



**Wolseley Sports
Celebrity Banquet
coming up October 19
Page 11**

Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



The new 5,000 foot runway at Moosomin Airport. Saskatchewan Highways Minister Lori Carr visited Moosomin recently to see the expanded airport. This view from the south end of the runway shows the scale of the project.

New runway completed at Moosomin Airport

BY KARA KINNA

On September 17, the Government of Saskatchewan and people from across the region came together to celebrate the completion of a brand-new runway located at the Moosomin Airport.

With the project complete, the runway now allows the regional airport to land fixed-wing air ambulances and corporate jets.

The provincial government invested more than \$2.4 million toward the estimated \$10.6 million Moosomin

Airport expansion project, which includes a 5,000 foot by 75 foot paved runway, along with a new taxiway and apron completed this summer.

New navigation and weather systems will be completed soon.

"Aviation is an essential part of Saskatchewan's transportation network," Highways Minister Lori Carr said when she visited the airport Tuesday. "This project illustrates the significance of maintaining and improving the infrastructure necessary to ensure the continuation of vi-

tal services like air ambulance, business and agriculture operations, and private usage. Congratulations to the communities, businesses and partners in the region for working so hard together toward a common goal to land this milestone."

The airport is operated by the RM of Moosomin. The remainder of the project is funded by 18 municipalities across the region, area community members and various donations.

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Campaign kickoff rally attracts large crowd

Kevin Weedmark, the Saskatchewan Party candidate for the Moosomin-Montmartre riding, held a campaign kickoff Thursday October 3 at the Moosomin Legion Hall.

A large number of people came out to show their support. Former Moosomin MLA for 30 years, Don Toth, spoke at the event in support of Weedmark, as did Community Builders Alliance president Tyler Thorn and Councillor Murray Gray.

The provincial election kicked off on Tuesday, with Voting Week set to take place October 22-26, and Election Day set for October 28. As of Friday, Weedmark was the only candidate in the Moosomin-Montmartre riding to have filed his nomination papers.

Top of page: A few supporters and Kevin Weedmark with election signs following the rally.

Left: Sask Party Candidate Kevin Weedmark speaking.

Right: Former longtime Moosomin MLA Don Toth speaking.





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Dr. Schalk Van der Merwe at one of the first landings of the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance at Moosomin's newly expanded airport this summer, left, and with his wife, Henriette, right.

Dr. Schalk van der Merwe

Local doc named Family Physician of the Year

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Dr. Schalk Van der Merwe has been awarded Family Physician of the Year for Saskatchewan.

Van der Merwe is from South Africa and has lived and served southeast Saskatchewan as a family doctor for the past 25 years. Van der Merwe came to Canada in 1998 and is one of 14 physicians in Moosomin, who also serve smaller communities through local clinics.

"We came to Canada in September of 1998, to Redvers with a four-month plan. We were away for the weekend when

Henriette, my wife, saw an ad in the paper that said they were looking for a locum in Redvers for four months and we thought let's go on an adventure.

"We came for four months because I was in a specialty position and then, I was going to go back to South Africa and specialize. I really wanted to do heart transplant surgeries. The first heart transplant surgery ever done was in South Africa in 1969. It still fascinates me to this day.

"We had always decided that if we had kids that I wouldn't do that job because that's a 20 hour a day job, but we'd come

for four months, and two weeks before we flew to Canada, Henriette found out that she was pregnant with Heinrich, with our son, but we decided to go anyway.

"I remember we came in August, and all we knew about Canada is that it was cold, so we came in August and it was hot—we had no shorts and no short sleeve shirts.

"We worked in Redvers from August to December of 1998 and then I met Dr. Crouse at a convention in December and he asked what my plan was after my locum, and I told him that we weren't entirely sure and he said, 'Do you want to come work

in Moosomin for a few months?' Then, I talked to Henriette and she said we could extend it for a few months, and 25 years later we're still here."

Stresses of travelling to a new country

Van der Merwe says there were many little stresses when coming to Canada from South Africa. "I remember flying into Regina when there was one luggage carousel. That's all there was.

Continued on Page 21



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Moosomin Visual Arts Centre holds Grand Opening

Eight months after opening its doors, the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre held its grand opening on Saturday, September 28. The day consisted of an open house from 10 am to 3 pm, mini classes and demonstrations throughout the day, lunch, and a ribbon cutting. From left are MVAC board members Ashley Simon, Darlene Strong, Jen Grant, Olha Volokh, Joy Hamilton-Flaman, Moosomin town councillor Greg Nosterud cutting the ribbon, MVAC chair Krista Crellin, board member Kyla Fingas, and MVAC vice-chair Terry Grant. Sitting on the steps are Hunter and Quinn Flaman.



Terry Grant does a pottery demonstration.



Darlene Strong demonstrating how to make a stained glass piece.



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Who is running in the provincial election

Moosomin-Montmartre

In the last election, the Saskatchewan Party received 78 per cent of the vote in Moosomin-Montmartre, the NDP 16 per cent, the PCs 3.5 per cent and the Greens 2.5 per cent.

Moosomin business owner Kevin Weedmark won a competitive nomination race against two other candidates—former NHLer and finance executive Nevin Markwart and Wawota Mayor Kevin Kay, to become the Saskatchewan Party nominee in Moosomin-Montmartre.

Weedmark earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Regina and owns a printing and publishing business. He has been involved in his community as a volunteer with his church, his Chamber of Commerce, his Economic Development Committee and the Community Builders Alliance.

Chris Ball of Indian Head was named the NDP candidate in Moosomin-Montmartre. Ball grew up in Wolseley and lives with his family in Indian Head. Ball works operating a mobile service truck for commercial tractor trailers and farm implements. He volunteers with his local fire department.

Rémi Rheault of Langenburg is the Green Party candidate in Moosomin-Montmartre. According to a biography provided by the Green Party, "As a long-time social activist (e.g., Black Lives Matter) he targets the loss of self-esteem that comes with joblessness and alienation from cultural traditions."

Otis Ayre of Wolseley is the Buffalo Party candidate in Moosomin-Montmartre. Ayre is working as a cook in a health care facility. According to his Buffalo Party biography "my career has taken me across a variety of fields—from the railroad to construction delivery, and most notably, in cooking."

Adam Erickson of Wolseley has been named as the Saskatchewan United Party candidate in Moosomin-Montmartre. He is a project manager in the agricultural

and energy industries. According to his SUP biography, he was involved in efforts to revive a church camp near Wolseley: "Recently, Adam and his family moved out to Circle Square Ranch hoping to revive it for the children of their community, but six months later it was sold and thus ended the dream before it could ever take hold."

Cannington

In the last election, the Saskatchewan Party received 74 per cent of the vote in Cannington, the Buffalo Party 16 per cent, the NDP 9 per cent and the Greens 2 per cent.

Daryl Harrison of the Saskatchewan Party is running for re-election in Cannington. Harrison was elected as the MLA for Cannington in the 2020 provincial election.

Harrison has been working in the oil industry for over 30 years in various roles including as an Account Manager with Baker Hughes General Electric. In addition, he has served as a councillor for the local rural municipality, the Director for Zone 1 of the Saskatchewan Stock Grower's association, a member of the Lions Club, a volunteer fire fighter and a cattle rancher. He has also served as a school division trustee for the Souris-Moose Mountain and South East Cornerstone School Divisions.

Michelle Krieger is the Buffalo Party candidate in Cannington. Krieger owns and operates a business coaching, consulting and bookkeeping firm in her hometown of Alameda.

She is a town councillor in Alameda and sits on the Southeast Healthcare Recruitment and Retention and the local Saskatchewan Health Authority liaison committees.

Dianne Twietmeyer is the NDP candidate in Cannington. She is a retired teacher. She is a founding member of the Cornerstone Theatre, which maintains a community hall and theatre in Carlyle, and volunteers on the Library Board and as a member of the Legion.



Natalie Clysdale is the Green Party candidate in Cannington

Karen Hovind is running for the NDP in Melville-Saltcoats.

She earned her Master of Education degree in 2021.

She is a teacher, currently working at Melville Comprehensive School. She was raised in Saltcoats and lives in the area. She was previously a town councillor in Saltcoats and has served on several community boards and committees. She is currently a councillor representing her region to the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation.

Melville-Saltcoats

In the last election, the Saskatchewan Party received 76 per cent of the vote in Melville-Saltcoats, the NDP 17.5 per cent, the PCs 4.5 per cent and the Greens 2 per cent.

Warren Kaeding of the Saskatchewan Party is running for re-election in Melville-Saltcoats.

Kaeding received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1985 and worked in the agriculture industry including as the Executive Director for the Sask Farm Stewardship Association, Advisor to the Agriculture Development Fund, Crop Inspector with Maxcor Ventures, and Business Development Rep for Input Capital.

He was involved in his community as Chair of the local economic development board, elder in his church, a member of the Lions Club, and an official with local minor hockey and baseball.

Micah Mang is running for the Green Party in Melville-Saltcoats

Curtis Brooks is running for the Saskatchewan United Party in Melville-Saltcoats.

Brooks was raised in Melville and made a career out of repairing vehicles. After high school, he joined the City of Melville Volunteer Fire Department, where he spent 18 years responding to emergencies in Melville's large fire district.

He spent three years on Melville City Council, from 2006-2009.

He has taught fire training classes, an automotive repair class, a small engine repair class, and a mining pre-employment class.

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Spectator

Where to vote in the provincial election

Voting Week takes place October 22-26, Election Day is October 28

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
Voting in the Saskatchewan provincial election takes place later this month.

Voting Week is Tuesday to Saturday October 22 to 26, and Election Day is Monday, October 28.

A few minutes ago I had the opportunity to visit with our Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty and I asked him to dissolve the 29th Legislature, which will start the campaign for the election on October the 28th," Moe said Tuesday morning.

There are 61 constituencies across Saskatchewan. A party needs 31 at minimum to form government.

Before the Legislature was dissolved last week, the Saskatchewan Party held 42 seats, the NDP 14, and there were four independents. One seat was vacant.

In the 2020 election, 444,997 people voted. A total of 841,807 residents were eligible to vote, meaning turnout was just under 53 per cent.

Here are the voting locations in the Moosomin-Montmartre, Cannington, and Melville-Saltcoats ridings.

Moosomin-Montmartre

Voting week locations are open between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Tuesday, Oct. 22 to Saturday, Oct. 26 at: Moosomin Legion, Rocanville Nutrien Hall, Whitewood Legion, Cowessess Band Hall, Grenfell Community Hall, Indian Head Heritage Club, and Montmartre Seniors Golden Age Club

Election day voting takes place from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28 in the following locations: Moosomin Legion, Whitewood Legion, Rocanville Community Centre, Wapella School, Fleming Community Hall, McLean Community Centre, Vibank Seniors Centre, Francis Town Hall, Odessa Community Hall, Indian Head Memorial Hall, Sintaluta Silver Horizons



Centre, Carry the Kettle Community Hall, Montmartre Seniors Golden Age Club, Glenavon Centennial Hall, Wolseley Town Hall/Opera House, Grenfell Community Hall, Zagame Anishinabek Community Complex, Cowessess Band Hall, Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre at Kahkewistahaw First Nation, Broadview Community Centre, and Windthorst Community Recreation Centre.

Melville-Saltcoats

Voting week locations are open between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Tuesday, Oct. 22 to Saturday, Oct. 26 at: Melville Community Works Gym, RM Langenburg Auditorium, S.N. Boreen Community Centre in Esterhazy, and Saltcoats and District Community Hall.

Election day voting takes place from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28 in the following locations: S.N. Boreen Com-

munity Centre in Esterhazy, Spy Hill Community Hall, Spy Hill, Saltcoats and District Community Hall, Calder Community Hall, MacNutt Recreational Centre, Langenburg Community Centre, Churchbridge Community Centre, Bredenbury Busy Bees, Melville Community Works Gym, Lemberg Friendship Centre, Neudorf Community Hall, Grayson Senior Citizen's Centre, Bangor Hall, and Senior's Ethnic Centre in Stockholm.

Cannington

Voting week locations are open between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Tuesday, Oct. 22 to Saturday, Oct. 26 at: Wawota Drop In Centre, Redvers Golden Age Centre, Kipling Community Centre & Town Hall, Carlyle Happy Gang Club, Lampman Prairie Lily Club, Oxbow Friendship Centre, and Stoughton Legion Hall.

Election day voting takes place from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 28 in the following locations: Wawota Drop In Centre, Fairlight Drop In Centre, Maryfield Harmony Senior Centre, Kipling Community Centre & Town Hall, Kennedy Friendship Centre, Redvers Golden Age Centre, Manor Community Hall, Village of Fillmore Office, Corning Community Hall, Kenosee Lake Four Seasons Drop-In, White Bear First Nation Community Hall, Antler Community Hall, Carlyle Happy Gang Club, The Optimist Legion Hall in Arcola, Kisbey Rec Centre, Pheasant Rump Community Centre, Stoughton Legion Hall, Ocean Man Band Hall, Griffin Community Recreation Centre, Lampman Prairie Lily Club, Frobisher Union Church, Alameda Merry-makers, Oxbow Friendship Club, Glen Ewen Communityplex, Alida Golden Gate Centre, St. Andrew's United Church in Carnduff, Storthoaks Sunshine Club, Carievale Community Hall, Gainsborough Community Hall.

Feds promise carbon tax rebates, lower credit card fees to small businesses

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

After holding onto some \$2.5 billion in carbon tax rebates promised to small and medium sized businesses since 2019, the federal government announced last week that payments could come before Christmas. The Canada Carbon Rebate for Small Business is poised to distribute those funds to around 600,000 eligible businesses across the nation by Dec. 16 through direct deposit from the CRA, or by New Year's Eve if in cheque form. Examples of what to expect for a typical business in Saskatchewan—based on employee numbers—is as follows: 10 employees, \$11,560; 25 employees, \$28,900; 50 employees, \$57,800; 100 employees, \$115,600.

"Small- and medium-sized businesses are Canada's economic engine, employing nearly two-thirds of all Canadian workers," said federal finance minister Chrystia Freeland. "We are making it cost less for businesses to start-up, grow, and thrive, so they can help our main streets flourish."

When the carbon tax rebate for small businesses was first announced, a third party was supposed to be sought by spring of 2023 who would then distribute the funds sometime throughout the year. At that time, many groups were

critical of the federal government and the lack of a timeline for repayment. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business was one of those voices calling for an update back in February, and is now pleased to see movement in that regard.

"CFIB is relieved to learn the federal government will return the \$2.5 billion small business share of carbon tax revenue that has been stuck in Ottawa for the past five years," said Dan Kelly, CFIB president. "It's good news that this money will be returned to small businesses by direct deposit or cheque before the end of the year. These are not trivial amounts of money."

Businesses will not need to apply for the rebate as

the CRA will handle delivery of the dollars. The rebate is calculated by the number of employees a business employed from 2019 to 2023, then multiplying that number by a payment rate for each of those provinces and years.

Credit card fees also reduced

Another big change for small business relates to credit card transactions with reduced fees to take effect Oct. 19. Estimated to save eligible small businesses \$1 billion over five years, more than 90 per cent of small- and medium-sized businesses that accept credit cards as payment will see their fees reduced by up to 27 per cent.

"By reducing the cost of accepting credit card payments, and returning more money to small businesses, Canadian entrepreneurs will be able to put more of their money towards growing their business and creating good-paying jobs," Freeland said.

An example of a store

processing \$300,000 in credit card payments would see that business pay around \$4,000 in fees right now. With the new agreements in place, that store could see a savings of \$1,080 in fees annually.

