

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 48 number 3
FALL 2015 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

AGRICULTURE and ENVIRONMENT

Combating Anthrax Outbreaks; Regulating Intensive Livestock Operations; PREP Rat Control Program Successes; Drought in Agriculture; RMAA Convention Highlights; STARS: Critical Care Pioneers; Agricultural Social Licence; Pesticide and Medication Collection Program; Invasive Alien Plants Wreck Environment





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OUR VISION

By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

OUR MISSION

SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.



drought in **AGRICULTURE**

BY RAY ORB SARM PRESIDENT

GREETINGS to all Reeves, Councilors and Administrators.

This last round of June Division meetings gave the SARM Executive and staff a great opportunity to see how the impending drought was affecting grain and forage crops around the province.

In spite of sporadic rainfall in some areas, generally the west and west central areas seemed to be suffering the most from a lack of rainfall.

This seemed to coincide with the announcement made on July 23, 2015 by Minister Ritz that the federal government recognized a drought area that included 164 Saskatchewan rural municipalities (RMs).

The livestock producers in those RMs will qualify for the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral program, and if forced to sell part or all of their breeding herd, they will be able to defer all of part of that income to another year.

One of the concerns we've heard from some producers and organizations, such as the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, is in regards to the Forage Insurance Program that is currently administered by the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

Approximately only 15 per cent of producers are enrolled in the Forage Insurance Program, which is a problem in its own.

Part of the issue, as cited by some producers, is the rapid increase in forage prices as a drought takes hold. Although crop insurance does have a variable price option, it simply doesn't provide producers with enough coverage to enable them to replace hay in severe shortage situations.

SARM's Agriculture Committee recently met with representatives of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance staff to discuss current insurance options and pledged to collaborate towards the development of an improved Forage Insurance Program.

SARM is also lobbying for the reinstatement of AgriStability margin coverage to 85 per cent from the current 70 per cent level. This would make a huge difference if payouts are triggered in parched areas of the province.

We are also looking forward to the next review of the National Safety Net Programs.

We have to start thinking more about a province-wide water management strategy which may involve constructing more dams and irrigation structures, and in general, more efficient management of our water resources.

During a recent tour of the Riverhurst area, we once again saw the huge benefits that Lake Diefenbaker contributes to the agriculture industry in both livestock and crop production.

Dr. John Pomeroy from the University of Saskatchewan is the Canadian Research Chair in Water Resources, and he has written several insightful papers on hydrology, and in particular, Saskatchewan's watershed areas and how they function.

In the days ahead, SARM will be announcing a federal election strategy and how we plan to forward our concerns to every political party and the media. Watch for that, it will be an exciting time!

In the meantime, all the best, and have a safe summer.



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE LYLE STEWART
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



MAINTAINING and improving our environment is an integral part of modern agriculture. Farmers and ranchers have often been called the original environmentalists, caring for our land, air and water. They want to ensure that they preserve the environment for future generations.

Through practices like no-till farming and feeding balanced livestock diets, producers across Saskatchewan have made sustainability a priority. This means that our soil is healthier and more productive, and that fewer resources are needed to produce food.

A prime example of how seriously our producers view environmental sustainability is the excellent uptake of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and Farm Stewardship Programs, two *Growing Forward 2* initiatives funded

by the federal and provincial governments. Since 2005, more than 12,000 Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers have completed an EFP.

With EFPs in place, producers are eligible to receive support through the Farm Stewardship Program to implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has identified 24 BMPs that are intended to help farmers and ranchers run their operations using more sustainable practices. They encompass everything from the relocation of livestock facilities to the establishment of native plant species.

To help the public better understand how dedicated the agriculture industry is to the environment, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has made "Stewards in Sustainability" the theme of

this year's Agriculture Month, held each October. During the month, producer groups and industry partners will share how they have worked to make environmental sustainability a regular part of what they do.

By improving the public's understanding of what producers and regulators do and why, we can help the agriculture industry maintain its social licence to operate.

I encourage you to seek out industry's sustainability stories and to share your own. Together, we can work to maintain the public's trust and support in the agriculture industry by demonstrating our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability through the adoption of best practices.

Thank you.



RANCHERS: essential to our communities

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE sport of hockey has always been an important part of my life. It is a key motivator in rural Saskatchewan, and without the support of fans, many community complexes would have a difficult time surviving. Fans make it fun.

Early in my career, when I was employed in the field of economic development, I was on the ice in an opposing team's rink when I heard a fan yell, "Meyer, tell us what you know about ranching." I chuckled at the question and thought to myself, interesting. Knowing opposing fans, it was an attempt to rattle my cage and throw me off my game. However, being new to southwest Saskatchewan, the question had some

merit. Many people do not understand how important the cattle industry is to our communities.

Ranchers are not only huge contributors to the economy but also the environment. They help protect water resources, provide habitat for wildlife and preserve natural landscapes. Ranchers also help protect our heritage by maintaining the same values, traditions and work ethic as ranchers generations before them. Ranchers are hard working people. They don't get holidays, taking time off because of weather is not permitted, and paid sick days do not exist. In order to be a rancher, team work and cooperation are essential. A helping hand from a

neighbor could mean a major decrease in expenditures. The cattle industry depends on a market that is very fickle. To be a rancher is to be perseverent. These traits are important in order to succeed in this industry, and these traits are passed on by ranchers to people who live in our communities.

I have many friends who are ranchers, who have allowed me to learn, live and love their lifestyle. Although many people may not know the inner aspects of the ranching industry, it is important for all to understand the importance it has on our communities. Not only is ranching a business for many in the province, it is also a livelihood and a way of life.



rat control is working **GET INVOLVED IN PREP TODAY**

BY LAUREL FELTN SARM DIRECTOR OF
MEMBER AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

LOOKING back on the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) over the last five years (2010–2015), we see a grant program that rural municipalities (RMs) have made great use of and that has greatly decreased rat infestation levels in the province.

PREP is funded under through *Growing Forward 2*; therefore, it receives funds from both the Provincial and Federal Agriculture Departments. In 2015, the program received \$1.4 million. Both federal and provincial governments have indicated the value of the PREP program by providing these funds once again to Saskatchewan RMs.

These funds are used to provide an average grant of \$4,500 per year per participating RM to pay for nearly half of the \$2.8 million in rat control expenses RMs report to PREP.

Grants are calculated at \$13.50 per farm site plus \$70.00 per township to a maximum of 50 per cent of eligible expenses reported.

The PREP Program is administered by SARM with overall guidance from a PREP Board of Directors made up of an elected representative from each of SARM's six divisions, a SARM representative, a Ministry of Agriculture

Five Year Provincial Rat Eradication Program Results

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
RMs Participated	85%	94%	93%	94%	96%
Provincial Infestation	7%	9%	7%	4%	3.65%
Infested Sites Reported	3,650	5,448	4,253	2,487	2,301

representative, our Pest Control Officer (PCO) Coordinator and SARM staff.

PREP also employs the services of a Provincial Coordinator and six Regional PCO Supervisors. Their duties and responsibilities include advising and assisting PCOs and RMs with rat control in the province, including dealing with large infestations, training a new PCO, outlining baiting best practices, etc.

The funding and human resources provided by RMs and PREP over the last five years has resulted in rat infestation levels decreasing from 7 per cent to 3.65 per cent and the number of infested sites reported decreasing from 3,650 to 2,301. These are numbers that PREP and its participating RMs should be very proud of!

PREP had 284 RMs participate in the program in 2014, which means that only 4 per cent of Saskatchewan RMs are not participating. If your RM doesn't

have the resources to complete all of the necessary inspections to comply with the PREP guidelines, we can help!

The PREP Board of Directors is dedicated to working with all RMs in the hopes that they will receive the full amount of eligible funding available through the program. The board understands there may be circumstances that may limit an RM from being compliant in any given program year. There are several resources the program has in place to assist RMs and PCOs should the need arise, so if you aren't participating, let us know why and the PREP board and staff can try and help.

For more information on the PREP Program, including contact information for PCO Supervisors and PREP forms and guidelines, go to www.prep.sarm.ca or call SARM at 306-757-3577.



