

A man wearing a blue and grey jacket, a black helmet, and blue gloves is riding a mountain bike on a dirt trail. The trail is surrounded by tall, golden-brown grasses. In the background, a wide river flows through a landscape with trees and a city skyline visible in the distance under a sunset sky.

**RC**

**RURAL  
COUNCILLOR**

**VOLUME 48 number 2  
SUMMER 2015 ISSUE**

**PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES**  
Publications Agreement #40062693

# Rural Saskatchewan **TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

All that Saskatchewan has to offer; Saskatchewan mini staycation; Saskatchewaner; 2015 SARM programs; Conflict of interest; Recycling grain bags; 2015 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards; Agricultural Operator Program; New procurement action plan; Importance of Saskatchewan tourism; Communities in Bloom;





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# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

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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.





# ALL THAT SASKATCHEWAN HAS TO OFFER

BY DOUG STEELE SARM VICE PRESIDENT

**SASKATCHEWAN** has much to offer year round, but with the arrival of spring, our thoughts very quickly turn to making the most of our undeniably short winter reprieve. Fortunately, there are many unique experiences to be enjoyed right here in Saskatchewan. You need not travel far to find the perfect spot for summer relaxation and adventure.

Many of these opportunities are waiting to be explored and enjoyed within Saskatchewan's own regional and provincial parks. Whether you are just passing through or making yourself at home for a few nights, there is something for everyone. You need only an open mind, a little bit of time, and the will to explore and enjoy.

Our parks are extremely well maintained and offer a wide variety of amenities. The SaskParks website is also extremely accessible, informative and user-friendly for researching destinations and booking your campsite in minutes.

Should you venture out to a remote fly-in region or a location easily accessible by truck or car one thing is for sure, you will find yourself surrounded by the best that nature and our hard working Saskatchewan people have to offer. Numerous lakes and rivers for fishing and boating; sandy beaches; pristine hiking, horseback riding and quading trails; golf courses; paintball adventures; and even zipline eco adventures prove that there is something for every age and interest.

In addition to our parks, Saskatchewan is home to many educational attractions. The North Battleford Western Development Museum (one of many western development museums in the province)

or Fort Walsh are only a few of the sites that offer an up close and personal Saskatchewan history experience. The East-end T-Rex Museum will also take you back even further in time to learn about when dinosaurs roamed our province. You can also make the trek to Grasslands National Park to explore Saskatchewan's "untouched" prairie landscape. The possibilities are endless as I have only scratched the surface of all there is to experience this year.

This summer, you may find yourself fishing or boating the South Saskatchewan River, discovering untouched coves and beaches. You may conquer the nature hiking trails of the Cypress Hills or live on the edge zip-lining high above the forest floor. Or perhaps you may find yourself taking in a piece of Canadian history at the RCMP Musical Ride at Fort Walsh this July. Whatever you choose and wherever you are making your plans this summer, I en-

courage you all to venture out to explore something new. You may be surprised by the unique and satisfying experiences that Saskatchewan has to offer.

From my family to yours, have a safe and enjoyable Saskatchewan summer.



- SAMA has implemented a 2014-2017 funding plan that focuses on building new capacities in the assessment system by employing new technologies and improved business processes. The funding plan translates into tangible benefits for the Province and SAMA's client municipalities in the form of updated assessments and additional property tax revenues.
- 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](http://www.sama.sk.ca).

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





# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE JEREMY HARRISON**  
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURISM SASKATCHEWAN

**TOURISM** is one of the world's fastest growing industries. When it comes to travel, people have an assortment of choices like never before, and they are seeking unique experiences and adventures in greater numbers than ever.

Saskatchewan has a robust tourism sector that contributes significantly to the province's economy. Annual travel expenditures exceed \$2.1 billion, and tourism employs nearly 57,000 residents. It is an industry in which an innovative, entrepreneurial spirit can achieve fulfilment. Ninety-five per cent of tourism businesses are small- or medium-sized, independently owned enterprises, and 79 per cent are located outside of Saskatchewan's two major cities. These businesses account for more than 51 per cent of all tourism-related employment.

Saskatchewan's panoramic landscape, its natural splendour and dramatic "living skies" provide a backdrop to many of our province's tourism resources – lakes and

rivers that offer limitless outdoor recreation and adventure; beautiful parks that are great places to camp, fish and enjoy nature; and numerous sites and attractions that pay tribute to history, honour traditions and reflect diversity.

Tourism Saskatchewan recently unveiled a new marketing campaign that proudly showcases the magnificence of our wide-open spaces and captures the genuine spirit of Saskatchewan communities and the hospitality and friendliness of its people. The campaign pillars – land and sky, community and family – evoke the essence of this special place and reflect the deep affection for home that residents feel and visitors come to understand.

New television commercials bring attention to features such as the darkest, yet brightest night skies, as well as provide a compelling sense of the warmth and welcome that is characteristic of this province.

Tourism is a common link between communities, large or small, urban or rural. Wherever you travel in this province, there is some level of tourism activity underway – in the services provided by local gas stations, bars or restaurants; in the efforts of hotels and bed and breakfasts to provide a comfortable "home away from home" to visitors; and in the spirit of volunteers who make cultural festivals and sporting events such memorable occasions.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the importance of our province's tourism sector and is committed to its advancement, as identified in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*. Evidence of this commitment includes investments made in areas such as event hosting and partnerships with industry that focus on attracting more visitors to discover this province's warm hospitality, vibrant communities and remarkable experiences.





## importance of **SASKATCHEWAN TOURISM**

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TOURISM** is one of the world's largest industries and one of the fastest growing industries in Saskatchewan. The industry is associated with many of the prime sectors of the world; this being the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental sectors.

Tourism in Saskatchewan has a huge economic effect on our province. The industry contributes over \$2 billion in total traveller expenditures. More than 55,000 of the province's population are employed by tourism related industries. Seven out of ten workers were first employed in the tourism industry.

How important is tourism? Tourism operations generate millions of dollars in revenues from tourist activities, contribute millions of dollars in expenditures to the province's economy through tourist activities, and have maintained many permanent and non-permanent positions throughout the province.

The absence of a strong tourism industry in Saskatchewan would negatively impact our economy. It is necessary to understand the importance of the tourism industry in our regions. The tourism industry is limitless bringing with it huge potential for opportunity.

Tourism is a very important source of employment to our regions and stimulates major investment in infrastructure in our communities which helps to improve the living conditions of our population.

Try to remember the importance of tourism to our people as well as our region, and remember that tourism is one of the fastest growing economic sectors in our province. Without tourists, there would be one less means of revenue entering our province as well as our communities.



Committing to our planet's future means properly recycling our electronics of the past. That's why the EPRA, an industry-led not-for-profit organization, works to keep 100,000 metric tonnes of end-of-life electronics out of landfills each year through convenient and regulated e-recycling programs. Technology advances fast, but we only get one earth.

Learn more and find out what you can recycle and where, at: [recycleMYelectronics.ca/sk](http://recycleMYelectronics.ca/sk)

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







## don't miss out: **2015 SARM PROGRAMS**

**BY LAUREL FELTN**

SARM DIRECTOR OF MEMBER AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

**SARM** is happy to announce that this year our members will once again be able to apply for our various grant programs. The programs will include the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP), the Invasive Plant Control Program, Beaver Control Program, and Irrigation Structure Repair and Replacement Program.

The provincial government announced continued funding for these programs in the 2015 Provincial Budget.

PREP funding held steady at \$1.4 million dollars from the federally and provincially funded *Growing Forward 2* program. SARM is very happy to say that this funding is being provided each year for a two-year period, making funding more predictable for RMs. Applications for this program will be accepted until December 31, 2015.

The Invasive Plant Control Program will continue at the same funding level of \$800,000 via *Growing Forward 2*, providing rebates for approved herbicides used to control designated invasive and prohibited weeds. The deadline to apply is July 2, 2015, and application information can be found on our website. We know this program had some growing pains in its first two years, but we have been working with the Ministry of Agriculture to address the issues. The program

will also add new invasive weeds to the list, including Common Burdock, Ox-eye Daisy, Absinthe, Field Bindweed and some others (Leafy Spurge, Yellow Toad Flax, Russian Knapweed and Common Tansy remain on the list as well).

SARM is also happy to announce that \$500,000 in funding for the Beaver Control Program was provided in 2015, and we have signed a funding agreement until 2018 for this program under *Growing Forward 2*. We didn't make any large changes to this program, except that we will be re-designating target areas based on last year's claims. Application information was sent to RMs via email in May with an application deadline of May 31, 2015. Beaver claims will be accepted retroactive to March 1, 2015.