A further revision to the Code of Conduct for the Payment Card Industry

was also announced, and will come into play effective Oct. 30. The revised Code is seen to help businesses compare prices and offers from various payment processors, striving to also cut the complaint handling response time by almost 80 per cent to 20 business days.

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Austin Jones in the Minotaur Skyrace in June 2024.

The race is 35 km long, with a vertical climb of 2,800 m. Jones completed the race with a time of 5:26:01

Sets new record at Iron Legs Mountain Race

Jones wins 100km race with a time of 12:15:11

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Austin Jones of Wapella is a marathon runner and has recently broken the Iron Legs Marathon race record. Jones won the 100 km race on August 17 in Calgary.

The World-Spectator interviewed him on his latest win:

Tell me a bit about yourself.

I was born in Brandon and I grew up in Wapella. All of my family is still there so I still go home quite a bit. Then, I moved to Calgary eight years ago. I am a plumber in Calgary. I didn't get into running until the pandemic. Basketball was my first sport I really liked which I played a lot of growing up in Wapella and Moosomin. I started running during the pandemic because there was nothing really to do and I wanted to stay active and then I fell in love with it.

Why do you think you fell in love with running? What about it makes you love it?

I think for me you get out what you put in for the most part with running. If you put the time and effort in, you will improve. There isn't a whole lot of skill to running it is more just putting in the time which I really like that mindset.

What sort of training do you do for running marathons?

I really like trail running or mountain running. In Calgary we are about an hour from the Canadian Rockies so that is where I

really love running.

For training, I usually go to the gym once or twice a week to build some leg strength, but the bulk of training is just running.

I live in the city, and there are some trails by my house that I try and run there and then run on the pavement. On the weekends, I try and get out to the mountains and do some of my longer runs out there.

A weekly training split would be probably I usually run about six days a week anywhere from 100 kms to 150 kms a week for training.

Mostly what I like doing is running out in the mountains, so I usually try and run those kilometers in the mountains where there is lots of ups and downs and you're running up and over running passes. I pret-

ty much just run.

How many marathons have you run?

I did my first at the Calgary marathon in 2022, which is a road marathon done in the city and that is 42.2 kms.

I have done a few ultra-marathons—they are called—so anything over the 42 kms that a marathon is called an ultra-mara-

thon.

I have done two 50 km races where one was near Swift Current and I did another this year in Vernon.

Then I did a 50 mile last summer in Crowsnest which is 80 kms. Then, I did Iron Legs this summer which was 100 kms.

I understand you set a new record at the Iron Legs marathon. How did

that feel?

It was pretty good. The day went pretty much as well as it could have there was no major issues and I trained pretty consistently all year, so it was nice to see that all pay off.

Those trails are pretty close to my house so it was kind of like my home trail, so it was nice to put down a good effort out there.

Continued on page 17

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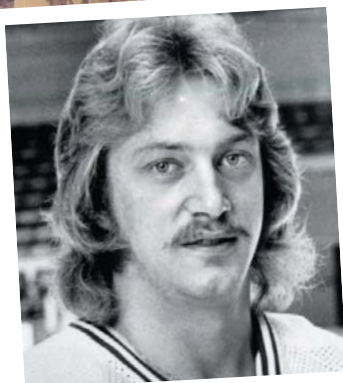
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Event to follow



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Gil Dash

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Wolseley holding Sports Celebrity Dinner fundraiser

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

The Wolseley & District Sportsplex Board is hosting a celebrity Sports Banquet on Saturday, October 19 as a fundraiser for replacing the artificial ice plant at the Wolseley Rink.

The banquet will feature sports broadcaster Rod Pederson, and athletes Bob Poley, Lorne Molleken, and Gil Dash.

"We are hosting the Wolseley Sport Celebrity Dinner and it is going to be at the Wolseley Sportsplex on October 19," says Vance Weber. "Doors open at 5 pm, dinner is at 6 pm and speeches at 7 pm. We have special guests coming. There is one other speaker beyond those four, his name is Larry Beuler, he will be doing our silent auction and our live auction."

"We are hoping some funds are raised for the ice plant from the fundraiser, but it's also about exposure."

"The town of Wolseley has been really good at taking care of its properties. For example, our town hall has graced the cover of the Saskatchewan Heritage Society magazine. Our court house—which is another thing that we are slowly but surely trying to raise funds for to bring it back to its former glory—it is the oldest court house in Saskatchewan and what was the Northwest Territories. It was built in the Northwest Territories sometime in the mid-1880s. We want to get that kind of exposure for our rink, and we started with Kraft Hockeyville earlier this year."

He said the ice plant is overdue for replacement.

"Our ice plant is 44 years old, and it was designed to last 25 years. Through diligence and excellence of maintenance we have made it stay alive for as long as we have. Two years ago, we had a fairly major breakdown. It was a combination of breakers, compressor, and some leaks, and at the point we said, 'We are going to start raising some money for a new one.'"

\$250,000 raised

"About 18 months ago we started raising funds



to replace our ice plant. It will probably cost between \$700,000 and \$800,000, but the cheapest version is going to be about \$700,000 for the ice plant, and in 18 months we have raised \$250,000 which I think is absolutely outstanding for such a small community," says Weber. "Wolseley has 850 people plus 300 in the Rural Municipality."

"We have had cabarets, we did a comedy night that raised about \$30,000, we have had tournaments. That is where the Kraft Hockeyville idea came from and Natasha Perras was our instigator on that. Then after Hockeyville we thought the best way to capitalize on it—and we heard other Kraft Hockeyville communities got around \$100,000 depending on the community—was with a sports celebrity dinner. For example, Assiniboia raised \$150,000 and we thought even if we only get \$50,000, we have to try it and so we did. This will be the biggest fundraiser for the ice plant, and it will also be the most labour intensive."

"If I were to talk about it from an infrastructure project and importance, I would put it third on my list for our town. Our long-

term care facility employs more people than anything else and it is vital to the spirit of the entire community. Number two we have a sewer line that we need to work on, however there is a bridge there and people are deciding on whether we keep the bridge or let it go, and then the ice plant is third."

Community hub

Weber says the rink is the hub of the community in winter.

"The reason why it is on the list of the top three infrastructure needs in Wolseley, is because for eight months of the year it is a community hub."

"It is a place where great-grandparents can go and sit next to their great-grandkids and cheer on their family. You can grab a burger or a coffee and socialize with people in the

community. There is just something about it, whether it is figure skating, minor hockey events or just practice, it really ties the community together. I think it would be the most-visited facility in our community. It is vital to our community."

Lots of volunteers

Weber says a group of volunteers has been working hard to put on this event.

"On our main committee there are about nine people helping organize this fundraiser and probably around 20 people altogether who have pitched in."

"Our sponsorship is incredibly successful. I believe we are at \$77,500 in sponsorship to date. I am pretty pumped about that and there are still a couple

more to come in. We are capping ticket sales at 300 because it is our first one. We currently are at 257 tickets sold so we are nearing our capacity. There is still time for people to buy tickets and help sponsor us."

More fundraising

Weber says even after the sports banquet, there will be more fundraising to do.

"Even after this event we are going to be only about halfway there. I think this is something that reaches across Southern Saskatchewan. We were Saskatchewan's Kraft Hockeyville contestant this year and got support from all over. Nobody has ever won from Saskatchewan. It is an uphill battle because of our small population. I think we did fairly well, but we

just couldn't compete with Ontario. When we won \$25,000, Brent Wilson, who was a former Dragon off of Dragon's Den, he is a really cool dude, he gave us a personal donation of \$25,000 from his foundation which was amazing. He is just a very nice human being."

Construction in 2025 or 2026

Weber says construction could start next year or the following year.

"We have applied for a grant and if we get it, I think we will start construction in the spring when the ice is out, but if we don't get it and we can continue our incredibly successful trajectory, I do think construction would then start in the spring of 2026 without any grant."

Continued on page 22



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Virden Theatre Productions performing Freaky Friday the Musical

The talented creative team behind the consistently stellar community productions at the Virden Aud Theatre know they have a hit show on their hands with this year's *Freaky Friday the Musical*.

An adaptation of the classic novel and beloved films, *Freaky Friday* follows teenager Ellie Blake and her mother, Katherine, on the weirdest, strangest, craziest, freakiest day of their whole lives.

Try as they might, Katherine and Ellie just can't seem to understand each other; Ellie wants her mom to stop trying to change her, while Katherine wants her daughter to be the best possible version of herself. On a fateful Friday, the day before Katherine's wedding, something magical occurs when mother and daughter swap bodies. Now, both will have to literally spend a day walking in each other's shoes, learning about each other and the struggles each goes through, and forging a new mother-daughter relationship in this hilarious, energetic, and moving musical comedy.

The 41-member cast and a huge backstage crew of problem solvers are working tirelessly to bring this magical show to life.

At the forefront of this perfectly cast ensemble are the dynamic and hilarious Brandon mother daughter team of Ramey and Avery Praznik, who appear as Katherine and Ellie Blake. These two women bring such professionalism and vibrancy to their roles. Ramey is a guidance counsellor at Crocus Plains High School in Brandon, and she has taught drama and directed productions for many years. Avery is a graduate of Randolph School of the Performing Arts in Toronto, and she is, beyond a doubt, one of Westman's most incredible triple threats ever to take the stage. These two actresses are hilarious, and man, can they sing!

Acting alongside these two unbelievably talented women are clever Grade 7 student Corbyn Waller as the little brother Fletcher, and much-loved Brandon photographer Rob Lovatt as the patient, loving fiancé Mike. Ellie's romantic interest in the musical is Adam, and a Brandon veteran of the stage, Brody Burr, is cast perfectly in this role. Audiences will love his smooth vocals, and Brody's skill as a trained dancer shines through in all choreography.



The cast of *Freaky Friday* in rehearsals.



Virden Collegiate students Charley Dunning and Avrin Krieser play Gretchen and Hannah, Ellie's two best friends. These two homegrown talents certainly are proof of the strong training and opportunities that Virden music and theatre programs offer. Souris performer Nyah Perkin steps into the role of Savannah, Ellie's feisty, confident adversary. Nyah has many professional acting credentials, including starring in a feature film that has garnered her many international awards.

This vibrant show offers an excellent showcase for local talent. Retired FLB music educator Sandra Unger is truly wonderful as the demanding gym teacher Ms. Myers, Jill Radwanski (née Wakely) sets the professional acting standard in her role as Grandma (she's a scene stealer), local favorites Todd Plaisier and Darrell Corbel make a fabulous team as officers Sitz and Kowalski.

Of course, the depth of the cast's talent shines through in both the ensemble and in supporting characters—Danielle the reporter played by Cheryl Sisson and Megan Perkin, Scott Perkin as Louis, Cody Thiessen as Parker, Rixon Suski as Wells, Piper Sisson as Laurel, Shane Groom as Mr. Blumen, Greg Kirk as Pastor Bruno, Les

Martens as Grandpa, and Wendy Bancescu as Mrs. Time. Virden Theatre Productions is so incredibly proud of the growth of all our performers, both young and old. We love the process as much as the product.

Producer/Director Michelle Chyzyk is excited about so many moments in the show, but she did mention that one definite highlight in her mind is the scene in the guidance counsellor's office that features Mike Thiessen as Dr. Ehrin, Darrell Corbel as Senor O'Brien, and Monique Waller and Christie Archambault sharing the role of Mrs. Luckenbill... laughs guaranteed.

When asked why people should attend this particular show, Dramatic Director Dean Munchinsky said, "This *Freaky Friday* is an absolute blast. We are fortunate enough to have amazing talent who have worked hard and collaborated with the entire team to create a very entertaining little universe. The story, the acting, the singing, and the visuals are stunning. We'd love to share this with everyone."

Dean and Michelle are very excited about having added two young talents into their production circle. These women have injected intelligence, hard work and magic into this venture. JaysaLee Davies has capably taken on the role of Assistant

Producer, while also appearing on stage as Torrey, Katherine's high strung personal assistant. Brandon dance teacher and choreographer Katey Rogowsky has certainly made her mark with innovative and exciting choreography that will have huge audience appeal. These four are joined by the most amazing, hard-working and creative crew who are planning costuming, props, sets, Ladies' Night, as well as some elaborate rock concert style lighting and technology. There is never anything "amateur" about these departments.

Audiences for *Freaky Friday* will be the first to try out the Aud Theatre's brand new seats. Shows are of November 6 - 9 at 7:30 pm, and there are also 1:30 pm matinees on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. This fast-paced show is family friendly and suitable for most ages, although children under age four will not be admitted.

All tickets are \$25 and are now on sale on Eventbrite. Ladies Night tickets are also on sale at Flower Attic and Gifts in Virden.





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Austin with his family at the Iron Legs 100 km race he won, August 2024



Austin in the Kal Park 50km run, May 2024

Sets new record at Iron Legs Mountain Race

Jones wins 100km race with a time of 12:15:11

Continued from page 9

Why do you participate in marathons? What about them do you like?

The longer distances. I am not really sure to be honest. There is a mental part that I am drawn to and I am also not the fastest so the longer the races go the more chance you have of doing well when you're not the fastest runner because there are so many other things that you need to take care of.

When you are running that long, eating and hydrating are so important. Taking care of yourself is a huge thing. That is probably what I am drawn to, all of the other pieces of the puzzle. It isn't necessarily the running, you have to be on your food and nutrition and I just love spending big days out in the mountains.

What are some of the challenges when running a marathon?

If you're new to running, running is a really repetitive sport so it can be really hard and easy to get over-use injuries.

The stick-to-it-ness is a challenge I would say because it can be very repetitive which some people may not like.

The biggest thing—if you want to start running—is to very slowly build up your runs because if you do too much too fast you can injure your joints just from all the pounding.

Running is very hard on your joints. I think it is pretty crucial to eat and work your way up in distance.

You sound like you have learned a lot about running and the effects it has on your body. How did you learn about it?

Mostly through trial and error and the internet. For the last year or two I have met some other people that are into running ultras and they have taught me some things.

They have been through it and have the knowledge as well, just friends and stuff like that.

What do you have ahead to look forward to in terms of marathons?

Nothing right now. I might look into some races next summer, but as of right now I have got nothing planned.

What are your goals in the future for running marathons? Is there anywhere you would like to go and run a marathon?

I would like to continue to have fun with it and getting out running in the mountains.

Someday I would maybe like to do a 100 mile race so 160 kms, but nothing planned just something I would possibly be interested in, in the future.

We're so blessed here with the Canadian Rockies, there are so many beautiful peaks

out there, but if I had to pick a race I would be interested in, there is the Utah called the Trushar Mountain Run that I have kind of looked at that would be really cool.

There are some really big ultras in the States like Western States is out in California and it is a really historic race and I just recently got home from France with my wife and where we were there is a big ultra called UTMB. I don't have a ton of

interest in running it, but it would be cool to go see the event for sure.

How many more years do you see yourself running marathons?

As long as I am enjoying running I will continue running it so I hope there are still quite a few years left, but the main thing is as long as I am enjoying it then I will probably keep running.



Austin in the Sinister 7 50 Mile Ultramarathon, July 2023

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Shayda King doing stroud layout.



Truco Trick Riders with this year's sponsor, Hi-Hog.

Truco Trick Riders end busy year

By RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

What began with a group of riders gathering to fill a trick riding clinic in Corning quickly evolved into close friends taking the rodeo world by storm. Back in 2021, Shayda King of Corning, Jordana White from Carnduff, and Kyla Dyer from Oxbow met at the King's riding arena for the clinic.

"We pretty much just needed girls to come out so that for the instructor it was worthwhile for her to come," explained Shayda. "And the other girls tried it and loved it, so then we talked about forming a team."

Soon, Bailey Steeves from Carnduff and Charlize Hallberg from Weyburn rounded out the team.

