

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 48 number 4

WINTER 2015 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

SARM 2015 YEAR END

SARM's Year End Review; Exciting Challenges Ahead; Saying Farewell to Doug Steele; Preparing for the Audit; SARM Municipal Bridge Services; Rail Safety; Physician Retention; Valuing Your Insurable Property; Illegal Dumping and Littering; Chronic Wasting Disease; SK Weed List; SODCAP's Species at Risk Tour





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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.



SARM 2015 YEAR IN SUMMARY

BY RAY ORB SARM PRESIDENT

GREETINGS to everyone. By the time this article is published, the 2015 grain harvest should be completed.

As of Sept 21, 2015, 60 per cent of Saskatchewan's crop was in the bin, which is right on the ten year average.

All in all, it appears that the crop will be an average yield, but it's a bit too soon to comment on the overall quality.

Cattle prices are good and, so far, are slightly higher than last year.

Canada and Mexico have won their last appeal on Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) at the World Trade Organization (WTO), which certainly is an arduous process. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill to repeal COOL, but it's now stalled at the Senate.

Canada has applied to the WTO to impose \$3B (U.S.) worth of tariffs on imports from the U.S., including products such as U.S. wine, meat, chocolate and frozen orange juice, as a retaliatory measure.

Grain movement has improved tremendously over last year's dismal record. Both CP and CN rail are consistently fulfilling about 90 per cent of the orders they receive. Grain shippers and producers alike will be anxiously awaiting the

results of the *Canada Transport Act* review later this year, and hopefully, SARM's submission points will be heard and acted upon by the federal government.

The federal election period has been long, and the three main parties – the Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats – have basically been in a dead heat for much of the election. There hasn't been much mention of agriculture in the election debate, but the Canadian Federation of Agriculture sponsored a leader's debate on Sept 30. Many of us at SARM intend to watch the debate featuring Ag Minister Gerry Ritz, NDP Ag critic Malcolm Allen, Liberal Ag critic Mark Eyking, Green Party candidate Andrew West, and Bloc Quebecois party candidate Yves Lessard.

Due to the 2012 Federal Electoral Redistribution, seats in the House of Commons will increase from 308 to 338. The extra 30 seats will be allocated on the following basis due to population increases: Alberta (6), B.C. (6), Ontario (15) and Quebec (3).

Prior to the end of September, SARM sent out a list of 14 federal election asks to all candidates in Saskatchewan and to the national leaders of the three main political parties.

FCM has been active in getting the message out to all political parties, and through the Rural Forum many issues have been highlighted. As another way to create more discussion around rural issues, FCM is looking to host a Rural Summit in 2017.

SARM has also been busy on the provincial scene. We have been working with the province and SUMA on the new *Conflict of Interest* legislation, which the province may introduce to the legislative assembly this fall. We also met with the provincial Ombudsman, Mary McFadyen, as the province is looking to add municipal complaints to the Ombudsman's mandate. These two items are of extreme importance to all municipalities in the province, and SARM has been diligent in ensuring that rural municipal councils remain transparent and accountable, and that future legislation doesn't deter people from running for council.

The SARM Midterm Convention will held in Regina November 5-6. The agenda is a good one and will be sure to highlight important issues and generate great discussion. I hope the attendance is great and that I'll see you all there.

In the meantime, all the best and happy holidays!



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE JIM REITER
MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



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THE past year had many challenges. Budget pressures due to the downturn in the price of oil certainly caused us to pause and make difficult choices in order to balance the budget. As members are aware, even municipal revenue sharing was on the table. I appreciated all the letters and comments from members. There were no changes to revenue sharing, and municipalities continue to enjoy a 108 per cent increase in funding to municipalities since we were given the privilege of forming government.

Following the release of the Barclay report in February, consultations began with SARM and SUMA to introduce new legislation this fall to address many

of the recommendations raised in the report. I want to personally thank President Ray Orb, the executive and staff for being a full partner with us during the consultation phase.

The end of June and all of July proved to be very challenging due to the wildfires in the north. At one point there were over 600 fires burning and 13,000 people evacuated from 54 communities. I had the chance to visit many northern communities during this time and tour many of the devastated areas. During my travels, I saw many examples of the Saskatchewan spirit. The Red Cross, First Nation and municipal leaders, municipal fire departments, government agencies,

business organizations and volunteers all came together. Our provincial motto *MULTIS E GENTIBUS VIRES* – “From Many Peoples Strength” – proved to be true. To the many who assisted during this time my sincere thank you to each and every one of you.

I have had the opportunity to serve as the Minister of Government Relations since May 2012. As a former Rural Municipal Administrator, it has been a very special privilege that means a great deal to me. Saskatchewan is the greatest place to live, work and raise a family. It is truly my honour to serve the people of Saskatchewan.



EXCITING CHALLENGES AHEAD

BY HARVEY MALANOWICH
SARM ACTING VICE PRESIDENT

IT'S been a very busy year for me at home and on the SARM Board, and the year has nearly come to a close.

SARM has been dealing with issues such as environmental problems, cuts to funding for roads and bridges (MREP), crop insurance, grain movement, and PFRA pastures. While working on reso-

lution policy and governance bylaws has been very interesting and challenging.

This year has been extra exciting for me as I was chosen by the board to be Acting Vice President of SARM until the Annual Convention in March. This will help me gain more knowledge from attending FCM, being on MEPP

and sitting on the Board of Governance committees. I'm looking forward to this new challenge.

In closing, I hope you all had a good year on the farm, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you at the Midterm Convention. God bless you all!



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MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 1

BY CARMEN STERLING SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 1

AS we approach the end of 2015, we look back on a farming season that was not without its challenges. Areas experienced flooding and drought again this year, and in some cases, producers experienced both! That being said, overall harvest wrapped up with good quality and yields for the most part.

Some ranchers experienced significant impact to their forage and pastures. Both farmers and ranchers were impacted by either a lack of or untimely moisture that was sporadic to say the least. Some would say now the “hard” work comes as we look to market our grain and livestock, but thankfully, the outlook is overall positive for commodities. Thank you to our farmers and ranchers for your hard work and dedication to your industry, and best wishes for next year.

Through resolutions, inquiries and discussion with our members, SARM is made aware of rural municipalities’ challenges and concerns relating to municipal transportation infrastructure. There are various ways we undertake to investigate and address these challenges and concerns. First and foremost, SARM Board and Policy Department staff strive to understand and obtain as much information as possible on the issue. It is very important to not only identify the problem or issue but to also consider and develop possible solutions. Research on a particular issue could include surveying our members, investigating policy, regulations and legislation in both Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions, reviewing research that has been conducted by others in the past, as well as leveraging any information that industry is willing to share. RMs play an integral role in this research. Your experience and information is very important to not only define

the issues but to also develop strategies for lobbying for change and identifying possible solutions.

Over the past year, SARM has been very involved in a number of issues impacting municipal road and bridge systems. Initiatives currently under way include two studies: Private Industry Partnership Program (PIPP) and Municipal Strategy for Sustainable Aggregate Resource Management (Got Gravel). KPMG is conducting the research to complete the PIPP study under the supervision of the PIPP oversight committee, which includes SARM, the Ministry of Government Relations, and Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure representatives. The goal is to define a program to address current funding gaps in delivering, renewing and maintaining roadways infrastructure in RMs.

CPP Environmental is conducting the research for the Got Gravel study under the supervision of the Infrastructure Committee. The goal is to determine the current state of aggregate resources in Saskatchewan, municipal access to those resources, review relevant legislation and recommend any necessary changes to improve municipal access, explore and suggest alternatives to gravel and mechanisms to retain applied gravel.

Municipal input is integral to the success of both of these projects. SARM would appreciate any feedback RMs can provide.

In addition to these two studies, SARM is working on Road Maintenance Agreement Rates, Grade Crossing Regulation changes, SaskPower line relocates, *Local Improvement Act* legislation changes, *Essential Services*, *Highways Transfer of Responsibility*, and

PDAP, to name a few. Each of these areas has the potential to significantly impact municipal transportation infrastructure and the monetary resources RMs have available for ongoing maintenance and construction.

Agriculture, oil and gas, and mining are integral to the economic success of our province, and these industries rely heavily on our rural transportation network. This potential for impact coupled with the importance of our municipal transportation systems to the success and survival of our communities dictates that these issues are important to all RMs.

Transportation infrastructure is one of many areas of municipal responsibility that I am passionate about. Growth and development, municipal co-operation, taxation, human resources, governance, ratepayers’ safety, employees and the public are among the many others. In the past year I have had the privilege to represent you in all these areas, among many others. I take every opportunity possible to raise these and other important issues to any and all levels of government and industry. I am proud to celebrate the contribution rural Saskatchewan makes to the success of our province and country, and it is my privilege to do so as a member of SARM’s Board of Directors. I appreciate your confidence in my representation of RMs and look forward to continuing to serve you in years to come.

I enjoy every opportunity to meet with you at council meetings, ratepayer’s meetings and conventions. Do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any issues of concern to your municipality. I wish you all the best in the coming holiday season, as well as health, happiness and prosperity! Happy Holidays!



MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 2

BY NORM NORDGULEN SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 2

AS I write this article I have just finished moving the cows off the summer pasture and the combines are wrapping up a surprisingly good crop in our area, and in parts of the province. What a turnaround season it has been!

I was fortunate in that I was in the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation rainfall grazing program. I find this program the simplest to use and understand, it has the best payout for premium dollar, and it runs on rainfall, which either does or doesn't happen. This program used to be on crop land, too, but has been pulled in favour of other programs. Personally, I would like to also see it on forage, giving the producer a choice of coverage.

I'm sure many of you were battling the various invasive weeds that threatened our province this summer. I am especially at war with burdock. This is a horrible weed that I am told was introduced years ago because of its roots' medicinal properties. Unfortunately, it is a prolific weed with dozens of velcro-like burrs that seem to jump out at you as you walk by. These burrs are very itchy like canary seed, and animals want to rub them off especially around corrals, trees and fence lines. I highly recommend that if you notice any rhubarb-like plants (it's early stage), you get on it right away. This weed is horrible and is spread by anything that comes near it.