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highlights of 95th ANNUAL RMAA CONVENTION

BY KEVIN RITCHIE RMAA DIRECTOR, DIVISION 2

MONDAY, MAY 11

Annual Golf Tournament:

ON Monday, May 11, the RMAA held its annual convention golf tournament at the Willows Golf Course in Saskatoon. 103 golfers participated in the shotgun start event. The 'Gang of Three' (Canada Culvert, Kramer Ltd. and Signal Industries Ltd.) were once again major sponsors for this event. In spite of the rather cool weather conditions, participants enjoyed the golf and the camaraderie.

Once again, the ladies tour was an alternative activity for those who do not golf. From all reports, the day's activities were a big hit with the 24 administrators and spouses who enjoyed a day of shopping and fun in Watrous with 'Women on the Go Tours,' who hosted the outing.

On Monday evening, the staff of the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHI) registered the delegates for the annual convention. Delegates enjoyed a wine and cheese reception at the Saskatoon Inn Hotel.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Morning Seminars:

Convention delegates had the choice of attending any two of the following three training seminars in the morning:

1. Seminar: "First Nation Reserve Creation in Rural Municipalities"
2. Seminar: "Everything you didn't learn in LGA but were afraid to ask"
3. Seminar: "Occupational Health & Safety Legislated Responsibilities."

Opening Luncheon:

The RMAA's 95th Annual Convention officially opened at noon with a luncheon. There were 255 administrators,

36 spouses, 11 associate members, two honorary members and 21 visitors for a total of 325 registered delegates in attendance. President Tim Leurer called the luncheon to order and asked for a moment of silence for those administrators who passed away during the previous year. Following the meal, Barb Griffin, the former Administrator of the RM of McKillop No. 220, officially opened the convention. Ray Orb, President of SARM, and Don Atchison, Mayor of the City of Saskatoon, brought greetings from their organizations. RMAA Vice-President Wendy Gowda responded to the greetings. Then, President Leurer acknowledged the 21 new RMAA members and presented those in attendance with a membership certificate and an association pin.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

President's Address:

RMAA Executive Director Kevin Ritchie reconvened the meeting at 2 p.m. Ritchie made several convention announcements. He also requested and received a resolution to accept the annual audited financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2014 and a resolution to appoint Jay Meyer, SARM's Executive Director, as Returning Officer for the 2015 RMAA elections.

An amendment to RMAA Bylaw No. 4 was presented and passed by the delegates.

Ritchie then introduced President Leurer, who gave his delegate address.

25 Year Members:

President Leurer acknowledged the two members of the RMAA (Lori McDonald and Lowell Prefontaine) who have achieved 25 years of service.

Board Of Examiners:

President Leurer; Rural Board of Examiners Representative, Wendy Gowda; and Secretary to the Rural Board of Examiners, Kevin Ritchie, presented the advanced certificates. A Rural "B" Certificate, as well as several Rural "A" and Rural "Superior A" certificates were presented to the successful applicants.

Fraternal Delegates:

President Leurer introduced the visiting delegates from our fraternal organizations:

UMAAS – Jan Hoffart, Administrator, Village of Halbrite, Saskatchewan

Round Table Discussions:

Delegates had a one hour period for round table discussions. Several suggested round table topics were displayed on the overhead screens. Delegates were encouraged to move to other tables to share their ideas and further discussion.

Entertainment:

'Off The Cuff,' an Improv comedy troupe from Prince Albert, entertained the delegates at 4 p.m. The convention adjourned for Tuesday at 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

The morning began at 9 a.m. with several members of Government Relations, Advisory Service staff presenting on a variety of topics.

Rick Burton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, also briefly addressed the delegates.

A soup and sandwich luncheon, sponsored by BHP Billiton, was served to the delegates at noon. Chris Ryder, Head of Corporate Affairs, BHP Billiton,



(Left) SMHI staff accept registrations at the 95th RMAA Annual Convention; (right) President Tim Leurer and President-Elect Wendy Gowda

addressed the delegates briefly. At 1 p.m., Trish Watier, from SaskEnergy, presented a short video on safety and underground natural gas lines, the importance of “Sask First Call,” and the concept of “Dial Before You Dig.”

President Elected:

At 2 p.m. Returning Officer Meyer announced that Wendy Gowda, Administrator for the RM of Leroy No. 339, had been elected President of the RMAA by acclamation. Gowda spoke briefly to the delegates thanking them for putting their trust in her.

SMHI Address:

SMHI CEO Rodney Schoettler gave a brief address concerning updates with respect to SMHI for 2015. Schoettler then introduced the SMHI sponsored keynote speaker, Michelle Ray. Ray gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on leadership and accountability.

The afternoon session was recessed at approximately 3:30 p.m.

SMHI Banquet:

At 6:00 p.m. delegates enjoyed a banquet sponsored by SMHI. Master of Ceremonies for the banquet was RMAA President Leurer. Also at the head table were Jim Reiter, Minister of Govern-

ment Relations; Ray Orb; RMAA President-Elect Gowda; Wayne Black, SMHI President; Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs; and David Marit, recipient of the 2015 Lou Jacobs Award.

Seven retired members were recognized for their years of service to rural Saskatchewan.

Black and Rodney Schoettler made presentations recognizing outstanding sales and performance in 2014.

Orb made three draws for door prizes at the conclusion of the evening.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

At 9 a.m. Meyer announced that nominations for Vice President would be received until 9:15 a.m.

At 9:15 a.m. Meyer announced that an election for Vice President would be held immediately with two candidates having been nominated – Edith Goddard and Darren Elder. Following the vote and ballot count, Darren Elder, Administrator of the RM of Wilton No. 472, was declared elected as RMAA Vice President. Elder gave a brief address thanking the members for placing their trust in him.

RMAA Committee Reports were presented by the RMAA Board from 9 to 10 a.m.

Divisional Meetings:

At 10 a.m. all members moved to their respective divisional meetings. Divisional Directors for Division 2 (Guy Lagrandeur, RM of Redburn No. 130), Division 4 (Fern Lucas, RM of Tisdale No. 497) and Division 6 (Jade Johnson, RM of Paynton No. 470) were newly elected in their respective divisions.

At approximately 11 a.m., the divisional meetings adjourned and the main meeting reconvened. RMAA President Gowda introduced the members of the RMAA Executive for 2015-2016.

There were no resolutions brought forward from the divisional meetings.

SARM Door Prize Draws:

Orb drew for several door prizes.

CAA Travel:

Cynthia Wong, from CAA Travel Saskatoon, was in attendance to make the draw for a travel voucher. Jenny Robinson from the RM of Piapot No. 110 won the CAA Travel Voucher.

The 2015 RMAA convention adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.



Combating **ANTHRAX OUTBREAKS**

BY **BEN CHURSINOFF** SARM SENIOR POLICY ANALYST



Photo credit: aljabos.com

THE recent deaths of two bison in northwest Saskatchewan have been confirmed as cases of anthrax. There are also several other deaths that are being investigated and are believed to be due to anthrax as well.

When an animal dies from anthrax there are often no signs of the animal being sick as death occurs suddenly and rapidly without much deteriora-

tion. Therefore, it is important that if a producer discovers a deceased animal and they suspect that it may be due to anthrax, the carcass should be secured and tested as soon as possible by a veterinarian.

The carcass should be kept away from other animals to prevent further spread, and producers should exercise caution when handling the carcass. It is recom-

mended that the carcass is not moved and not opened. Cutting into the carcass allows the spores to become airborne and spread further.

Although anthrax transmission from the animal to humans presents a low risk to humans, it is possible for humans to contract the infection through fluids entering the body through cuts or airborne spores through inhalation. Proper

protective measures should be taken, such as the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Animals can contract anthrax by being exposed to contaminated land. The bacteria *Bacillus anthracis* causes anthrax, and this bacterium can survive in soil or wet areas for years. This year's drier climate has made some of those wet areas more accessible to livestock and allowed the bacteria to come closer to the surface. As the animals graze, they become infected by eating contaminated pasture. The most susceptible animals are bison, cattle, sheep and goats. Other livestock, such as swine and birds, are more resistant to anthrax. Symptoms of anthrax include staggering, shortness of breath, trembling, collapse, a short period of convulsions, bloody discharges and death. The onset of symptoms occurs rapidly, and often times the animal dies suddenly before anything can be done.

