show is, because they want to dream. As do our hair and makeup people. They love to know so that they can dream and put their own spin on it as well."

"Often we practice with soloists over the summer," says Sherrie.

"Then on my end, I look at the band scores," says Sandra. "Sometimes I rewrite parts because some things call for French horns and we don't have them, so we rewrite it for trumpets. I just want to make sure that whatever voicing we have in the band we have community members that can do that. Sometimes I rearrange things."

"We do all the planning in the summer so that we hit the ground running in the fall."

While it's a lot of work to put on productions of this size, both Sandra and Sherrie say it's totally worth it to be involved.

"We have kind of formed a community over the years,

and a community of people who love to perform or sing or who love to act, and it just gives them another opportunity to do that," says Sandra.

"I think it's fun, it's a great creative outlet, and it allows us to showcase all of the talent that is in this area," says Sherrie. "It is amazing. It blows me away every time, and the fact that it is all here—like the band is here, the singers are here. We're not hiring out of universities or anything like that. This is raw, and it's genuine, and it's amazing."

"I really feel that is a drawing card for a community," adds Sandra. "For the people who want to come and see it, because they know these local people and

they are like 'I didn't know you could do that.'"

Both Sandra and Sherrie put in countless hours to get their productions ready each time. Why do they continue to do it?

"We love the people in the community," says Sandra. "It is a passion for both of us. It is just so much fun to work with people and see them grow, to see them change."

"The journey is almost as rewarding as the final product," says Sherrie. "I shouldn't say 'almost'—it is. You get close with people and it's amazing."

"The final product goes by so quickly, but it's the journey there that is so much fun, and finding when people start to gel and their roles come together, and the singing comes together," says Sandra. "Every day is magic. It is just better than chocolate!"

"A big thank-you to everyone that has helped us out in the past, and we are looking forward to working with people again," says Sherrie. "And anyone who is interested and wants to be a part in any avenue, please let us know, because many hands make light work!"

Sandra and Sherrie say anyone wanting to be involved in the musical in any way can contact either of them.

There will be four performances of The Sound of Music—one on the Friday night, one on the Saturday, and two on the Sunday from November 8-10.

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# Province won't sell Birds Point site

**BY KEVIN WEEDMARK**  
The province of Saskatchewan has decided against selling the Birds Point recreation site to the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

The strip of land next to Round Lake includes a campground, beach and boat launch.

It has long been leased by the Resort Village of Birds Point.

Kahkewistahaw has purchased the adjacent Billy's Pub and Restaurant and applied to purchase the recreation site from the provincial government as the lease was coming up.

Kahkewistahaw has a long term economic development plan for Round Lake, including developing a hotel near Billy's Pub, and developing a marina, cabins, and leased cabin lots. Chief Evan Taypotat told the World-Spectator previously that the First Nation was interested in the provincially owned recreation site because it fit in with their other plans for

"Hopefully the community and the First Nation can work together and it can end up being a win-win for everyone."  
—Senior Park Planner Chris Potter



The beach at Birds Point on Round Lake

the lake.

Cottage owners at Birds Point organized a letter writing campaign urging the provincial government not to sell the land, and keep it as a public space.

Cottage owners feared that under Kahkewistahaw's ownership, the beach would no longer

be open to the public, although Taypotat says that was never the intention.

### Land not available to be sold

Chris Potter, senior park planner with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks Culture and Sport told the World-Spectator the land

cannot be sold because it is designated as parkland.

"I'm the senior park planner in the ministry and I helped review that selection," she said. "We do a provincial review, so they look at which ministry administers the land base. In this case, it's a provincial recreation site, so our

ministry was responsible for collecting information from various ministries across the system.

"In this case the Crown lands that were selected are not considered to be vacant Crown lands. Birds Point Recreation Site is designated as park land under the Parks Act.

"Crown lands that are designated under the Parks Act actually can't be sold or transferred. It would require a deregulation process to do that.

"In this particular case, Birds Point Recreation Site was deemed to be still fulfilling its mandate in terms of providing a recreation destination for the public, and providing public access to Round Lake. That was the overarching piece, and we collected information from various other ministries and stakeholders."

The land is currently leased to the Resort Village of Birds Point, and Potter said that typically when land is leased and there are no major issues, the leases are renewed.

"Typically, our policy around lease renewal is if it's going well and functioning well, it's just a piece of paperwork that happens. We renew the lease. I'm not 100 per cent sure why they selected it, other than I read your article on their economic development plans, and I'm assuming they saw that as a piece that would support their plans.

"My hope is it's still a piece that supports their economic development plans. That land is available for public use, the beach and boat launch area and day use area hopefully ties into their plans. They don't own the land, but it's public land and they have access.

"Hopefully the community and the First Nation can work together and it can end up being a win-win for everyone."

"We wanted to evaluate thoroughly to make sure they are fulfilling all the obligations of their lease. That happens any time there is a lease renewal, but when they are fulfilling their obligations and it's been going well, because they do put in a fair bit of capital expense into their projects, we don't like to pull the rug out from people who have been our partners and have been operating a business well. We wouldn't get too many people wanting to lease from us if we functioned like that."

### Letters had no impact

Potter said the letter writing campaign had no impact on the decision, as it was simply discovered that as designated park land the recreation site cannot be sold.

"No, I saw some of that stuff, but the fact that it's park land, it's protected under the Parks Act. We looked at it is still fulfilling its mandate as park land. That is our over-arching decision maker.

"The RM and others had raised some concerns, but if they looked at the economic development plans they would probably be excited about it. Hopefully everyone can be good neighbors. It's a very small piece of land, and there's public access to that land, so hopefully they can be good neighbors, work together and there can be some positives for everyone in this process."