On December 2, Larry Grant (Division 3 Director) and I will be attending the Fields on Wheels Conference in Winnipeg sponsored by CN and CP. We will hear the railways side of things concerning grain, potash and other commodity movement (or lack thereof). I have been pressing that if SARM and other groups are to comment on the failings of our system we need to see first-hand the problems and challenges in order to make fair and usable recommendations. Much like the valued tour of our highway system Larry Doke took last year.

I wish everyone a good rest of the year and an even better one next year.



MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 3

BY LARRY GRANT SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 3

THIS has been an interesting year. It started out cold and dry, then turned hot and wet in many places, but the province's west and south still remained quite dry. At harvest time, the weather didn't cooperate, turning cool and damp, and many crops didn't want to dry.

Hay crops in my part of the province froze too often and too hard to make

much of a crop. Hay for cattle producers overall is in short supply.

SARM, along with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and Saskatchewan Cattleman's Association, has been talking to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) about forage insurance programming. SCIC has revamped their forage insurance programs the last

few years. I would encourage all producers to contact SCIC about options for forage insurance that would suit the needs of their farm or ranch.

Although it has been a trying year, a new year is coming soon with a new set of challenges and opportunities. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Thank you!

SARM would like to thank all of its members, sponsors and advertisers for once again supporting SARM's programs and services this year.

We look forward to working with all of you again in 2016.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SARM

Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities



Illegal DUMPING AND LITTERING

BY JUDY HARWOOD SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 5

ILLEGAL dumping and littering is an issue that affects every RM in our province, particularly in RMs surrounding and close to urban centres. Tackling the problem of illegal dumping and littering in Saskatchewan is no small task, and it is an issue that SARM and many other groups have raised with the provincial government. However, a Prince Albert area group, where I represent SARM, recently started a pilot of the *Keep Prince Albert and Area Beautiful Project*.

This is a grassroots effort of interested businesses, local leaders, service groups, RMs, enforcement agencies, provincial ministries and other organizations, working to raise awareness about proper waste disposal, local recycling opportunities and the environmental impact associated with illegal dumping and littering.

In June, a volunteer community cleanup saw almost 5,000 kilograms of waste and garbage removed from the Nisbet Forest, the RMs of Prince Albert and Buckland, and the city of Prince Albert. Since the project was launched in April 2015, there has been a total of 17,000 kilograms of waste and garbage collected and over 80 dump sites originally identified have been cleaned.

RM Administrator Terrence Schneider said the RM of Prince Albert No. 461 is proud to be part of the local pilot project. "The community has a responsibility to educate or penalize those who scar the landscape with litter or who dump materials like furniture, appliances, tires, and construction waste in unauthorized dumping sites," Schneider explained.

A key focus has been to increase public reporting involving incidents of illegal dumping and littering. In rural areas, illegal dumping violations can be reported through the Ministry of Environment's TIP line at 1-800-667-7561.

Over the next few months, the project committee will work to build partnerships with more local groups, including volunteer groups and non-profits that may be interested in joining cleanup events. The committee is also looking for ways to incorporate more information about recycling and the effects of illegal dumping into school curriculum to spread the word to the next generation.

Littering in Saskatchewan is covered under the *Environment Management and Protection Act, 2010*, which came into effect on June 1, 2015, repealing, among other documents, the *Litter Control Act*.

Section 50 of this Act reads as follows:
Littering: Prohibited

50 (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall discard, or abandon or cause to be discarded or abandoned or allow to be discarded or abandoned, any waste;

(a) on any land that is owned by another person or the Crown; or

(b) into or on any water

(2) It is not an offence for a person to discard or abandon, or cause to be discarded or abandoned or allow to be discarded or abandoned, any waste; or

(a) in a receptacle provided for the purpose of receiving the waste; or

(b) on lands or sites authorized by this Act or the regulations for the purpose of receiving the waste.

(3) No person shall discard, abandon or dispose, or cause to be discarded abandoned or disposed or allow to be discarded, abandoned or disposed, any hazardous substance except in a location or at a site that is permitted by this Act, the regulations or the code to receive that hazardous substance.

The penalty for this is found under the *Summary Offence Procedure Regulations, 1991*, most recently amended in 2015. The fine for an individual is \$500 for a first offence and \$1,000 for a corporation. Second and subsequent offences can be deemed by a Peace Officer to require a court appearance, as a result of which the court may issue a fine not exceeding \$1,000,000, and/or three years imprisonment.

In the RM of Corman Park, we have a bylaw in place that also allows, if the offender is caught, for recovery of staff costs related to cleanup and disposal of the waste. Please encourage all your RM residents to be vigilant and report violators. I am tired of our beautiful RMs being turned into some other peoples' personal garbage dumps.

The holiday season is fast approaching. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and good health and happiness in 2016. With the current turmoil in our world, let's also pray for peace.



MESSAGE FROM DIVISION 6

BY ROD WIENS SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 6



THIS has been a year of transition at SARM. Our new Executive Director has settled into his role, and he has a strong staff that are moving SARM forward. We have had a number of changes in our staff over the past year. We are sad to see some long serving employees leave, but we are also excited to see the talents that our new employees will bring to the organization. The SARM Board has also experienced many changes. I was first elected to the board in March 2013. Today, I am the fourth longest serving board member. Five of us have served less than three years on the board.

I have observed two issues that have come forward from these changes: governance and partisanship. Governance deals with who is accountable to who in the organization. Partisanship is how we develop our relationship with other levels of government.

SARM is a policy organization whose role is to represent our 296 member municipalities. We bring forward our

members' needs and concerns to the appropriate levels of government. These needs are brought forward by our members through our resolution process. Our policy department researches the resolutions to help the board develop a strategy for moving them forward. Then, we lobby the government on our members' behalf.

Some of our member's needs are met in-house through our insurance, legal and trading departments. Others are met through the programs we administer on behalf of the government, such as MREP and PREP. We have helped the government develop and structure these programs to meet our members' needs.

As a board we are accountable to our member municipalities. Our staff, through the Executive Director, are accountable to the board.

As an organization, we represent our members to the government, not to a political party. We must be non-partisan

and have the respect and trust of the government. All of us as individuals have some degree of partisanship, but as an organization, we need to focus on the needs of our members.

Of course, meeting their needs is not always possible as governments have their own agendas. We can influence these agendas, but we do not set their agenda. The best we can hope for is to have a government that respects and trusts us as an organization and who will listen to our policy positions.

As a board we are working on these issues. The key to having strong governance as an organization and being an effective non-partisan voice of our members is our relationship with others. As people change in our organization we need to maintain strong relationships with others. We may not always agree, but we need to develop a relationship of respect and trust with those both within and outside of SARM.



Saying **FAREWELL**

BY DOUG STEELE SARM FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



IT is with mixed emotions that I write my final article for the *Rural Councillor* as Vice President of SARM, for it has been an honour and a privilege to work for the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities representing and serving you all for the last 14 years.

I have acquired a wealth of knowledge and experiences serving on the board both as director and vice president. I am extremely privileged to have worked closely with so many of SARM's experienced and knowledgeable directors, presidents and vice presidents over the years. The mentorship and collaboration

within this organization is second to none, and I am extremely honoured to have been a part of it for so many years.

All that I've gained through serving on numerous boards and committees with so many talented individuals is completely invaluable. To the board members both past and present, I deeply appreciate every one of you. Thank you all.

I have undoubtedly enjoyed working with the talented and knowledgeable staff at SARM's office that are a huge asset to the association and continue to work diligently on a daily basis to keep

the wheels turning. Thank you. It has also been an absolute pleasure meeting, working with, and getting to know the many councillors and reeves of RMs across Saskatchewan. Thank you for having faith in my knowledge and abilities to represent and serve you as your Vice President and Director for so many years.

I have such a deep respect for SARM. This organization is looked upon with the highest regard both provincially and federally. I would like you to keep it strong by running to represent your division on the Board of Directors. SARM has representation on numerous committees both provincially and federally. These committees include agriculture, health care, infrastructure and resource management, to name a few. As a director, you help make decisions and develop policies that will make a difference in both rural and urban Saskatchewan.

SARM works closely with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipality Association (SUMA) networking to create a strong and united province. SARM is also an organization with strong roots that go back in history over 100 years. Please consider becoming a part of that history as we move forward in the future.

In closing, I want to reiterate my immense respect and gratitude towards SARM and the countless individuals involved. I am taking with me an immeasurable wealth of knowledge, skills and connections, strong lifelong friendships, and an immense pride in what SARM has accomplished in the past, present and what will be accomplished in the future. I hope to be serving you all again with the provincial government in the near future. It has been an honour and a privilege. Thank you.



a short peek into **THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR**

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A year can go by so fast that we forget to take a peek behind. If SARM was to take a look in the rear-view mirror, we would see a lot of activities, undertakings and accomplishments within our organization this past year.

We have seen changes to the executive team, division directors and staff. These changes have offered an opportunity to build. At the board level, we have seen a few changes to positions, including our 26th president since the inception of the organization and a new Vice President to assist the executive team. At our annual convention, we saw a new division director for division three and, moving into summer, we saw a change in the *ex-officio* board position with the retirement of a true leader. On a federal level, we also saw our president elected as the Chairperson of Rural Forum of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities while in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Continuing to look back, we have seen plenty of activity with our team. There have been many staff changes or moves, including new directors in our Insurance and Benefits Department and Municipal Bridge Services Department. We also saw the development of a Communications and Marketing Coordinator

who has taken SARM into the world of social media with our new Twitter account. This position has also brought the addition of a national sport champion to our team.

During the process of change, there is an opportunity to examine the organization's operations. Our team worked together in a review of job descriptions in all departments, as well as assisted in the development of a compensation study to assist with future recruitment and retention of team members.

We saw our team work on a review of our human resource policies, which included new and updated policies. Our Insurance and Benefits Department analyzed all operations regarding productivity and efficiencies and is currently working on the development of a new benefits database program to assist with the department's growth.