If you have any questions about these programs, contact SARM's Annette Elert at 306-761-3744 or [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca).

New in 2015 – Saskatchewan Crop Insurance will be administering the Feral Wild Boar Control Program that was previously administered by SARM. Details can be found at: [www.saskcropinsurance.com/wildlife/feral-wild-boar-control-program](http://www.saskcropinsurance.com/wildlife/feral-wild-boar-control-program) or by calling 1-888-935-0000 to report a wild boar sighting.

The Irrigation Structure Repair and Replacement Program will be offered

again in 2015 but with funds reduced from \$1 million to \$500,000. This program allows RMs with irrigation structures over man-made irrigation channels to apply for a minimum of 65 per cent cost shared funding for their repair and replacement. The application deadline is June 1, 2015.

Our Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) received \$9.5 million dollars less funding in this year's provincial budget, meaning fewer municipal road and bridge construction projects received funds than initially anticipated. We were able to fund 10 CTP Construction Projects, seven Heavy Haul High Volume Construction Projects and 14 Bridge/Culvert Projects with CTP Maintenance funding remaining stable at \$1,100 per km for 2015. RMs with successful road and bridge projects were notified by email in early April.

If you have any questions about these programs, contact Terry Hoewing, MREP Manager, at [thoewing@sarm.ca](mailto:thoewing@sarm.ca) or 306-761-3736, or if it's specific to bridges, contact Daniel Segal at [dsegal@sarm.ca](mailto:dsegal@sarm.ca) or 306-761-3746.

More program details will be available on SARM's website starting in May and will also be sent out by email to all RMs. Don't miss your chance to apply!



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## Recycling **GRAIN BAGS**

BY BEN CHURSINOFF SARM SENIOR POLICY ANALYST



*Photo credit: Teri Hanstock*

**GRAIN** bags offer a great alternative for storing grain. Grain bags are less capital intensive than other storage methods, offer unlimited storage (you can easily buy more bags), require no waiting periods prior to use, expand a farmer's storage capacity, and are easy to use. Grain bags can be used to store a variety of grains such as soybean, wheat, sunflower, oats, barley and corn. Once filled, the grain bags can remain on the field or wherever the farmer chooses until it is time to ship the crop. However, there is one issue with grain bags and that is what to do with them once they have been used.

Once a grain bag has been used it cannot be reused; it becomes garbage, a very large piece of garbage. Grain bags can be up to 400 feet long and cannot be taken to just any recycling site. They must be taken to certain locations across the province, and more and more landfills are starting to outright ban them.

Some farmers are a significant distance from the nearest drop-off site and opt to burn them or simply leave them outside. These methods pose environmental concerns. If they are not properly stored or disposed of, they attract rodents, and if burned, they emit toxic substances. Burning grain bags is illegal and should

never be done. This issue is not unique to Saskatchewan as other Western Canadian provinces are dealing with grain bags as well.

At the Western Canadian Municipal Associations (WCMA) annual meeting in Regina, grain bags was one of the topics discussed. The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) stated that Manitoba is conducting a pilot program for recycling grain bags. This program is being administered by Clean Farms and will have two collection blitzes, one in the spring and one in the fall. The Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) echoed the same sentiments of the group; that grain bag recycling needs to be improved and become more accessible. The WCMA agreed to an open dialogue on this issue moving forward and to work together to develop other viable solutions.

In Saskatchewan there has been a pilot program in effect since 2011, and recently the Government of Saskatchewan announced that the recycling program will receive \$200,000 this year out of *Growing Forward 2*. Simply Ag Solutions is administering this recycling pilot program. Over 7,000 grain bags have been recycled since the pilot program

launched. Each year of the program has seen an increase in the number of grain bags recycled, and this trend is expected to continue as the program matures and as environmental stewardship increases within the farming community.

The Ministry of Environment is working on creating a permanent recycling program alongside industry stakeholders. Currently, there are grain bag drop-off locations across the province. Locations include Cudworth, Hirsch, Humboldt, Kelvington, Macoun, Marshall, Milestone, Moose Jaw, Mossbank, Prince Albert, Rush Lake, Saskatoon and Unity. Grain bag rollers are also available for use, so that farmers can roll up the grain bags for transportation.

It is great to see that the number of grain bags being recycled in Saskatchewan has increased and that stakeholders are eager to recycle. SARM is pleased that the recycling pilot program will continue for the 2015 year and that the Government of Saskatchewan is working on a permanent recycling program. Once the program becomes permanent and more accessible to all farmers in the province, there should be no reason why 100 per cent of grain bags are not recycled.





# CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

BY ANDREW SVENSON SARM LEGAL COUNSEL

**I**N light of the recent release of the *Final Report of the Inspection and Inquiry into the RM of Sherwood No. 159, Volume 1 of 2* (“the Report”), by the Honourable R.L. Barclay Q.C., Inspector/Inquiry Officer, rural municipal council members need to be familiar with how their pecuniary interests and/or conflict of interests may be evaluated.

Prior to the Report I would have referred you simply to sections 141 to 151 of *The Municipalities Act* (“the Act”), which deal with pecuniary interests of council members. Following the Report, reference to those provisions alone is not enough. Councillors should also refer to the Official Oath required to be sworn by all members of council pursuant to the Act (“the Oath”), the common law as it relates to conflicts of interest and the RM’s own code of ethics if it has one.

A copy of the Report can be obtained from the Government Relations’ website, [www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration).

Starting at page 66 in the document there is an explanation of the law with respect to the standards informing the assessment of council member’s conduct. There is an explanation of sections 143 and 144 of the Act which establish the definition of a pecuniary interest, the exceptions to when such an interest will be found to exist, and the conduct expected of any member of council with a pecuniary interest that conflicts with his or her duties as a council member.

The Report goes on to explain the Oath and the common law. Of particular importance, is the conclusion reached in the Report that in Saskatchewan, conflicts of interest for municipal members of council continue to be governed by both the Act and common law. As such, councillors need to be aware of the

common law prohibition against acting in a conflict of interest, as well as the provisions of the Act which deal with pecuniary interests. An explanation of the common law can be found on pages 74 to 78 of the Report.

The following quotes from the Report are worthy of note:

“At this time it should be stressed that [the member’s] above noted involvement is not necessarily inappropriate because of any standard outlined in the Act. The Act merely provides a procedural code for how pecuniary interests must be addressed when they arise in council chambers. In contrast, the common law encompasses a range of conduct that would appear inappropriate to a reasonable observer, who would at the same time be unable to point to a specific section in the Act prohibiting that same conduct. As alluded to throughout my Report, the ‘common law’ is little more than common sense in that it requires the avoidance of self-interested dealings” (page 136).

“Suffice it to say that members of Council (and staff) are not to use their office to promote private interests, whether their own or those of relatives or friends. They must be unbiased in the exercise of their duties. That is not only the common law, but the common sense standard by which the conduct of municipal representatives ought to be judged” (Cunningham J., page 139).

“Public officers ultimately owe their positions to the public whose business they are conducting. Ensuring they do not prefer their private interest at the expense of their public duties is a fundamental objective of ethical standards” (Commissioner Oliphant, page 141).

According to the Report, a councillor must follow the procedures prescribed by

the Act when an issue arises in a council meeting where that councillor has a pecuniary interest. However, the Report also suggests there is an additional common law responsibility regarding conflicts of interest. In its broadest sense, a conflict of interest would arise whenever a council member’s conduct would appear inappropriate to a reasonable observer. I cannot point you to a specific test, but the above quote from Commissioner Oliphant suggests a conflict arises when a council member would be seen to be promoting their interests (or those of relatives or friends) at the expense of their public duties.

Clearly, when a council member has a pecuniary interest as set out in the Act, that council member must ensure he or she strictly follows the procedures set out in the Act. The council member must declare the interest, leave the room, and ensure he/she does not attempt to influence the voting on that matter in any way, whether before, during or after the meeting. Section 147 of the Act makes it clear that a violation of these requirements is reason for disqualification as a member of council.

Whether or not a council member would be subject to disqualification for participating when he or she had a conflict of interest, other than a pecuniary interest as defined in the Act, is less certain. However, council members should be very careful when it comes to something that could be viewed as a conflict of interest. The safest measures would be to follow the same steps as those required for a pecuniary interest.

Care should be taken by every council member to understand his or her obligations when he or she has a pecuniary interest and to understand the common law principles of conflicts of interest.





# Enjoy a Saskatchewan MINI STAYCATION

BY GARY DZIADYK RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 5

**WITH** warm weather hitting Saskatchewan, thoughts turn to summer vacations. As the trend for winter destination vacations rise, many of us have limited vacation days to use in the summer.