The best method available to prevent anthrax is through the use of vaccination. It is highly recommended that producers vaccinate their animals every year to prevent the disease from spreading and

killing their livestock. This is especially pertinent to producers who reside in regions that have experienced previous outbreaks. Once the vaccination is administered, it takes seven to ten days for immunity to be developed. The Sterne vaccine is the only licensed vaccine in Canada, and it can only be used in cattle, sheep, horses, goats and pigs. If anthrax is detected in an animal, it is possible to be treated with antibiotics. The vaccine and antibiotics cannot be used at the same time as the antibiotics would kill the vaccine.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has a provincial anthrax response strategy that assists producers who have livestock to protect animal and public health. If one of your livestock dies and you suspect it may be anthrax, you should contact your local veterinarian. The veterinarian will come out and test the carcass. If it is confirmed as anthrax, then those results must be reported to the provincial Chief Veterinary Officer within 24 hours of confirmation, as well as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, as it is a federally reportable disease.

When a death is officially attributed to anthrax, the infected area will be quarantined to prevent further spread of anthrax to other animals. The quarantine will end seven days after the last confirmed death occurs. During the quarantine period, the infected area will be examined by an inspector. This inspector will determine the source of the bacteria and record animal movement during that time period. The inspector will also provide information on how to properly dispose of the carcass and clean up the contaminated land. Once this is completed, there will be a second inspection to ensure that the process has been done correctly and that the land no longer contains anthrax spores or poses a threat. The costs stemming from carcass disposal, cleaning, disinfecting, treatments, vaccinations and other control activities are the responsibility of the producer.

For more information on anthrax or to ask any questions, contact the Chief Veterinary Officer at (306) 787-5547 or contact your local veterinarian.



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This program is funded through Environmental Handling Fees that are applicable to new electronic products sold in the province.





RMs role in regulating **INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS**

BY AUTUMN DAWSON SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER

INTENSIVE Livestock Operations (ILOs) are regulated by both provincial and municipal authorities, which means there can be some overlap in the review of information and uncertainty as to who is regulating the different components of the development. This article is intended to provide some clarification on the RM's role when it comes to regulating ILOs, as well as some guidance to streamline the review and approval process by ensuring the proper regulations are incorporated into the municipal bylaws.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) administers *The Agricultural Operations Act, 1995*, which provides a regulatory framework for ensuring water resources are protected from ILO waste. Developers of ILOs must apply to the MOA for approval of waste storage and waste management plans. The application must include plans for storing manure and runoff, managing nutrients and disposing of animal carcasses. These plans must also include a characterization of the environmental risks associated with the site (surface and groundwater) and provide detailed information for mitigating this risk. The application process, review and approval may take up to a year or more, and it involves professionals, such as engineers.

Other provincial authorities involved in ILO development include the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, who regulates water use including the diversion of surface water and domestic waste lagoons; the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, who regulates incinerators, domestic waste and work that may impact aquatic habitat; and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Labor Relations and Workplace Safety, who regulates occupational health and safety that may apply to ILO's.

The regulation of ILOs by the municipal authority includes adopting regulations through bylaws, in order to enforce standards, and development criteria. It is important for the RM to know that they must have a Zoning Bylaw and may also require an Official Community Plan to address the development of ILOs within their jurisdiction. Without a Zoning Bylaw, the RM will not have control over where or how the development occurs as the Zoning Bylaw gives the RM the authority for land use decisions and can define areas where ILOs may be sited.

In addition to siting criteria, the RM must determine when and how they want to regulate ILO developments within their jurisdiction, including setback requirements and public notification requirements. Only the RM has the authority to designate setback requirements from other types of development, such as residential uses or tourist attractions, as there are no provincial requirements or guidance for these types of setback requirements. Typically setbacks are established in the Zoning Bylaw through a chart or table showing the minimum setback requirements, and they are based on the number of animal units within the ILO development; typically the greater number of animal units within the ILO, the greater the setback will be. It is up to the RM to determine these setbacks.

The RM also has the authority to determine at what scale (i.e. number of animal units) they would like to start regulating ILO's at the municipal level. This is done through the RM's definition of an ILO which may be different than the provincial definition. It is possible for a producer to require approval from the province and not the municipality or vice versa. A good example of

this is wintering sites for animals. The provincial requirements may require approvals for wintering sites, but a RM may decide to exempt wintering sites from RM approval. It would be up to the producer to ensure they are getting the proper permits from the correct jurisdiction. Many RMs do not want to regulate ILOs under 300 animal units or even 500 animal units; whereas the provincial regulations may require approvals for ILOs with as little as 20 animal units, if the proposed site is near environmentally sensitive watercourses or a water well.

The RM also has the authority to require ILO developers to provide proper notification to neighbouring properties and land users. The Zoning Bylaw can provide regulations for mandatory public engagement through public meetings or other types of notification. The provincial authorities do not have regulations for public notification, so it is up to the RM to protect the interests of neighbouring properties. It is also up to the RM to protect municipal interests, such as roads and other services. During the development permit process, it is important to discuss routes and any road or service upgrades that may be needed to facilitate the ILO development as this will not be handled by a provincial authority.

By having effective regulations in place, RMs are able to encourage and facilitate growth within their jurisdictions, including ILO development. Preparation and planning for ILO development, as well as knowing your role in the approval process, are key to ensuring the successful development and healthy relationships with ILO developers.



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As plans for another busy construction season are well underway, safety on jobsites and in communities around the province remains SaskEnergy's top priority. We're investing in safety initiatives to meet new challenges, while continuously improving safety practices and procedures.

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INVESTING IN SAFETY

We want to keep you informed of our efforts and the actions you can take to assist with keeping communities safe.

SaskEnergy will be in communities around the province continuing with preventative maintenance programs and upgrades to its 83,000 km pipeline system.

We will continue to work with Sask 1st Call and industry partners to promote safe digging practices for contractors, landowners and homeowners, including the expansion of Sask 1st Call's Safety Patrol program – the first of its kind in Canada.

As new challenges arise, SaskEnergy and TransGas will look for opportunities to improve procedures while working to adopt industry best practices. This includes service initiatives such as joint line locating and our extensive natural gas leak survey program.

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When buildings are being constructed, renovated or taken down, or you are planning to excavate, our team can help make job sites safer. With your support, we will be overseeing excavation projects near major natural gas pipelines. In addition, we will work with stakeholders to ensure the safe removal of natural gas service lines before buildings are taken down.

WE ARE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US

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Saskatchewan is a safer place when we work together!

Make sure you know where underground lines are before you dig by contacting Sask 1st Call online at sask1stcall.com or calling 1-866-828-4888.

Follow safe digging practices when excavating around marked lines.

If you smell natural gas, are planning a demolition project, or if you have any safety-related concerns, contact SaskEnergy at 1-888-7000-GAS(427).

Let's stay safe by working together.

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adapting to change **SOCIAL MEDIA**

BY ASHLEY LEUGNER

SARM COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ASSISTANT

IT'S 2015 and the only thing constant is change. Change is not a bad thing; it can bring growth and efficiency to an organization. The way we market and communicate are among the changes taking place in society. Even the way we communicate with friends and family – texting, tweeting, facebooking – is endless. You can't walk down the street without seeing someone so wrapped up in their phone, they are oblivious to the environment around them.

Gone are the days of traditional marketing and communications; social media is the new black. Nearly 1.5 billion people use Facebook every month, Twitter has more than 300 million monthly users, and LinkedIn has over 380 million users. Social media is inevitable for organizations; it is undoubtedly the future.

Some municipalities are coming out of their shells and logging on to social media, but few are sprinting forward with it, although they are headed that way. If your municipality has not yet taken the social media plunge, consider this: it is very likely that someone else on social media is already talking about you, and you are missing the conversation! It's not too late to join and see what people are saying, not just about your municipality, but about the community's happenings, events and even political issues – the conversations are endless.

Municipalities are not the last organizations to embrace social media, but they are close. The most practical incentive for municipalities is the ability for social media to transmit and disseminate information very quickly. It is for this reason that police, fire departments and other emergency responders were among the first municipal service providers on the continent to embrace social media. Social media is instant, providing instant news

with an infinite reach. It is a blessing if used properly and a curse if misused. This is where a social media policy comes into play. The purpose of a social media policy is to provide detailed information about how an organization is approaching social media and will guide the designated communicator on what they can and cannot post. It is very important that every organization using social media has a social media policy in place.