"I grew up on horses and climbing all over my ponies and stuff," Shayda said. "And then I knew there was a couple girls that did it from Estevan that we knew, and had seen videos of them, and I thought it was cool."

The summer of 2022 saw Shayda perform at rodeos the family was attending, offering some valuable performance time.

"The first summer that we had a team, I did a few shows by myself at rodeos that we were going to as a family," Shayda recalled.

She found a lot of support in those early performances as the people Shayda was performing in front of were friends and family.

During the following year, Steeves and White were able to perform with King, but Dyer was facing a major health issue that kept her from riding.

"Kyla was battling aplastic anemia, and was having a bone marrow transplant, so she took the whole year to recover," said Shayda's mom, Tammy. "Then in 2024 Kyla and was able to perform with us, and Charlize joined us."

Last year was when the group really began to launch, performing in 24 shows, but this year proved to be where the Truco Trick Riders really took flight.

"This summer, we had (shows) every weekend except two," Tammy said. "And they added six days at the Brandon Winter Fair, and Tisdale in the spring."

Each performance is six to eight minutes in duration, keeping people glued to their seats between rodeo events.

"Most places use them as a rodeo intermission," Tammy said. "They only need us to be that long, they don't want a long performance."

"For a trick riding performance, we have a longer show, because we also do amateur rodeos, so they want more time taken up," Shayda added. "Some of the pro girls can have shows that are under four minutes."

Continued on page 25



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From left are Sask Air Ambulance Chief Pilot Jeff Egeland, Sask Air Ambulance Aircraft Maintenance Manager Tanya Scheelhaase, Flight Nurse Brian Topp, Manager of Saskatchewan Air Ambulance David Mandzuk, Director of Flight Operations Dan Knisley, Jeff St. Onge with the Moosomin airport expansion committee, Sask Highways Minister Lori Carr, Dr. Schalk van der Merwe with the Moosomin airport expansion committee, RM of Moosomin Reeve David Moffatt, Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson, and Tyler Thorn with the Community Builders Alliance.

New runway completed at Moosomin Airport

Continued from front

"Although our municipality owns this airport, this aviation infrastructure serves the Moosomin region's residents, families, local businesses and industries," RM of Moosomin No. 121 Reeve David Moffatt said. "Thanks to neighbours coming together and the provincial government's investment, this project moved from vision to reality."

Fixed wing air ambulances serving Saskatchewan began landing at the Moosomin Airport in July.

"With this expansion, our Saskatchewan Air Ambulance team will be able to improve the critical care and lifesaving transportation services in the southeast corner of the province," SaskBuilds and Procurement Minister Terry Jensen said. "We appreciate the collaborative partnerships that made this a reality and look forward to the social and economic improvements this will bring to southeastern Saskatchewan."

Kevin Weedmark of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce, the Community Builders Alliance and the Economic Development Committee said he was happy to see the project come together.

"I was proud to chair the event in 2023 where the provincial government and Nutrien announced their support for the airport expansion, I was proud to be there this summer when the Air Ambulance landed for the first

time in Moosomin, and I'm happy to see Minister Carr out today and see this project come to fruition.

"This was a massive project that is already having an impact. The airport is already much busier than before the expansion, the Air Ambulance is now able to serve the region, and with corporate jets now able to reach the region, there will be benefits for regional investment and for our resource industries. It was great to see the province come on board with this project, it was great to see Nutrien come on board with the project, it was great to see the local business community step up and it was great to see local municipalities each take a share. Collaboration builds our communities, and having everyone work together on this project made it a success."

"This airport epitomizes the spirit of how this province and the prairies remain committed to working together," said Jeff St. Onge, one of the organizers of the airport expansion. "It showcases strength and perseverance, dedication and relentless hard work, and is a testimony of what can happen if you have 100 businesses and personal donors, 18 towns, RMs and villages, two provinces and one provincial government working together. If you can have them working together in mutual trust, open communication and respect, you can get anything done."

"It gives us options for those who are sick or unwell and it gives us the option to serve all of our communities

that have contributed or that have in any way, shape or form been involved in this project," says Dr. Schalk van der Merwe, who helped organize the airport expansion along with St. Onge.

"On behalf of the local private sector and the business community, we would like to say thank you very much to the provincial government for their contribution, and to Nutrien as well for their contribution. Both of those were very significant and we're very appreciative of your generosity," said Tyler Thorn with the Community Builders Alliance. "I believe this project is a great example of what can be accomplished when you bring together the provincial government, local municipal governments, local corporate partners, the local private sector, and some very determined people who like to get stuff done."

"Between the government and Nutrien and everyone else that has been involved in this project, it's unbelievable what can be done when everybody works together," said Moosomin Mayor Larry Tomlinson.

"I have to thank Dr. Van and Jeff for all of the work that they've done and I want to thank the government and Nutrien especially. We're very proud to be a part of this airport and what it's come to be and I think going into the future, it will be part of the growth in our community here. This will do nothing but expand that and bring more to our town and the surrounding communities."



Jeff St. Onge with the Moosomin airport expansion committee and Sask Highways Minister Lori Carr inside the Sask Air Ambulance.



Jeff St. Onge and Dr. Schalk van der Merwe with the Moosomin airport expansion committee on the steps of the Sask Air Ambulance plane. St. Onge and van der Merwe initiated the expansion project.



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Dr. Schalk van der Merwe

Local doc named Family Physician of the Year

Continued page 5

"I remember landing in Montreal and that was a funny story. I said to the lady who booked our trip, 'We've never been out of the country so please make sure that our hotel is right at the airport,' and she said, 'Yup, no problem!' So we get to Montreal, we get off, everybody is speaking French and we didn't know that was a thing in Canada. We found an agent and I asked where the hotel was and she replied saying it wasn't at this airport. So, my wife who's four weeks pregnant and nauseous, she said, 'I'm going to sit here with all of our suitcases while you go sort this out.' I had the telephone number for the hotel, but as soon as I pick up the pay phone, it's all in French. I can't speak French and I'm thinking this is not good. I put the phone back and I walked around, then I would come back and pick up the pay phone again because I thought maybe there was a cycle where if you pick it up this time it's in French, but if you pick it up again it would be in English. That went on for maybe an hour and then finally I saw that there was a button you could push for English. So we landed at Dorval and our hotel was at Mirabel because the agent didn't realize that there were two international airports in Montreal.

"We realized just how vast this country is when we got into the aircraft and I asked the flight attendant—in South Africa we can fly across the whole country in two hours—how long it would be to our next stop and she replied, 'Oh, another four and a half hours.' I was shocked and thought four and a half hours in one country was crazy. I remember landing in Regina with wheat fields along the highway and I remember thinking we were going to be safe."

First impressions of Canada

Van der Merwe says he immediately felt at home in Canada.

"I thought this may as well be a farming community in South Africa because it's exactly the same, the people are the same and just as friendly—it was the same except for the language. I thought that was so cool and things were smooth because I remember getting off the aircraft in Montreal and I had to go through immigration. All of my paperwork was there and when I got off, everything was there, they knew where we were going and what we were here for. Since it was so easy, I had a really good impression."

Interested in medicine

Van der Merwe jokes that he got into medicine because he wanted to know what was behind the "Authorized Personnel Only" doors.

"The sign that says Authorized People Only, I wanted to know what makes you authorized. In the Operating Rooms you always see Authorized People Only and I always thought about what it means, and the answer was go to medical school for seven years and then we'll let you through. Truly that was it, I wanted to know what was through those doors."

Family Physician of the Year

Van der Merwe says his colleagues nominated him for the award.



Schalk van der Merwe and a few of his colleagues at the Moosomin Family Practice Centre

"Ross Kerkhoff had told me he was going to nominate me for this award and I just thought 'whatever,' because there are a lot of people who do great work, not just in this province, but in the country, so I didn't think I would have much of a chance. I thanked Ross for doing the work because it's a long process," Dr. Van said.

"I was sitting in the hospital when my phone rang and it wasn't a number I had as a contact, but I saw it was from Saskatoon so I thought maybe it was the College of Physicians."

"I answered the phone and the guy said he was the President of the College of Family Physicians of Saskatchewan, to tell me that I had won this award."

"At first I thought it was just one of my friends that was messing with me, but he was serious."

"Then I got an email a little bit later from the College of Family Physicians saying congratulations and telling me that I won the award. That was really cool."

Van der Merwe says there was a lot of support for his colleagues to submit to nominate him for the award.

"You have to be nominated by one of your colleagues, then the mayor, Larry Tomlinson had to write something, the nursing staff, then my office staff wrote some stuff, and so did some of my colleagues. Then it gets assessed by a group of people because there are a lot of worthy applicants. Then you are notified if you're chosen."

Appreciates recognition

Van der Merwe says he is very excited to attend the conference to accept the award.

"I have never won anything like this," he said. "It is such an overwhelming feeling because it's hard to think that people actually recognize what you do."

"To win it for the province—my first thought is this is pretty cool, and then my next thought is this is a huge responsibility."

"We have to go to Vancouver for the conference so I thought I can't not wear something green for the Riders. It's a national conference and I won something. I have to represent the province. I was actually in the Rider store last week wondering what I am going to wear."

He says it took a while to believe he won the award.

"I had thanked the person on the phone and then after I thought I can't believe this is real. I called my wife about it, but then thought I would keep it to myself because I want to see it first and believe it myself."

"Then, the email came so I knew it was real and then thought I'll tell some people. I talked to Dr. Ross and my colleagues thanking them for nominating me and having their support."

He says there is a national conference each year. "There is a conference every year and they alternate where it is going to be between western and eastern Canada. So this year it just happened to be in Vancouver, then next year it will be somewhere in the east or the Atlantic provinces. There is a College of Family Physicians of Canada which is equal to the

Royal College of Specialists or the Royal College for surgeons or radiologists. It is the national governing body."

Excited for event

Van der Merwe says there will be a presentation at the conference before he is presented with his award.

"There is a presentation about me. They asked me to send pictures of where I am from, where you work, and then they present them at the conference."

"Ashley (Bochek) and I went around and took some pictures showcasing the town a few weeks ago for the presentation at the event."

He says he is looking forward to the event. "I am looking very forward to it. I actually went out and bought a new suit. The Saskatchewan chapter had an event on September 29 so they presented some stuff there as well."

Van der Merwe thinks award programs are a great way to recognize the outstanding people in the profession.

"I think there are lots of people that work without any recognition and I think the most important part of an award like this is to recognize not only individuals but the team around them. It is great for me to get the award, but really without having people to support you, that wouldn't happen. Medicine specifically, if you don't have the team, it isn't happening. You need your nurse team, lab team, x-ray team, so I think there is lots of value to it. Especially if you're selected by your peers in your province, there is lots of value in that."



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Wolseley holding Sports Celebrity Dinner fundraiser

Continued from Page 11

Four stages to project

"We have four phases for this project," said Weber. "Fundraising and scope of project designs is step one. Stage one is not completed on the fundraising side nor on the scope of project design either because if we get the grant we have applied for then we are going to do certain things that satisfy that grant that we cannot afford if we don't get it. So, phase one is still ongoing."

"Phase two is going to be a dehumidifier and electrical upgrades. We need to get the moisture out of the air to make it easier to start up our plant. It will actually extend the life of our existing plant with the dehumidifier, and it will extend the lifespan of the new one as well because it's easier to cool the ice if it is dry air because you don't have to work against the heat and humidity in the air. Then, it also makes it easier to keep it cool."

"Electrical is also a part of phase three, and phase four is the insulation for the new ice plant."

Motivation for helping

Why does Weber want to help with this project?

"I am a person that says 'Put your money where your mouth is,' if you're going to open your mouth then you might as well do the work," he says. "I said we should have started raising funds a long time ago to replace the plant and so as soon as I started opening my mouth I thought I should help do the work and it is of vital importance to the mental health and well-being, and recreational opportunities of this community in the winter."

"If you're motivated to donate by reading this article you can reach out to the Town of Wolseley. They accept e-transfers and cheques—just put Ice Plant on it if you want to make a donation. We will give you a tax receipt as well if you donate because it is a charitable cause. Their phone number is 306-698-2477 and their email is townofwolseley@sasktel.net. If you want to have further discussions about this, you can reach me, Vance, at 306-698-7337. I am always willing to talk to people about this ice plant."

Hockeyville run helped bring community together

Natasha Perras organized Wolseley's participation in Kraft Hockeyville.

"It happened after the ice plant meeting. We were just a small group that was all sent home to brainstorm ideas for fundraisers we could do," she says.

"I remember Pense was a part of the Hockeyville years ago and I thought we could do it too. We tried the year prior, but we just couldn't get enough push behind it and then we just tried a little harder and I gathered more people to get it started. January 1 of this year the nominations opened, and we planned to participate in

it."

She says it took a lot of work.

"The nomination process wasn't a lot of work, it was just a lot of push to do a nomination story to upload their pictures and do all the little things that needed to be done."

"Once we made the top four is when all the real work began. We had a little booth set up at the rink with technology where we could help you do your nomination story so we tried to get as many people as we could. Then, once we made top four there was a lot more work. We broke down into committees of what everyone was going to do, and we had a head of each committee, and everybody worked hard. We got our name out there as far and wide as we could and really hoped for the best."

Perras says the event brought the community together.

"It is often in a community this small it's not an unusual experience to see your community rally together, but to see your community rally together in such a posi-

tive experience, it was really good to see."

"Normally, when the community does rally together, it is unfortunate circumstances, but this was a really positive circumstance for Wolseley and shone a new light on the community."

"People in the community that didn't know what we needed now know we need a new ice plant. It just made awareness of what the rink needs, the community needs, how much work goes into the rink, and the dedicated volunteers that we do have at the rink."

"It put Wolseley on the map and people know where and who we are. I think it was a good experience. It didn't turn out the way we wanted it to turn out, but it was a good experience that is for sure."

Plans coming together for Sports Celebrity Banquet

Krista Laverdiere is the event co-ordinator for the Sports Celebrity Banquet.

"It has gone very well," she says. "We

have a great amount of support from the community behind us and the people on the committee are working really hard on this. We are a close knit group that want to get things done and see this new ice plant happen."

Laverdiere says the fundraiser should be a lot of fun.

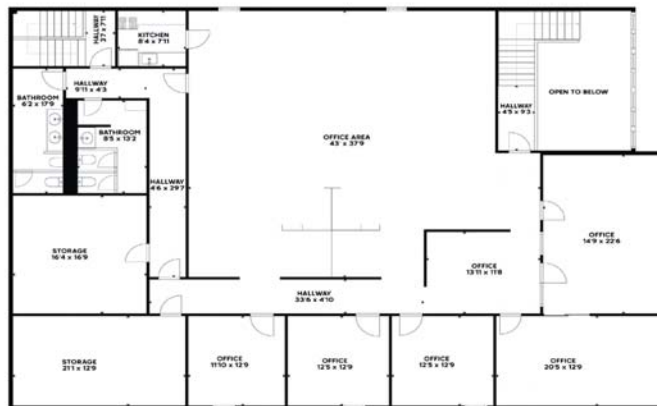
"Based on the sponsorship levels, we do have a private meet-and-greet that will be happening earlier and whoever is a part of that will already know. Then, at the rink we will be having all of our dignitaries there and we will be having a catered supper as well as a silent auction and live auction."

What is their goal for the event?

"It would be nice to see a big crowd and raise around \$100,000," says Laverdiere. "We haven't raised a whole bunch since the Kraft Hockeyville Rock the Rink event that brought in around \$10,000 but we are still needing \$300,000 to 500,000. So, we are hopeful for this fundraiser. We are hoping it will be an annual event as well."