Our policy department is currently working on two studies; one being PIPP, which will identify the feasibility of attaining additional provincial and federal infrastructure dollars for our RMs and the other is the Got Gravel project to assist with the identification of aggregate resources and new technologies to ensure the sustainability of the resource.

We also saw our programs department developing a safety manual for all RMs to take advantage of in the near future.

We were fortunate to have the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper attend our 110th Annual Convention, which gave our organization recognition at a federal level.

With the arrival of spring, our board and staff were on the road conducting six annual division meetings. We experienced a format change, which brought a bear pit session to these meetings. This new format has been successful as 75 per cent of people indicated they approved of this change. We saw our board, representing their divisions, at many committee and monthly board meetings. Our board continued taking a leadership role on the topic of governance by taking a progressive approach through investment in board governance training and the development of a governance policy for the organization.

As many wise people have said, "The future depends on what we do in the present." It is always exciting to look back at the past but let's not stare. We have a lot to be proud of in our organization, and I feel we are in a great place moving into the years to come.



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PREPARING FOR THE AUDIT

BY JADE JOHNSON RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 6

ADMINISTRATORS tend to wear many hats throughout the year, from being assessors, tax collectors, dealing with legal issues, ensuring proper insurance coverage is prepared and managing people as well as construction projects, the list can be never ending. When it comes to year end, it all adds up and having a reference point to make sure everything is in order for the audit is very helpful.

This is also a good reference for council members, so that they are aware of what is required for year-end audits and the time it takes to prepare. It also reflects the auditors' costs, as they are required to review all of these documents and more.

I put together a list to help remind you what needs to be ready when the auditor arrives for the year-end audit. I find that this list also helps me remember to add documents to the audit file throughout the year, so I am not searching for information at year-end when the time comes to finish preparations. I use a binder to keep everything organized, but a folder works great as well. This is just a general list, you will find there may be many more documents your auditor requires, but this is a great starting point.

The auditor is there to help you and the municipality, the more you can do to make their jobs easier, the better it is for all.

Note: prepare all of these documents for your year-end, but remember that your auditor may require others (as each is a little different); this is just a general list to help you get started.

YEAR-END (Y/E) PREPARATIONS:

Accounts payable's and receivables	List should equal what is in the trial balance.
Audit confirmations	Auditor needs a copy of all of them, you don't, you only need the list.
Auditor entries required after prev. year's audit	Add y/e auditor entries to the year they effect.
Auditor's letters pertaining to the year	File in your audit file for reference.
Batch listing's	GL and tax batches for auditor reference.
Budget	Keep a copy in the file, original in minutes and a copy for the auditor.
Capital assets register	Keep in its own file; auditor needs a copy of the summary.
Cheque #'s for the year: Start #_ End: #_	List cheque numbers used.
Council indemnity summary	Enter info into current year's annual statement.
Equipment purchase invoices for the year	Copy/ensure purchases are in year's cap. assets.
Financial statement from prev. year/annual	Enter prev. yr into current yr's annual statement.
General ledger and trial balance	Auditor needs copy; print yours after audit is done.
GST return	Keep copy in audit file for auditor's review.
Insurance documents (property and liability)	Auditor requires a copy.
Inventory statements	Gravel, signs, culverts, fuel, etc.
ISC monthly statement	Auditor will want to see each month.
Minutes	Keep in minute book, unless copies requested.
Mill rate return	Auditor requires a copy.
Provincial grants summary paid to RM	Auditor requires a copy.
SAMA assessment return and confirmation	Keep original; print copy for auditor to retain.
SARM reserve fund information	Auditor requires a copy.
School division liability statements	Auditor requires a copy.
SMHI annual liability statement	Auditor requires a copy.
T-4's and summary for each employee	Keep original in payroll file, auditor will review it.
Tax levy documents	Auditor needs the whole report, may only keep summary.
Tax penalty applied at y/e report fr. computer	Auditor needs the whole report, may only keep summary.
Tax roll cancellations for the year	Complete before school annual return is done; council must approve it.
Tax statement of mailing assessment notices	Keep a copy in your audit file.
Tax title property - RM owned summary	Auditor requires a copy.
Taxes unpaid listing at y/e	Auditor requires a copy.
Trial balance	Both current and prev. year.

valuing your INSURABLE PROPERTY

DOES your municipality participate in SARM's Property Self-Insurance Program (PSIP)? Then, this article is for you. In it, we hope to provide a few helpful tips to help you arrange coverage that meets your municipality's needs.

REPLACEMENT COST VS. ACTUAL CASH VALUE

One of the benefits of belonging to PSIP is the availability of replacement cost coverage for much of your RM's property. RMs may benefit from carrying replacement cost coverage as opposed to actual cash value coverage. This is an important consideration in light of the fact that RMs have the option of changing their existing PSIP coverage from actual cash value to replacement cost upon request (with some exceptions).

Under PSIP, replacement cost insurance is available for unlicensed municipal mobile equipment (self-propelled equipment or items attached to or pulled by self-propelled equipment) less than ten years of age. There are no age restrictions for replacement cost coverage for buildings and contents. The program is flexible in that there is no requirement that a municipality carry the same type of insurance on all of its insured items.

We recommend that councilors and/or administrators review the self-insurance property schedules regularly with a view of ensuring that each item's limit is adequate. We live in inflationary times. This means that, generally, the replacement cost of property increases each year. If your RM hasn't reviewed its coverage limits for a while, we recommend that you consider doing so soon.

Your municipality's coverage limits can be found on the self-insurance policy schedules. There are two of them: the Schedule of Buildings & Contents and the Schedule of Mobile Equipment. Each entry on these schedules indicates the basis of claim settlements for that item or location. If an entry indicates that replacement cost applies, the coverage is meant to pay the cost of replacement without depreciation. The limit of

insurance for a replacement cost item should reflect the cost (including PST) of purchasing an item of similar kind and quality brand new. The insurance can only do that, though, if the limit is high enough. If the selected limit is not high enough, the shortfall becomes the municipality's responsibility.

When the limit of the item is not high enough to cover the replacement cost, the policy's co-insurance clause comes into play. A co-insurance clause is found in most commercial property insurance policies. This clause requires the policy holder to maintain coverage limits that are reasonably close to the item's full value. Failure to do so results in the policy holder becoming a co-insurer, that is, absorbing part of the cost of future claims. PSIP contains a 90% co-insurance clause. In plain language, it states that each participating municipality is responsible for maintaining coverage limits equaling at least 90% of insured items' values.

In the case of actual cash value coverage, the intent is to provide the policy holder with an amount equal to replacement cost minus depreciation, with depreciation amounts increasing as the item ages. (Note: depreciation calculations for insurance purposes differ from depreciation calculations for accounting purposes. As a result, accounting depreciation is not an accurate method for determining actual cash value insurance limits.) In many cases, this amount can be approximated by determining the item's market value, considering its age and the amount of wear and tear it has sustained.

Where an item has to be replaced if it is lost, we recommend replacement cost coverage; where an item will not be replaced if it is lost, actual cash value coverage may be more appropriate. It's important to know, though, that where actual cash value coverage applies, depreciation deductions are a factor in both total losses and partial losses. To illustrate, let's look at a claim for repairable damage to a building. If replacement cost applies, and if repairs are carried out, the insurance will pay the entire cost of the repairs

(assuming that the building is not under-insured), minus the \$1,000 deductible. If, on the other hand, actual cash value applies, depreciation will be deducted from the cost of buying new materials used in the repairs. The municipality will pay that depreciation amount on top of the policy deductible. In some cases, the amount that the municipality is required to pay for repairs under an actual cash value insurance claim is significant.

In the case of a building to which replacement cost applies, the ideal limit would be enough to pay for two things: 1) rebuilding at current labour and material prices and 2) paying for the removal and disposal of the debris. Updating replacement cost building limits is particularly important in light of construction cost increases in recent years. We recommend that municipal personnel consult reputable builders as to the potential cost of re-erecting their municipality's buildings and adjust building limits accordingly while adding extra to allow for the cost of debris removal.

In the case of a building where actual cash value applies, one can approximate the actual cash value by determining market value of the building and contents (given its age and condition).

Another tool that may be helpful in determining the replacement cost value of a RM's building is the valuation software which SARM subscribes to. A valuation is meant to provide an estimate for a specific building. The valuation software utilizes assumptions and generalizations to give a RM a starting point for their valuation. From there they can work to determine the appropriate value for their specific building taking into account local pricing and building climate. If you're interested in having valuations done on some or all of your RM's buildings, contact SARM's Insurance Department.

Switching now from the building to its contents, where replacement cost applies, an adequate limit will be sufficient to replace all the damaged or lost contents with brand new items of similar type and quality. Note: the "contents"

category on the Schedule of Buildings & Contents should not include things that are permanently attached to the building. Those items should, instead, be included in the building limit. Under PSIP you also have the option to opt for replacement cost coverage for building contents, even when the building is covered on an actual cash value basis. If you would like to avoid depreciation on tools and non-mobile equipment, this is an option you may wish to take advantage of.

The last category where municipal property is listed on your PSIP policy is mobile equipment (i.e., equipment that is self-propelled, attached to or pulled by self-propelled equipment, or tools and miscellaneous items that are moved in the RM, but aren't permanently housed in a RM building). Again, reviewing limits is important when replacement cost coverage applies. An adequate replacement cost limit will reflect the cost of replacing a mobile equipment item with a brand new one as close as possible in quality and features as the old one. Keep in mind that it's the price at the time of the loss that is important and that prices could increase in the time period between setting a limit and suffering a loss, so adjustments should be made regularly to account for this.

When it comes to setting the actual cash value limit for mobile equipment items, one can approximate it by determining the item's market value, given its age and condition. A dealer can often assist with this. Unlike replacement cost, actual cash value for mobile equipment tends to decrease over time. Therefore, decreasing coverage limits accordingly can prevent the municipality from being over-insured.