Once your social media policy is in place, it's time to sign up. Some questions you may have are: where do we begin? What do we say? Who will we say it to? And why? These are all valid questions.

It takes about two minutes to open a Twitter account, but first just begin by stopping and listening. Before your first tweet, search Twitter for people talking about your municipality or similar issues you are dealing with. A good place to start is within the community, neighbouring municipalities, local news media, government officials, colleagues and any other organizations you are involved with.

You can join social media and say nothing, just see what other people are talking about and how they are responding. Resist the urge to tweet or post until you get a feel for how it works. When you are ready to post remember to be humble, honest, positive, not overly promotional, productive and interesting. It is important to remember that posts are online forever, so before you post ask yourself "is this something you would say at a council meeting or a ratepayer meeting?" because it is the same thing. Some people make the mistake of hiding behind a computer and ruffling feathers in the world, but this is not the purpose of social media. The purpose is to engage in conversations and discussions that you may not have otherwise. Social media has

Social Media Stats

As of July 30, 2015



nearly
1.5 BILLION
monthly users



over
300 MILLION
monthly users



over
380 MILLION
accounts

the ability to facilitate two way relationships. This is what sets it apart from other communications tools.

You may be wondering how much time and money you need to put into social media communications. The truth is, you can spend as little or as much as you feel necessary. Some municipalities will invest more than others into their social media programs. It's quick, easy and free to join Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Some may have one person responsible for their accounts, while others may share the responsibility among employees, each dedicating a half hour to an hour a day monitoring the accounts on a rotational basis. Some will post every day, others once a week. It really depends on your communications strategies, goals and resources. Determine the needs of your individual municipality and devote the appropriate time and resources to meet your communications objectives.

If you are interested in adopting a social media policy, but don't know where to start, contact SARM's Communications and Marketing Assistant, Ashley Leugner, at aleugner@sarm.ca or (306) 761-3931.

[For everyone you love ...]



COME HOME SAFE TONIGHT

Working around power lines is dangerous. If an electrical incident happens, someone can be seriously injured ... or worse. Remember to **look up and live** — plan your route in advance, take note of power lines and always use a spotter.

For more safety tips visit www.saskpower.com/safety.

 **SaskPower**
Powering the future[®]



STARS

Saskatchewan STARS: PIONEERING CRITICAL CARE

BY BONNIE MONTEITH STARS AIR AMBULANCE

A call to remember

CARRIE Derin and her oldest daughter were riding an ATV slowly along a dirt path looking for beaver dams in Moose Mountain Provincial Park, SK. Suddenly, their ATV hit a fallen tree. It tore through the front of the ATV, pierced her abdomen and continued through the back of her seat. Carrie started to lose blood quickly. She packed her wound and waited for a ground ambulance to transport her to a waiting STARS helicopter. The STARS crew knew that if Carrie didn't receive blood soon, she wouldn't survive the trip to Regina.

Darcy McKay, Clinic Operations Manager for STARS in Regina, remembers Carrie's mission. "Initially, ground EMS could not get a blood pressure; she had lost a lot of blood," says McKay. "Providing critical care within the first hour

of an emergency reduces the chances of death or permanent damage. Carrie needed a blood transfusion to stay alive."

Before the STARS crew could transport Carrie back to Regina, they had to stop at the Arcola hospital for blood. They transfused her while enroute back to Regina – saving her life.

A Canadian air medical first

McKay says it was Carrie's event that started the thinking on how STARS could access blood more readily and carry patients to hospital faster. Not every rural hospital carries blood, which can add more time onto a patient transport.

After months of research, McKay brought the idea of stocking blood on the helicopter to the Regina Qu'Appelle

Health Region (RQHR). It would include housing two units of O negative blood in a specialized cooler – a similar concept was deployed in the Iraqi war.

On November 6, 2013, STARS in Regina became the first air medical service in Canada to begin stocking blood in advance for lifesaving transfusions on air medical missions. STARS' Saskatoon base followed shortly after. Today, five STARS bases have implemented the program.

"It is inspiring to see the innovation Saskatchewan demonstrated in providing our citizens with this game-changing roadside treatment that very few other services in North America provide," says Dr. John Froh, Transport Physician and Base Medical Director for STARS in Saskatoon.

Local innovation improves transport times

The “blood on board” program is not the only Saskatchewan-led milestone. Moosomin also pioneered a program that is helping to reduce STARS’ transport times and aid patients in arriving at hospitals quicker.

In the realm of critical care, time is always a key factor. For the Saskatchewan BK117 helicopters, emergency calls to locations further than 500 km for a return trip require the helicopter to touch down and gas up at special fuel service stations.

The Town of Moosomin was one of those locations. “A patient would be carried by ground ambulance to Wapella, 16 miles west of Moosomin, where STARS could land and return to Regina without refueling,” says Rob Hanson, Moosomin’s Fire Chief. “The process added time to the transport.”

Equally concerning was if a patient had been treated using specialized medical equipment, moving them could run the risk of displacing it.

The Moosomin Fire Department, who helps land the STARS helicopter in their area, knew of the challenge. After several discussions among firefighters and community members, the idea for mobile fuel emerged. In October 2013, Moosomin launched the first mobile fuel cache. With strong community support and a host of fundraisers, the firefighters purchased a mobile trailer and outfitted it with barrels that delivered fuel directly to the STARS helicopter’s location.

Today, STARS has gone from one mobile fuel cache to six across the province. Wadena Fire Chief Harold Narfason says they have the privilege of serving both base helicopters with their fuel cache. “We know how important STARS is, especially in rural areas,” says Narfason. “They are an extremely professional and

competent team of people, and we are very proud to help them out with fueling and landing.”

A caring community

For Carrie Derin, both blood and time saved her life. “I knew I was severely injured,” says Carrie. “They brought me back to my family.” She says her STARS crew are lifesavers and life-givers.

“This type of innovation couldn’t happen without the generous support of our Saskatchewan donors,” says Andrea Robertson, STARS’ President and CEO. “We were so humbled when in March 2012, the SARM membership made a voluntary motion to donate to our mission. It is absolutely astonishing that in just over three years, they have given us more than \$1 million.” She says it is donations like these that will help STARS continue to be innovative in providing the best critical care for patients across Saskatchewan. For more details, visit www.stars.ca.



Plan to Participate!

MLDP Fall Modules Now Scheduled

Make plans now to attend an MLDP workshop near you
Choose from:

- Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities;
- Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals;
- Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace;
- Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities; or
- Community and Land Use Planning.

The workshops will be held from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Visit www.mldp.ca for course locations, descriptions and to register!

Register Now!

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) is a series of modules or workshops developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. The modules target specific issues of importance to rural, urban and northern municipalities.

Municipal Leadership
Development Program
200 – 2221 Cornwall Street
Regina, SK S4P 2L1
Email: mldp@sasktel.net
Phone: (306) 761-3725
Fax: (306) 565-2141



power line locates: **LOOK UP!**



NO one likes obstacles. When something is getting in the way of getting a job done, it's time consuming and frustrating. But it's important to know when the obstacles in the way are serving their own purpose in order to find a way to work around them.

One of the biggest frustrations SaskPower hears from its rural and farm customers is the location of power lines. Landowners can sometimes find themselves having to work around power infrastructure on their land, and it can raise a lot of questions.

SaskPower's top priority is to provide reliable electricity to its customers while making sure customers and employees are safe. There is a big challenge ahead, maintaining the health of the current electricity grid while working to meet the increasing demands of a growing province. The way lines are designed plays an important role.

WHO DECIDES WHERE THE LINES GO?

The *Power Corporation Act* gives SaskPower the authority to determine the placement of power lines, including within road allowances. Simply put, SaskPower has the legal right to have lines there; while landowners do occasionally use the land within road allowances, the primary purpose of this area has always been to act as a utility corridor.

It's not always convenient, which can be difficult for customers. But if SaskPower is putting poles and other infrastructure in the road allowances, it's because that is the safest, most efficient way to get the job done.

That doesn't mean that the needs of landowners are set aside. SaskPower has design standards that try to balance the desires of customers with the company's need to safely construct, operate and maintain a power line.

These standards include:

- Looking for the shortest possible route to build a line;
- Building lines on the same side of the road as the electrical service they provide, as much as possible (if a road allowance is steep or swampy, for example, the opposite side may be used); and
- Location of existing lines (if an existing line is on the west side of the road, it makes sense to keep building on that side).