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# Kaeding takes on role of Minister for Seniors

Warren Kaeding, MLA for Melville-Saltcoats, whose riding includes the Esterhazy, Tantallon and Spy Hill areas, was recently given a new responsibility as Minister for Seniors in addition to his role as Minister of Rural and Remote Health. Editor Kevin Weedmark recently interviewed him on his new role.

**I believe the role of Minister for Seniors used to exist but was eliminated a few years ago.**

Yes that is correct. I believe it was up until 2007 there was a minister responsible for seniors.

**Why was it decided to bring the role back at this point?**

Seniors certainly play a very important role in the province. Demographically we're looking at 15 per cent of our population right now at 65 or greater. In another seven or eight years we're looking at 20 per cent of the population being senior, so I think it is the right time to have a minister responsible for seniors.

**What do you see as your role in this portfolio? What would be your priorities?**

I'm deemed to be minister responsible for seniors so they now have somebody at the highest level of government that is going to advocate for them. It's actually a fairly open book right now as to what that file and responsibility is going to look like.

Look at the role as really formalizing kind of the role and responsibility of how I will be looking after seniors. One of the tasks that I believe in is really looking across government sectors, all of the ministries, and some responsibility to seniors in one way shape or form. I think one of the roles I have is really to do a scan of what ministry has when it comes to the role of seniors

and try and put that together in a cohesive program for them. Kind of single point of contact I guess would be the best way to explain it.

**What do you think are the biggest issues facing the seniors in Saskatchewan right now?**

We will always hear about health care, long term care, palliative care. Those would be the three main topics but I look at other things like seniors in the workforce. Our workforce is changing in who it's attracting and what it's going to require and certainly seeing a lot more seniors both voluntarily and maybe somewhat involuntarily working in the workforce, and how do we give them the tools to be able to adapt to the changing workforce.

I look at my mom, a senior, she's hard of hearing, has a cell phone, doesn't use it, doesn't have an internet connection, so she would be one of many seniors that is really struggling with the changes in technology. I bug her that every few weeks I have to go reprogram her radio on her car.

We have a lot of technology advancements that seniors have not been able to take advantage of, so is there a way that we can streamline that work process for them. For a healthy lifestyle, the best place for anyone is to be living in their own home. So certainly how can we keep seniors in their homes and around their family and friends as long as possible without putting them into long-term care facilities or some long-term extended care facility.

So can we work on preventative health care? Can we work on a healthy, active lifestyle? How can we promote that within our seniors sector? Then I look at things like social isolation, mental health, and another one that has come up is



MLA Warren Kaeding

fraud prevention and elder abuse. That is gaining interest in the senior sectors. Then really just access to services in rural and northern Saskatchewan for seniors and how can we provide them better access.

**What would be your top priorities for this portfolio?**

I would say right now the first priority is doing a scan of all the ministry and how they relate to seniors and then putting that into the old fairly comprehensive package and just finding a way that we can provide those services or access to those services in a simple process for everyone to access it on an easy basis.

Then the next thing is, I'm a proactive guy—how can we help seniors live that healthy active lifestyle, contribute to society as long as they want to and provide the tools to be able to do that.

Thirdly, just to be that voice for them at the cabinet table ensuring that I'm their advocate when it comes to policies that are going to

affect seniors in one way shape or form. Every time we look at changing acts and regulations.

**How will you balance this role with other roles in the government?**

Well a lot of it is overlapping. Certainly with seniors, like I said before, healthcare, long-term care are concerns of theirs and that is certainly a function of the ministry of rural and remote health to have those in its portfolio. So I see a lot of overlapping of responsibilities that we can be thinking of how this affects seniors while we're working on the rural and remote health side, and again looking within our ministry and just seeing if there is opportunities that we can specialize in, what we offer for senior services within the ministry.

**With this role being one that hasn't been there for a few years, how would you judge your success in this? Are there some specific goals or benchmarks that you would like to achieve?**

Well that is something we are certainly going to need to develop. Any time we advance something, we would like to know that we've done it the right way and we've got them measurable, so that is certainly one thing that we're working on right now is what are our goals and how are we going to measure if we've been successful at achieving those. I would say that is a work in progress. The one other thing that I talk about is right now we have a number of initiatives that are actually trialing on what we are working on with seniors.

**What are some of those?**

One would be that Connected Care Strategy, and that's working in Regina and Saskatoon now at

specific clinics, and it's a full comprehensive service that we can provide, a more one-on-one stop service for seniors to get an accumulative type of care, and then certainly have the professionals there that could advance them onto the next level if they need to move to another level.

Then senior house calls. Again it is house calls to high risk seniors, and ultimately they're trying to reduce the number of ER visits by doing more in-home and at-home type of care and prevention. So those are two initiatives that have just started.

And really I need to understand the scope of them and how effective they've been, but we've certainly heard a lot of positive feedback from the senior sector on what those two initiatives have done.

And certainly the other one is a recruitment of geriatric professionals. Like many other rural jurisdictions across North America, we haven't been able to attract a lot of geriatric professionals to health care, and that would be something I think we can measure fairly easy. It is just the number of people we've been able to attract in that field. I've told a number of people before it's not an area we attract young people to thinking that that is going to be a career they could work in.

However, the first week on the job I had a tremendous outreach with a number of folks involved in Alzheimer and dementia research and rural and remote care, so I think again it's maybe a matter of even promoting those services and actions and activities that are going on in our province right now. We just really haven't rounded them all up and formalized them and put them all in one spot, and I see that as my role—being responsible for seniors.



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