It seems that many of us forget that a mini staycation can be the answer for some much needed rest and relaxation.

There are so many choices right in our backyard. Why not plan an evening at the Barn Playhouse located 25 kilometers north of Saskatoon on Highway 12. The Barn Playhouse is a community theatre in their 25<sup>th</sup> season of producing shows that celebrate rural life, farming and family. In the summer, they offer an entertainment

package that includes food booths, live music, horse-drawn wagon rides and a top notch craft barn. The show is then performed in a barn-turned-theatre.

Meacham's Dancing Sky Theatre (5 kilometers south of the Highway 2 & 5 junction) is home to a theatre and quaint dining-room where you can enjoy a four course home cooked meal before the show. Take time to savour a specialty coffee from their cappuccino machine and let your imagination take you to a small café in northern Italy.

You can also stop by the Rosthern Station Arts Centre gallery where the exhibits have been prepared by local art-

ists. Be sure to partake in the decadent preshow meal offered in the tea room and savour a glass of wine as you enjoy the OSAC concert in the evening. By offering the art gallery, concerts, theatre productions and tea room under one roof, the Station Arts Centre is sure to offer something for everyone.




There is nothing like the theatre to whisk you away to destinations unknown. We are fortunate to have a number of superior quality productions provided throughout the province, and I highly recommend supporting the local arts and entertainment in your town and neighboring communities.

## CASH REWARDS UP TO \$2000

A cash reward is being offered for information leading 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 in any way and callers may choose to remain anonymous. You can also report online at [saskatchewan.ca/conservation](http://saskatchewan.ca/conservation).

### TURN IN POACHERS 1-800-667-7561

OR FROM SASKTEL CELLULAR **#5555**

*Stay connected*   

#### Case 1

December 1, 2014 Pierceland Conservation Officers received a call around 9:30am that a deer had been shot and left north of Pierceland on Highway 21 after the first speed curve. Land location SE 17-25-63 W3. An Officer attended the scene and located two shot and left deer with the heads removed. The shots are believed to have been from the road during the early morning hours of December 1, 2014. Some evidence was collected at the scene. The land is posted no hunting or trespassing.

#### Case 2

On January 1, 2015 Regina Conservation Officers received a TIP call that a moose had been shot on private land near Avonlea. The area was clearly posted no trespassing or hunting. A tractor was used to remove the moose from the site and possibly loaded onto a truck. There were no seasons for moose on at the time. Did you see a tractor and or a truck on New Year's Eve or the early morning hours of New Year's Day in this area?



[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](http://www.saskpower.com/safety).

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# basic farm skills gained through AGRICULTURAL OPERATOR PROGRAM



*The provincial and federal governments have partnered with Parkland College to offer the Agricultural Operator Pilot Program. Photo credit: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.*

**WITH** the growth of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry comes the need for skilled employees. Across the province, farm owners are searching for workers who can operate an air seeder, sprayer and combine and safely transport grain. Ensuring employees are skilled in these areas often involves on-the-job training.

To provide an alternate training opportunity, the provincial and federal governments, in partnership with Parkland College, are offering the Agricultural Operator Pilot Program.

"As the agriculture industry continues to grow, there will be an increased need for experienced workers," Shelley Jones, Manager of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Awareness Unit said. "The Agricultural Operator Pilot Program is the perfect opportunity for farm workers to expand their skill set or for general labourers to become involved in agriculture. It gives them the basic training necessary to enter a strong, stable industry with a bright future."

The Agricultural Operator Pilot Program provides students with basic

operator skills. The level of information and format are valuable for both new and potential farm workers interested in entering the industry. It also provides farm owners with an affordable, thorough method of training their employees.

The first of the three training modules, focused on seeding, took place in April. Over the five days, students learned about farm safety, seeding and fertility, and seed treatments. They also took part in hands-on workshops that dealt with tractor and seeding equipment and GPS.

The second module, taking place June 22-26, focuses on spraying and scouting. The module gives students experience in sprayer maintenance, high-clearance sprayer use, weed identification, and scouting and record keeping.

The final module, running July 20-24, will provide students with hands-on experience in harvesting. Students will be taught grain drying and transport, as well as what happens once grain reaches an elevator. This is the second year that the Agricultural Operator Pilot Program has been offered.

"Many agriculture employers have expressed their desire to hire graduates of the program," said Dr. Fay Myers, Parkland College's President. "We're eager to supply them with a skilled workforce."

The Agricultural Operator Pilot Program was launched in the spring of 2014 as a response to farmers' demand for a skilled workforce. During that first year, 20 students enrolled in the program.

"Farm owners have continued to express a need for workers with basic farm skills," said Jones. "We're dedicated to ensuring that need is met, and that workers have the skillsets they need to launch a successful agricultural career."

Students interested in the Agricultural Operator Program can register for either or both of the remaining modules. Tuition is \$1,500 per module, and students will receive a certificate for each module they complete.

Students interested in registering for the program must have a current Saskatchewan Class 5 or better driver's licence. Literacy, a basic knowledge of computer use and a minimum of Grade 10 education are recommended.

Farm owners who choose to register their employees for the program may be eligible for Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant funding. More information on this funding can be found at [economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant](http://economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant).

For more details or to register for the Agricultural Operator Program, visit [parklandcollege.sk.ca](http://parklandcollege.sk.ca) and search "Agricultural Operator Program," or contact Marion Littlewolfe at 306-786-7324 or [m.littlewolfe@parklandcollege.sk.ca](mailto:m.littlewolfe@parklandcollege.sk.ca).

The Agricultural Operator Program is funded through *Growing Forward 2*, a cost-shared partnership between federal, provincial and territorial governments designed to support an innovative, competitive and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector.





# Train the employees you need

The Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant helps you train people to meet your requirements and provides the skills they need to achieve their career goals.

The Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada are offering this program to provide funding – up to \$10,000 per trainee – to train new or existing employees for available jobs.

## **Program Features:**

- You select the people you want to train and the training program.
- You pay at least one-third of the cost and the program funds the rest.
- You provide a job at the end of training.

Receive up to  
**\$10,000**  
per trainee

*This program is part of the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to keep our economy growing.*

Visit [economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant](http://economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant) to learn more about program criteria and how to apply.

**Canada**



*Funding provided by the Government of Canada through the Canada Job Grant.*



# ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES

BY BONITA MECHOR

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY IN AGRICULTURE

## ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES (ROPS): FILLING THE COMMERCIAL GAP

**THE** Low Cost Roll-Over Protective Structures Intervention Project is one part of Agrivita Canada Inc.'s Canadian AgriSafety Applied Research Program, lead by a national team of researchers from the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI), the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), the University of Alberta, the Injury Prevention Centre (IPC, formerly ACICR), and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA).

The previous generation of agricultural equipment was built to last, with the life span of older tractors having far surpassed current safety advancements.

This presents a challenge to ensure the safety of the user, especially when 25 per cent of all work-related deaths are tractor rollover events. We are faced with a commercial gap for retrofitting ROPS that the equipment industry has not been able to successfully fill at a reasonable cost and with minimal effort.

In a new project supported by The Canadian AgriSafety Applied Research Program, researchers from across Canada took a look at the previous work and information regarding ROPS to move the development forward and fill that gap by developing user friendly, engineered ROPS fabrication design drawings for the majority of older tractors and provide them to farmers. The reliability of building them with typical farm shop equipment will be tested.

The ROPS Pilot Project will address regulations and liability, develop engineered drawings, conduct trial builds and installations, and provide the testing of farmer built structures. Trials will take place in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, British Columbia, and Manitoba.

For more details, visit [www.agrivita.ca](http://www.agrivita.ca)

## HAZARD CONTROL AND ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES (ROPS) ON YOUR FARM

Many farmers perform formal or informal safety audits on their farms. The physical state of the farm workplace is associated with injury. The goal is to improve the physical state through risk assessment and taking action to correct hazards by using the most effective hazard control. The Hierarchy of Control is a standard industrial hygiene approach.

A typical hazard found on Saskatchewan farms are tractors without ROPS. In fact, 43 per cent of tractors on Saskatchewan farms do not have ROPS.

The absence of ROPS on a tractor is a critical hazard meaning that in the case of a rollover, the condition could cause a loss of life or permanent disability. A rollover incident is preventable. The good news is that rollover fatalities are 99 per cent preventable when combined with ROPS and the use of a seatbelt. Because of the high risk associated with rollovers and the impact on farm fatality statistics, correction of this hazard should take high priority.

If it is not possible to eliminate the tractor from use or substitute a safer one, the next best alternative is installing a retrofitted ROPS. Proper training of workers and the appropriate personal protective equipment such as hearing and respiratory protection should still be a priority. As the farm manager set a good example and wear the seatbelt!