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The grand opening for the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge detox centre at Kahkewistahaw First Nation was held on Sept. 27. In the ribbon cutting photo, from left, are Eagle Sky Healing Lodge Manager Danita Benjoe, Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat, YTC Tribal Chief Isabel O'Soup, YTC Director of Health Ivan Cote, and Ochapowace Chief Shelley Bear.

Doors open at detox centre on Kahkewistahaw First Nation

Ribbon cutting ceremony held at Eagle Sky Healing Lodge

By RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
"The elders tell us that when you see someone who has addictions—someone that's hurting and that's in pain—they are our teachers. They have a special place in God's heart. They have a special place in God's kingdom which is why we're told, 'be careful how what you think of people', because as First Nations, we come from an equalitarian society where everybody was equal," said Elder Ross Cadotte during a prayer offering outside the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge.

The 10-bed detox centre officially opened on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation on Sept. 27. The centre is a safe and secure place for people on their healing journey, offering cultural, spiritual, and mental health supports in addition to a holistic treatment program. Relative support staff and security follow the Seven Grandfather Teachings in helping people between the ages of 18 and 25 in the co-ed facility.

It's been some time in the making with the Yorkton Tribal Council first announcing plans to base the centre in the former health building on Kahkewistahaw back in early March.

"We negotiated the lease for the facility here, but they came over and above the lease requirements on what we needed," said Ivan Cote, Health Director with the YTC on working with the Kahkewistahaw Chief and Council. "They were more than willing to help us, and we do appreciate that because of their help and their assistance in providing us this facility."

Doubling the number of beds at Eagle Sky Healing Lodge is the next step, something still in discussions, according to Cote.

"We're starting at the facility with 10 beds, and it's our intention to expand to

20 beds with the approval of the funding from the province," he said. "We take this as a very serious and positive step, because as we speak right now, there are funerals back home for people who have passed away from overdose. It's a small step to us, but it's a big step when it comes down to our fight against the addictions and saving our people."

There is a waitlist for Eagle Sky Healing Lodge, which will be admitting people effective Oct. 7. Manager Danita Benjoe credited staff members, calling them 'family,' and explained their approach to helping clients through their healing journey.

"All you need is your heart and compassion and that empathy and that love to our relatives," she said. "That's what we'll be showing here when our relatives come through our doors. It's going to be like a home for them."

Assembling the right people on the team at Eagle Sky was quite a challenge, as Benjoe recalled.

"It was April when I stepped in here and there was only two of us—I and my janitor! It was a difficult task in recruiting and getting this place up and running," she said. "I took it many times to ceremony, and I had my staff come my way. I just want to give thanks to our Creator, for allowing us to come together and for bringing this detox centre together."

Having just the right type of people in a detox centre is crucial, something program consultant Cliff Bird noted.

"I've always said the frontline workers are my heroes," he said. "They're the ones that bring their 'A' game every day, not knowing what they're going to be faced with. At times, they're going to face the brunt of folks that are coming off addictions, folks that are in horrific withdrawal, they have to face it all."

Continued on page 27 



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FIRST PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST AGRICULTURE EDITION** for the September issue of Ag News. All of our staff contributed to this issue.

The judge commented: Very interesting content. Lots of scientific topics. Great photo coverage. Large variety of advertising.

FIRST PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST CIVIC JOURNALISM**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** investigation into the 2021 census that led Statistics Canada to fix its numbers for rural communities.

The judge commented: Journalism that identifies a problem and leads to change. That is what civic journalism is all about. The paper served its community well with its investigation of census numbers, and got real results.

SECOND PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST CIVIC JOURNALISM**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** article on New Canadians from Ukraine having to pay international student fees, which led the provincial government to introduce a policy ensuring that the tuition for New Canadians from Ukraine going to university are the same as other Saskatchewan residents

The judge commented: This identified a problem few knew about and got immediate action. Another example of civic journalism at its best, uncovering matters of public interest and spurring change.

FIRST PLACE in all of Canada for **EXCELLENCE IN RURAL REPORTING**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** investigation into the 2021 census

THIRD PLACE in all of Canada for **EXCELLENCE IN RURAL REPORTING**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** article on New Canadians from Ukraine having to pay international student fees,

SECOND PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST SPORTS PHOTO**

for **Sunnette Kamffer's** photo of rodeo action at Spy Hill Sports Days

The judge commented: The ropes against the sky were well composed and created nice contrast. The judges would've liked to see the ensuing moments.



SECOND PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST FEATURE PHOTO**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** rodeo sunset photo from the Moosomin Bulls and Broncs event

The judge commented: Might have scored higher, but the composition was hurt by the street lights. Nice use of backlighting, and seeing the visual at sunset. Would make a great calendar front page in the community.

SECOND PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST NEWS FEATURE PHOTO**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** harvest aerial photo

The judge commented: Excellent composition and use of lines, makes for a great cover shot.



THIRD PLACE in all of Canada for **BEST COVERAGE OF THE ARTS**

for Ashley Bocek, Sierra D'Souza Butts, Kara Kinna and Kevin Weedmark's articles on local arts and artists.

The judge commented: Excellent commitment from journalists finding and writing important local community arts stories that go deeper than a notice of upcoming performance, promote emerging youth artists, recognize the impact of a career and legacy, and sharing the excellence and local talent.

THIRD PLACE in all of Canada for **OUTSTANDING REPORTER INITIATIVE**

for **Kevin Weedmark's** investigation into the 2021 census.

The judge commented: A worthy example of paying attention to the data, and then chasing down every response (or glaring lack thereof) when the data doesn't match observed reality.

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Truco Trick Riders end busy year

Continued from Page 18
Some shows also provide the Truco crew the chance to tell their story in addition to thrill an audience with their riding prowess.

"They did do a few places where they had to publicly speak and talk about the trick riding, and then they perform," Tammy said. "They went to a fair at Oak Lake, and they wanted them to fill up a half hour time slot. It's hard to trick ride for half an hour, so we talked and filled in the time slot."

Not a lot of riders

There aren't a lot of trick riders out there, which can be a plus and a minus. On one hand, the exclusivity of being one of the few shows around means you have the market somewhat cornered. But on the flip side of the coin, there's a lot of driving involved just to hit various venues.

"What we learned is trick riding is something that there's not a lot of people doing," Shayda explained. "We went to some competitions this year, and there's a lot of dead ends in trick riding, so you perform at rodeos, and there's a few competitions in Alberta to go to, but a lot of it is driving."

The big challenge then is 'where do you go next?'

"Trick riders are considered a contract act, so they buy their memberships to the association, and then they are hired by the rodeos to do their part,"



Bailey Steeves doing running man.

Tammy said.

Highlights this year for the Truco Trick Riders include the Brandon Winter Fair, and the Kennedy Pro Rodeo where they made the Cowboy Channel.

"The original three girls competed in competitions in Alberta this year, and Shayda was Intermediate Canadian Trick Riding Association Champion," Tammy said. "Bailey was Senior Open Canadian Ranch Roping Champion, and Jordana was the Senior Leader in the Open Class."

"Jordana's horse won Horse of the Year," Shayda continued, listing the numerous accolades. "And

then Bailey and her horse won Team of the Year for the Open Class."

Looking forward to next season

"For most trick riders, this is pretty much the end," Shayda said when asked how long the season extends. "For the winters, we don't work on trick riding practice, but we work on horses and just build your bond and keep them in shape, and slowly learn new things."

The continued progression keeps things interesting; challenging the young riders to increase the difficulty level.



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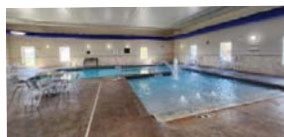
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Doors open at detox centre on Kahkewistahaw First Nation

Ribbon cutting ceremony held at Eagle Sky Healing Lodge

Continued from page 23

Helping 10 at a time

Back in April, the province announced their Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, which included the commitment of adding 500 addictions treatment spaces across Saskatchewan. At that point, 183 spaces had been officially announced in Lloydminster (15), Estevan (26), Saskatoon (32), and 36 virtual spaces through EHN Canada. More spaces are needed, but Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat sees the work before the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge as a path to sovereignty.

"As we settle our claims, as we build hotels and gas stations and other things, somewhere in there we forget to mention the people that are battling addictions—the people that need our help," he said. "When I think about this beautiful Eagle Sky Healing Lodge—10 beds, 10 people at a time we're going to heal, that has to be in the word sovereignty as well. We have to help fix those people that want our help."

He also addressed security concerns that may be associated with addiction and those battling it, noting that the local Community Safety Patrol will have an increased presence near the facility.

"We talked about it in the pipe ceremony this morning, where we said, 'the people that are coming to the First Nation are coming with problems, coming with baggage,'" Chief Taypotat explained. "We need to make sure that the good hearts embrace those people the minute they walk in the door and fill them with love, because they're coming from places with hate, First Nations with hate, homes with hate. I'm really excited to see what the good hearts do for our community."

"I wish we could ask Chief Kahkewistahaw, 'are we making you proud? Are we doing what your vision was 150 years ago when you signed Treaty Four?'" Chief Taypotat continued. "This building alone, I know Chief Kahkewistahaw when he hears us today, I know he's proud of us, so that makes me really happy to know that he's within earshot. His spirit's here, and he's going to watch over these people as they come to our community for healing."

Taypotat called hosting the new centre on their land 'an honour', giving his well wishes to the staff.

"We will do anything and everything for the people that come up with solutions," he said. "This is a solution, and we are at your beck and call. We will find the money. We will find a way, because sovereignty involves healthy people, and we will get there."

Stark reality of addiction

Drug toxicity deaths set a provincial record in 2023 with 484 (291 confirmed, 193 suspected) people in Saskatchewan having died from drugs. Some of this rise has been linked with more fentanyl, xylazine, and benzodiazepines entering the overall drug supply.

During the opening at Eagle Sky Healing Lodge, Bird spoke of the explosion of crystal methamphetamine that his home community of Montreal Lake Cree Nation



Kahkewistahaw
Chief Evan Taypotat

faced seven years ago—including six recent unsolved murders in the community linked to drugs.

"We recently had a young man that was beaten to death and his body burned over \$35 worth of meth," Bird said. "Crystal meth deaths among our young people are going to rival everything our nations have faced. Folks, if we are afraid of a time when we will begin to lose an entire generation—or a big portion of a generation—to crystal meth and these drugs, I want to say, ladies and gentlemen, that train has left the station."

Bird foresees the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge to be an extremely busy facility and a crucial component in healing from addiction.

"Initially, I would suggest that you keep your doors open for your local people, but I guarantee within the next three to six months, they will literally be kicking your door down to get in from all communities, all people groups, they're going to have our white brothers come as well, because they're in huge trouble," he said.

FSN Vice Chief David Pratt also stressed the importance of healing, asking for a show of hands in the crowd of around 150 who "has a loved one that's battling active addiction right now or lost a loved one." Nearly every hand shot up in the crowd.

However, given the dark statistics, Pratt also spoke of the immense hope and opportunity to heal.

"That's the message we have to give to our people: there is hope for them," he said. "They're struggling because of trauma, things that happened, but we're still dealing with that ripple effect from the residential schools. What are our grandparents and our great-grandparents and our parents went through, and what some of us went through, that trauma that they carry, it's still within us and we're all on that healing journey—every one of us—and we're all at different levels. I want to encourage you, don't give up on our people. Love them. That's the thing that's going to make the difference."



The Wooden Face Singers perform prior to speeches from dignitaries gathered at Kahkewistahaw First Nation on Sept. 27.



Eagle Sky Healing Lodge Manager
Danita Benjoe

He also addressed the Eagle Sky Healing Lodge staff, reminding them to also take time for themselves.

"We have so many losses that we carry in our own families, but we work so much, we just keep going," Pratt said. "We don't have time to properly grieve and take care of ourselves. So I want to encourage the leadership and the frontline workers, take that time for yourself. Take care of yourself. It's important whichever way you have to use whether it's through church or through ceremony, get that spiritual help that you need. It's okay. The world will not end if you turn your phone off for one weekend."

More hope for the future

Ochapowace First Nation Chief Shelly Bear called the opioid crisis one of the toughest we've ever had, noting that it's not just youth being affected, but people of all ages.

"As leaders, the battles that we face standing beside our people are pretty tough, and addictions and the opioid crisis

that we're living in is one of the toughest that we've had," she said.

But Chief Bear had something very important to share with those in attendance—Ochapowace will soon be home to a treatment facility.

"We've chosen our site, we've actually been granted 20 beds for Ochapowace to build a treatment centre on our nation," she said, adding that there is a site in mind south of Broadview. The challenge before project organizers is in the financial support—Chief Bear explained that money from the provincial government will come once the treatment facility is constructed.

"So that's the dilemma we're in right now," she said.

The reason treatment centres are so important—especially in close proximity to detox facilities—comes through the process of healing. Once people withdraw from drugs and alcohol, the next step in their journey is an outpatient rehabilitation program. It is here that people learn how to reclaim their life after active addiction and reintegrate into society.

YTC Tribal Chief Isabel O'Soup shared about one young man she knew who was on the verge of being named a dangerous offender, but had the opportunity to enter treatment. As a result, the man turned his life around "and is living a good life" with a home and a job.

"When I see him, I see hope," Chief O'Soup said. "I see hope for First Nation people."

She also spoke of how healing is not a quick process, but it is also one people can embark on.

"We just need to deal with what's inside of us, because we weren't always like this," said Chief O'Soup. "I tell everybody that we took 150 years, probably, to get the way that we were from all our historical traumas, and we might take 150 years to get to where we want to be, but we're getting there now. Our focus is to keep it small, so you don't get overwhelmed one person at a time."

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Plain & Valley

October 2024 • Page 29

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Some of the World-Spectator staff with the newspaper's 140th anniversary cake on October 2, 2024—140 years to the day from when the first issue was published, on October 2, 1884. The World-Spectator was around for 21 years before Saskatchewan became a province in 1905.

World-Spectator celebrates 140 years

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

The World-Spectator celebrated its 140th year of publication on Wednesday, October 2. The paper holds a lot of history for the region, is the oldest Saskatchewan-owned business and continues to grow for the future.

Owner and publisher Kevin Weedmark and Editor Kara Kinna, say the paper continues to grow and they're excited to celebrate many years of running a successful community paper.

"The World-Spectator started October 2, 1884. The very first issue came out 140 years ago today," Weedmark said.

"It has changed a lot over the years. It started out as the Courier in 1884, then a person named Spectator Smith bought it and changed the name to The Spectator and then a competing paper called The World came along. For quite a few years there were two papers in Moosomin, The World and The Spectator. One was more liberal, and one was more conservative and then in 1910, the two of them combined and formed the World-Spectator. The reason The World-Spectator logo is both blue and red is because it was a conservative paper and a liberal paper that came together to form it.

"The paper has always been a little bit different in the sense that it started expanding and becoming more of a regional paper in the 1940s taking in some of the neighbouring papers. There was the Welwyn Review, the Maryfield News, and the Wapella Post, then the owner of the World-Spectator started to buy those to become a bit more regional and covering more than just one town."

Growing to cover more towns

Weedmark became the owner of the World-Spectator over 20 years ago and expanded the paper to surrounding communities.

"After I bought the business in 2002, we started expanding even farther. We started expanding to places like Esterhazy, Redvers, Kipling, and St. Lazare, Manitoba," Weedmark said. "People in St. Lazare actually came to us and said there was a local paper closer to them that just wasn't giving them coverage so they came to us.

When I bought the paper, we were printing about 1,700 copies a week. Now, there are about 5,000 subscribers to the World-Spectator and we started the Plain & Valley a few years into running the paper. Now, Plain & Valley goes to 30,000 households every month, it's just massive. We print more copies of that than the Western Producer. Then, we started Ag News just a few years ago during Covid because we found that one industry that was still going strong was agriculture so I thought we would start an agriculture publication and that goes to about 10,000 households a month."