One might wonder, since actual cash value insurance leaves open the possibility of a municipality having to contribute to the cost of repairs carried out under an insurance claim, why bother with actual cash value insurance at all? There are two answers to that question. First, replacement cost insurance only applies if replacement is carried out. If a municipality opts not to carry out replacement, and requests a cash payout instead, coverage reverts to actual cash value. Therefore, in cases where it is known that an item will not be repaired or replaced in the event of damage, actual cash value insurance is likely more economical.

The other, more common reason for purchasing actual cash value insurance is its tendency to cost less. This is due to the fact that the limits of insurance under actual cash value insurance are typically lower than those for replacement cost insurance, since a brand new item is usually worth more than one that is used.

When buying insurance (or deciding whether to make changes to existing insurance), it is wise to weigh cost savings against risk. For example, suppose a RM owns a 10-year-old building for which replacement cost insurance applies and the insurance limit is \$200,000. The premium for that building is \$450. Now, using that same building, let's suppose that actual cash value insurance applies and the insurance limit is \$150,000. In this case, the premium is \$337.50. The premium difference is \$112.50 per year. Assuming that this is a building that council wants repaired or replaced after a loss, it is worth considering whether or not the \$112.50 saving is worth the risk of buying actual cash value coverage.

INSURABLE PROPERTY

Coverage limits are just one part of your insurance policy setup and maintenance. Another is ensuring that all property that requires insurance is accounted for on the policy. For example, does your RM keep uninstalled culverts in stock? If so, you may want to check your insurance to see whether they are mentioned or accounted for on the Schedule of Buildings & Contents. If they aren't, you may wish to adjust your policy. Coverage is available even if the items are kept outdoors. The same goes for fuel tanks (fuel within the tank is uninsurable), in-stock, uninstalled road signs, and free standing mobile device towers. (Note: once a culvert or road sign is installed, coverage is no longer available.) Some municipalities keep cement and flyash in stock. These are also items for which coverage is available.

Grader attachments are sometimes overlooked when municipalities create their mobile equipment schedules. If your municipality owns grader attachments and/or quick-attach systems that require coverage, you need to ensure that those items are specifically mentioned on the mobile equipment schedule and that their values have been accounted for in the coverage limits.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGES

PSIP offers two optional coverages that municipalities may want to take advantage of. Below are brief descriptions of each coverage type.

1. Excess Equipment Rental Fee Reimbursement – Each participating RM automatically receives \$2,500 of coverage to put toward the cost of renting a temporary replacement mobile equipment item while repairs are taking place (provided the physical damage claim is insured). Purchasing the optional Excess Equipment Rental Fee Reimbursement allows members to increase this limit at a cost of \$10 for every \$1,000 of additional coverage. If your RM already carries this option, it will appear as the last entry on the Schedule of Mobile Equipment. If it does not appear there, it means that the municipality is carrying only the \$2,500 that comes with the basic policy.

2. Boiler & Machinery Insurance – Covering more than just boilers, this insurance also covers costs associated with the sudden and accidental breakdown of certain kinds of machinery such as, but is not limited to: 1) pressure vessels and boilers; and 2) mechanical or electrical equipment that generates, transmits or uses mechanical or electrical power (but not unlicensed mobile equipment). Some examples of these two types of equipment are electrical panels, pumps, compressors, pressurized water tanks, cooling systems, fans, power generators and boilers. Premiums run from \$175 to \$500, but special terms and conditions apply. The deductible is \$1,000. If your municipality already carries this coverage, it will appear as the last entry on the Schedule of Buildings & Contents. If "Boiler and Machinery" does not appear on the schedule, the RM does not carry the coverage.

If you're interested in making changes to your RM's self-insurance policy or would like more information, contact Amy Roettger, Insurance Program Administrator, at (306) 761-3732 or email aroettger@sarm.ca.

Disclaimer: The foregoing was for general information only. In the event of an insurance claim, the terms and conditions contained in the SARM PSIP agreement and wording will apply.



- 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 preliminary values 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.



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Find out what you can recycle and where, at:
recycleMYelectronics.ca/sk

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





YEAR IN REVIEW

BY BEN CHURSINOFF SARM SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

I began working at SARM in June 2014. As we are nearing 2016, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on my time here so far. Prior to working at SARM, I had no real connection to or understanding of rural and municipal issues in Saskatchewan. Aside from vague memories of my childhood that included visiting my grandparents on their farm; I had never really been to rural Saskatchewan before.

Once I began working at SARM, I quickly learned that there is no shortage of problems that rural municipalities have to deal with. I found myself working on and being exposed to many of these issues. Some of the major issue categories include infrastructure, rural broadband and cellular service, agriculture, rail safety and level of service, environmental issues, asset management and all the various legislative and regulatory consultations that ranged from Segways to ditch mowing pilot projects.

One of the biggest issues in rural Saskatchewan is infrastructure. Acquiring the necessary funding to build, maintain and improve road infrastructure is vital to the growth of natural resource industries, manufacturing companies and the agriculture sector as well as for job creation in rural communities. Our province boasts 165,000 km of municipal roads and over 190,000 km of roadways when you include the province's highway network. This is the most roads per capita of any jurisdiction in the world.

This proves to be very costly for the provincial government and municipalities to maintain that road network. Especially when considering that the roads were not designed for the continuous movement of industry traffic that is

on the roads today. Alternative funding models and innovative approaches are now required to ensure that the road network supports the continued growth of Saskatchewan.

One of the ways SARM decided to help resolve this issue was by creating the Public-Industry Partnership Program (PIPP). PIPP will be designed to efficiently use federal, provincial, municipal and industry dollars to fund infrastructure projects. This will ensure that the road network is up to a quality that supports Saskatchewan's continued growth.

Another necessary component to supporting growth and development is rural broadband access and cellular services. Growing up in Regina I always had access to fast Internet and reliable cell service, for the most part. Once I began working at SARM I learned that outside of the major city centers, the service can be quite poor. Furthermore, I learned that poor service affects a lot more than just consumers trying to use Facebook or watch Netflix.

In our modern world, more and more services and transactions are completed online. Providing these services, such as banking and e-commerce, are supposed to make our lives easier and more efficient. But what happens when consumers and businesses don't have a reliable Internet connection or cell service and they are unable to fully participate in the economy? This proves to be a real roadblock for sustaining and promoting economic growth and development.

SARM works with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and lobbies SaskTel to ensure this issue remains

relevant and that action is taken to improve the services in rural Saskatchewan.

The last piece that I'll touch on from my year at SARM is the current review of *The Canada Transportation Act* (CTA). This review began in 2014 and deals with all aspects of national transportation. However, there was a national interest and emphasis placed on rail grain transportation. SARM had a strong interest in this due to the backlog that was experienced a couple years ago and how it affected producers. All stakeholders understand and acknowledge that something needs to be done to ensure that this scenario is avoided in the future.

The CTA review provided me with many opportunities to meet with various stakeholders and discuss the issues at hand. It became very apparent that the issues are multi-faceted. With these opportunities came what I would consider my first major accomplishment at SARM. I was tasked with putting together SARM's position on the CTA review and forming that into a submission.

What I've learned so far is that there is no shortage of issues facing rural Saskatchewan. But, more importantly, I'm impressed by how well SARM works with the RMs to ensure that the senior levels of government are aware of these issues and how their decisions affect rural municipalities. It's with this spirit of co-operation and collaboration that I look forward to the New Year and another year of working with SARM and rural Saskatchewan.

planning department **WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**



HEATHER KINDERMANN

Heather Kindermann was born and raised in Regina, but she spent a large portion of her childhood helping on the family farm near Assiniboia. Previously a teacher, Heather decided to go back and complete a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Regina with a Major in Geography. After graduating she gained experience in planning, GIS and cartography working for the University of Regina, the provincial government and the R.M. of Edenwold. Heather began her new position as a Community Planner on May 19, 2015 and is happy to be a part of the SARM team!



DANA SCHMALZ

As my maternity leave has come to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about my return as Director of Community Planning Services at SARM. I am excited to take on this new role and I look forward to working with all of you once again!



Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities



AUTUMN DAWSON

It is with mixed emotions that I provide this farewell as my last article for *Rural Councillor*. I have formed such great relationships with so many people both in our organization and rural Saskatchewan, and I am grateful for the opportunities I have had during my time with SARM. My hope for the future of planning in rural Saskatchewan is that RM's continue to thrive and raise awareness of the importance of planning in RMs. I would feel fulfilled if all RM's were in a position to respond successfully and efficiently to growth and the service demands they face. I want to thank all of the councillors and administrators who I've worked with for the time they committed to working on planning-related matters with me and SARM's Planning Department. Rest assured that the department is in good hands with Heather and Dana as they have all the tools they need to help you succeed in your planning endeavors.

*For more information on
SARM's Community Planning Services,
visit www.sarm.ca.*



Working for you, MREP or not

SARM MUNICIPAL BRIDGE SERVICES

BY DANIEL SEGAL

SARM DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL BRIDGE SERVICES

SASKATCHEWAN has 1,607 rural municipal bridges spread across 209 rural municipalities (RMs), which means that 70 per cent of the province's RMs are responsible for at least one bridge. However, this doesn't take into account the RMs that have large diameter culverts or low-level crossings and no bridges.

In 2006, the Canadian Standards Association released a new edition of the *Canadian Bridge Design Code* that specified a 75 year design life instead of the previously indicated 50 year design life. Prior to this, using treated timber for structural components was acceptable due to its expected design life of 50 years and possible life of 60 years with maintenance. Currently, 95 per cent of the province's 1,607 rural municipal bridges were built before 2006, and the average age of those bridges is 49 years old.

Our rural bridges are in an infrastructure deficit, and the only solutions are to replace more bridges each year or extend their lifespan so that we have more time to replace them. Since a drastic boost in funding and construction capacity is unlikely, effective asset management and maintenance of drainage infrastructure is necessary, and SARM is here to help your municipality as much as possible.

As most of you already know, SARM Municipal Bridge Services (SMBS) is funded by the provincial government as part of the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) and, as such, a large part of what SMBS does is related to the MREP Bridge Program. Our duties within the scope of MREP include the administration of the program itself as well as facilitating the repair and replacement of culverts, low-level crossings and bridges.