For more information on the Farm Safety Audit, visit the Agricultural Health and Safety Network's website, [agsafety.usask.ca](http://agsafety.usask.ca).

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# THINK COOPERATION

**BY HARVEY ANDERSON**

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP PLANNING ADVISOR

I believe that more rural municipality councils should consider cooperation as the key to improving invasive plant control in their areas. If you can get your neighbors to control weeds in their jurisdictions, your rural municipality (RM) will, no doubt, have less problem with those weeds entering your area and increasing the efforts and expenses of your municipality.

I am not promoting the amalgamation of RMs, just the increased cooperation between RMs and other local government bodies, including urban municipalities and First Nations. Your municipality may have had disagreements with these other jurisdictions in the past, but if you truly want to protect your municipality, you should consider getting past these issues, attempt to forge new agreements with other jurisdictions, and start negotiating agreements to improve your area's invasive weed management.

SARM has a funding program that can assist all of these jurisdictions in spraying invasive weeds, but the key to obtaining this funding is for non-RMs to sign a Cooperative Arrangement with a neighboring RM.

When a Cooperative Weed Management Area is formed, each governing body designates a representative to sit on the Management Committee of the Cooperative Weed Management Area Board, who has a say in what actions and priorities the board sets for the expanded weed management area. This gives each representative a voice in what the neighboring jurisdictions will do as far as weed control and in how much money each jurisdiction contributes to the weed management effort each year.

Each representative also has a voice in creating the plan and priorities that are set out for a much larger area than their own municipality.

When the Cooperative Weed Management Areas are formed, the overhead costs for weed control equipment are shared and the weed control job area can be larger and last longer. A qualified person may be hired more easily and, if necessary, be employed over a number of years, making the weed control program more effective overall. There may also be some cost savings involved as suppliers often offer incentives for larger herbicide purchases, which may be required to spray a larger area.

Recent history has shown that regions with Cooperative Weed Management Areas experience improved cooperation from jurisdictions, such as the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure and major rail lines. Formation of these bodies also gives the area more power and respect, and they are not ignored by these major land holders.

Last year I was approached by at least five First Nation groups who wanted to take advantage of SARM's Invasive Plant Control funding program, and although I had discussions with five RM administrators, I could not get one RM to agree to cooperate with their local First Nation to receive any of the funding for the five First Nation communities. Most administrators admitted that past history between these neighboring jurisdictions had not been positive, and they didn't even want to bring the idea of cooperation to a council meeting or were sure that this kind of arrangement would be rejected by council.



Photo credit: Tayah Hanson

I have not given up trying to induce RMs to forming Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and I will likely be approaching RM councils to consider cooperating with neighboring First Nations and urban communities this year.

*Harvey Anderson is an Invasive Alien Plants Group Planning Advisor working jointly with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities out of Saskatoon, which covers all of Saskatchewan. Funding of this project is provided through the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward 2 initiative.*



# focusing on best value

## NEW PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN



**THE** Government of Saskatchewan is implementing a new Procurement Transformation Action Plan that will simplify, standardize and ensure best value in the Government and Crown procurement process. As local governments procure everything from office supplies to large infrastructure projects, the new action plan may offer some valuable insights to municipalities.

The action plan was publicly released by SaskBuilds Minister Gordon Wyant on March 27 and is comprised of 13 initiatives with three main goals: to ensure Saskatchewan businesses are treated fairly and respectfully when bidding on government and Crown contracts; to bring greater simplicity and consistency to public procurement practices; and to take steps that drive best value for taxpayers.

A signature action of the new plan is making best value the basis for procurement.

“We heard that making decisions on a lowest-cost basis is not always the most strategic approach,” said Wyant. “Looking only at the bottom line ignores a number of important factors that matter, and that over time, may actually lead to buildings or roadways being more expensive. It makes sense and is more strategic to consider a wider variety of factors, like life cycle costs, quality of materials to be used, asset performance and more in addition to price.”

At the centre of the action plan is a commitment to increase fairness and

consistency for Saskatchewan businesses that bid on government contracts.

Wyant continued, “Our government is committed to ensuring Saskatchewan businesses are treated fairly, respectfully and consistently. We are taking immediate action to ensure there is a level playing field for local businesses and to ensure contracting is strategic, so taxpayers get the best possible value.”

Of particular interest to municipalities is the government’s commitment to undertake collaborative capital forecasting with the Crowns, as well as the broader government sector, including municipalities, post-secondary organizations, school divisions and health authorities.

“The government, Crowns and the broader government sector compete against each other when we do not coordinate the timing of our projects. This is contributing to inflated prices and difficulties when it comes to planning,” Wyant said.

Other action items of interest to municipalities include enhancing the SaskTenders procurement portal, developing common procurement templates, and creating a virtual centre of excellence to support employee and vendor knowledge sharing. These actions will simplify and standardize the procurement process, eliminate duplication of effort and help increase procurement knowledge.

While this plan currently only applies to government ministries and the Crown sector, the government’s goal

is to positively influence public sector procurement across the province, so that Saskatchewan businesses are treated fairly, and taxpayers get the best value for their tax dollars.

“We had some very promising discussions with municipalities, cities, universities, colleges and other government partners about adopting these best practices, and we are hopeful they will consider adopting some or all of these recommendations,” Wyant said.

The Procurement Transformation Action Plan was developed with the input of over 140 Saskatchewan businesses, associations, municipalities, colleges, universities and other government partners. Procurement practices from other jurisdictions, as well as across government and the Crowns, were looked at to determine what was working and how that could be standardized across government as a whole. This cross-government review was led by Priority Saskatchewan – a division of SaskBuilds – under the leadership of Lionel LaBelle. The significant feedback provided during this process by businesses, associations and the public sector helped shape the new procurement plan.

As the new action plan rolls out, Priority Saskatchewan will be working with industry to implement the solutions, while continuing to engage stakeholders on an ongoing basis to ensure that practices are fair to Saskatchewan businesses.

Priority Saskatchewan will also continue to work with municipalities, post-secondary institutions and other government partners. “There is a lot of interest in adopting procurement best practices in the broader public sector, and Priority Saskatchewan will continue to lead the discussion with these partners,” Wyant said. “We are confident these improvements will position Saskatchewan among the jurisdictions with the best procurement practices in Canada and around the world.”



## welcoming the **NEW FACES AT SARM**



**ANDREA MCKIBBEN -  
MCDP PROJECT  
FACILITATOR**

Hello! I have lived in Regina all my life. I attended the University of Regina and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree. I have experience working in project management and marketing roles with SaskPower and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

I started my position with the Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) in January of 2015 and have been enjoying my time facilitating cooperation between municipalities who want to work together on joint projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any inquires about inter-municipal cooperation. It was great meeting you all at the SARM convention in March.



**JODI HUGHES -  
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATOR**

I grew up on a farm outside of Wolseley in the R.M. of McLeod that was in our family for over 100 years. My previous work experience includes over 15 years working in insurance and disability and prior to that as a legal assistant.

I am very excited about my position as Employee Benefits Administrator and being part of the SARM family. I look forward to meeting you and providing excellent service to the RMs of Saskatchewan.



**BREANNA JANZEN -  
ACCOUNTING  
TECHNICIAN**

I moved to Regina over four years ago from British Columbia. I have just completed my Bachelor of Business Administration Degree at the University of Regina with a major in Accounting. My previous work experience includes accounting and pension clerk terms in both the private and public sectors.

I started my new position as an Accounting Technician at the end of April, and I am excited about working for SARM!



**ASHLEY LEUGNER -  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MARKETING  
ASSISTANT**

I grew up in Fort Qu'Appelle and recently moved to Regina after living and working in Saskatoon for the past eight years. I graduated from SIAST Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw with a Business Certificate and Marketing Diploma. My previous work experience is with various government departments, including Income Assistance, Child and Family Services and Adult Probation. I am also on the Canadian National Wakeboard Team. I am a five-time National Wakeboard Champion and have one silver world medal. I also facilitate clinics and lessons in the summer and sit on the Waterski and Wakeboard Saskatchewan Board (WSWS) as the High Performance Wakeboard Athlete Manager. I look forward to bringing all of my attributes to the SARM family.



Saskatchewan Association  
of Rural Municipalities



# parks and recreation

## CREATING COMMUNITY DESTINATIONS



**GARDENS** are in full bloom, local paths, pools and playgrounds are bustling with activity – these are signs that summer has arrived! Campsites are booked, your golf swing has been perfected and the family picnic basket is packed. Whatever summer plans you have, recreation is likely on your itinerary.