Different approach

Weedmark says he takes a different approach to the media business than most, and has developed a formula that works in a challenging media environment.

"I own the Spectator and will remain as the publisher, but because I am running to represent this area as MLA I have turned the editor reins over to Kara and she will be running the editorial side of the business," he said.

"The reason we keep doing it is because number one, when I bought this paper, I didn't come from a business background and I didn't know a lot about business other than what I had reported on. I came from an editorial background, I was a reporter, then an editor, and my thought was I wasn't going into business to make money, I was going into business to serve our communities.

"As soon as I bought it, I decided we would operate as community service first and a business second. We never limit the space for community news, we will add pages to make sure the stories are told.

"Last week for example, Ashley's story on the British Home Children was an amazing story, and it took three pages of the newspaper to tell it right. A lot of papers wouldn't take that space to tell that whole story. They just wouldn't devote the resources to the editorial side in the same way, but I made a decision early on that our main purpose as a business is connecting our communities and serving them. The amazing thing in the media business is that when you focus on the community service first, then you get more and more readers, then from there you get more and more advertisers. Some media businesses

struggle because they focus on the bottom line and cut the editorial resources that make their media important, they lose readers, they lose advertisers, they cut some more and it's a downward spiral. I do the opposite, I invest in the editorial side, we make our product relevant, we get more readers, and we get more advertisers. In terms of sales, this business is more than five times what it was when I bought it and it continues to grow every year.

"We are a successful paper financially, and we are an award-winning paper. We just won 10 national awards. That is 10 of the 11 awards won by Saskatchewan newspapers," Weedmark said.

Making a difference

Weedmark said that making a difference in people's lives is the most rewarding aspect of the business.

"The main reason that we do what we do, is the difference we can make in people's lives. I think of the Santos family who were an important part of our community but were facing deportation. We helped get the word out and helped to make sure they could stay in Canada. We rallied the community, we spoke to many people in the government, and the day we held a rally for them, they got word that they could stay."

"When my interpreter from Afghanistan was facing great danger when Kabul fell to the Taliban, I did everything I could to get him and his family safely to Canada. He protected my life in Afghanistan and he served Canada in Afghanistan and I owed it to him to protect his life. We were up against huge odds to get him and his family safely to Canada, it was a difficult process and his family's lives were in danger the whole time, but we got them safely to Canada and now he's contributing to our society here."

"There is case after case like that, like Viktoriia, the Grade 12 student from Wawota who came to Canada under CUAETS and was facing international student fees to go to the U of S. So the family had come to Canada, we welcomed them here, and she was facing tuition several times higher than the students she was graduating with in Wawota."

Continued on page 47



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Champion Futurity Bred Heifer - Freyburn Rally Missie 22L Exhibited by Freyburn Farms. Class Sponsor Foxtail Hauling Ltd



Reserve Champion Futurity Bred Heifer - More's Ms Laya 320L Exhibited by More Bros Simmentals

On Sept. 28, the third Black Gold Classic was held at the Virden Ag Society Grounds with 100 head of top quality cattle exhibited by more than 30 producers from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Shown here are the winners in each class.

Black Gold Classic would like to **THANK** all our sponsors, exhibitors, judges, Lenore 4-H Beef Club and the Virden Agriculture Society for making this show happen! We look forward to seeing everyone next year: Mark your calendars for Saturday September 27th, 2025.

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Champion Bull Calf - HTA Excaliber 449M Exhibited by HTA Charolais. Class Sponsor Canart Backhoe



Reserve Champion Bull Calf - HFL Longview Long Shot ET 4074M Exhibited by Horner Cattle Company

Harvest of Hope brings in over 9,000 bushels

To date, project has generated \$3.1 million for Canadian Foodgrains Bank

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was harvest day on September 25 for the largest Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing project in Saskatchewan, right in the local area.

A large number of volunteers and donated equipment went to work on a 280-acre field between Moosomin and Rocanville, taking off the canola to benefit the Foodgrains Bank, and the Moosomin and Rocanville food banks.

Since it began, the Harvest of Hope has raised \$620,000, not including this year's crop—money that is matched four times by the federal government, bringing the total amount that the Canadian Foodgrains Bank has received because of the Harvest of Hope to \$3.1 million. This year's harvest will add to that total.

"Things went really well, we were able to take the crop off in about four-and-a-half hours," said Kyle Penner, an organizer with the local Harvest of Hope group. "Today we had eight combines, two grain carts and four trucks.

"The carts definitely were a real blessing. They kept the combines rolling, and as they were able to go, they filled the trucks, and then all four trucks would basically go all to the elevator at once. It worked really well."



A boy runs through the chaff behind a combine during the Harvest of Hope north of Moosomin on Wednesday. The harvest took off over 9,000 bushels of canola crop with proceeds being donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and local food banks in Moosomin and Rocanville.

Thanks to a beautiful fall day, the entire crew was able to leave the field around 6 p.m.

"We typically cycle between canola and wheat every year, so last year was a wheat year, and this year in the rotation is a canola crop," Penner explained. "With the wind, all the chaff flew the right way.

Nobody got too dusted out!"

This is the 11th year for the Moosomin project, and Penner credits all the volunteer support for their continued success.

"Lots of people do a little bit, and that helps to spread out the load; the burden of the crop, but also everybody pitches in a little bit,

and it all comes together in the end with a pretty big impact," he said. "We're quite grateful for that."

In addition to those local volunteer farmers—who took time out of their own busy fall work—local companies also played a role. Väderstad seeded the field plus Pattison John Deere, Rocky Mountain Equip-

ment, and Mazer Equipment were all represented.

"It's been really interesting to watch how much support the project gains year over year," Penner said. "We always seem to pick up another one or two or three people who are willing to contribute to the cause. We have a good cause that people can get

behind. As it builds momentum, we just continue to have really positive impact after we're done. And that's pretty cool."

He explained that with all the money raised through the Harvest of Hope project is devoted to food security initiatives both local and on a global scale.

"All of it ends up in food security initiatives, but it ends up with that division that we've done recently between local stuff, and that's been primarily through the Moosomin and Rocanville food banks helping them to operate, and then also through the Foodgrains Bank, which are dealing with emergency food assistance in places all over the world," Penner said. "People displaced through the war in Ukraine, people displaced through the war in Syria, people displaced through the war in Israel, they're where people are getting kicked out of their homes and losing their livelihoods and need food right now, and they're feeding them."

He likes to use the analogy of building a bigger table to articulate the outpouring of shared good fortune.

Penner won't know final numbers on how much was raised this year for a couple weeks yet, but he said the canola looked good coming off the field.

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Tighter grower margins cloud crop input market

BY LEIGH ANDERSON SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

Harvest is only beginning, and yes it's not too early to think about next year's crop inputs. Uncertainty and risks abound in the ag markets, so input manufacturers and retailers are already planning ahead. Farm profitability is under pressure because commodity prices are below their 5-year average due to strong U.S. production, while input costs remain high. Although some input prices have dropped, they haven't declined as much as grain and oilseed revenues. Canadian crop input sales peaked at \$23.4 billion in 2022 and have stayed around \$20 billion in recent years (Figure 1). We expect sales to remain flat for next year's crop.

Tighter margins make it important to optimize the crop and input mix for next season. Early planning can help take advantage of early bird discounts and allow flexibility to adjust plans as new information becomes available. Here is our initial assessment of factors that might affect the crop input market next year. This information aims to

help producers and the crop input sector make informed decisions about managing expenses and maintaining appropriate inventories.


Exceptional U.S. growing conditions drive crop prices lower

This year, U.S. farmers are experiencing excellent growing conditions, leading to record yields for corn and soybeans. This abundance is pushing commodity prices down. If Canada has an average production year, the lower prices could result in negative net returns for some farms, depending on their land costs. As grain and oilseed prices drop, farmers might feel more anxious about making decisions for next year's inputs, with tighter ex-

pected profitability and reduced cash flow.

Input expenses softer but remain high

On the positive side, chemical prices have eased. The prices of key active ingredients have fallen as the sector recovers from post-pandemic supply chain issues. Global inventories of most chemicals, like glyphosate, have increased, leading to price drops (Figure 2). Consequently, agricultural chemical sales are expected to decline by 14% in 2024 and another 4% the following year due to these lower prices.

Continued on page 36 

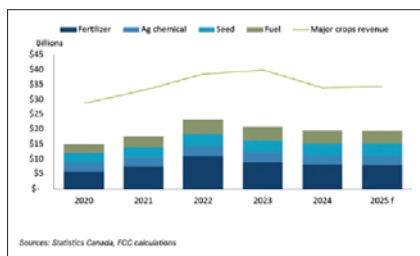


Figure 1: Canadian crop input sales relative to major crop revenues.

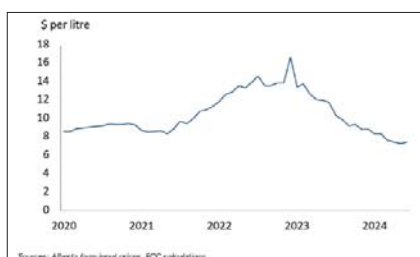


Figure 2: Glyphosate prices continue to be pressured by global inventories.

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USask master student Beatriz Montenegro is searching for feed solutions that are cheaper and easier to obtain for producers.

USask researchers 'beefing' up cattle with affordable, drought-proof diet

BY ERIN MATTHEWS

A good diet is crucial for obtaining high-quality meat from cattle—but drought conditions can make sourcing high-quality feed difficult. USask master student Beatriz Montenegro is searching for feed solutions that are cheaper and easier to obtain for producers, a project that has received funding through the Government of Saskatchewan's Agricultural Development Fund.

A passion for food production began at a young age for Montenegro. Raised by agronomist parents, Montenegro grew up in Mexico surrounded by a flourishing agriculture industry. Following in her parent's footsteps, she worked at a beef processing facility shortly after moving to Canada, gaining valuable hands-on experience and learning more about

the challenges that beef producers face. Inspired by the industry, Montenegro enrolled at the University of Manitoba, where a biochemistry class helped solidify her choice to focus on animal nutrition.

For the past year, Montenegro has been investigating new diets for beef cattle in the Ribeiro Lab at USask, under supervision of Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro (DVM, PhD) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

"There are so many little biochemical details and intricacies that you can investigate and tweak to get results," said Montenegro. "From a producer's point of view, if you make a small change in an animal's diet, you can get tangible changes in the animal."

Continued on Page 45

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3. Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. The closing date of the sale shall be **January 10, 2025**, on which date the Vendors shall provide a registrable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
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4. Land is in the Torren's Title system.
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For further information contact Karen Beauchamp at 204-522-3225

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BUILDING A NEST EGG FOR THE FUTURE

Planning for retirement is crucial for securing financial stability and peace of mind in your later years. To build a retirement nest egg, save early, invest wisely, understand available resources like RRSPs and TFSA's, utilize employer plans and government benefits. Review and adjust your strategy regularly, seek professional advice, and start planning early for a secure retirement. Here's a guide to help you plan effectively for your retirement.

1. Start saving early for retirement to benefit from compound interest. Regularly save around 10-15% of income to build a significant retirement fund.
2. Maximize RRSP contributions in Canada for tax benefits and tax-free investment growth until withdrawal. Set up automatic contributions to save consistently.
3. Consider Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs) for retirement savings. Contributions are not tax-deductible, but withdrawals are tax-free, including investment gains. TFSAs offer flexibility with no penalties for withdrawals, suitable for short-term and long-term goals. Use TFSAs alongside RRSPs for tax-advantaged savings.
4. Diversifying investments with stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and ETFs can manage risk and boost returns. Seek advice from a financial advisor to align your strategy with risk tolerance and retirement objectives.
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6. Familiarize yourself with Canadian government retirement programs like CPP and OAS for retirement income planning. CPP benefits depend on your work contributions, while OAS offers monthly payments to seniors aged 65+. Plan retirement income considering these benefits alongside personal savings.
7. Regularly monitor and adjust your retirement plan to stay on track with your goals. Life changes can impact your savings strategy, so adapt contributions, investments, and timeline accordingly. Use online calculators to estimate future needs and savings sufficiency.
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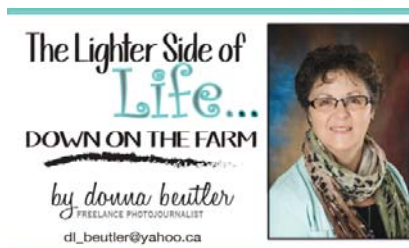
The busy days of harvest are winding down!

Okay, it's a pipe dream I know and I've said it a hundred times before, but oh how I want a 'meal wagon' for the field. Closed in and dust free. Enough bench seating for 10. One table in the middle. Nothing fancy at all. The 'farm' grands on the other hand love our tailgate meals and I can almost guarantee it's a memory that they will one day treasure as they remember their childhood on the farm. I am pretty sure my sidekick to every meal-in-the-field trip, my 15-year-old granddaughter, will especially remember these trips—she never misses one unless she has dance or volleyball. I too love the memories of meals in the field as a teenager. Of course, the big difference being is that I didn't have to make them, pack them, haul them, serve them on the tailgate (in four different fields), pack it all back up (four times over) and haul it all back home and then clean it all up.

Despite my desire for a 'meal vehicle,' it really has been great to be out in the field on those beautiful harvest days (some super hot ones included), seeing the progress the men are making as they move from field to field and being able to offer them each a five-minute break to grab a plate of food. My daughter-in-law and I share a dream though: that all the guys (three or four or five depending on the day) would all be in the same field at the same time at supper time. Imagine how sweet that would be! Alas, that's a rarity but we have made it through the better part of three weeks of mostly steady going and can almost see the end in sight. I say 'almost' simply because it seems like grain farmers can whip through 90 per cent of harvest in about the same time as the last 10 per cent ends up taking! Even by the third week of September (which is when I am writing this), the days are shorter and the mornings a little damper and consequently, the start up time a bit later.

There were several very hot (as in mid-30's) days during harvest and our son kept reminding me about the potential for fires to start under a vehicle which resulted in us trying to find a grassy area at the edge of the field where we would set up our tailgate suppers. I was telling the twins (13) one night as we sat around the fire awaiting the return of the men for the night that their dad had to put out two fires under the fuel truck. "Oh really?" they said. "We had to put one out under the side-by-side too." Of course, I asked how they noticed and what they did and told them that it was a good thing they looked underneath when they smelled something under their side-by-side. "Your side-by-side," was their response—these young men of few words. We're thinking it's very likely Gramps still doesn't know about that little fire under his ATV and it's been about three weeks since it happened. Some things are best left unsaid I figure.

Oh what marvelous sunsets we've seen over the past month or so. One of the best parts of moving out to the farm during harvest are the sunsets, so orange at times it almost looks like fire behind the tall, white bins. Hubby and I haven't spent a single night in town since late August except for wet days when the combines couldn't run. We've had a couple of cold nights sleeping in the RV but on the last night before the rain fell in the early morning of Sept. 18, we kept the camper door open all night. It was almost like tenting with all that fresh air. Well, tenting but with a full size up-off-the-floor bed, full washroom,



double recliners, double-door fridge, microwave, stove, sink and two televisions. Okay, so maybe not quite like tenting but oh! The fresh air!

We have literally had a campfire every single night, except on the wet nights of course. The twins have been busy splitting firewood with that nifty splitter they have. One night when the boys were a bit unsure if I was coming out from town on my regular make-supper-in-town-then-head-to-the-farm run before staying the night out there, they weren't sure whether to get a fire going or not. But once they saw my truck drive into their yard, the smoke was drifting upwards pretty quickly.