WHY CAN'T LINES GO UNDERGROUND?

The cost of building lines underground, and the equipment needed, is two to three times higher than building overhead. However, landowners can pay extra costs to bury a line, if desired, through the Farmyard Power Line Relocation Program. SaskPower primary 25 kilovolt (kV) or 14.4 kV overhead power lines that are located within farmyards can be replaced with underground cables, using a cost-sharing approach.

SaskPower will invest a major portion of the cost to bury or relocate overhead power lines in farmyards and immediate work areas. SaskPower will cover 75 per cent of the costs; landowners are responsible for 25 per cent of the total construction cost to a maximum of \$2,000.

If a farmyard is eligible, the overhead primary line will be installed underground using the most economical method, without compromising SaskPower construction and safety standards. The existing overhead transformer pole will be replaced with a pad-mounted transformer. Landowners will be responsible for burying any private power lines.

At the landowner's request, the existing overhead transformer power pole may be left. SaskPower will remove all hardware

and landowners can assume ownership by signing a pole transfer agreement.

This popular program has a limited annual budget, and all applications may not be approved in the same year in which an application is submitted. Approved applications will be carried out subject to annual construction schedules on a first-come, first-paid, first-served basis.

To apply, visit www.saskpower.com/safety/electrical-safety/worker-safety/relocating-farmyard-power-lines to read the criteria to learn if you are eligible for the program. If you are, call 1-888-757-6937 or visit a SaskPower customer service office to apply. SaskPower will contact you with any follow-up questions and provide a formal quote, which outlines the cost and details that apply.

WHAT ABOUT TREES - WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?

Besides overhead lines, trees and other vegetation need to be managed properly in order to stay safe when working in rural areas. Trees that contact lines can cause outages, and pruning trees around lines is an important part of SaskPower's work to maintain reliable service.

If a tree is in contact with a line, customers are urged to call SaskPower at 1-888-757-6937 to report the situation. Tree trimming requests can also be submitted online at www.saskpower.com/accounts-and-services/service-requests/request-tree-trimming.

When planting, there are also considerations to make so that the right tree goes in the right place. Local nurseries are a good source of information, and SaskPower's website has information on different planting zones and what trees work best: www.saskpower.com/safety/electrical-safety/homeowner-safety/safely-managing-trees-around-power-lines.



agricultural **SOCIAL LICENCE**

BY JULIE-ANNE HOWE MSC, AAG

PROVINCIAL SPECIALIST, AGRICULTURE AWARENESS
REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH

Articles on pages 22-23 reprinted from Agriview

DID you know that Canadian agricultural producers grow the safest food in the world? It's true. According to the Conference Board of Canada's 2014 report on world food safety, Canada – followed by Ireland and France – produces the safest food in the world.

This is the message the agricultural industry needs to share so the general public gives the industry “social licence” to operate. Social licence is the privilege of operating with minimal formalized restrictions (legislation, regulation or market requirements) based on maintaining public trust by doing what's right.

Maintaining agriculture's social licence will be a key factor in increasing the province's crop and value-added produc-

tion and exports, as well as remaining a leader in biosciences.

Canada's agricultural and food safety regulations are based on sound science but, with some technology and production practices receiving public scrutiny, we need to explain the safety of these practices and how they let us grow more food with fewer inputs. We need to reassure that producers are good land stewards and share their values of environmental sustainability, responsible livestock and land care, and building a future for our province's youth. If we don't, we may lose the public's trust and the social licence to operate.

Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan recently launched the “Real Dirt on

Farming” speakers' bureau training program to help farmers and agricultural professionals develop the skills to confidently share their stories and dispel common myths.

As an industry, we need to tell the story of what we are doing to improve our production practices and to demonstrate that Saskatchewan agriculture is a modern industry producing some of the safest food in the world.

More information on the “Real Dirt on Farming” speakers' bureau can be found on the Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan website at www.farm-foodcaresk.org. For more information, contact Julie-Anne Howe at 306-787-3477 or julie-anne.howe@gov.sk.ca.



- SAMA has completed and implemented phase one of our multi-phase Technology Infrastructure (TI) Program, which saw upgrades to the interface of SAMA's internal computer system. The resulting efficiency gains are expected to improve our ability to complete maintenance in a more timely fashion for 2016, and begin to increase our capacity to conduct property reinspections going forward. For more information on the TI Program, please visit SAMA's website at www.sama.sk.ca.
- SAMA conducts revaluations based on a four-year cycle. 2013 was the year of the last revaluation, and in 2017 assessed values will be updated to reflect a new base date of January 1, 2015. The Agency recognizes that all parties should be provided with as much time as possible to examine the assessment shifts and make tax policy decisions prior to 2017. SAMA plans to ensure that assessment trends are communicated to Government Relations on or before April 1, 2016, and to our client municipalities by September 1, 2016.
- SAMA is continually working to improve our customer service. Part of our ongoing efforts to prioritize maintenance work is to establish service charters with municipalities that detail their individual delivery needs. Contact your local SAMA office for more details or to discuss setting up a maintenance service charter.
- For more information on SAMA or Saskatchewan's assessment system, or to view individual property assessments on SAMAVIEW, please visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262,
or by email: info.request@sama.sk.ca.



Have you been practicing community and economic development for a minimum of two years?

If so, you can be recognized for your achievements through the voluntary certification program offered by the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association (SEDA).

The Professional Community and Economic Developer of Saskatchewan™ designation offers a baseline credential for individuals employed or providing volunteer based services in the province.

The certification process emphasizes the importance of practical competencies that are particularly important in the community and economic development sector due to the multi-disciplinary nature of our work.

Why Certify?

- To provide a sense of pride and professional accomplishment.
- Meet the needs of your employer and/or the public by reflecting your attainment of specific knowledge and skills.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the profession and to life-long learning.

Visit the **Education Section** at www.seda.sk.ca for the Certification Handbook or contact SEDA directly at 306-384-5817 to discuss this opportunity.

The 2015 Certification Application Deadline is October 1, 2015.



old pesticide and medication **COLLECTION IN SOUTHERN SASK**

BY RICHARD WILKINS, BSC, MBA
PROVINCIAL SPECIALIST, PESTICIDE REGULATION
CROPS AND IRRIGATION BRANCH

SASKATCHEWAN farmers have a long history of good stewardship and have been participating in the obsolete collections program since the early 1990s.

Obsolete Pesticide Collection events are organized and operated by CleanFarms, a national industry-led agricultural waste stewardship organization, that is also involved in recycling pesticide containers and agricultural plastic. The Obsolete Pesticide Collection program is delivered in each province on a rotating basis about every three years. The program is free to producers.

From October 24-27, 2014, CleanFarms was in southern Saskatchewan operating collection sites at 20 agricultural

retailers. Farmers and ranchers returned 93,935 kg of obsolete and unwanted pesticides and 540 kg of veterinary medication.

“This year’s collection was a great success thanks to the commitment of Saskatchewan farmers and participating ag-retail collection sites. CleanFarms is proud to offer collection programs that ensure unwanted and obsolete pesticides, as well as veterinary medications, can be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way,” said CleanFarms’ General Manager, Barry Friesen.

This was the first time the combined pesticide/medication collection was offered in Saskatchewan. All the material

collected was shipped to SENA in Swan Hills, Alberta for high-temperature incineration. The cost of the program was approximately \$290,000.

The program will be delivered in northern Saskatchewan (north of Davidson) this fall. The program was previously offered in northern Saskatchewan in 2011 when over 60,000 kg of product was collected and disposed in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

The collection locations and dates for 2015 are online at www.cleanfarms.ca. Between collection events, farmers are encouraged to safely store their unwanted pesticides and livestock medications until they can be disposed of by the program.



Recycle Saskatchewan is the trusted voice and champion of recycling within the province of Saskatchewan. Diligently promoting responsible recycling within our province and awareness of each of the six Product Management Programs, Recycle Saskatchewan (RS) is changing the way Saskatchewan residents steward the land and divert unnecessary waste from landfills.