With 100,000 lakes and rivers, 300 golf courses, over 12 million acres of national, provincial, regional and urban park land and endless prairie skies; there is a recreation opportunity for everyone, right here in our backyard. With more people choosing in-province destinations as part of their travel plans, communities are re-examining their assets, attractions and approaches.

Parks and green space are valuable assets to a community. Take the Village of Bracken for example – even with a population of approximately 25, they have transformed their park into a regional destination. Local groups and volunteers revitalized the soccer field, purchased new playground equipment and beautified the space with flowers, trees and benches. Beyond the infrastructure, this park has not only become a place to play but acts as a regional and community hub. Their soccer program draws over 80 children from the area, and while this might not be considered your typical tourist destination, it is an opportunity to draw visitors to your community.

With any visitor, your community is on display. They may be coming for a soccer game or a weeklong getaway, but a positive first impression is what visitors remember. Communities in Bloom helps communities create lasting impressions by encouraging civic pride, environmental responsibility and community beautification. Since its inception in 1995, over 130 Saskatchewan communities have been involved in the program with success both provincially and nationally. This success goes beyond recognition. Program participants say “the benefits of Communities in Bloom include increased tourism, increased pride in the community, [and] more participation from residents in community matters.”

Communities in Bloom is about more than petunias and benches. It focuses on increasing the quality of life in Canadian communities. Participants are evaluated on the quality of their green spaces, diversity and originality of landscaping, tidiness, environmental awareness, heritage and level of community involvement.

To put it into perspective, your community is already being evaluated and assessed by visitors. Your visitors may not tell you that your community has poor signage highlighting its attractions and services or compliment you on your pristine parks. The Communities in Bloom experience celebrates your strengths and provides constructive feedback to help

improve your community and make it more attractive for residents and visitors.

The Town of Gull Lake embraces Communities in Bloom as a way to make their “already beautiful town, more beautiful.” They have only been involved with the program for a few years, but the community impact will leave a legacy. Visible improvements include revitalizing empty lots, repainting the pool, planting trees, enhancing their recycling program and replacing signage. Community pride is the intangible byproduct of these enhancement efforts.

“What Communities in Bloom brings to Gull Lake is a unity and a sense of belonging,” says Ed Lowenberger, Chairperson of Gull Lake’s Communities in Bloom Committee. “It also brings in a sense of showmanship because there is something beautiful for visitors to see when they come to town.”<sup>1</sup>

Parks and recreation bring people together. Even the smallest efforts like planting flowers at your park or keeping your ball diamonds litter-free can benefit your community and make it a more desirable destination.

For more details, visit Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association’s website, [www.spra.sk.ca](http://www.spra.sk.ca), or Communities in Bloom at [www.communitiesinbloom.ca](http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca).

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in *Gull Lake Advance* (August 7, 2014). “Southwest Communities are blooming brightly.” Retrieved from: [www.gulllakeadvance.com/?p=606](http://www.gulllakeadvance.com/?p=606)



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# world wanderer returns home to be **THE NEXT SASKATCHEWANDERER**



## MINISTRY PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT

**MEET** Ashlyn George. She's visited over 300 cities in 37 countries. The 27-year-old has a passion for faraway places and thrilling activities. She's tried skydiving, bungee jumping, volcano boarding and shipwreck diving, among other things. But there is one place she still hasn't fully experienced: Saskatchewan, her home province. That is changing in 2015.

George is this year's Saskatchewan wanderer. That means she has twelve months to show the world what makes this province a great place to live, work and play. Already she has snowmobiled Hudson Bay's trails, competed in a 13-kilometer cross-country ski race in La Ronge,

visited a pasta supply business in Ogema and tasted made-in-Saskatchewan beer at the Great Western Brewery. In March, George shot a photo of herself standing under a brilliant display of northern lights and shared it on Facebook. Within a day, it had reached nearly 8,600 people. Almost 600 people liked the photo and 35 people shared it. Dozens of followers commented, describing the image George captured as "beautiful," "fabulous" and "gorgeous."

As the 2015 Saskatchewan wanderer, George highlights all aspects of the province—from innovative agricultural technologies to brand-new citizens, from

winter sports to successful business owners. The year-long position is a shared contract between Tourism Saskatchewan and the Ministries of Agriculture, Economy and Parks, Culture and Sport. Started in 2011 as a summer student position, the project's scope expanded in 2014. A growing province and economy meant the timing was perfect to enhance the program.

"We continue to see value in this endeavor," said Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Mark Docherty. "Our population is at an all-time high, growing by over 122,000 people in the past seven years. People are moving here from all



over the world, and those who moved to other provinces are returning home. We believe that the Saskatchewaner program can help us sustain this growth. The Wanderer shows people that Saskatchewan has a vibrant quality of life. Jobs and a strong economy attract people to our province, but quality of life encourages them to stay.”

Since January, George has been eagerly experiencing that vibrant quality of life with the help of an SUV provided and fuelled by CAA Saskatchewan, the project’s exclusive sponsor.

“Sometimes someone spots the vehicle and tweets a photo to me,” George said. “I love that.”

She shares her experiences by posting photos, videos and written blogs on social media. To date, she boasts more than 12,000 followers through Facebook ([facebook.com/skwanderer](https://www.facebook.com/skwanderer)), Twitter (@SkWanderer) and Instagram (@saskatchewanwanderer). She also shares content on YouTube (Sask Wanderer) and the recently revamped blog, [saskatchewanwanderer.ca](http://saskatchewanwanderer.ca).

George gained her photography, video editing and social media skills while travelling the world and operating her own blog, but she hasn’t always been a globe trotter. She grew up on a farm near Leslie and currently hails from Saskatoon. After finishing her education at the University of Saskatchewan, she decided she should spend as much time learning about the world first-hand as she did learning in the classroom. So she came up with a five-year travel plan that consisted roughly of six months working for the City of Saskatoon and six months wandering the world. Last year marked the end of that plan.

George didn’t know if she could find a position that would hold her attention long enough to stop travelling.



Turns out, she didn’t have to. While touring Madagascar in November 2014, George’s mother sent her an ad for the Saskatchewaner position. George knew she had to apply, and hers wasn’t the only application submitted from outside of Saskatchewan. Applications were sent in from all over the globe, including Croatia, Israel, Ukraine, the United States and the United Kingdom. Nearly 60 people competed for the position.

George’s application stood out and after a rigorous interview, she got the

job. She will share Saskatchewan with the world until the end of December.

“When you look at a map, you can see that Saskatchewan is huge. It’s bigger than many countries I’ve travelled to,” George said. “It’s beautiful and diverse both in population and geography. I’ve met so many friendly, welcoming individuals and have experienced stunning outdoor settings. I appreciate everyone who has been following my journey and engaging my posts. It means a lot to me.”



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# have boat . . . will travel: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND TOURISM TRAVEL

## Potential Impacts



**THE** Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) and the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS) recently announced a partnership to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Saskatchewan lakes. At the annual conference of the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, “Water Management – We Are All Part of the Solution,” PARCS President Sherry Jimmy spoke about the need to align PARCS members, who are stewards of the lakes, with SAW members, the Ministry of Environment and other potential partners, in the education and monitoring needed to keep our lakes free of quagga and zebra mussels.

Moving slowly north from the United States and east across Canada, Saskatchewan lakes need protection from aquatic invasive species, specifically quagga and zebra mussels, before these invasive species get in to our lakes. Quagga and zebra mussels attach themselves to hard surfaces, such as boats and watercraft, and travel undisturbed and undetected from water body to water body.

At present, these aquatic invasive species are as close as Lake Winnipeg. With the purchase and transportation of boats and watercraft from the United States and Eastern Canada, Saskatchewan lakes are at risk if precautions are not taken to educate boaters, inspect watercraft and prevent these species from entering our lakes.

Only about half the size of a thumb nail, invasive mussels have no known predator or means to deal with them once they are in our lakes. They foul the lake bottom, contaminate drinking water, affect power generation, affect water treatment and water treatment facilities, attach themselves to intake structures and lakefront property, and impact the fish population by affecting the organisms fish feed on. The effects of aquatic invasive mussels are far-reaching: they will impact the sustainability and quality of our lakes which will have economic effects for tourism, business and water management. Prevention is the key to protecting Saskatchewan lakes, and the opportunity to be proactive is now.

PARCS and SAW are intent on managing the risk of aquatic and invasive species. Together, with the assistance of the Ministry of Environment, training sessions will be held across Saskatchewan in 2015 to empower volunteers to educate, assess risk and detect invasive mussels in potentially high risk locations. High risk locations are those that have a history of boats and watercraft coming in from the United States and Manitoba for angling tournaments, recreation and tourism.