Our campfire chats cover so many topics and makes my heart sing. School and harvest and starry nights and fishing and the latest Snapchat are all up for discussion. I love hearing what they are reading or studying at school. I love reading the answers or essays they write. I pretty much bypass the high school math, so inept am I at pretty much all of it, but the written word is my thing. (Who would have guessed?) And thanks to Mrs. McLeod, I am pretty OCD when I proofread anything that is written by my grands or anyone else for that matter. And yes, I know I miss my own errors in my own column!

I have been on a mission this past month while the combines roll, so between lunch and supper runs I have been decluttering my house. Wowzers! Every drawer, every closet, every room, every single space. It's a good thing some of my neighbours had a whole lot of room left in their garbage bins last week because I definitely needed them. I sort of felt like a burden was lifted even though I didn't think I was carrying a burden at all. My husband keeps asking if there was a plan he didn't know about to list our house for sale. I will take that as a compliment!

My OCD has been running rampant lately and it has caused me to put many more hours on the weed whacker than usual; line up the spices super orderly; tri-fold the towels perfectly (hem side in of course); and even paint the chair legs on the guest chairs in the pastor's office. That had sent my OCD into overdrive. Good thing he was a good enough sport to say, 'have at 'er'!

I have also been trying to keep ahead of the dust in the ol' farm half-ton that tends to take a bit of a beating at this time of year. My thoughts when I detailed it one wet day in the middle of September was if I clean it now, it will be much easier to give it a final interior clean when harvest is over. Please note, I am not even contemplating cleaning

the box out—that looks like a job for the guy who puts all that miscellaneous stuff in it. Anyhow, the inside got a good cleaning and I can almost guarantee you the first time it went back to the field, someone left both passenger doors open on the tail end of the combine when it started up for the first time after a couplea days' break. At least the straw was light and fluffy and could be swept out quite easily.

In between meal-hauling, I have been digging into some history of a fishing camp up north, one that my son and his family co-own with some other Whitewood-ites. This camp, with its original log cabins, has seen a few owners over the years and after our visit up there in early August, I wanted to know more about who owned it and which buildings were original and which were added to the camp after its late 40's/early 50's startup. Talk about a journey by phone and by internet, talking to past owners and children of past owners to try and put together (in words of course) the story of Pine Point Lodge on Lake Athapuskow. My laptop has been my companion many nights at the camper while I awaited hubby's return from the field and my fingers have transposed all that I have been able to learn about Pine Point's history and put it into words for future visitors to the camp to be able to read. It's been intriguing and fascinating and exciting and perhaps it's been just a bit of an 'escape' from the busy-ness of this year's harvest season. I was able to talk to gentlemen who, now in their 70's and 80's, were more than happy to share the information they had about their 'good ol' days' at camp. Lots of work, they told me, but lots of great memories as well.

Tonight, after a five-day rainy day break, we are back to supper in the field. No more packing up dishes and casserole dishes and side dishes to place in buffet-style on the tailgate along with some lawn chairs set out, but rather a pre-made plate-ready to hand over to the guys, a bottle of water and with any luck (if the cook has remembered to put pepsi cans in the fridge ahead of time) a can of pick-me-up-and-give-me-energy drink. And there you have it—harvest is definitely winding down and the novelty of the tailgate supper is going by the wayside. Also, by 6:30 p.m., it's getting cold out there and the sun is already looking like it wants to go to bed too.

As I bundled up to enjoy what I know will be one of the last nights around the campfire behind our RV with the farm grands tonight (Sept. 23), I cannot help but count my many blessings. Okay, so I know I mumble a lot about hauling meals to the field but even though it is the thorn in my side, I also know how wonderful it is to be part of a family that loves the farm (most days) and to be part of the ag industry that works so hard to bring the harvest in each year. I don't do 5 a.m. mornings (anymore) like hubby does and I don't physically handle any of the combining, repairing, grain-hauling, auger-moving or the myriad of other things my guys all do but I give my best to the 'support' job I do have and for the moments we can laugh off the stresses with a story about something funny that's happened that day.

Here's hoping your busiest of days are coming to an end, farmer friends. Keep on doing what you do best—it's a life like no other!

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Three Saskatchewan agriculture commodities reach \$1 billion mark in 2024

Saskatchewan's non-durum wheat exports have reached \$1.7 billion for the current year, along with canola seed and canola oil reaching \$1.3 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively. Several other agri-food exports are on track to surpass the \$1 billion export value mark for this year.

"The global marketplace is increasingly recognizing Saskatchewan as not only a source of the agri-food products it needs, but also as a provider of the most sustainable products grown anywhere," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Our research sector drives that innovation and our producers in the field continue to find ways to do it better than anyone, year after year. That's what a competitive, profitable and world-leading agriculture industry looks like."

Results of research commissioned by the Global Institute for Food Security and announced earlier this year show that Saskatchewan's net carbon footprint for production of major crops is significantly lower than that of other comparable jurisdictions studied. For example, Saskatchewan-produced non-durum wheat is 62 per cent lower while canola is 67 per cent lower.

"Customers from around the world choose Saskatchewan for the sustainable, high-quality products they rely on, which is supported by our strong and stable business environment," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Our government will continue to protect and promote key sectors, including agriculture, through international engagement, which is leading to Saskatchewan products reaching new markets. Saskatchewan's historic growth in agri-food exports is providing new employment and economic opportunities for province's strong and vibrant communities."

Saskatchewan's 2030 Growth Plan target of \$20 billion in annual agri-food exports was met in 2023 with total ship-

ments of \$20.2 billion, setting a new record for the fourth consecutive year.

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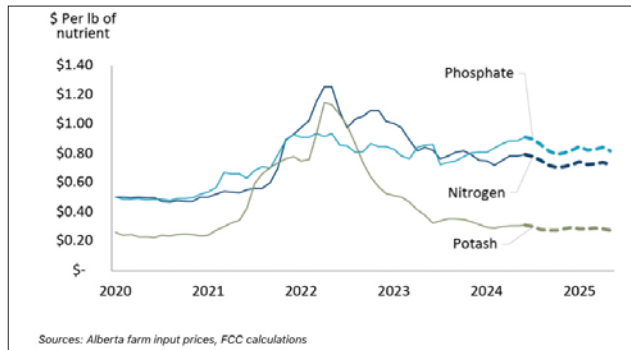


Figure 3: Fertilizer prices trending side-ways but upside risk present for next year.

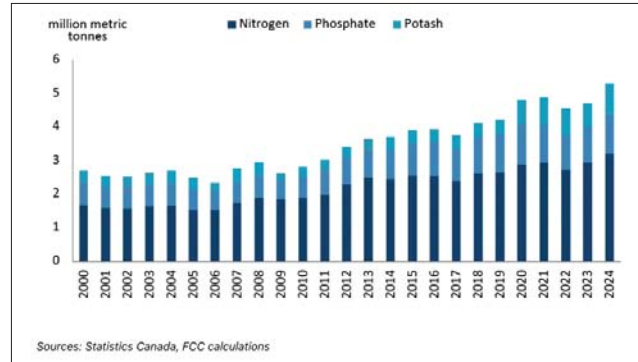


Figure 4: Fertilizer use ebbs and flows.

Tighter grower margins cloud crop input market

Continued from page 32

Global fertilizer demand subdued but prices remain elevated

Fertilizer prices have dropped a lot since their peak in 2022 and have continued to go down since the 2024 planting season started. The demand for fertilizers, especially nitrogen, has been lower globally. This is good news for farmers, but prices are still higher than they were before 2022 (Figure 3). There's a chance prices could go up again for next year's crops. Global issues like China's export restrictions and paused production in Egypt are keeping prices high. However, China's export decisions are unpredictable. On the flip side, if global crop prices keep falling, it could lead to even lower fertilizer prices.

Fuel and seed sales

Fuel prices can change a lot due to global market conditions and events like conflicts. They are expected to go down as the global economy slows. We think farmers will spend 3.6% less on fuel next year. Sales of commercial

seeds are expected to go up by 5% in 2025 because of higher prices for hybrid seeds like canola, soybeans, and corn. Prices for pedigreed seeds like cereals and pulses should stay stable since they follow crop market prices more closely.

Growing the role of crop input providers

With tighter profit margins, farms will be more careful about what crops to plant and how much fertilizer and chemicals to use.

Services that add value, like expert advice and agronomics, will keep growing in the long run. In the short term, lower farm revenues will make farmers rethink their strategies. Agriculture retailers and suppliers will play a big role in helping farmers increase productivity, using the same or fewer inputs. However, crop input retailers need to know how much inventory to order for the next year.

The main concern for the coming year is the demand for domestic fertilizer. The amount of land used for specific crops greatly affects fertilizer use by Canadian

farmers. Fertilizer use also changes with profitability, moisture conditions, and soil nutrients. Due to profitability pressures and recent moisture conditions, farmers might use less fertilizer. Historically, farms have reduced fertilizer use during or after years with low revenue or production issues like drought or excessive moisture. For example, in 2005 and 2006, margins were low, and in 2022 and 2023, high fertilizer prices led to reduced use. Soil testing and planning crop inputs are just as important as marketing plans for profitability.

Bottom line

The 2025 farm input market will depend on how much farm income is under pressure. Lower farm revenue this year and next will reduce the demand for crop inputs. Farmers make decisions based on the information they have at the time. Fall is the best time for farmers and crop input retailers to review their return on investment and plan for the next year. The crop input sector can play a bigger role by helping farms better plan their input needs for the year ahead. Working together will increase productivity and improve farm profitability.

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Albert Edward Gurr was sent to the Barnardo home in England at three years old.



Above at left, brothers Albert and Amos Gurr in England. Above at right, Albert and Amos Gurr after moving to Canada and reconnecting in the Hamiota and Miniota area.



September 28, a day in honour of the British Home Children

Over 100 years more than 100,000 children were sent to Canada to serve as farm labour. One woman wants more people to know their story.

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Over the course of a century, more than 100,000 British Home Children crossed the Atlantic Ocean from London, England to Canada.

The children were sent to Barnardo Homes in England to help relieve financial stresses of young British families in the 1800s.

The children were sent to Canada through the Barnardo organization. Parents were unaware until returning to the homes to find their children, that the children had been sent to Canada.

Debbie Bocek, a descendant of a British Home Child, explains her family's connection to this little-known part of Canadian history.

"In the 1800s in England after the Industrial Revolution, a lot of farm families were moving into the cities for jobs, and as they moved into the cities it resulted in overcrowding and overpopulation. A lot of families then were having trouble supporting all of their children and it became a time of poverty. So, children ended up living on the streets and it was a problem in the cities—in London, in particular.

"Then, England came up with the idea where they would ship over young children to Canada because Canada was a young country at the time, and Canada could use young children to learn how to farm and be adopted out to families.



Debbie Bocek with her British Home Children flags.

"So, it helped both countries. This movement lasted for around 100 years of these children coming to Canada and about 100,000 children were sent to Canada over the 100 years from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s."

Bocek says each child had a trunk to travel from England to Canada.

"It was Dr. Thomas Bar-

nardo that came up with this idea to house these children over there, and then came up with this plan to send them to Canada. When each Barnardo child came to Canada they had a trunk with specific items in there—not a lot. They weren't allowed to bring any personal items I think just to try and sever the ties and not be miss-

ing their families at home so there were no dolls, or toys, or photographs in their trunks."

She says the children didn't find out about their parents until later in life. "A lot of the children were told they were orphans, but many found out later that they did have at least one parent still living over in England."

Family Connection

Bocek says her great-grandpa was sent to live in a Barnardo home at a young age.

"My great-great-grandmother was a single parent—her husband had passed away when my great-grandpa was two months old. She had four boys then and she couldn't

look after them all. Then, she started sending them out to the Barnardo homes not all at once, but I know my great-grandpa ended up in what was called Babies Castle in Hawkhurst, a part of London which is still under Barnardo Homes. She ended up sending all four of her boys to Barnardo homes and in the end all four boys ended up coming to Canada."

She says the children were sent on ships to Canada and sent to Barnardo homes across the country.

"My great-grandpa came over with a brother of his. My great-grandpa was Albert Edward Gurr and he came over in 1897 with his brother, Amos Abel Gurr. My great-grandpa was nine at the time and his brother was 11. They came over on a ship called the SS Labrador that left from Liverpool. There were over 100 children that came over at that time and they arrived in Quebec City. In time, my great-grandpa and his brother came by train to Manitoba. They were sent to live at the Barnardo farm at Russell. In Russell, these boys would learn to farm. They had all aspects of farming there, they had chickens, pigs, dairy, and horses, they learned inevitably how to farm. Then, from Russell, once they turned 18, they were placed on farms. My great-grandpa was placed near Beulah, Manitoba and his brother was placed near Miniota."

Continued on page 38

September 28, a day in honour of the British Home Children

Over 100 years more than 100,000 children were sent to Canada to serve as farm labour. One woman wants more people to know their story.

¹⁰⁰ Continued from Page 37

"I remember growing up, my mom would talk about her grandpa and I was always interested in my family history," Bochek said. "I never met my great-grandpa Gurr, so whenever asking my mom questions she always said she felt bad because he never really talked about it."

She says some British Home Children were treated poorly in Canada. "A lot of those children when they came over to Canada they were meant to feel shame, and a lot of them weren't treated very well, some were, but more and more in different non-fictional books that I read, I've learned most of them weren't treated overly well."

Can find out online

Anyone can look up their last name on an online website to see if they have a connection to a British Home Child.

"There is a website online called the BHC registry," Bochek said. "I just type in British Home Children and the website that comes up—anyone can go on there and type in a last name and it will give you a list of anyone with that last name or a similar spelling because sometimes the ship manifest—the spelling gets misconstrued so you can look and see. I can type in Gurr, and then find my great-grandpa and his brothers when they came and what ship they were on."

Bochek says her family is still in contact with relatives of her great-grandpa's brother.

"The other two brothers that came over didn't end up coming to Manitoba, they ended up in Ontario and from any research that has been done, they never married and so the family tree on their side ended with them coming, but then at Miniota and Hamiota, my great-grandpa and his brother. I have quite a bit of research and they had families of their own. My mom is often in contact with relatives from Miniota."

Home Children's story not part of Sask curriculum

Bochek, a teacher at McNaughton High School, says she is surprised it is not in any social studies textbooks for students to learn.

"I think for 100 years of Canadian history, not a lot of people are aware of it unless it is a part of your family. I am proud to be a descendant of a British Home Child. I'm proud of all they survived, all they went through, I'm proud of their strong work ethic, and their will to persevere through all those hard times."

"As a teacher too, I am surprised it doesn't seem to be in textbooks for Canadian history. I do teach in my classroom about Truth and Reconciliation, Residential Schools, and how they lasted around 100 years and these British Home Children were coming over for about 100 years as well, and I feel that it needs to be recognized too."

Bochek says the story of the British Home Children is more known in Eastern Canada.

"It is bigger in Ontario because that is where a lot of the children came. I find in Saskatchewan it doesn't seem to be as well known. I have talked to some teachers in Manitoba and have heard it is touched on a little bit in their curriculum."

The Barnardo homes in Canada

Bochek says the Barnardo home in Russell housed a lot of British children.

"The Barnardo Home in Russell housed about 100 children. As more came in the older ones left, but I know I have researched, and at 5:30 am they woke up to a bugle and religion was a big part too. They had a service every day. Then, they did chores for a lot of the day. This house had so many rooms. I have been to Russell and gone to the site. There are no buildings, but there is a sign with a picture of the home, and information about the farm. Not far from there is a cemetery because some children passed away over those years and buried there, but it is not big. I have gone back and paid tribute to great-grandpa."

She says she has read a lot of books pertaining to the history of British Home Children.