Our Members





invasive alien plants **WRECK THE ENVIRONMENT**

BY HARVEY ANDERSON

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP PLANNING ADVISOR

I have been preaching the word for over 10 years now that these plants come to Saskatchewan from another region of the world and usually arrive here without any natural predators, which tended to keep them in check in their homelands. While not all imported plants cause environmental problems, the ones that do, have special characteristics which enable them to out-compete native plants after they arrive. These foreign plants tend to displace less competitive plants and form large monocultures if they are not controlled by human intervention or by introduced natural enemies.

Scentless Chamomile produces thousands of seeds per plant which gives it an advantage. Leafy Spurge will spread at least three meters (10 feet) per year by underground shoots, as well as by seed pods which explode when ripe and can propel seeds 3 meters in all directions. The other plants on the Prohibited and Noxious Weed Lists of the *Weed Control Act* have either similar characteristics or other means that enable them to out-compete local plants. For example, Salt Cedar shrubs or trees collect dissolved soil salts, which are concentrated in leaf glands, and when the leaves are dropped annually, the salts change the soil so that most other plants can't live in the altered soil, but seeds from the Salt Cedar trees can readily germinate and grow, eventually creating a monoculture along the watercourse.

Some alien plant species have become some of the major crops in our province, while other alien plant species are changing our environment, most often not in a good way. Some of our native animal species will not use these foreign plants for food or even as shelter or nesting sites, so these monocultures can alter the native animal populations as well. As



some of these foreign plants have different root structures, they can have less soil holding capabilities on slopes and along riparian courses, which can also alter water quality in these areas.

Our world is getting smaller, and with a continuous increase in global trade, the threat of new invasive alien species arriving in North America is increasing as well. While not every foreign species can survive and thrive in our climate, some can and will. These foreign species may arrive as hitchhikers in ships ballast tanks or as interesting new garden plants. Once here, they move along the major pathways of spread: the watercourses, human travel routes, our roadways and rail lines.

It should be a concern of all governments in Canada, including municipal governments, to ensure our environment is not altered, especially in a detrimental way by any force, including invasive alien species.

Higher levels of government are involved in surveillance, warnings and information dispersal and often provide some financial assistance, but the governments closest to the detrimental environmental effects are usually the bodies assigned the work of keeping the local environment unaltered. I believe all elected officials should live by the principle that when they are given the role of directing a local government, they should strive to ensure that the area they govern is no worse off when they pass on the governing role than when they started.

Even if your rural municipality is not presently adversely effected by an invasive plant, you should prepare to deal with an invading alien species as more are coming each year. Each municipality should appoint a weed inspector, who is responsible for controlling the invader when it first shows up. The municipality should also have a plan on how it will deal with this first occurrence, an awareness program to warn landowners of encroaching invading plants, and a scouting effort to be actively looking for potential invaders. These steps will put your municipality ahead of the curve and will very likely save you money in the future. More importantly, these actions will reduce the possibility of harm to your municipality's natural environment.

Harvey Anderson is an Invasive Alien Plants Group Coordinator, working jointly with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. Project funding is provided by the Canada-Saskatchewan "Growing Forward" Program.

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Clean water

As nature's filter, wetlands play a key role in keeping our water clean. Clean water is vital for the health of livestock.



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Protect wetlands.



Ducks Unlimited Canada

ducks.ca

and the winners are... 2015 SASK. MUNICIPAL AWARDS

BY TIFFANY WOLF SUMA



(Left) First Place: Regional Municipal Plaza (RMs of Baildon, Hillsborough, Rodgers, Moose Jaw, and Caron); (right) Regional Cooperation: Moose Jaw – Regina Industrial Corridor Committee Inc. (RMs of Sherwood, Pense and Moose Jaw, cities of Moose Jaw and Regina, Town of Pense, villages of Grand Coulee and Belle Plaine)

IT'S time to reflect on a year of municipal success with the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards. The program is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, and the Ministry of Government Relations.

This was the eight annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards, and we are getting into the swing of our new award presentations at the SUMA and SARM conventions. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the innovation and excellence in Saskatchewan municipalities, surrounded by colleagues and peers. This year the awards program received 10 nominations representing 33 municipalities, which made for a big job for the selection committee. This year's selection committee consisted of:

- Keith Schneider, former Executive Director of SUMA and Principal with ADVOCO Consulting;

- Ken Engel, former Executive Director of SARM;
- Jim Scarrow, former Mayor of Prince Albert and former Vice-President of Cities for SUMA;
- Gordon Barnhardt, President of the University of Saskatchewan and former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan;
- Neal Hardy, former President of SARM; and
- Jeff Mulligan, Managing Partner of AHHA Moments Inc. and former Mayor of Lloydminster.

Thank you to the entire committee for their work celebrating local governments in the province. The Saskatchewan Municipal Awards are a great way to celebrate those municipalities who are going the extra mile. Everyone benefits when municipalities do well, so we offer inspiration in the form of winning projects. Maybe you can turn that inspiration into innovation in your own municipality, and it could be your projects on these pages next year!

First Place: Regional Municipal Plaza (RMs of Baildon, Hillsborough, Rodgers,

Moose Jaw, and Caron). A jointly owned building, allowing member municipalities to share space and resources and facilitate future cooperation.

Second Place: Revitalization of Merchants Bank of Canada Building (City of Humboldt). Turning an under-utilized, municipally owned building in the downtown into Humboldt's first and only public art gallery.

Third Place: Water Conservation Measures Bylaw (Town of Lumsden). A bylaw regulating new builds to reduce water usage and alleviate pressure on the existing wastewater treatment system.

Regional Cooperation: Moose Jaw – Regina Industrial Corridor Committee Inc. (RMs of Sherwood, Pense and Moose Jaw, cities of Moose Jaw and Regina, Town of Pense, villages of Grand Coulee and Belle Plaine). A not-for-profit corporation created to attract investment to the area and support regional planning.

To learn more about the award recipients, including videos with project and community leaders talking about their projects, visit www.municipalawards.ca.



good governance: **MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

BY ASHLEY LEUGNER PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, MLDP

"So good, I missed my afternoon nap!"

- Participant

THESE are the words of a Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) participant. Do more of us need a reason to miss our naps? Everyone loves them, but you can also love the MLDP's engaging and educational modules.

The program was developed in 2003 for Saskatchewan's elected and appointed municipal leaders. The program is a partnership between SARM, SUMA, RMAA, UMAAS, New North and the Ministry of Government Relations. It's designed to be responsive to municipal officials' needs and is always accepting feedback about municipalities' changing educational and training needs.

If you haven't taken an MLDP module, now is the time. MLDP graduates and participants cannot say enough about the program. MLDP is a series of six modules offered twice both in the fall and the winter. The winter sessions are always held the day before the SUMA and SARM conventions. For 2016, the winter modules will be on January 30 and March 7 at the Queensbury Convention Centre, Regina. If you can't wait, visit www.mldp.ca for the fall 2015 dates.

The MLDP's goal is to strengthen local government and address issues facing officials through these modules:

MUNICIPAL LEADERS' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Designed for newly elected officials, this module provides information on council procedures, and your role in policy decision making and being a community leader. It is delivered separately through SARM, SUMA and New North newly elected workshops.

STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Learn how council and staff plan for municipal success by setting strategic priorities, developing action plans and building financial frameworks to achieve desired outcomes.

"Great presenter with a vast knowledge of the material as well as a varied background on many aspects of the profession."

- Participant

MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDAMENTALS

This module helps find answers to key economic development questions: What is it? Who are the players? What role can the municipality play? What kind of returns can we expect?

"Very good workshop. I wish that all of council would take it!"

- Participant

HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE MUNICIPAL WORKPLACE

This interactive session gives an overview of the labour market, council and administration's role in human resources and the legislative framework around it. You'll learn how to deal with conflict, about the hiring and dismissal processes, the importance of orientation and motivation, and how to manage performance.

"All councillors should be encouraged to take this workshop. People are our most valuable resource and can also be our biggest liability."

- Participant

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

This module teaches you how to effectively communicate with your ratepayers as well as the media. Learn how to become proactive in your public relations activities. Get tips on public speaking and techniques used by print, radio, television and other media.

"Best class so far!"

- Participant

COMMUNITY AND LAND-USE PLANNING

This module covers many areas around community and land-use planning: the roles and responsibilities of council, administration and the public; the creation, adoption and amendment process for Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws; the subdivision process; servicing agreements; the development and permits process; the development appeal board process; enforcing bylaws; the building permit process; and regional planning.