In addition to education and watercraft detection activities, lake-based monitoring programs are needed at our lakes. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environ-

ment has introduced AIMM: Aquatic Invasive Mussels Monitoring protocols. These protocols require partnerships and volunteers to implement, but they are not complicated or labour intensive. Substrate monitoring is as simple as attaching a substrate to the underside of a dock, checking it monthly and entering the findings into the iMap Invasives database.

PARCS has asked that SAW and its members assume a leadership role in coordinating a lake-based volunteer program for implementing the AIMM protocols. Meanwhile, PARCS will provide the link to organized hamlets and resort villages who have the ‘boots on the ground’ to hand out brochures, put up posters, talk-up the issue at boat launches, assess risk, detect invasive mussels and report risks to Conservation Officers, who have a rapid response protocol in place.

With a focus on environmental issues in 2015, PARCS will continue to build the network and dialogue with resort communities, lobby for a dedicated Ministry of Environment official as a key liaison on aquatic invasive species and build capacity in resort communities to deal with potential threats to the cottage way of life in Saskatchewan, such as that posed by quagga and zebra mussels.

*This article is submitted by PARCS – the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan: “The Voice of Action” in strengthening and supporting the Cottage Way of Life in Saskatchewan (parcs@sasktel.net).*



# making healthy choices easy: HEALTHY CHOICES FOR LIFE



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**DID YOU KNOW** that about *half of all cancers* can be prevented through healthy living choices and healthy public policies? This summer and year-round the Canadian Cancer Society encourages you to make healthy choices for life to help reduce your risk of cancer.

You may be wondering “what can I do?” Well, you can start by:

1. Living Well: making healthy choices,
2. Being Aware: looking after yourself,
3. Getting Involved: helping reduce risks for everyone.

Living well and making healthy choices starts with you! This includes eating well using Canada’s Food Guide. On average, adults need at least 7–8 servings of fruits and vegetables every day. It’s easier and tastier than you think. For meal ideas, visit [www.halfyourplate.ca](http://www.halfyourplate.ca). Other tips for reducing your risk of cancer include being a non-smoker, avoiding second-hand smoke, being active and keeping a healthy body weight, limiting alcohol to one drink or less for women and two drinks or less for men, protecting your

skin by practicing sun safety, not using tanning beds, and talking to your doctor about getting enough vitamin D from your diet, the sun and supplements. Be safe in the sun this summer and year-round by using the UV index, planning your activities, covering up with a wide-brimmed hat, clothes, sunglasses, and using sunscreen with at least an SPF 15.

Being aware means looking after yourself by knowing your body and watching for signs of cancer. Early detection and cancer screening are two of the most powerful tools you have to fight back against cancer. To help you, the Canadian Cancer Society offers *Reminder for Life*, [www.reminderforlife.ca](http://www.reminderforlife.ca), where we will send you an annual reminder about what you need to discuss with your doctor based on your age. It’s free, takes less than 30 seconds to sign up, and it might save your life. Be sure to also report any changes in your health to your doctor, check your family’s cancer history, and be aware of potentially harmful substances at work and at home, such as radon and asbestos.

Getting involved is about helping to reduce everyone’s risks for cancer. You can raise awareness about cancer prevention within your community to help reduce cancer risks for the next generation, fight for public policy to make healthy living easier for everyone, and visit [www.takeaction.cancer.ca](http://www.takeaction.cancer.ca) to find out how you can help the Canadian Cancer Society fight for change right now.

You can also learn the impact of cancer and how to reduce your risk using *It’s My Life!* an interactive, evidence-based tool that teaches you how ten different lifestyle factors can affect your risk of getting cancer and what you can do to prevent it. Find out more at <http://itsmylife.cancer.ca>.

It all starts with one change. What is one thing that you can commit to doing to live a healthier life and prevent cancer? Remember, even one change can make a significant difference! For more tips and information, visit our website at [www.healthychoicesforlife.ca](http://www.healthychoicesforlife.ca).



rural councillor  
**MEMBER NEWS**



**RM OF ENNISKILLEN NO. 3  
 IN MEMORIAM  
 BILL RINGGUTH**

Bill Ringguth of Oxbow, passed away at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina on September 29, 2014 at the age of 58. Bill was a devoted husband, leaving behind his loving wife, Deanna, and their son, Christopher. He was also predeceased by their son, Adam.

Bill grew up in Carnduff, SK and after graduating from high school, he attended STI in Moose Jaw and received his certification in Administration. He married Deanna in June 1977.

He was office assistant for the RM of Elcapo No. 154 in Broadview from 1977 to 1978. He then moved to Neville and was employed by the RM of Lac Pelletier No. 107. In 1980 he moved to Oxbow and was the administrator for the RM of Enniskillen No. 3. He also ran Ringguth Agencies selling insurance for Wawanesa. He was later the administrator at the Village of Frobisher until March 2013.

Bill was involved with the Lions, Legion and Oxbow Business Association. He coached baseball and was a scout leader. He loved to golf, play pool, darts and curl. Family was very important to Bill. He enjoyed many trips visiting his sons. He loved to play cards and spent many nights playing with family and friends. Bill always had time for a visit. When his health deteriorated he never complained. He just lived life to the fullest. He will be missed for his sense of humor and his ready smile.



**RM OF PIAPOT NO. 110  
 IN MEMORIAM  
 KEN HOBBS**

Ken Hobbs, the Councilor for Division 1 from 1997 to 2012 for the RM of Piapot No. 110, passed away on May 11, 2014.



**RM OF VISCOUNT NO. 341  
 IN MEMORIAM  
 RUSSELL DENEIKO**

Russell Deneiko was born February 6, 1934 and passed away at Watrous Hospital on December 14, 2014. He met his wife, Shirley Dempsey, in 1955 when he was dared to ask her to dance at a local dance, they fell in love and were married in 1956. They had a family of five sons and two daughters. They worked hard to build Deneiko Custom Feeding Ltd. which he left in the hands of two of his sons after retiring in 2014.

Russ was always a hard worker on the farm and in his carpentry work. He was committed to many different committees from the school division board and trustees, the RM of Viscount No. 341, the Saskatchewan Feeder Association and the Young Co-op Board. Russ served the

RM of Viscount as Councillor for Division 2 for 30 years and then another six years as Reeve.

**RM OF VISCOUNT NO. 341  
 IN MEMORIAM  
 NORMAN ANTON JOHNSON**

Norman Anton Johnson was born March 23, 1922 and passed away July 23, 2014 at the age of 93. Norman is survived by his wife, Lorna Johnson, and children Ruby (Jerry) Holder, Garnet (Colleen) Johnson, Russell (Fay) Johnson, Janet (Ray) Cenaiko, 15 grandchildren and five great grandchildren

Norman farmed his whole life in the Morris School District. When he wasn't busy working in the fields or raising cattle he could be found doing carpentry work. This carpentry work lasted many years into his retirement.

Over the years, Norman was active in many organizations, including the Credit Union Board, Sask. Wheat Pool Committee and the Lutheran Church Board.

Norman served as Councillor for the RM of Viscount, Division 2 from 1957 to 1959.

**RM OF CORMAN PARK NO. 344  
 IN MEMORIAM  
 KEITH TARASOFF**

Keith was born June 16, 1940 in the Henrietta District near Langham, SK. He attended Henrietta, a one room school on his parent's home quarter. His high school years were spent at Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon, and he went on to the University of Saskatchewan to study in both the Colleges of Agriculture and Education. At that time, he joined the Saskatoon Doukhobor Youth Choir. On July 30, 1962 he married Sonia Konkin, and they were blessed with four children: Gregg, Glenn, Corina and Brent. In the fall of 1963, Keith took a two-year teaching position in Benito, MB, teaching sciences and maths, but he remained



active on the family farm at Langham. In 1965, they moved to Saskatoon to further his education, and in 1971 they moved to Langham to farm full-time. While farming, he served on the RM of Corman Park Council from 1979-1985.

The family farm expanded to include land in Pelly and Canora, and Keith and Sonia settled in the Canora area where they became very active in the Doukhobor community. Their work with the Doukhobor choir resulted in four CD's and many appearances with choirs in AB, BC and SK. As Chairman of the National Doukhobor Heritage Village, Keith spent many days with Sonia baking bread, volunteering and organizing tours and gatherings.

**RM OF BJORKDALE NO. 426  
IN MEMORIAM  
GORDON DAVIDSON**

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Gordon Davidson announce his passing on December 25, 2014 at age 87.