"I have read a lot of books about the British Home Children and the Barnardo Homes. The stories that I have heard from the Barnardo children being here at the homes are mainly the negative ones."

"Some of the stories are very sad, for example a boy who comes to Canada and lives in a barn, eats out of a pig trough, eats dog scraps out of a dog dish, but they're not all like that. My mom said her grandpa never really talked about it and I think it maybe was because it wasn't a positive experience."

Once the Home Children were adults they were to leave the Barnardo Home in Russell.

"Once the Barnardo children turned 18 they were on their own," Bochek said. "My great-grandpa settled in the Hamiota area and his brother in the Miniota area."

Bochek says the brothers didn't know how close they settled to one another until eventually meeting up at a community gathering.

"My great-grandpa and his brother did come in contact at one point after leaving the Barnardo home and settling on farms. I believe the story goes that they met up one time at the Birtle Fair, and got talking and realized how close they were. Then, every Sunday after that they were done chores, they would walk and meet half-way, have a picnic, and then they would go back in time to do chores. It is special when you think about it."

Little known Canadian history

Bochek says she is unsure why the story of the British Home Children isn't better known.

"I am not sure why more people don't know about it. If there is something more that I could try to do to, to get the story out there, I would love to."

"I think in Manitoba it is almost a bit more known maybe because of the Russell Barnardo home for boys," Bochek said. "I am on a couple groups on Facebook, I just try to learn more and I teach it to my students so they learn about it because it is important, and part of our Canadian history."

Embracing British Home Children

Bochek takes pride in wearing the colours to represent the British Home Children on the day set aside to honour them.



Debbie Bochek on September 28 last year recognizing the British Home Children by wearing red, white, and blue.

"On September 28, when it is British Home Child day I do make a point of wearing my red, white, and blue to school, and telling my students about it."

"It encompasses red and white for Canada and our flag, and the red, white, and blue of the Union Jack for Britain."

Bochek reads a book on Home Children to her students. "I read a novel to my students every year called, Home Child, and they absolutely love it. I have been reading it now to them for a few years. The story in the book makes me think of my great-grandpa coming to a farm and working hard on the farm."

Bochek says she has had students in the past who know about their own family's history and connection with British Home Children.

"I have had two students in the past that knew they were British Home Children descendants, some were Isabelle and Bodie Tilley, and Sally McCannigan. They have brought in some of their memorabilia and then we can look up on the website and find their ancestors. It is neat and exciting and then if they go home and they're excited, and it gets their parents excited or they ask their grandparents more, it is a start."

She says there were other organizations sending children to Canada at the time. "A lot of the children are referred to as Barnardo children even though they might have been under another organization because there were so many Barnardo children. They kind of are synonymous even though they might not have been directly a Barnardo child, there were other organizations too."

Good intentions

Bochek believes the Barnardo organization had good intentions sending the children to Canada and housing them until they were 18.

"I think they had the best intentions. The Canadian families did pay them so it was very much part of the government and it did help both Britain and Canada."

Gurr family reconnects

Bochek says her great-grandpa's mom ended up coming to Canada later in life to reconnect with her sons.

"For my story I can say there was a bit of a happy ending because my great-grandma in England, she did eventually come to Canada and meet up with all of her boys, and I think a lot of stories wouldn't have ended that way."

"It is who you are. It is important to know your roots and be proud of what your ancestors have accomplished and gone through. It makes you, you."

—Debbie Bochek

trunk from when he came to Canada.

"I am wishing I knew where his trunk ended up, but I am wondering if it was maybe something he didn't care to keep if it wasn't a positive experience for him. I never met him, but I did meet my great-grandma. They had a good life together."

Extended family connections

Bochek says the Gurr family at Hamiota is still in contact with the relatives in Miniota.

"It makes me wish that we knew more of great-grandpa's story and when my grandpa Gurr was alive, I wish I had asked him more questions because I think as a son, he may have known more as well, but of course at that time in my life it was not something that I was as interested in as I am now. That is what I wish, that I could have learned more back then or even ask my great-grandma when she was alive. I am sure she would have known some stories."

Bochek says a family friend had done a lot of research into the Gurr family tree.

"A good mutual friend of all of ours from Hamiota, Donna Sarras has done a lot of research on the Gurs for her friend at Miniota, and so she has gone back as far as the parents of my great-grandpa, so my great-grandpa and grandpa who sent them over. Great-grand-grandpa passed in July of 1888 after my great-grandpa was born in April of that year. So we have back as far as that."

She says the Gurr family has no information on where the one brother ended up.

"The one brother, Edgar, we have lost track of. We don't know where he is buried, and being the oldest we think he was very transient and couldn't settle anywhere for very long."

The Gurr family has pictures of the brothers.

"I was able to get some pictures too so that was special, but there are only pictures of the three boys, Alfred Gurr, there was no picture of him," Bochek said. "We also wondered how we would even find pictures because they weren't allowed to bring their own personal belongings, so we think when their mom came over from England she brought them with her. I think it is too bad—probably a lot of moms who sent their children to these Barnardo homes in England and they were told and promised that they would see their children some day trusted that, and a lot of them never did and those children just ended up thinking that their parents passed away."

Bochek says her great-grand-grandma sent the boys to Barnardo homes thinking she would one day pick them up. "I believe that it is just the fact that when she had these four boys and my great-grandpa was born and then two months later her husband passed, there was no way she could work and look after four young boys and so she turned to Barnardo homes. My great-grandpa was the last one she sent to a Barnardo home because he was the

Sunflowers represent British Home Children

Bochek says the sunflower symbolizes the British Home Children.

"The sunflower represents British Home Children. When I see the sunflower now it has a whole new meaning for me," she says.

"Sunflowers are bright and inspire hope, British Home Children came to Canada hoping for a brighter future. As the sunflower grows the flowers face the sun beginning each day in the East and ends each day in the West. British Home Children got their ships in the East and most travelled West into all parts of Canada. Sunflowers are very strong and can endure various environments. British Home Children had to be strong mentally, physically, and emotionally and endured various living situations. Sunflower seeds are encased in shells, most British Home Children kept their life stories to themselves encased in their hearts."

"I think that is very true. It absolutely encompasses what a home child is and what a sunflower is. I find it neat too because now my mom uses sunflowers as her centrepiece on her table in the kitchen now that she knows."

Farming in Manitoba

Bochek says her great-grandpa learned to farm at the Barnardo home in Russell before farming his own land near Hamiota.

"My great-grandpa did eventually farm on his own. He married my great-grandma and they had a lot of children. They farmed in the Hamiota area and when they retired they moved to Brandon, and they're buried there."

Bochek says they have never seen her great-grandpa's



The Barnardo home in Russell, where the British Home Children were sent to learn how to farm.



The four Gurr boys' mom, Emily Grace Brown at her home in England.





Left: South East Research Farm staff

Left: Bhuwan Bhandari leads the cover crop trial utilizing soil moisture sensors analyzing soil salinity, moisture and leaf wetness comparing cover crops to non cropped areas.

Right: Drone spraying demonstration were of great interest to participants.



South East Research Farm near Redvers holds AGM and crop tour

The South East Research Farm held their Annual General Meeting and Crop Tour Thursday, September 26 at their research facility three miles southeast of Redvers.

The South East Research Farm is a producer driven research facility founded in 1997. Since then, they have been conducting quality driven research focused on diversification, sustainability and profitability for the betterment of the agricultural community and industry throughout Saskatchewan.

The farm is directed and managed by a group of farmers—producers from South-

east Saskatchewan. All the research conducted by the organization is managed by Lana Shaw, PAg, MSc.

The Crop tour focused on forage, kochia management, salinity management and cover crops.

A drone spraying demo as well as a stop at the drone seeded plot rounded out the tour.

Dr Lee Briese was the guest speaker, discussing optimizing land use.

More information about the South East Research farm can be accessed through their website southeastresearchfarm.org



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Monday, October 14
Saturday, October 19
Monday, October 21
Monday, October 28

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Regular Cattle Sale 12 Noon
Regular Cattle Sale 12 Noon
Consignment Live Sale 11 am
Regular Cattle Sale 9:30 am
Regular Cattle Sale 9:30 am

NOVEMBER 2024

Monday, November 4
Monday, November 11
Monday, November 18
Monday, November 25

Regular Cattle Sale 9:30 am
Regular Cattle Sale 9:30 am
Regular Cattle Sale 12 Noon
Regular Cattle Sale 9:30 am

DECEMBER 2024

Monday, December 2
Thursday, December 5
Monday, December 9
Thursday, December 12
Monday, December 16

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Bred Cow Sale 12 Noon
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Elkhorn holds annual old-time harvest

BY ED JAMES

Throughout much of western Canada, farmers have been busy both night and day taking off the last of their crops or perhaps sewing some winter wheat.

For the last few weeks late at night, I have seen in the dark fields the bright combine headlights going back and forth taking off the crop. However, a few weeks ago there was a harvest right out of history as members of the Elkhorn Restoration Club and friends gathered to take off some wheat the old fashioned way.

The event was the harvesting of a field and the sheaves of wheat were put into storage at the Elkhorn Auto Museum. These sheaves will be used during next year's Canada Day for a demonstration of

the museum's antique threshing machine for which the power is supplied by a vintage steam engine tractor.

That evening, a vintage binder from the museum went up and down the fields and the bound sheaves slid off the binder's smooth sideboard. As they dropped off along the field, volunteers with long, sharp pitchforks forked them on the hay rack.

After a few hours, all three hay racks were filled with the golden collection. During the evening there were several people who came out to watch or take part in this display of western Canada's past farming history.

This year the crop field was supplied by the George Gamble family just west of Elkhorn.




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Sask canary seed exports top \$100 million in 2023

Saskatchewan was the world's leading exporter of canary seed in 2023 based on dollar value. Canary seed shipments from the province, which is home to over 90 per cent of Canadian canary seed production, were worth just over \$100 million, with Mexico being the top destination among world markets.

"Saskatchewan plays a key role in establishing Canada as the world's largest producer and exporter of canary seed," Agriculture Minister David Maritz said. "Global consumption for canary seed is relatively steady, and meeting that need as a reliable supplier of this and many other agricultural commodities is one of the reasons why our producers have always had such an important role in our economy."

"Saskatchewan remains a reliable producer of food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals the world needs," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "After a record-breaking year of agri-food exports, it is more important than ever that we continue to reach new international markets. The Saskatchewan Mexico Trade and Investment Office has been a key component in strengthening exports to the region, resulting in economic benefits here at home."

Canada is the source of more than half of the total annual world production and world trade of canary seed, mostly exported in bulk or bags. Aside from Mexico, other strong markets exist in Belgium, Brazil, Spain and the United States.

Saskatchewan surpassed its 2030 Growth Plan target of \$20 billion in agri-food exports six years ahead of schedule with total shipments of \$20.2 billion for 2023.




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Livestock prices	2024 forecast	2023 average	5-year average
Alberta fed steer \$/cwt	240	225	165
Alberta 550 lb steer \$/cwt	380	335	235
Alberta 850 lb steer \$/cwt	315	285	205
Ontario fed steer \$/cwt	230	225	165
Ontario 550 lb steer \$/cwt	345	295	215
Ontario 850 lb steer \$/cwt	300	280	205

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CanFax, CME Futures, and FCC calculations

Feed costs	2024 forecast \$/tonne	2023 average \$/tonne	5-year average
Feed barley (AB)	255	350	280
Corn (ON)	230	300	260

Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CanFax, CME Futures, and FCC calculations

Left is Table 1: Cattle prices have trended higher in 2024.

Above is Table 2: Feed costs forecasted to offer a reprieve.

Cattle herd declines amidst strong prices

BY JUSTIN SHEPHERD,
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC
AND LEIGH ANDERSON,
SENIOR ECONOMIST, FCC

The cattle market continues to experience a multi-year run of strong prices, offering robust marketing prospects for the industry. Year-over-year (YoY), cattle prices across all categories are set to increase and remain significantly above the 5-year averages. Since our early 2024 forecast, cattle prices have risen by \$5-30 per hundred weight (cwt), with cow-calf producers seeing the most substantial gains.

With cattle prices rising year over year, the margins for the cow/calf sector are projected to remain significantly above the five-year average.

Despite a successful first hay cut due to early season moisture, Alberta hay prices have stubbornly stayed high, with second cuts being limited after a hot and dry summer. Even then, feedlot profitability has been aided this year by declining feed grain costs, including lower prices for feed barley and corn compared to our early season outlook and their five-year averages (Table 2).

While feedlot margins have benefited from reduced feed costs, fed cattle prices have not increased as much as steer prices, which has balanced the overall impact. Retail beef prices are up over 25% in the last three years and consumers budgets in 2024 are tight. Knowing there is little room to pass on further price increases, packers are limiting bid prices for fed cattle, causing this price discrepancy. While beef prices at the grocery store aren't likely to go up, shoppers also won't see any savings.

Canada's beef breeding herd declined, again

Canada's beef cow and replacement heifer herd has been on a downward trend since its peak 20 years ago, and as of July 1, 2024, it was the smallest since 1987. The total cow inventory decreased by 2% year-over-year. Upon closer examination, heifers intended for beef replacement increased by 1%, while mature beef cows declined by 2%. Given that both groups contribute to future calf production, this indicates 2025 may not yet be the year for herd growth.

The reduced size of the beef herd is evident in slaughter facilities, with beef cows and heifers accounting for 48% of slaughter from January to July this year. This represents the largest percentage of female cows in slaughter since 2012, reflecting last year's decisions by producers to send heifers to feedlots.

Looking ahead, will decreasing feed costs, strong calf prices, and relatively better forage availability on the prairies in 2024 encourage cow-calf producers to expand the breeding herd?

Beef exports will be the key if the Canadian herd grows

With fewer cattle being produced, plants are relying on slaughtering heavier cattle to compensate. Up to July, Canadian federally inspected carcass weights have risen 6% this year, averaging 963 pounds (lbs.)—nearly 100 lbs. heavier than a decade ago. This efficiency gain means Canadian plants produce 5% more beef per year compared to 2000 while slaughtering 10% fewer cattle. Combined with the U.S., which has an integrated cattle and beef system with Canada, overall beef production has remained steady since 2000. In

contrast, South American countries now produce 42% more beef annually compared to 2000, and the rest of the world is up 11%.

Domestic beef consumption has been stable for 25 years, with population growth offsetting per capita consumption declines. There are opportunities for Canada to increase exports of live cattle and beef if the herd expands. Canadian beef exports have risen only 5% since 2000, compared to an 18% rise in the U.S. (13% combined). Meanwhile, South American exports soared by 360%, and global exports are up 85% (Figure 3), highlighting that there is strong global demand.

vCOOL and Canadian beef

One of the risks for Canadian beef producers is the upcoming January 1, 2026, implementation of the USDA's voluntary country of origin labelling (vCOOL) ruling that requires meat manufacturers who label their beef as "Product of USA" to use only animals born and raised in the U.S. The Canadian beef industry relies heavily on the U.S. market for live cattle exports as well as beef.

Continued on page 44

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property located in the Municipality of Brenda-Waskada and described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP
P.O. Box 485
102 N. Railway Ave.
Deloraine, MB R0M 0M0
Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

NW ¼ 14-2-25 WPM comprising 160 acres more or less*

* acreage taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Report

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the seller.
- Tenders must be received at or before **3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024** at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address set out above, Attn: Warren G. Barber.
- Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The land is currently subject to a lease which will expire upon the termination of the current crop year. Notwithstanding the date of closing, the tenant shall have access to the land to complete the current year's harvest including the removal of grain (if any) stored on the land.
- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale. The date of closing and possession shall be the first business day of January 2025 on which the date of the balance of the accepted tender must be paid or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of sale, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2025**.
- Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
- Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.