"Very knowledgeable presenter, great flow of presentation"

-Participant

Not only are these modules a great source of information and skills for you to take back to your municipality, they present a great opportunity to network with other municipal leaders to share experiences, successes and challenges. As these testimonials show, there are advantages to missing the odd afternoon nap! We hope to see you all at an MLDP module soon.

rural councillor MEMBER NEWS

RM OF SURPRISE VALLEY NO. 9 IN MEMORIAM ALLAN GRUBER

Allan Gruber, of Gladmar, SK, passed away at the Radville Marian Health Centre in April 2015 after a brief battle with cancer. Al was predeceased by his wife, Shirley (Fettes), in August 2014, and he is survived by his daughter, Marnie Gruber; brother John (Lise) Gruber; sisters Marilyn (Allan) Johnson, Laurieanne (Marv) Lynn and Marianne Gruber; and nephew, Michel Gruber.

Al was born in April 1945, in Gravelbourg, SK to John and Mary Gruber. He grew up on the family farm near Glen Bain. He took his schooling in Vanguard, SK before going to work at the Glen Bain Co-op.

In 1971, Allan married Shirley and they moved to Riceton, SK where Al managed and Shirley worked at the Co-op store. In 1973, they returned to Shirley's family farm at Gladmar where he started a trenching business. After 1979, he sold the trenching business and bought two trucks to haul coal from Estevan to the Sybouts Sulphate Mine and clay from Rockglen to Estevan.

In 1984, Al and Shirley purchased land from her father and began farming. Two years later, Al purchased a grader, cat and buggy and started doing road construction and digging dugouts. In the early 1990's, he sold the road equipment and purchased two water trucks. He hauled oil and water in the Gladmar and Minton oilfields. In the early 2000's, Al sold the tankers and the water trucks.

After leaving the oilfield business, he continued to farm. Al became a Councillor of Division No. 4 in November 1999 and served in this position until he passed away. Al was very involved with the community and served on the Gladmar Park Board and the Minton-Gladmar

Credit Union Board. He was a good neighbor always willing to lend a hand, and he was always fixing something for the town, RM or a neighbor. He really enjoyed being involved with the RM. He was a perfectionist, and he took pride in the work he did: be it weeding the yard, organizing his shop or fixing something. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke, you knew what he was thinking. He will be greatly missed by the Council of the RM of Surprise Valley No. 9.



RM OF KEY WEST NO. 70 IN MEMORIAM CHARLES LOZINSKY

Charles (Charlie) Lozinsky was born on the family farm in Aberdeen, SK in April 1933. Charlie was incredibly dedicated to his family and his work. He worked with CP Rail while obtaining his education, and then became the administrator of the Town of Donovan, SK and then Flin Flon, MB after earning his LGA certificate.

In 1967, Charlie and his family made the trip to Ogema. He was hired as the Administrator for the RM of Key West No. 70 and the Town of Ogema where he continued to work until his retirement in 1994. Working with the Town and RM was a good career choice as he loved to socialize and be around others.

Charlie loved to be the centre of attention and had no problem keeping everyone entertained with his joke.

Charlie and his wife, Elsie, loved to travel. They spent 16 winters in Yuma, AZ, and they loved to ski and camp with their family and friends.

He passed away in November 2014 at the age of 81. He was a vibrant individual, who was very reliable, honest and loyal. He was the life of the party and lived life to the fullest. He worked hard, played hard and prayed hard.

RM OF PRAIRIE ROSE NO. 309 IN MEMORIAM WILLIAM LISSEL

William (Bill) Rudolf Lissel was born in 1915 in the RM of Prairie Rose in the Jansen, SK district. He passed away in January 2015. He ran the family farm until 1972 when he retired to Wynyard.

Bill served as an RM Councillor from 1953 to 1963. He was also a 4-H leader and served on church councils, agriculture committees, and several boards, including the Sask Wheat Pool Co-op and Credit Union.

Bill enjoyed visiting friends and relatives and entertaining them as well. He was always willing to give a helping hand.



RM OF PORCUPINE NO. 395 IN MEMORIAM BERNARD H HAYUNGA

Bernard Hayunga was born in Winnipeg, MB in July 1928 and passed away in May 2015 in Porcupine Plain, SK. Bernard was raised on the family homestead in the High Tor District. After completing grade eight, Bernard farmed with his dad and then on his own until 1985.

He and Mary raised their family on the same farm where he grew up. In 1985, Bernard and Mary moved the farm house into Porcupine Plain where he lived until April 2014. Bernard resided at the Red Deer Nursing Home from May 2014 until his passing.

He was appointed as the Town of Porcupine Plain weed inspector until December of 2008.

Bernard volunteered on many boards as well as local politics over the years. He was the Secretary of the High Tor Boys Athletic Club, Member of the High Tor Community Club, Member and Chairman of the High Tor Cemetery Board, Charter Board Member of the Red Deer Nursing Home (where he served for 18 years), a board member of the Green Hills Golf Course, and appointed to the North East Warble Control Committee where he served as chairman. He also served on the Local Wheat Pool Committee, Porcupine Museum Board, and was a member of the National Farmers Union.

Bernard served 25 years on municipal councils, including 16 years as Councillor for Division 4, nine years as Reeve for the RM of Porcupine No. 395, and

six years as Alderman for the Town of Porcupine Plain. He particularly enjoyed local government finances, serving on the budget committees in each of the 31 years he served in local government.

Bernard was a well-respected, dedicated Reeve and Councillor for the RM of Porcupine No. 395. His recollection and memory of rural business was called upon long after his terms in office expired. He will be sadly missed.



**RM OF BENSON NO. 35
RETIREMENT
ROBERT WHITE**

Robert (Bob) White came to the RM of Benson No. 35 on March 31, 1981, giving him a total of 33 years running a grader up and down our roads. In his last

year before retirement, he unfortunately ended up on disability. He served under four reeves, 20 councillors and two administrators during his tenure. We are sure that he has seen many good times and, hopefully, not too many bad ones. We feel bad that due to his illness, Bob never got to enjoy the new shop we built, but we think he enjoyed the planning and anticipating the move to it.

In his time here, he ran several new graders, starting with a Champion onto Volvo and then his last John Deere. He was foreman over numerous operators over the past 33 years.

The council and staff wished Bob a farewell on May 1, 2015 through a surprise luncheon on his behalf. He was presented with a gold watch by Reeve David Hoffort. The watch has the RM logo embedded on the face of the watch. He was also presented with a cake with a picture of his beloved Volvo on it.

We all wish him well in his retirement and hope that his health issues are resolved soon, so that he can enjoy a long, healthy and pain-free retirement.

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**RM OF INVERMAY NO. 305
RETIREMENT
HENRY ROMANOVITCH**

A special presentation was made honouring retiring Councillor Henry Romanovitch at the May 2015 Regular Council Meeting.

Henry was the Councillor for Division 3 for 41 years. He was presented with a certificate and an engraved watch to thank him for his service.

Council, staff and the ratepayers of the RM of Invermay No. 305 would like to thank Henry for his many years of dedicated service.



Reeve Dan Greschuk (left) presents Henry Latta with an engraved plaque in recognition of his 17 years as Foreman for the RM of Blucher No. 343.

**RM OF BLUCHER NO. 343
RETIREMENT
HENRY LATTA**

The RM of Blucher No. 343 recently honored Foreman Henry Latta, who retired in 2014 after serving the municipality for 17 years.

The Council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Blucher No. 343 wish Henry all the best in the future.



**RM OF INVERMAY NO. 305
20 YEARS OF SERVICE
KIM MIKKONEN**

The RM of Invermay No. 305 honoured RM Foreman Kim Mikkonen at the annual Christmas supper on December 6, 2014. Kim has been employed with the RM of Invermay for 20 years.

Congratulations Kim on reaching this outstanding achievement.

News to share? Email a short article – including the RM number, individual's name and event (i.e., retirement, in memoriam, award, etc.) in the title – to communications@sarm.ca. Please send photos as separate JPG, PNG or PDF files and not as part of a Word document.



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crime prevention information

FRAUD AWARENESS

BY F DIVISION COMMUNITY SERVICES

EVERY year, Canadians lose millions of dollars to fraud. Protect yourself!