Gordon was proud to have lived and raised his family in a caring farming community. He always entertained family and friends with jokes and enjoyed watching their reaction to his sometimes more "off colored" ones. He believed in a rural lifestyle. It saddened him to witness the closure of local businesses and schools, as well as youth not being able to take over the family farms. He dedicated many hours to the RM of Bjorkdale, serving as a Councillor from 1959-1961 and 1968-1978 and Reeve for four years from 1979-1982. In 2005, he received the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan honouring his many years of community work.



**RM OF HILLSDALE NO. 440  
IN MEMORIAM  
GARTH EDMUND  
HOLLINGSHEAD**

Garth Edmund Hollingshead passed away January 12, 2015 at the age of 75.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Dolores, daughter, Janet (Brent) Black, son, Wallace Hollingshead, and two granddaughters Taryn and Jorin Black.

Garth grew up on the family farm 3½ miles north of Neilburg and attended school at Roland View School ½ mile north of the farm. After school he took up farming with his parents, eventually taking over the farm. Garth married Dolores Rehman in 1964, and they raised their two children and farmed until 1992, when they moved to Neilburg to set up a Pro Hardware franchise.

Garth served as Councillor for Division 6 in the RM of Hillsdale No. 440 from 1987-1993. He believed in giving back to the community. He was a long-time member of the Neilburg Curling Club, a lifetime member of the Neilburg Recreation Board, served on the Hospital Board, United Church Board and West 40 Rural Development Corporation. Garth was recognized for his volunteer service by River Junction Parks and Recreation in 1992. He was an avid curler receiving many trophies over the years, including two eight-enders. He coached high school students and developed a program to teach the game to grades 6-12 students. Garth left his mark on the community in so many ways and will surely be missed.



*Reeve Brian Northeast presents Med Lamontagne with a retirement gift*

**RM OF ENNISKILLEN NO. 3  
RETIREMENT  
MED LAMONTAGNE**

Med Lamontagne, Foreman, retires after 28 years with the RM of Enniskillen No. 3. On behalf of the RM of Enniskillen, we want to thank you for your service during these past 28 years, as we congratulate you on your retirement. The years you have worked here have been marked by unsurpassed efficiency, and dedication.



**RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5  
RETIREMENT  
TERRY KEATING**

On December 3, 2014, the RM of Estevan No. 5 recognized retiring councillor, Terry Keating. Terry served as Councillor for Division 6 from 2010-2014. Reeve Kelly Lafrentz (right), on behalf of the council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Estevan No. 5, presented Terry with a commemorative watch.

We thank Terry for his service to the municipality and wish him all the best.



**RM OF LAKE ALMA NO. 8  
RETIREMENT  
RODNEY ROBINSON**

Rodney Robison served as Councillor for Division 4 from 1998-2014. In appreciation of almost 17 years of service, Rod was presented with a metal artwork as well as a Public Service Award.

Rod has been and continues to be a municipal representative on the Lake Alma Recreation Board and volunteers many hours of his time in our community at various events. We would like to thank Rod for his years of dedication to this municipality. From the Council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Lake Alma No. 8.





**RM OF VAL MARIE NO. 17  
RETIREMENT  
PAM CASWELL**

The RM of Val Marie No. 17 honored Councillor Pam Caswell at the annual Christmas supper on December 15, 2014. Pam served as Division 2 Councillor from 2005-2014. She served on various committees and as Deputy Reeve.

The municipality presented Pam with an engraved watch. Thank you Pam for your commitment to local government and your community.



**RM OF PENSE NO. 160  
RETIREMENT  
LORNE STRAUB**

The RM of Pense held a retirement celebration in honour of Lorne Straub on November 29, 2014. Reeve Tom Lemon presented Lorne with a Public Service Award, an engraved gold watch and other gifts to show appreciation for all of the time and effort Lorne has put in while in office.

Lorne served as Councillor for Division 2 from January 1982 until his retirement in October 2014. Lorne has made many influential and significant contributions as he served on Council and various boards.

We thank Lorne for his dedication to the RM over the past 33 years and wish him a happy retirement.



**RM OF MOOSE JAW NO. 161  
RETIREMENT  
ORVAL BROWNLEE**

The RM of Moose Jaw No. 161 recognized Orval Brownlee who retired in October 2014 after serving as Councillor for Division 4 for 20 years. The RM sincerely thanks Orval for all his wisdom and knowledge that he has brought to the RM over the years.



**RM OF MOOSE JAW NO. 161  
RETIREMENT  
DAROL OWENS**

The RM of Moose Jaw No. 161 recognized Darol Owens who retired in October 2014 after serving the municipality for 30 years as Councillor from 1984-2000 and Reeve from 2001-2014. Darol was involved in all municipal matters and served on many boards and committees. The RM thanks Darol for his time and is grateful for the knowledge, dedication and experience he brought to the RM.



**RM OF LANGENBURG NO. 181  
RETIREMENT  
DARWYN MACKENZIE**

Darwyn served as Administrator for the RM of Langenburg No. 181 from 2000-

2014. He also served as Councillor for Division 6 from 1996-1998 and on other local boards during his career, which he continues to work with today.

At the Ratepayers' Supper & Meeting in March 2015, Darwyn received a painting commissioned in his honor by local artist Rita Swanson from Deputy Reeve Tony Stauch and current Administrator Krystal Johnston.

At the event, Darwyn remarked "That is has been a great RM to work for, and that the council has always been good to work for. I think that the council is exceptional in a lot of ways. They all seem to be on the same page and work well together, and this has made my job a very easy job."

Darwyn looks forward to spending his retirement farming, spending time with his wife, children, grandchild, family and friends.

The council, staff and ratepayers wish Darwyn and his wife, Cathy, a very happy and healthy retirement.



*Councillor Byron Siemens (left) receives a Glen Scrimshaw print from Reeve Blake Jeffries*

**RM OF PLEASANT VALLEY NO. 288  
RETIREMENT/PUBLIC SERVICE  
BYRON SIEMENS**

At the annual ratepayers' meeting, Councillor Byron Siemens was recognized for 24 years of service. Byron was Councillor of Division 2 from 1990-2014 and served on many committees.

Byron was presented with a Public Service Award, gold watch and Glen Scrimshaw print for his dedication to the municipality.

Thank you Byron for your commitment to local government and all the best in your retirement.





**RM OF KEYS NO. 303  
RETIREMENTS  
SHARON CIESIELSKI &  
JIM HALLICK**

In 2014, both Reeve James (Jim) Hallick and Administrator Sharon Ciesielski retired from the RM of Keys No 303.

Sharon was hired in 1991, having previously trained at the RM of Good Lake and worked for the Town of Nokomis. Through her years, she saw the municipality go from a manual to the computerized system of today. She was instrumental in cleaning up a large tax enforcement file and maintaining the peace with ratepayers, employees and councilors. Thank you, and may you enjoy many years of retirement!

Jim was elected Councilor of Division 6 in the RM of Keys in 1988. He brought

with him experience in teaching, farming and plant services supervising. In 2007, he was elected Reeve and served until October 2014. During his time, Jim served on the SARM Board for 17 years. His knowledge and experiences through all the subboards and committees was an asset to the office and council. Thank you for all your years of service. Enjoy your quiet time with no phones ringing (except from your kids, grandkids and great grandkids).



*(L-R) Reeve Colin Ahrens presents Mike Longworth with an award and gold watch*

**RM OF MARRIOTT NO. 317  
RETIREMENT  
MIKE LONGWORTH**

Mike Longworth was recently recognized for 34 years of service. Mike was the Councilor of Division 4 from

1980-2014. He followed in his father's footsteps, who was a Councillor for Division 4 from 1962-1980. Mike served on numerous committees. He was presented with a Public Service Award and gold watch as thanks for his dedication to the municipality. Thank you, Mike, for your commitment to local government and all the best in your retirement.



**RM OF KELVINGTON NO. 366  
RETIREMENT  
LAWRENCE FLETCHER**

At the April 9, 2015 meeting of the RM of Kelvington, retiring council member Lawrence Fletcher (right) received an engraved watch from incoming Division 2 Councilor David Ewen in appreciation of his service to the municipality as Division 2 Councilor from 2002-2014.

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**RM OF MONTROSE NO. 315  
RETIREMENT  
RAYMOND FRENCH**

The municipality, staff and council would like to recognize Raymond French for thirty-one years of service as Administrator for the RM of Montrose No. 315.

Ray served the residents of the municipality and the needs of the ratepayers. The council and residents appreciate Ray's lengthy tenure. Staff, council and municipal residents wish you a long and healthy retirement, and we thank you for the years of service you provided.



*James Graf (left) and Reeve Arnold Boyko*



*Douglas Ingram (left) and Reeve Boyko*

**RM OF LAKESIDE NO. 338  
RETIREMENTS  
JAMES GRAF &  
DOUGLAS INGRAM**

The Council for the RM of Lakeside No. 338 recognized two councillors for their retirement at the Christmas party in December 2014.