For further information or an appointment to view, contact **Jeff Thom @ 204-658-3521**.

Meighen Haddad LLP
LAW FIRM

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders to purchase the property situate in the Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester and described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP
P.O. Box 485
Deloraine, Manitoba
R0M 0M0
Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

Parcel One: NW ¼ 33-3-23 WPM

Parcel Two: NE ¼ 33-3-23 WPM

- The yard site in the NE ¼ 33-3-23 comprising 0.69 acres more or less is on a separate title and will be included in the sale of Parcel Two.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other representations made by the Vendors.
- Tenders may be submitted for the purchase of either or both parcels and must be received on or before **noon on Monday, November 4, 2024**. If tendering on both parcels, the tender must specify the price offered for each parcel.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of tender acceptance, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
- Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete a formal agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale.
- Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2025**.

Meighen Haddad LLP
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Cattle herd declines amidst strong prices

Continued from page 43

At first glance vCOOL seems less worrisome than mCOOL was (mandatory version running from 2009-2014), given the voluntary nature of the ruling. Still, if consumer demand for products made with a "Product of the USA" label truly exists – and if retailers demand it – manufacturers in the U.S. may rethink how much Canadian-raised livestock they need to source their plants. It's true that there is growing demand for beef in other parts of the world, which Canadian producers could tap, but increasing those export markets will be challenging with strong global competitors.

Bottom line

At this stage, there is not strong evidence showing that the beef herd is about to start increasing in Canada. Recent months have seen a declining ratio of heifers placed on feed relative to 2023 but it is too early to call it a trend. High calf and cow prices could be fueling small operations to exit at an opportune time, and while larger operations will take up some of the herd, the data yet does not signal that producers in aggregate are ready to grow.

Figure 1: Canadian cow and heifer for beef replacement herd at its lowest since 1987

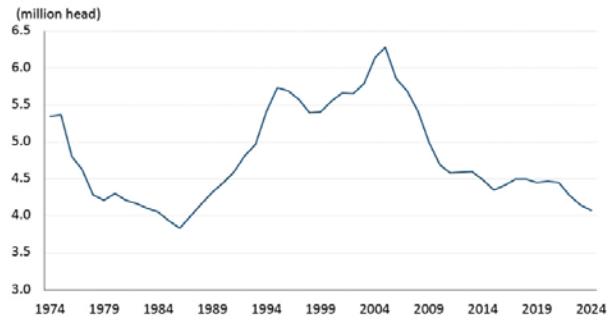


Figure 2: Global beef production is growing outside of Canada and U.S.

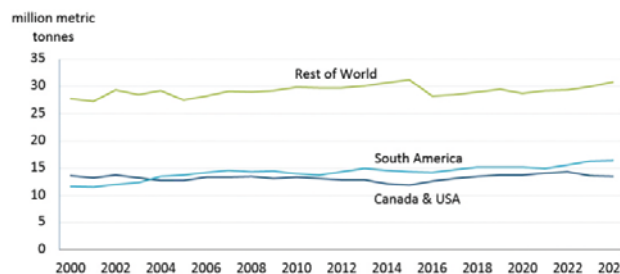
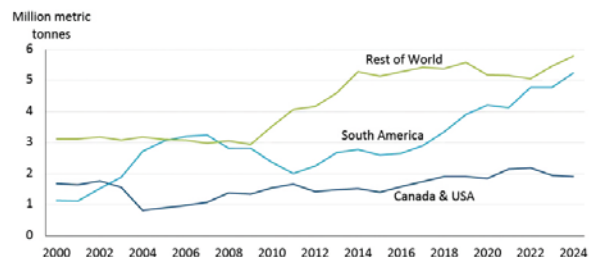


Figure 3: Global demand for beef is increasing, but export growth is happening outside North America





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USask researchers 'beefing' up cattle with affordable, drought-proof diet

Creating a high nutritional value diet that keeps beef cattle fed during challenging years is the focus of University of Saskatchewan (USask) research

Continued from Page 33

When it comes to beef cattle, diet changes can affect meat composition, including marbling, which is important for determining the quality of the meat. In Canada, producers aim for higher quality grading like prime and AAA.

"The challenges faced by producers have been exacerbated by the unprecedented drought in Western Canada," said Montenegro. "I've heard from people who have ranches for generations who have to sell off or downsize their operations to maintain their viability."

Montenegro saw potential and opportunity in cheaper byproducts from wheat and oil crops which can be used to alleviate some of the economic strain caused by high feed prices.

"Our research team wanted to see if we can take advantage of using these crop byproducts that are economical and widely available in Western Canada and include them in beef cattle diets without compromising growth performance," said Montenegro.

Montenegro was specifically interested in wheat straw, a crop byproduct that is

widely available and costs less than normal feed but has a lower nutritional value. But feeding cattle only wheat straw has its limitations.

"A similar comparison would be to feed only lettuce to a high-performance athlete," said Montenegro, "It has lots of fibre, but not a whole lot of nutrition by itself."

To improve the nutritional profile of wheat straw, Montenegro added in fats from another crop byproduct—canola or flax screenings.

These fats not only work to supplement the cattle's diet, but they can reduce the production of methane, a greenhouse gas

that is produced by the beef cattle industry.

With her research, Montenegro hopes to provide a more inclusive picture of different diets for producers by looking at cattle performance, economics, greenhouse gas emissions and how diets are digested.

"I'm very passionate about applied research and knowledge transfer from academia to industry, said Montenegro. "Helping producers improve operational efficiencies and increase animal health and welfare is really important for me as a researcher."

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Harvest of Hope brings in over 9,000 bushels

To date, project has generated \$3.1 million for Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Continued from Page 31

Larger impact

It's amazing to think how harvesting one field in south-east Saskatchewan will go towards helping so many people. Even more astounding is what can happen when several groups get together for the greater cause.

"Growing projects since the late 1980s have been really the backbone of the overall support that is received by the Canadian Food Grains Bank," said Rick Block, Foodgrains Bank representative for Saskatchewan. "Between 45 and even upwards of 50 per cent of our total donation income that comes to the Foodgrains Bank is received by virtue of registered growing projects, growing projects and community events."

Total donations to the Canadian Food Grains Bank from Saskatchewan usually range between \$2.5 to \$2.7 million per year. That may sound like a huge number, but it's also a reflection of the global need. Half of that comes from the 33 growing projects across the province.

"It's designed to respond to basic human need and suffering, the kind that at the scale that we really don't see in Canada," Block said. "Our motto is for 'a Christian response to hunger'. We seek to try to respond to any to situations all around the world where hunger is severe."

In addition to these generous donations, the federal government has also maintained a longstanding commitment to the cause. Since the Canadian Foodgrains Bank inception in 1983, a partnership has been in place - then under CIDA, and currently through Global Affairs Canada. Recently, that commitment has been reconfirmed with an announcement of \$100 million over four years.

"The Foodgrains Bank is very appreciative of this ongoing relationship with Global Affairs," Block said. "There's a \$25 million pot available each year for the food greens bank that we can access funds based on donations that come in."

That funding is specific to emergency food assistance and dollars are matched at a ratio of four to one.

"When you look at the reality of it, there is well over 800 million people worldwide that are really suffering from what we would term severe hunger, not really knowing where their next meal is coming from or impacted seasonally," Block explained. "Our network is doing everything it can to ensure that it responds to those that have needs."

That response can take on many forms, even something as simple as a food voucher can make a massive difference. Block gave the example of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to illustrate the point.

"There's vulnerability there, because they're not really legally allowed to work, and often it's mothers with chil-



People heading to their combines to help take off the crop during the Harvest of Hope last week.

dren, and so the receiving of a food voucher - because there's food in Lebanon, but the Syrians have difficulty in accessing food - those food vouchers allow the recipients to access food at kind of a designated locations," he said. "This seems like a small gift, but it's a huge gift. It's a huge burden that is lifted when one isn't having to worry about, how will they feed their children."

Other forms may include training farmers in different countries or education on increased nutrition. Sadly, there is one major reason for the global need, as Block noted, "conflict really is probably the primary driver of hunger."

The response from Canadian Foodgrains Bank is that of compassionate assistance while maintaining the dignity of those in need; much like how a local farmer might extend a hand to their neighbour who's in need. In this case, it's just a little longer reach.

"It's incumbent that we are keeping our eyes open—like you say, it's our global neighbours where the needs the greatest," Block

said. "We have a vast and vibrant network that really desires to respond to people, to provide supports so people can maintain their sense of dignity and maintain their livelihoods as best as possible."

Rick and Jacquie Block have been with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for the past eight years, with Jacquie actually being on the ground in Lebanon to assist Syrian refugees.

"We both obviously hold dearly to our Christian faith," Rick said, explaining what drew the couple the Foodgrains Bank. "That calls us to want to do the work in whatever capacity we can to demonstrate God's love and a sense of God's compassion and justice. Obviously, this is a paid position that we are in, and so we feel really fortunate to be able to connect with so many people across Saskatchewan who are also wanting to kind of reach out to others who are in a really difficult or tough situation."

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The World-Spectator's 140th anniversary cake, left, and the World-Spectator office in Moosomin, at right. The newspaper marked its 140th anniversary October 2. The first issue was published October 2, 1884.

World-Spectator celebrates 140 years

Continued from page 29

"I talked to Viktoriia, I interviewed the Minister of Advanced Education at the time, Gord Wyant, and he told me 'within two weeks we will have a solution.' Two weeks to the day after that, Viktoriia, myself and Kevin Kay, the mayor of Wawota, were all invited to the legislature and the government announced that they had solved the problem."

"We see that in big ways and little ways every single week, we see we are making a difference, like when we promote a fundraiser and it's sold out, that makes me proud."

"When Ashley wrote a story on the impact of Alzheimer's disease on one family this summer, a thorough and beautifully written story and somebody was so moved from reading the story that they donated \$100,000 to the Alzheimer's Walk, that is phenomenal. That doesn't happen with every media outlet. That is influencing people's lives for the better and we do that each and every week."

Weedmark said the newspaper's role in the communities it serves is important. "Informing people, whether that is making sure people know about local fundraisers or making sure people know about a person in need in their community, our role is just making sure people know that and trusting the people as long as they know the issues, they are going to help. I have seen it work hundreds or thousands of times. I am proud of what we do, getting the word out, connecting our communities, and influencing lives for the better."

Kinna says the paper feels like a responsibility to the community.

"I think the reason I keep doing what I'm doing is because the paper is such a big part of the community it serves, and by the community, I mean the region, not one town."

"It has become such a part of the daily lives of people in this area that I feel like if the paper didn't exist it would be like letting people down. I feel like we have a responsibility to serve our community and I think people look to the paper as a community institution, so they expect us to be here."

"If there is an issue or a problem that needs to be solved, they come to us or just to tell their stories. They look to the paper as the place where the area's stories are told. It is like they need it and they look to the paper as telling what is happening in the community and rely on us for that. I feel like the community relies on us and we don't ever want to let them down so it is our responsibility to make sure that the community is reflected back and people can look over those pages to see what happened and feel connected to the area and have an understanding of what is going on in the area, but also having some of their history being put down on some of those pages. Important moments in the area are told. As well as fundraisers, people rely on us to get the word out, so they come to us for help. If the paper wasn't here there are lots of things that happen in this community and I think we help with fundraisers, and stories being successful. I think that is partially why I keep doing it is a sense of responsibility to the region that we serve."

Celebrating 140 years

Kinna says it is exciting to be celebrating 140 years. "It feels surreal. It is strange to think this paper has been around for 140 years and over those 140 years, I think it has always been known as an excellent paper. I think it has always been a bit of a standout."

Weedmark says the World-Spectator has always been different from other media.

"The World-Spectator has never been a typical newspaper, it's always been different, and a bit of a leader that way. When it went daily during the Red River Rebellion in 1885, one of the owners went to the front to report. Your typical small town paper back then they would have a press and sell business cards and things like that and do a little paper once a week. Here, one of the original owners actually went to the front in the Northwest Rebellion and reported from the front. The paper actually went daily



Just a few of the artifacts from the World-Spectator's history, including early posters, business cards, photos, and printing plates.

in 1885 to print as they put it, 'the latest dispatches from the front.' In the last couple decades, I have travelled to Afghanistan, Vietnam, Pakistan and the Philippines to report, and we have sent a reporter to Mozambique, Africa to report on development projects and we sent a reporter to Kenya to report on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The largest growing project for the Foodgrains Bank in Saskatchewan is between Moosomin and Rocanville, and there is also a large growing project at Kola, Manitoba in our coverage area, so we not only talk to the farmers and the volunteers who grow the food for the Foodgrains Bank, we went to see where that food goes. It's not your typical small town paper and never has been."

"I find it interesting how different we are than the majority of the media. The vast majority of papers that were started 140 years ago are not there today. The vast majority of businesses that started 140 years ago are not there today. We are not only the oldest paper in Saskatchewan, but the oldest Saskatchewan-owned business. That tells you we have something special here. The fact that so many media at all levels seem to be struggling, but we are growing, tells you something. Not only are we celebrating our 140th year, but we are also not just surviving we are thriving. We are doing great, we are growing. When I look at the month end figures here, they are higher than last September and higher than any September ever before. When I look at our year to date financials, we have grown since last year, and last year we grew from the previous year and so on. It continues to grow and keeps expanding because we have amazing employees and the right attitude. We are not focusing on the bottom line and we are not solely here to make money, our main purpose is to serve our community, and it is working."

Kinna adds, "That is what is cool for me too, is 140 years later the paper isn't just going strong it is thriving and still growing, and I think that is pretty cool and unique. It is still carrying on that spirit of being brazenly and unapologetically independent."

Local archive

The World-Spectator also holds some of the history of the region. "We're not only the local newspaper, we are the local archive," Weedmark says. "We still have some artifacts dating back to day one. We still have the prospectus from when they were setting up the business. We still have our printing plates from the very first issue, we have printing plates of the first daily issue, we have printing plates of maps of the Assiniboia District of the Northwest Territories when there were very few commu-

nities that were not on the CP main line. In a way we are the keepers of the local history, and I am proud we beat the odds. Your typical business doesn't last 140 years. We have beat the odds, we are still growing and we have a bright future ahead of us."

Kinna adds, "I think it also proves that there is a winning formula that there is a way you can do it that works, because obviously this paper has been working for 140 years and still is working. So, there is a winning formula. If the media takes the right approach to things, it can be successful."

'Supportive community, great readers, amazing staff'

Weedmark says they thank their community and staff for their success as a newspaper.

"We couldn't have built this newspaper into what it is without incredibly supportive advertisers, a supportive community, great readers, and amazing staff," he said.

"I had a vision of what this business could be when I bought it, and that vision has become reality, but we never would have got here by ourselves."

"We never would have got here if previous owners like Bert McKay, John Meen and Bruce and Barb Penton hadn't built the foundation of a trusted newspaper, if they hadn't built the World-Spectator into a community institution."

"We never would have got here without lots of talented people on staff. We have been very fortunate to have absolutely amazing people on staff. I can sit and plan all I want, but if I don't have the people that can execute those plans effectively those plans aren't going to go anywhere. So, we have been very fortunate to have amazing employees over the years who have helped build this business."

Kinna says the community has been a huge part in the business's successes.

"Part of the reason for the Spectator's success has been the community support as well. We have a vision of what we want to do here, and the community seems to embrace and support that. So, we are extremely lucky they do that. People really love the paper, and they tell us that all of the time and they continue to encourage us to keep doing what we do."

Weedmark adds, "We have an incredibly supportive business community, incredibly supportive advertisers, and incredibly supportive readers. We wouldn't have reached this milestone without all of those people behind us."

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