Did you know that SARM Municipal Bridge Services is also here to assist all RMs with their drainage infrastructure regardless of whether the structure is a bridge or funded through MREP?

Since the MREP finances Municipal Bridge Services, SARM can provide our services free of charge to your RM. Our expertise is focused on bridges, culverts and low-level crossings. We also have a working knowledge of environmental permitting and the requirements of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA).

The main goal of SMBS is to ensure that RMs have the best information possible to effectively manage their drainage infrastructure, while also ensuring the effectiveness of the MREP Bridge Program and its use. This includes:

- Professional, technical advice unbiased by external interests or profit making;
- Contracting the tri-annual inspection of all MREP eligible bridges in the province;
- Upon request, analyzing your Ontario Structures Inspection Manual (OSIM) inspection reports to determine priority repairs, including recommended timing, procedures and budgeting;
- Performing emergency bridge inspections;
- Requesting design flows from the Water Security Agency (WSA);
- Using WSA design flows to determine MREP eligibility and estimated culvert sizing;
- Recommending allowable vehicle weights given the design and condition of a bridge;

- Authorizing and ordering common treated timbers and hardware from the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure's bridge material inventory;
- Assistance on the need and application for environmental permits; and
- Assistance with the NWPTA, including public tendering thresholds, the use of SaskTenders and recommended tendering practices, etc.

SMBS also performs project management for RMs looking to either conduct a major repair to one of its bridges or build a new one. This includes:

- Designing the major repair, including recommended procedures;
- Designing the new bridge, including the optimum length, width and elevation;
- Preparing engineering drawings for either the major repair or new bridge;
- Tendering and ordering materials on behalf of the RM;
- Preparing the tender and contract documents and posting them to SaskTenders;
- Arranging for a consultant to act as a construction supervisor;
- Providing advice and assistance to the RM, contractor and construction supervisor; and
- Conducting a final inspection of the work.

Safeguard your best interests by contacting SARM Municipal Bridge Services with any questions you may have on drainage infrastructure, permitting or tendering. We are more than happy to help your RM in any way that we can to get you headed in the right direction.



YOUR DATA
SAFE, SECURE, MANAGED

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SARM 90th anniversary student scholarship in **AG SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH**

IN 1995, SARM auctioned off the first copy of its history book for \$2,600. SARM'S Board of Directors directed this \$2,600 to the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture to create the SARM 90th Anniversary \$1,000 student scholarship in Agricultural Safety

and Rural Health. The Network has maintained the scholarship and invites Saskatchewan Grade 12 students, who have parents or guardians paying taxes to an RM, to write an essay on "The Importance of Health and Safety on Their Farm."

This year two scholarships worth \$1,500 a piece were awarded to Grade 12 students, Cameron Choquette (RM of Kelvington No. 366) and Alyxandria Harland (RM of Britannia No. 502). Congratulations!



CAMERON CHOQUETTE

"Using the proper equipment keeps all people safe when working on the farm because unsafe workers are a hazard to not only themselves but to everyone."



ALYXANDRIA HARLAND

"Farm safety has become a more common topic in grandma's kitchen these days. With sixteen family members working together, the odds of an accident are greater than a farm with only two experienced adults. By developing a series of rules and a safety plan specific to our farm, we are hopeful that we have eliminated most hazards and have achieved a safe work environment. Little Willow Creek now has the mantra: No harm to grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and visitors – everywhere, every time and all the time."

2016 SCHOLARSHIP

If you are a Grade 12 student planning on studying at a post-secondary Saskatchewan school in the Fall of 2016, consider applying for our scholarship. Once again, there will be two scholarships worth \$1,500 each available this year. The dead-

line for submissions is February 5, 2016. Your parents must either own or rent land and pay taxes to a rural municipality. Download the application and additional information at <http://aghealth.usask.ca/scholarship/index.php>

Please contact us if your RM is interested in becoming a member or if you would like to request a clinic or workshop in your community at (306) 966-6647 or (306) 966-6644, aghealthandsafety@usask.ca or visit aghealth.usask.ca

PHYSICIAN RETENTION

a collaborative, but complicated approach

IT'S a common story both in Saskatchewan and Western Canada: a community is elated to have and welcome a new physician, but when the welcoming events are over and life continues, the physician leaves and recruitment starts all over again. Not only is this a common story, it is one that clinics, health regions and communities across Canada have been dealing with for years. This typical scenario begs the obvious question: what can we do to improve physician retention in Saskatchewan? The simplest answer is to work together. However, as we all know, that is more complicated than it may seem.

Saskdocs is meeting this fall with practicing physicians, clinics, health regions and communities around the province to try and work through some of the complexities surrounding physician retention in order to improve it.

"When we talk to partners like the health regions, established and practicing physicians interested in succession planning for their practice, or just with communities looking to keep their physicians, one thing stands out: physician retention involves so much more than the physician," said Saskdocs CEO Dr. Dennis Kendel. "That is just one of the things we've learned over the years, and we want to share some of this information with communities and employers like the health regions."

Research has shown that effective physician recruitment strategies must go

beyond just filling vacancies with the first available recruit. Time and effort must be expended to ensure a good fit between each physician and the community to which he/she is recruited. There must be good alignment between the skill set of the recruited physician and the medical service needs in the community. If the medical role to be filled requires effective collaboration with other health care professionals, a demonstrated commitment to teamwork and a record of effective service from that team should be a prerequisite. Attentiveness to the career goals of a spouse/partner and special needs of a physician's children are also important.

In an effort to work closer with health regions and communities, Saskdocs set up meetings throughout the province this fall. Combining our efforts with partners like the regions and communities will help us settle new physicians and their families in our communities over the long term.

The activities essential to effective physician settlement are often shared between health regions, community based agencies, municipal councils, medical clinics and local physicians in formal or informal leadership roles. Without effective integration and co-ordination, some key elements of optimal physician settlement are overlooked.

Dr. Kendel and Senior Recruitment Consultant Brenda Taylor are meeting with health region staff, board members

and community leaders in the following health regions:

- Kelsey Trail
- Five Hills
- Saskatoon
- Sunrise
- Heartland
- Regina-Qu'Appelle; and
- Sun Country

Taylor wants to know if the regions and communities can shed any light on what communities and health regions have to offer the physician's spouse and family members. "Saskdocs has also been conducting surveys at regular intervals over the past couple of years in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Medical Association. The survey results repeatedly show that employment opportunities for the physician's spouse are a huge priority and often are deciding factors on whether or not the physician intends to stay," said Taylor.

"We're taking an informal approach to these meetings," said Dr. Kendel. "They won't be structured in any way, but they will be more of an opportunity for us to share what we've learned about physician retention and for the health regions and communities to share with us some of their successes and challenges."

If you are a community member interested in working with Saskdocs on physician retention, email info@saskdocs.ca or call 1-888-415-3627.



Transport
Canada

Transports
Canada



Rail Safety

Oversight and Expertise



Canada's *Grade Crossings Regulations* at-a-glance

Railway companies and road authorities (provinces, municipalities, band councils) and private crossing owners are each responsible for managing railway crossing safety in Canada. After national consultations with these stakeholders, Transport Canada has introduced *Grade Crossings Regulations*.

These new regulations are results-based. This means they contain options for bringing a consistent level of safety to each railway crossing in Canada. They will take full effect **over the next 7 years**.

The goal of the Grade Crossings Regulations is to save lives.

Why?

- From **2009 to 2013**, collisions at public and private crossings resulted in, on average, 26 deaths and 26 serious injuries **a year**.
- The Transportation Safety Board raised concerns that "the risk of passenger trains colliding with vehicles remains too high in busy rail corridors."
- *Railway Safety Act* reviews highlighted the challenges for managing safety at grade crossings.

How?

The regulations:

- Provide for consistent grade crossing safety standards for both new and existing crossings in Canada.
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of railway companies and road authorities.
- Promote collaboration between these parties.

Key Features

Clear Roles and Responsibilities

The regulations identify the roles and responsibilities of railway companies and road authorities that relate to:

- Information sharing
- Crossing surface
- Sightlines
- Roadway and railway signs
- Traffic signals
- Warning systems



Enforceable Grade Crossings Standards

The regulations incorporate standards based on the best engineering practices known today and make them law. This requires all grade crossings in Canada to meet the same standard. Railway companies and road authorities will continue to apply the best options, building on the existing guidelines, for making their crossings safe.

When will these standards come into force?

- **Immediately:** the standards will apply to new grade crossings; or when making a change to an existing grade crossing – widening the road, for example.
- **Within 7 years:** the standards will apply to surface, signs, sightlines and warning systems for existing grade crossings.

***Note:** Immediate action can and will be taken by Transport Canada where a serious safety deficiency is identified.

Greater Collaboration through Information Sharing

The regulations require that railway companies and road authorities share safety-related information on their grade crossings. Sharing this information with each other will allow them to determine what they need to do to make their crossings safer.

When will this happen?

- **Immediately:** When constructing a new grade crossing or making a change to an existing grade crossing.
- **Within 2 years:** To share safety information with each other for existing public grade crossings.

Effective Sightlines

A safe crossing is a visible crossing — so the regulations contain formulas for defining the area that road authorities, railway companies and private land owners must keep clear of anything that could block a road user's view of an oncoming train.

Transport Canada's Grade Crossing Improvement Program

can provide up to 50% of eligible costs related to a crossing improvement project at public grade crossings under federal jurisdiction.

To learn more, go to www.tc.gc.ca and enter **GCIP** into the *Search* box.



When should you think about this?

The regulations adopt customizable requirements for your crossings.

- **Immediately:** When constructing new grade crossings, or making a change to an existing grade crossing.
- **Within 7 years:** To existing grade crossings.



Working together to Safeguard Public Grade Crossings

What is a public grade crossing?

A public grade crossing is where railway tracks intersect with a road that is owned by a public authority, such as a province, municipality or band council, and used by the general public.

What is a private grade crossing?

A private grade crossing is where railway tracks intersect with a road that is owned and used by private parties, such as farmers, commercial businesses or private individuals.