James Graf served as Councillor of Division 6 from 1988-2014.

Douglas Ingram served as Councillor of Division 4 from 1991-2014.



*Darcy Olson (left) and Reeve John Light*

**RM OF BRITANNIA NO. 502  
RETIREMENT  
DARCY OLSON**

Darcy Olson was raised on a farm near Rosetown, SK. He attended the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina. His career in local government began in 1985 where he became the Assistant Administrator for the Town of Rosetown. Between 1990 and 2011 he served as the Administrator for the RM of St. Andrews and the Town of Rosetown. In 2012, he became the Administrator for the RM of Britannia in Lloydminster, where he finished his municipal government career in 2014. From all of us at the RM, we would like to wish Darcy all the best in his retirement.



**RM OF LAKELAND NO. 521  
RETIREMENT  
LEN ERHARDT**

Council and staff recently recognized long-term employee Len Erhardt. Len worked as Public Works Foreman for the District of Lakeland for 31 years – retiring in 2014. Throughout his career, Len experienced many changes. One of the changes that Len was instrumental in was the new District of Lakeland Logo, which he designed. The District of Lakeland would like to thank Len for his years of hard work and dedication. A picture and jacket were presented to Len with the district's logo on them. We wish Len all the best in his retirement.



**RM OF LAC PELLETIER  
NO. 107**

**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
KEITH CLOTHIER**

Keith Clothier was elected Councillor of Division 5 in the RM of Lac Pelletier No. 107 in 1997. He served the municipality for 17 years until his retirement in 2014. As Councillor, Keith represented the RM with the Chinook Regional Library, the RCMP Consultative Group, and the Lac Pelletier Regional Park. He also served as Deputy Reeve. He looked forward to the SARM Conventions and was appointed on several occasions as the RM's Saskatchewan Municipal Hail delegate. For his dedicated service, Keith received a SARM Public Service Award and an engraved mantle clock. The council, staff, and ratepayers would like to thank Keith for his friendship and time. We wish him the best in the future.



**RM OF EDENWOLD NO. 158  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
WAYNE JOYCE &  
REINHOLD SAUER**

The RM of Edenwold No. 158 honoured Councillors Reinhold Sauer and Wayne Joyce at the annual RM Christmas supper in December 2014. Reeve Mitchell Huber (center) presented the awards. Reinhold (left) served as Councillor for Division 6 for 31 years from 1983-2014. Wayne (right) served as Councillor for Division 4 for five years from 2009-2014. Thank you both for your commitment to local government and the community.





**RM OF GOOD LAKE NO. 274  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
JAMES HUPKA**

The RM of Good Lake No. 274 honoured Councillor James Hupka at their annual Christmas Supper in December 2014. James (left) received a framed Glass Wheat print by Berting Glass from Reeve Dave Popowich (right).

James served as Councillor for Division 5 from 1981-1994 and in Division 6 from 1996-2014. The Reeve, council and staff would like to thank James for his dedication and commitment to the RM during his many years on council.



**RM OF BIRCH HILLS NO. 460  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS  
GREG COCHET,  
GERALD OLSEN &  
GAYLEN TORGUNRUD**

Recently, one staff member and two councillors were recognized for their service to the RM of Birch Hills No. 460. Pictured on the left is RM employee Gaylen Torgunrud with Councillor Gerald Olsen. Councillor Greg Cochet was unable to attend.

The municipality, staff and council recognized Gaylen Torgunrud for 30 years of service as Public Works staff for the RM of Birch Hills. Gaylen has built and graded many miles of roads within the RM. The RM sincerely thanks Gaylen for the contribution he has made and we look forward to many years to come.

The municipality, staff and council recognized Gerald Olsen for his dedication and commitment as Division 6 Councillor for the RM from 1986-2014.

The RM sincerely thanks Gerald for his years of service, as well as the knowledge, dedication and experience he contributed over the past 28 years. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

The municipality, staff and council also recognized Greg Cochet for his dedication and commitment as Division 4 Councillor from 2009-2014. The RM sincerely thanks Greg for his years of service, and the dedication and hard work he contributed to the RM. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



**RM OF MERVIN NO. 499  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
COLIN DAVIDSON**

A special presentation was made honoring retiring Councillor Colin Davidson at the regular Council Meeting in February 2015.

Reeve Tom Brown (right) presented Colin with a Public Service Award certificate and an engraved clock on behalf of the council, staff and ratepayers. Colin served as Councillor for Division 6 from 2005-2014. We would again like to thank Colin for his years of dedicated service to the ratepayers of the RM of Mervin.

**RM OF LANGENBURG NO. 181  
SPRING RATEPAYERS' SUPPER**

The Spring Ratepayers' Supper and meeting was held on March 31, 2015. Throughout the evening Reeve Apland spoke to the ratepayers about the challenges that came to the area with the flood damage. Reeve Apland stated that "It was another challenging year for the RM, but the road to recovery is being steadily rebuilt." This statement is very true with several grades that were lost in the flood but were able to be opened for use prior to harvest with some finishing work that will be completed this year.

Reeve Apland thanked the ratepayers for their co-operation, understanding and assistance in whatever form available

throughout the year to make these repairs possible. Reeve Apland also acknowledged that many of roads were rebuilt by the municipality's own grader operators and for that "We have to be thankful for these guys."



The guest speaker for the evening was Jeff Dickson with STARS Air Ambulance Service. Jeff delivered an insightful look at STARS and how vital it is to the residents in the province. As Jeff says "STARS is the best part of your worst day." The RM presented STARS with a donation to help operate what has turned out to be a very busy and necessary service to the province.



During the supper, Deputy Reeve Tony Stauch discussed how important the grader operators are to the municipality. The RM of Langenburg honored Foreman Rod Schappert with a presentation of a long service award. Rod was recognized for his five years of service maintaining the municipality's roads and infrastructure along with many other outside duties.

*Have some Member 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 [sarm@sarm.ca](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca). Please do not send photos in a Word document; send them as separate JPG, PNG or PDF files instead.*





# RURAL CRIME WATCH

**BY SGT. ROB COZINE**

CO-ORDINATOR FOR SASKATCHEWAN CRIME STOPPERS



**SASKATCHEWAN** Crime Stoppers and Rural Crime Watch are community based crime prevention programs run by a volunteer Board of Directors; however, that is where the similarities end. I am writing this article because I have been approached by some who wish to start up a Rural Crime Watch in their community and there are some people who are interested in rejuvenating the program.

Although I am the Police Co-ordinator for only the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers program, I do have some knowledge of the Rural Crime Watch program and who to contact with future inquiries.

Our Crime Prevention/Crime Reduction Unit is pleased to work with communities to deliver programs that teach residents about personal safety. There are programs aimed at both chil-

dren and adults, and by working together, we can develop safer communities. Education and awareness of preventive techniques can help you recognize a potential crime situation and allow positive action to be taken that will reduce or remove the risk.

When you become involved in any of these safety programs, you work with your local police to enhance community security and improve the services available in your community.

The Rural Crime Watch Program is voluntary, involving rural residents working in cooperation with their local RCMP Detachment. Membership is open to all interested residents in the rural community, subject to approval. The program was established to reduce the incidence of crime in rural areas and focuses on farmstead security, property

identification and general rural crime awareness. Many of these incidents can be prevented or suspects apprehended through the cooperative efforts of the community and law enforcement agencies.

Effective communication is a major goal of Crime Watch groups, as a potential resource to discourage potential crime and related issues in the rural community. Contact information will be used internally only for the purpose of periodic communication regarding crimes in the rural area and will not be shared.

Groups of rural residents and rural communities participating in the Rural Crime Watch program have the opportunity to inform the motoring public that they are part of the program through the use of Rural Crime Watch signs.

For information on Rural Crime Watch, I suggest you contact your local RCMP Detachment and advise them of your interest in either starting up a new program or rejuvenating an already existing program.

Although the program is community owned, the RCMP can be a contact for local crimes in your area and present effective crime prevention techniques and initiatives to the group. The Crime Prevention/Crime Reduction Unit can also be contacted at 306-780-5397 or [Mailbox\\_FDIV\\_Community\\_Services](mailto:Mailbox_FDIV_Community_Services).

More information on obtaining Rural Crime Watch signs can also be found on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's website, [www.highways.gov.sk.ca/ruralmunicipal-signing](http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/ruralmunicipal-signing) or by contacting Charlie Matt, Provincial Sign Coordinator, at 306-933-8319 or mailing Unit #18 - 3603 Millar Ave. Saskatoon, SK S7P 0B2.



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