Each year too many feel the devastating impacts of fraud. Criminals target and exploit Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life through false/misleading ads, lottery scams, pyramid schemes and more. We must be vigilant in recognizing the signs of a scam and report it to authorities immediately. You can help fight fraud and protect yourself by learning what scams and fraud looks like. Many scams that breach consumer protection laws (those enforced by the Competition Bureau, other government and law enforcement agencies) may also breach the *Criminal Code*.

REMEMBER:

- Not all businesses and organizations are trustworthy. Even if a business is licensed and monitored by the government, it could still act dishonestly.
- Not all Internet sites are legitimate. Websites can be easy and cheap to set up. Scammers can copy a genuine website and trick you into believing theirs is legitimate to steal data.
- Scams are not always about money. Some are aimed at stealing personal information.
- There are no short cuts to wealth that only a few people know. (If someone knew a secret to instant wealth, why would they be telling their secret?)
- Scams are not always about large sums of money. Many people can be targeted for small sums of money.

GOLDEN RULES:

- Always get independent advice if an offer involves money, personal information, time or commitment.
- There are no guaranteed, get-rich quick schemes.
- Don't agree to offers/deals right away.
- Don't rely on testimonials. Find solid evidence of a company's success.
- Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you don't know/trust.

- Log directly onto a website you're interested in rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
- If you spot a fraud or have been scammed, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Compensation Bureau or local police.
- Check your credit and debit card transactions frequently to ensure all transactions are yours. Call Equifax Canada toll-free at 1 800 465-7166.

For details or to report fraud, contact the Competition Bureau's Information Centre at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca or 1-800-348-5358; Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre.ca or 1-888-495-8501; or contact local police.

COMMON SCAMS

Pyramid schemes

Pyramid schemes have investors pay large membership fees. To recover money invested, you must convince other people to join/invest, making money by recruiting people rather than selling a product or providing a service. There is no guarantee you will recoup your investment, and they inevitably collapse. It is a crime both to promote and participate in them.

Internet Scams

Scammers use the Internet to promote fraud by unsolicited or junk emails (spam). Do not reply, even just to "unsubscribe." This confirms it is a real email. Do not click on links in the email as scammers may try to install malicious software on your computer to gain personal details and passwords. Delete the emails without opening them.

Health and Medical Scams

Medical and weight loss cures promise dramatic results in a short period of time or with little/no effort using testimonials from people who have used the product or have been "cured." They often require large advance payments or that you enter into a long-term contract.

Emergency Scams

Emergency scams target grandparents and play upon their emotions. Scammers



will phone, pretending to be a grandchild or friend of a grandchild, and ask you to wire money for an emergency situation.

Dating and Romance Scams

These scams work by setting up a dating website where you pay for each email or message you send and receive. Some scammers will build an online relationship with you, and then ask you to send money for various reasons (i.e. to help a sick family member). After sending small gifts, they will want to share a large amount of money, asking for your banking details to transfer the funds.

Charity Scams

These scammers collect money by pretending to be a real charity. They may exploit a recent natural disaster or news story. All registered charities in Canada are overseen by the Canada Revenue Agency and listed in its database. Never give your personal, credit card or online account details over the phone unless you made the call or the phone number came from a trusted source.

Job and Employment Scams

These guarantee a high income for little or no effort and are promoted through spam emails or online or newspaper ads. Many are fronts for money laundering or pyramid schemes. They will ask for bank account details or for money upfront.

Small Business Scams

Small business scams can come in a variety of forms, from bills for advertising costs or directory listings that were never ordered, to dubious office supply offers.

Service Scams

Many Canadians are being targeted by individuals claiming to offer reduced rates or deals for various services. The two most reported service scams are the

antivirus software scam and credit card interest rate reduction scams.

Computer Scams

Computer scams take several forms. One is the impersonation of a representative from Microsoft saying your computer is running slow or has viruses and will offer to repair your computer. This can involve the installation of software or allowing remote access to your computer. Another is a pop-up warning that you have been caught on an illegal website and must pay a fine, along with a phone number to call.

Money Transfer Requests

These occur when someone offers you money to help transfer their funds. Their money transfer to you will not clear the bank, while they collect the money you transferred to them.

Mobile Phone Scams

Scammers offer free or low-cost ringtones. If you accept, you may be subscribing to a service that keeps sending you ringtones at a premium rate. Scammers may call your number and hang up before you can answer. If you call the number back, you may be paying a

premium rate. Text messages may be sent from a number you don't recognize, but sounds like it is a friend. If you reply, you may be charged a premium rate. You may receive a trivia contest via text message. The scammers make money by charging extremely high rates for these messages.

Overpayment Cheque Scam

Overpayment scams involve a person actually being owed money for goods sold. The seller receives a counterfeit cheque (cashier, personal or corporate) from the "purchaser" in an amount in excess of the amount owed. The purchaser offers a payment for the seller to deposit the cheque and wire the excess funds back. The deposited cheque is subsequently returned as counterfeit and the seller's account is charged.

Travel Scam

By simply filling out a ballot to win a vacation at a home, boat or auto show, you may be placed on "sucker lists." Shortly after you may be phoned by someone claiming to offer you a "free" or "low-cost" vacation and asking for your credit card number and personal information to hold the vacation for you or may request money upfront.

Lotteries and Sweepstakes

Many Canadians are lured by the excitement of a surprise win and find themselves sending large amounts of money to claim fake prizes. Remember, if you did not enter your name, you can't win. Your banking information is requested to deposit the cheque or they want a "small" fee to collect your prize.

Identity Scam

Maybe you never opened that account, or ordered an additional card, but someone else did... someone who used your name and personal information to commit fraud. When an imposter uses your name, Social Insurance Number (SIN), credit card number or other personal information for their use, it is identity fraud. In short, when someone appropriates your personal information without your knowledge, it is a crime, pure and simple

Credit/Debit Card Fraud

Credit/debit card fraud happens when a thief "skims" or swipes the information from the magnetic strip on the back to create a duplicate of your card. To steal money from your account, a thief must also capture your PIN.

YOU CAN HELP AND RECEIVE CASH REWARDS

IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVICTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED. ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CRIMES SHOULD CONTACT THE PROVINCIAL TOLL FREE TIP LINE. CALLS ARE NOT TRACED OR RECORDED AND CALLERS CAN CHOOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT ONLINE AT SASKATCHEWAN.CA/CONSERVATION

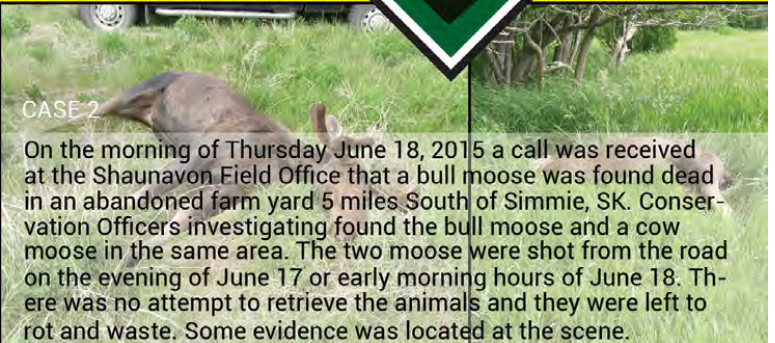
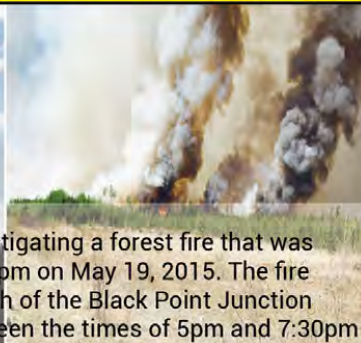


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CASE 1

Conservation Officers are investigating a forest fire that was reported at approximately 7:30pm on May 19, 2015. The fire was lit along highway 956 south of the Black Point Junction and north of Garson Lake between the times of 5pm and 7:30pm



CASE 2

On the morning of Thursday June 18, 2015 a call was received at the Shaunavon Field Office that a bull moose was found dead in an abandoned farm yard 5 miles South of Simmie, SK. Conservation Officers investigating found the bull moose and a cow moose in the same area. The two moose were shot from the road on the evening of June 17 or early morning hours of June 18. There was no attempt to retrieve the animals and they were left to rot and waste. Some evidence was located at the scene.

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