The regulations and standards require road authorities and railway companies to work together on:

- **Blocked public crossings**

The requirements are that:

- Railway equipment cannot block a public grade crossing for more than five minutes when a road user requires passage, unless the railway equipment is moving.
- When emergency vehicles require passage, railway companies must immediately clear any grade crossing.

If the municipality has a safety concern relating to a crossing that is blocked, both parties must work together to find a solution to the safety concern. After 90 days, if they find no solution, the municipality can request that Transport Canada take action.

- **Activity on/near a crossing**

The requirements are that if a railway company or road authority performs any activity, such as rail or road repair at or near a crossing, they must:

- share information about the activity with each other, and
- take temporary protection measures to address any threat to the safety of railway operations.

- **Train whistling**

Train whistling is an important way to keep drivers, cyclists and pedestrians safe when using public grade crossings.

The requirements are that:

- Crossings must be equipped with an appropriate warning system based on railway speed design, vehicle and pedestrian use, and the number of railway tracks going through the crossing.
- To stop whistling at crossings, municipalities must ensure that crossings are equipped with appropriate warning systems.
- It is illegal to use a train whistle at a properly-equipped grade crossing after a municipality has passed a resolution.



Compliance

Transport Canada will continue to take appropriate enforcement action whenever it finds a safety concern at a crossing. Tools to mitigate safety threats and enforce compliance include:

- Letters of Non-Compliance
- Letters of Concern
- Notices
- Notices and Orders
- Emergency Directives
- Ministerial Orders
- Administrative Monetary Penalties
- Court Orders
- Railway Operating Certificates action
- Prosecution

Complaint and Dispute Resolution

Who can help when there are complaints or issues become disputes that railway companies and road authorities cannot resolve?

- If the complaint or dispute is about grade crossing **safety**, contact Transport Canada. Learn more at www.tc.gc.ca/railsafety.
- If a railway company and a road authority disagree on **who should pay** for railway work at a crossing, either party can ask the Canadian Transportation Agency to apportion the costs of the project. Learn more at www.otc-cta.gc.ca, click on *Industry Guidance* or the *Complaints and Disputes* tabs.

why we should be concerned about **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**



CHRONIC Wasting Disease (CWD) is one of the most significant issues facing deer management in North America, but why? It is important because, similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, CWD is always fatal. There is no cure or prevention for the disease.

It's known to affect all members of the deer family (a group collectively referred to as cervids), including deer, elk, moose and caribou. Over time, the proportion of animals contracting CWD will inevitably increase. As this occurs, experts predict a younger age structure, lower number of young born and, as a consequence, lower numbers of deer and elk. In short, as CWD spreads across the landscape, the disease may take a costly toll on our deer and elk populations.

Unlike the familiar viral or bacterial diseases that go through periods of "outbreaks" followed by a timeframe where the disease goes dormant, CWD

risk continues to increase in the environment over time. This is because CWD is not caused by a living organism, but instead is caused by an infectious protein referred to as a prion.

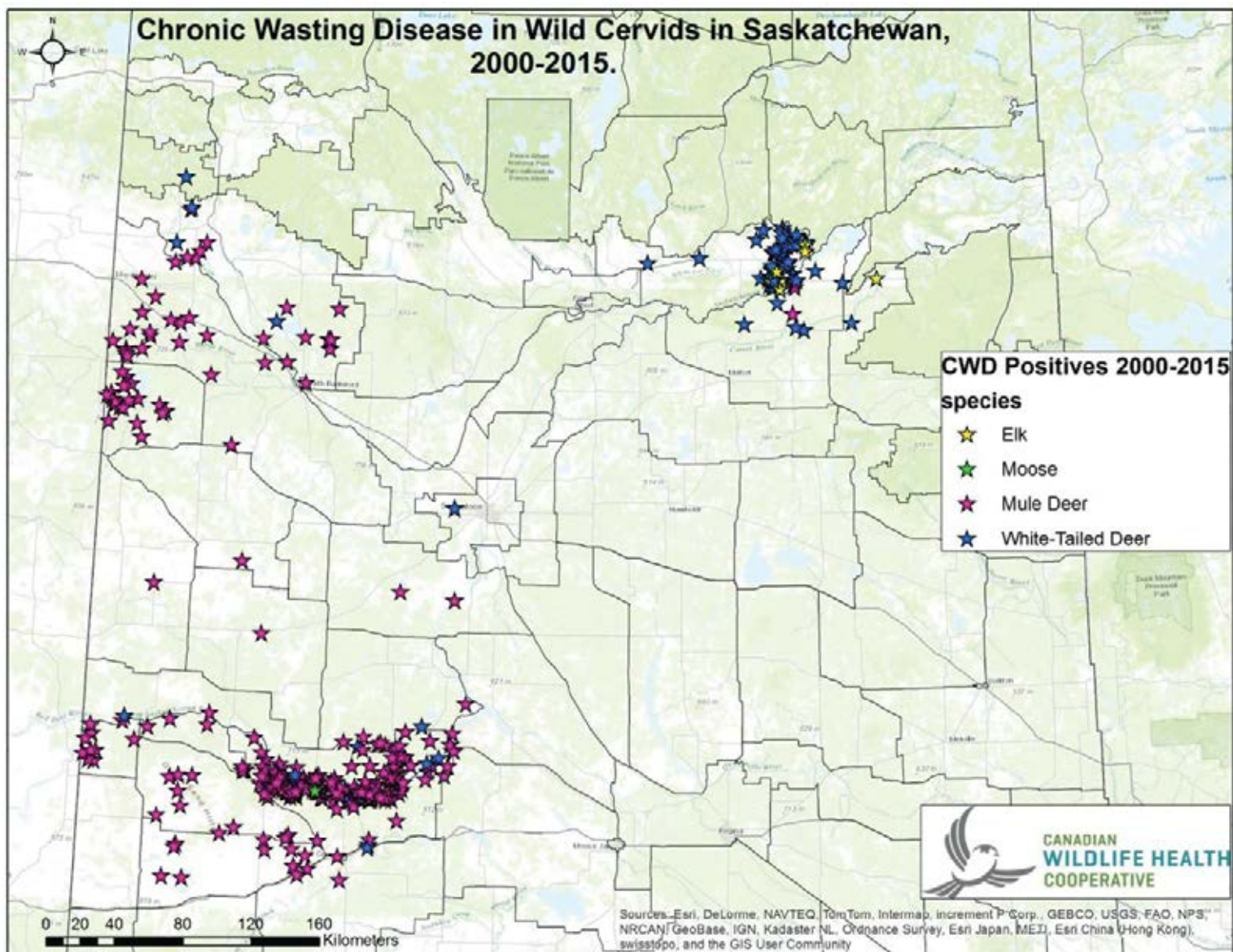
Proteins are the compounds that make our bodies work and a protein's function and activity is dependent on its three dimensional shape. CWD prions have an abnormal shape, rendering them useless. Normally, cells in the body would destroy these abnormal proteins, but this is not the case with prions. Once CWD prions get into an animal's body, they cause other normal proteins to mis-fold and take on an abnormal shape. These newly mis-folded, proteins convert other proteins, magnifying the cycle.

Brain cells are particular targets for these prions and, as time progresses, these abnormal prions build-up in the brain where they create microscopic holes, gradually destroying the animal's ability

to think and behave normally. Unable to feed themselves, they die of starvation or are taken by predators.

Once an animal is infected, it takes at least a year, often longer, for it to die. While the animal is still alive, it continues to shed infectious prions from its saliva, feces, urine and blood, spreading the disease through direct contact with other deer species while, at the same time, contaminating the landscape.

Research suggests that CWD contaminated soil is very important in the spread of the disease. The disease can be spread by CWD contaminated feed, soil or shared water sources. Once established, CWD prions remain in the environment for a minimum of four years, but likely longer, where these infectious prions serve as a reservoir of continuous disease transmission. Most alarming, perhaps, is that once prions are released into the environment, they bind to clay particles



Above: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positives in Saskatchewan's wild cervids from 2000-2015. CWD positives include a total of 322 mule deer, 82 white-tailed deer, eight elk and one moose.

in the soil where they become up to 680 times more infectious! than unbound forms.

Recent research also confirms that infectious prions are contained and transported within dust particles and are naturally incorporated into the leaves of plants where it also remains infectious. This finding raises concerns not only for wildlife, but also for the agriculture industry as well.

In Canada, CWD has been detected only in Saskatchewan and Alberta, with Saskatchewan having the largest distribution and prevalence. Without active management to reduce CWD, the disease's prevalence will inevitably continue to increase.

Although there is no scientific evidence of human health impacts from CWD, the World Health Organization, Health Canada and Saskatchewan's Ministry of Health recommends that hunters do not eat animals known to be infected with CWD.

Free CWD testing is available for harvested deer, elk and moose during the 2015-2016 hunting season. Hunters are encouraged to drop off deer and elk heads at ministry offices. Hunters are also advised to drop off moose heads directly at the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC)/Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) location (52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon). The results will offer information on the disease's distribution.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, SARM, Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, Saskatchewan Bow Hunter's Association, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, Nature Saskatchewan, and Regina Fish and Game League are working closely with the Government of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative to better understand CWD and its impacts to wild cervids in our province.

Please look for the November issue of *Big Game Illustrated* for more details about how the disease began.

the value of agriculture for species at risk

SODCAP TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

BY TARA MULHERN DAVIDSON SODCAP INC. COMMUNICATIONS

A tour participant examines the prairie on Orin Balas' ranch on the top of the Divide.

IN an ever-changing world, the prairie grassland landscapes of South West Saskatchewan remain largely unchanged with one exception – the area is being viewed as an increasingly important haven for Canada's species at risk. The Milk River watershed is home to some of Canada's most endangered species and one organization, the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program (SODCAP), is aiming to work with stewards to exchange ideas and solutions.

On-the-ground successes and species at risk opportunities were featured in a recent tour hosted by SODCAP. Conservationists, producers, policymakers and government representatives, as well as Saskatchewan's Minister of Environment,

the Honourable Herb Cox, participated in a tour of the South of the Divide area. The species that were highlighted were incredibly diverse, including swift fox, greater sage-grouse and Sprague's pipit, among others, and in all cases, livestock grazing was a key management tool.

Miles Anderson, who operates the Anderson Ranch near Fir Mountain, toured participants through his picturesque grassland habitat. His ranch is home to one of the few remaining populations of greater sage-grouse left in Canada. Anderson discussed how their ranching practices complement the endangered birds who have established dancing grounds, known as leks, on his ranch.

"The lek is basically a bare patch of ground," Anderson says. "The birds nest under sage brush, so the predators can't see or smell them, but for the brood-rearing phase, the grass needs to be short enough so that the chicks can move around without getting caught up in the tall grass." Anderson manages his cattle to graze the grass to an appropriate level to facilitate brood rearing while still providing enough sage brush cover for nesting.

Anderson also explained the working relationship he has with his neighbour Parks Canada, who manages the East Block of Grasslands National Park adjacent to his ranch. Concerned about fence collisions, Grasslands National Park has been marking fences to prevent the

birds from hitting the wire. On a shared fenceline, Anderson went one step further. "We laid the fence down to give the birds a better chance," he explained, saying that for most of the year, his cattle aren't in that particular pasture and the fence doesn't need to be upright during that time. Anderson also has an agreement to graze areas within the park to manage its habitat.

Orin Balas ranches on the top of the Divide south of Ponteix where participants toured his summer range. Balas' rangeland is prime habitat for Sprague's pipit, and he uses herding, topography and water to provide grazing management that is considerate of the species.

"I can graze and hold cattle in some parts of the ranch and move them around to create the right habitat," Balas said. "Managing the grass and cattle for pipits accomplishes the same thing that managing the grass for my livelihood does," adding that he runs transects and measures different parameters to monitor for pipit habitat.

"Litter is pretty important to manage for," he added, saying that litter is an

important attribute for pipits that also enhances his rangeland, improving water infiltration, reducing soil erosion and providing an insulating effect.

Other tour stops included the Lone Tree Pasture, a community pasture that recently transferred from federal to private management, as well as the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Old Man on His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area. Both locations were examples of species at risk critical habitat and demonstrated ways that grazing and wildlife can successfully co-exist.

The positive relationship between agriculture and the environment was noted throughout the tour. "Ranchers are excellent, dedicated stewards of the land, and we thank them for their on-going work protecting species at risk," explained provincial Environment Minister Herb Cox.

SODCAP was established just over one year ago. It is a grassroots-driven organization that delivers species at risk conservation programming and extension within the South of the Divide area. The membership and board of directors

"I can graze and hold cattle in some parts of the ranch and move them around to create the right habitat. Managing the grass and cattle for pipits accomplishes the same thing that managing the grass for my livelihood does."

- Orin Balas, Rancher

are comprised of species at risk stakeholders, including organizations representing people who live and work on the landscape as well as groups involved in species at risk conservation in the area.

"The South of the Divide area is sort of like the last frontier for species at risk," said Tom Harrison, SODCAP's Executive Director. "Species are here because of the good things that are happening and have been happening for generations on this landscape."



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



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EXPANDING THE WEED LIST

BY HARVEY ANDERSON

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP PLANNING ADVISOR

INVASIVE Alien Plants, also known as weeds, enter our country and province from Europe or Asia in many ways. Some arrive as horticultural plants, while others as contaminants in goods shipped into our country, creeping towards us along one of the main pathways of spread – public transportation routes. Many of these weeds are identified in other parts of the world as invasive environmental threats, so people in Invasive Plant Management have some warning that they will show up in our area eventually.

The Government of Canada has an agency, staffed with biologists, charged with doing threat assessments on possible invaders before they are established in our country. Their goal is to figure out which plants will be the most threatening. They also assess whether the plants can survive in our harsh climate and try to figure out the environmental conditions necessary for these plants to thrive.

Many of the invasive weed species we are dealing with have come to Saskatchewan as horticultural plants. Plants like Common Tansy, Wild Parsnip, Yellow Toadflax, Salt Cedar and possibly even Leafy Spurge came to North America in this manner. Gardeners always want new, interesting exotic plants, and it is often a competition as to who will have the first garden with an exotic new plant in it. The horticultural industry wants to make money, and it often ignores the known particulars of these plants, marketing them because there is money to be made.

Three years ago a new *Weed Control Act* became law in Saskatchewan, and being enabling legislation, it gave municipalities the power to enforce the Act. This Act was designed to reduce the difficulty in making changes to the Weed List. The Weed List was attached to the Act as a Ministerial Order, meaning



View of Himalayan Balsam, an invasive weed. Photo credit: stockfresh.com

that the Minister of Agriculture could, at any time, change the Weed List without rewriting the entire *Weed Control Act*, something that previously required the Legislative Assembly's approval.

Since the *Weed Control Act* was designed to be easily changeable and municipalities are given the task of enforcing the Act, the RMs are partially responsible for suggesting which weeds should be added and deleted from the Weed List. These requests may be either directed to the Minister of Agriculture through SARM Resolutions passed at our conventions or simply through written requests to the Ministry of Agriculture.

I, myself, have suggested a weed to be added to the list, but I was told that a

“grassroots” appeal from those most affected would be the key to trigger a change in the Weed List.

Currently, I live in Saskatoon, and during my trips around the city (both personally and professionally) I've noticed a horticultural plant in about twenty different yards. Being curious, I identified the plant and looked up information on it through Google. Much of the information warns that this plant has become invasive and problematic in other parts of the world, including other regions of North America and in other Canadian provinces.

I identified the plant as Himalayan Balsam, a native plant of the Himalayan Mountain Region in Asia. The information stated that this plant has become a

problem weed in Europe, including the United Kingdom and most of Scandinavia. Many U.S. states and Canadian provinces list this plant in their *Weed Control Acts*, meaning the plant is a problematic weed, and they are actively controlling the species. This plant is very distinct and attractive, known by common names such as Poor Man's Orchid, Policeman's Helmet and Ornamental Jewelweed.

Himalayan Balsam is known to invade areas of moist, disturbed soil, of varied pH levels ranging from 3.5-7.7, and it can tolerate some shading. The seed pods when mature and disturbed explode and can send seeds up to five meters from the parent plant.

These plant's flowers have high levels of nectar, so they attract pollinating insects away from other plants, thus altering the pollination patterns of neighboring plants, especially native plants. It thrives best in Riparian habitats and wet woodlands, so if the plants I've found in yard sites in Saskatoon are transported, or travel along pathways of spread to the

South Saskatchewan River Valley, we will have major issues in stopping it. Most of the sites where I have seen the plants are within one mile of the river system, flowing through the city's center.

All RM representatives should positively identify and get more information on any new plant or weed they either see or hear about in their RM.

To get a positive identification on a plant, send a complete sample to the Crop Protection Laboratory in Regina. Distinct plants may be identified using a series of close-up photos, which can either be sent to myself or a staff member at the Ministry of Agriculture.

There are also great photos of most plants on the Internet, so a self-search using a computer may be tempted, but this process may be slow unless you have an idea of what the plant is beforehand.

Once a positive identification is made, an online Google search should provide some information on the invasiveness of the plant. If the plant species is found

to be invasive in other parts of North America, it is a good indication that it may survive in Saskatchewan and prove to be a problematic invasive weed in the future. These plants should be reported to the local weed inspector and the Ministry of Agriculture's weed specialist.

A few years ago there were reports of Common Mullein growing in isolated locations in the Kindersley area, but an information search showed that it was unlikely to thrive and spread in our climate. However, plants such as Himalayan Balsam should be identified and reported, and residents should make requests to have it added to the Weed List before it becomes a problem. Once on the list as a prohibited weed, it will be against the law for horticultural suppliers to sell it in Saskatchewan.

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

From the Board, Management
& Staff of

*Municipal
Hail*

*Season's
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Saskarc Industries, a custom steel fabrication company, used the Job Grant to train 60% of its workforce in a variety of areas, including safety training for front-line employees, CWB welding certifications for fabrication supervisors and software training for office staff.

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Visit economy.gov.sk.ca/job-grant to learn more about the program criteria and how to apply.

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- Cherry Fedalizo,
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rural councillor MEMBER NEWS



**RM OF CYMRI NO. 36
IN MEMORIAM
NORMAN EGGUM**

Norman Julius Eggum, late of Weyburn, passed away in January 2015 at the age of 80 years. Norm was born on the family farm at Halbrite, SK in June 1934 and grew up in a family with seven siblings. He attended White Rock School, a one room school, until he was 14, at which time he chose to farm with his dad.

Farming employed the whole family, and together they learned the values of working together, living simply and the joy of succeeding in a common enterprise. Farming was his vocation and passion for the rest of his life.

Norm married his life-long love, Helen Gallinger, in June 1958, and together they raised four children. Norm was a man of few hobbies as community service filled any void in his spare time. He was a Councillor for the RM of Cymri No. 36 from 1996 to 2009.

He was a great moderator and involvement in his community was offered without reservation. He brought his fairness and common sense to the table without any personal agenda, often acting as chairperson to the various committees he served.

**RM OF WREFORD NO. 280
IN MEMORIAM
ROSS CARLSON**

Ross Garfield Carlson passed away in May 2015 at the Watrous Health Complex. He was born on the family farm at Venn in 1933 to Raymond and Ada. Ross was the third oldest of 11 children, and he completed his education at Thornfield School. He married Betty Fuxa in 1958. His life's work was farming, first with his dad, then after a brief stint in Edmonton at a tire retread company, he purchased his own farm near Venn and continued for 36 years with his wife and children.

Ross' passion for working continued on after retiring from farming both as a maintenance worker at The Manitou Regional Park and helping neighbouring farmers.

He was a Councillor for 13 years with the RM of Wreford. He volunteered his coaching and chauffeuring talents for his children and friends for hobbies which included camping, fishing, building barn board frames, fixing old tractors, doing puzzles and repairing anything. Ross' favorite pastime was attending his grandkids' events which occurred all throughout western Canada.

**RM OF WREFORD NO. 280
IN MEMORIAM
JOHN DZURICH**

John Dzurich of Humboldt passed away at the Humboldt District Hospital in June 2015 at the age of 80 years old. John was born in Nokomis, SK to Joseph and Katie (née Tkach) Dzurich in September 1934. He married Lydia Hasz in February 1972. John was a farmer, barber and auctioneer. He enjoyed having coffee with the guys on coffee row in both Humboldt and Nokomis. He served as a councillor for the RM of Wreford from 1987-1988.

**RM OF KINDERSLEY NO. 290
IN MEMORIAM
AL MELNYK**

Family and friends were shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Allan William Melnyk in March 2015 after a short, but courageous, battle with cancer. Al is survived by his wife of 49 years, Grace; his children, Marvin (Roseanne) Melnyk, Patricia (David) Cooke and Brian (Andrea) Melnyk; and granddaughters Morgan and Kelly Cooke and Carissa Melnyk.

Al was born in February 1942 in Montmartre, SK and was in the agriculture industry his entire life. After growing up on the family farm, he continued his agriculture career in Regina and Rosetown, and he moved his family to Kindersley to take over the local International Harvester Dealership, A & E Sales. After many years, he sold the dealership, purchased some farmland and began selling farm implements for J & B Equipment where he completed his sales career. Once retired, he had more time to spend on his hobbies of gardening, woodworking and collecting antique and toy tractors.

In 2005, Al was elected Councillor for Division One in the RM of Kindersley No. 290. He served his division until the time of his passing. Al served on several municipal committees, but his passion was the RM of Kindersley's Rural Water Utility.

He was instrumental in the development of this two-stage project to provide potable water to rural residents. Al worked diligently with engineers, contractors, funding partners and subscribers. This project would not have been a reality without his dedication and commitment. He was the "go-to" man for rural water, and he has left a legacy to this municipality.

Al had many commendable qualities, one being his sense of humour. He was a joy to work with and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



**RM OF OAKDALE NO. 320
IN MEMORIAM
EDWARD WOLFE**

It is with warm regards that we remember Ed Wolfe, former Councillor and Reeve for the RM of Oakdale No. 320 from 1983 to 2006, who passed away in Kindersley in September 2014.

Born in 1941, Ed grew up on the family farm in Oakdale where he eventually raised his own family. As he bravely battled illness in the months preceding,

2014 was the first harvest he missed in his 73 years.

Although farming was in his blood, he was also very passionate about serving the RM of Oakdale, and he considered fellow councillors and employees as his friends. One of the many highlights during his years with the RM was the pleasure of hosting The Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor from 2000 to 2006, at an annual ratepayers' meeting.

Ed was extremely proud to have been elected to represent his many friends and neighbours, who remember him fondly for his integrity and ethics.

Ed is profoundly missed by his wife, Janet, and daughters, Adair (Craig) Vogel, Karen (Vance) Brost and Terri Wolfe, as well as his beloved grandchildren Travis, Jeremy (Vogel), Brady (Wolfe), Vanessa and Courtney (Brost).

**RM OF CORMAN PARK NO. 344
IN MEMORIAM
DICK FRIESEN**

Dick was born in October 1930 and was the eldest of eleven children. He is survived by Tena, his loving and devoted

wife of 62 years; sons Lyle (Tammy), Larry (Brenda), Lindsay (Linda), Stan (Carma); and daughters Candace (Ken Besharah) and Leanne. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Justina (Joe), Jonathan (Amanda), Christy (Zach), Angie (Justin), Jessica, Kaitlyn, Niki, Carson, Ocalla, Kasim and Madaline and eight great-grandchildren.

In 1953, Dick and Tena shared a dream to farm. They bought 160 acres of prairie land and began farming with just two cows. They grew the family business into one of the largest and finest registered cattle herds in the province. He enjoyed many successful years on the cattle show circuit, and his work was his passion. Marksvew Farms was also awarded a Canadian Energy Efficiency award for exemplary management and operation of an agricultural establishment.

Dick enjoyed helping young farm families and was renowned for his honesty, integrity and generosity. He served his community as both a Counsellor and Reeve for the RM of Corman Park for 41 years and spent nine years on the Farm Debt Review Board. He was also involved in provincial and federal politics.

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In his retirement years, he loved to read and enjoyed fellowship and games with friends and neighbours. Golf became a beloved hobby for him, but family was always his first priority. He loved his wife deeply and was truly devoted to his family. He especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren in their sporting activities.

Dick was an active member of a church community throughout his life. He was a man of great faith and had a deep love and devotion for his Lord and Saviour.

**RM OF MERVIN NO. 499
IN MEMORIAM
JOHN HAROLD KIVIMAA**

John Harold Kivimaa of Livelong passed away in July 2015 at the age of 82 years old. Harold was born on a homestead at NE 35-53-19 W3 in the midst of the Great Depression, and he attended Dexter School.

In 1944, his family moved to the homestead his Uncle Bill had farmed. Harold helped his family with the homestead, commercial fishing on Turtle Lake and cutting wood in the bush. In 1965, he began working in oilfield construction based out of Fort St John, B.C. operating heavy equipment in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, but he came back to Saskatchewan in the summers to help with farming.

Harold was very involved in municipal government, beginning as a Councillor for Division 3 in January 1977 to December 1982 in the RM of Greenfield and as Reeve from January 1985 to December 1988. The RM of Greenfield amalgamated with the RM of Mervin in 1990. He then served as Councillor for

Division 6 for the RM of Mervin from December 1996 to December 1997 and Reeve from November 2008 to October 2012, serving on both municipal councils for a total of 15 years.

He had a partnership lasting many years with Wilfred & Roy Hamm cutting, sawing and planing lumber. His connection to the forest included serving on the Divide Forest Advisory Council until his passing. He is survived by his wife, Darlene; children Kerry (Stephanie); two grandchildren, Kelly (Phil) and Shawn; two brothers, Charlie (Dorothy) and Jimmy (Irene); and numerous nieces and nephews.



**RM OF LAKELAND NO. 521
IN MEMORIAM
RALPH HUDSON**

Ralph passed away in June 2015 in Saskatoon. He was born in Weyburn in March 1933. He was predeceased by his parents, Norman and Jeannette Hudson, his sister, Phyllis James, and his wife of 49 years, Donna Hudson (Dockstader). He is survived by his partner, Shirley Gosse; his son, David (Chris); his daughter, Leslie; and grandsons Jesse and Daniel Hudson.

Ralph attended school in Saskatoon and worked as a power engineer, ending his career as an instructor at Kelsey Institute. Ralph and Donna enjoyed many years at their cabin at Emma Lake, as well as time in Mexico and Phoenix. Ralph and Shirley continued that tradition.

Ralph was elected to the Council of the RM of Lakeland in 1991. He served his ratepayers with dedication until he retired from council in 2009. Ralph was serving on council in 2006 when I was elected Reeve along with three rookie councillors. He provided much needed historical information and quickly became our go-to historian until his retirement. I very much appreciated the files he kept on issues and his keen attention to detail.

Ralph was a gentleman as well as a gentle man. He had a great love for nature and wildlife, especially birds. He will be missed by his family as well as a large network of friends.

*News to share? Be sure to 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 and we will include it in an upcoming edition of the Rural Councillor. **Note:** please send photos as separate JPG, PNG or PDF files and not as part of a Word document.*



Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BY F DIVISION COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Is Crime Stoppers really anonymous?”

Yes, it is 100% anonymous. You never have to give your name and will not be asked to testify in court. Our toll-free tip line is not recorded and tracing devices are not used. We don't subscribe to “call display.” All calls, as well as emails and texts, are processed by specially trained personnel who pass along information about a crime to investigating officers.

Callers remain anonymous as they are issued a confidential code number when they call the tip line. This number helps us track the tip information, and if the caller's information leads to an arrest or charge for any crime or drug related offense, the confidential code number is used to make a cash reward up to \$2,000.

“How can Crime Stoppers guarantee 100% anonymity to its Tipsters?”

In February 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously decided that callers to Crime Stoppers' programs were en-

titled to the protection of this privilege. In a typical case, which started from a Crime Stoppers tip, the identity of the informer is unknown to the Crime Stoppers Coordinator who took the call or online tip and case investigator. The Supreme Court confirmed that the privilege is so broad it prevents disclosure not only of the informer's name (if it's known) but of any information that may implicitly reveal his or her identity.

“How does the Tipster get paid?”

1. When you call, email or text Crime Stoppers, you are given a unique number. You use this number as your ID when corresponding with us.

2. Your information is forwarded to the investigating agency, and if an arrest or charge or matter is cleared from the information you provided, you are eligible for a reward.

3. Your tip is inputted into a formula to calculate the reward amount.

4. Your tip and amount is presented to our Board of Directors, which authorizes the amount paid to the tipster.

5. The tipster is contacted and advised of the amount they are rewarded, if it was a web or text tip. If it was a call tip, we have to wait for the tipster to call us back.

6. Tipster says what financial institution and date they want to pick up the cash.

7. Our accountant then mails a cheque to the institution's manager who cashes it and places the cash in an envelope with the tipster's unique number on it.

8. The tipster visits the bank when requested, asks the manager for the envelope, and are given it, no questions asked.

Crime Stoppers is 100%. Website and text tips are encrypted. Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or text TIP206 and your message to CRIMES (274637), or submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

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



TURN IN POACHERS 1-800-667-7561 OR #5555 FROM SASKTEL CELLULAR

Conservation Officers received a TIP call that a bull elk had been shot and left on Fish & Wildlife Development land north of Rocanville, SK. This incident occurred either the night of Sept. 4th or early morning hours of Sept. 5th, 2015. Officers investigated the scene and some evidence was collected. Truck and trailer tracks were located in the area. Do you know who is responsible for the wildlife crime or have any information that may help officers conclude this file?



STAY UP TO DATE BY VISITING WWW.SASKTIP.COM OR FOLLOW SASKTIP ON TWITTER/FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE

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