

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 49 number 2

SUMMER 2016 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

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RECREATION AND TOURISM

Summer is Here, Let's Get Moving; Sharing Saskatchewan; Strong Recreation, Strong Individuals; Municipal Awards; Connecting Rural Saskatchewan; Ditch Mowing/Hay Salvage Deadlines; Community Pharmacists; TCT Benefits; RM Building Bylaws; Federal Grade Crossing Regulations; Tourism Awards





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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.



SHARING SASKATCHEWAN

BY CARMEN STERLING SARM VICE-PRESIDENT

LAST July my husband, Darren, daughter, Brooke, and I traveled to Iowa to visit family. We arrived during the Dallas County Fair and had the opportunity to watch their children show their cattle. It was fantastic to see the similarities and differences to our own agricultural society fair. While visiting, we had a number of conversations about what activities and sights we wanted to see in the Des Moines area. These conversations really made us think about the types of activities and sights we would take them to when they visit us in Saskatchewan.

Quite often, as residents of this beautiful province, we take for granted all the great sights, fairs, festivals and attractions available in Saskatchewan. When we talked about the places we would bring them to when they visited us, possibly this summer, the list started growing and growing. I thought I would share a little of the research I've done in preparation for their visit.

As our Iowa family farms, we started focussing on agricultural based attractions that we thought they would enjoy, but are also spots we haven't had the opportunity to explore ourselves. The list includes the Motherwell Homestead, Seager Wheeler's Maple Grove Farm, historic barns, including The Bell Barn, Big Muddy Outlaw Caves, Ag Society fairs and exhibitions across the southeast, and the Western Development Museums for starters.

Saskatchewan has about 45 National Historic Sites of Canada, many of which are battle sites but also include other sites such as the Addison Sod House, the Claybank Brick Plant, Government House, and the Gravelbourg Ecclesiastical Buildings, just to name a few. All of these historic sites give us a glimpse into the development of not only Canada but also our province.



A search of the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions' website provided a list of its 60+ members and a calendar of their upcoming events. These events range from trade shows, exhibitions, fairs, rodeos, horse shows and more. These community organizations host multiple events each year in an effort to provide entertainment, education and recreation to their communities and tourists.

No exploration of recreation and tourism in Saskatchewan would be complete without including a smattering of festivals from around the province. There are art festivals, music festivals, children's festivals, cultural festivals, theatre festivals, pow wows and even a kite festival! There are also drama productions at outdoor theatres and parks across the province.

Don't worry sports fans, there's plenty of sports ranging from local minor and senior ball, soccer, field hockey, rugby, and swimming events. There are also summer

baseball teams made up of college players from all over North America who look to entertain fans while keeping their skills sharp for their college teams. For those with a need for speed, there's drag, stock car and motocross racing at tracks across the province.

Lastly, we can't forget the many hiking trails and nature areas that people of all ages can explore. Whether you walk, run or ride, there are so many beautiful natural areas to explore all over Saskatchewan.

I hope through sharing my research into the sights, events and attractions we plan to share with our Iowa family, I have provided some insight into recreation, culture, sports and tourism in our province and perhaps given you a reason to have a "staycation" here this summer. I encourage you all to take in some of these activities and experience them through the eyes of the many tourists who visit our communities and who are very important to our local and provincial economies.

Certainly no article of mine would be complete without referencing rural Saskatchewan's role in supporting many of these events. RMs across the province are members of their local Ag Societies, provide donations to various events and activities in their areas and develop and maintain the rural transportation infrastructure to many of the recreation areas across the province. There are private, regional, provincial and national parks whose visitors travel our municipal roads for swimming, camping, hiking, boating and fishing all summer long. Your efforts to provide safe, well-maintained roads to these areas are appreciated by all travelers on our roads. I hope your summer is full of fun, family, friends and great memories!



STRONG RECREATION

Equals Strong Individuals

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RECREATION is a key factor in strengthening communities through social interaction, volunteerism and civic pride; it is a critical component of a community's social economy. Not only does it provide the opportunity to participate in physical activity, but it also assists in strengthening individuals and families, while providing a boost to the economy through investment in infrastructure.

From a young age, many individuals in our province have had the opportunity to be involved in recreation. In many of our communities you will see skating and curling facilities, ball diamonds, walking paths, golf courses, swimming pools, splash parks and more, which are

all developed by communities willing to invest in their people. These types of facilities are what brings people together. Whether the temperature is 40 below or 30 above, you will see fans cheering, children developing, people volunteering and the transfer of knowledge through coaching and mentoring.

Recreation helps develop comradery, friendships and long lasting memories. It brings with it times when you had fun, times where you may have won or lost, but most importantly, times that allowed you to learn, grow and develop life skills to pass onto future generations. We all have many people to thank for the investment, hard work and dedica-

tion it takes to have strong recreation in our communities. Most recreation is organized through community groups, boards and volunteers working with and for each other. Without individuals assisting on a day to day basis, many types of recreation would become obsolete.

Recreation is something we all pay attention to when we have it, but it is even more noticeable when it is gone. Thank you to all of those who dedicate their time to recreation. During those times you may think the time you put into recreation is taken for granted, all you have to do is look at the growth of our people and communities and you will see that it certainly does not go unnoticed.



Summer is here **LET'S GET MOVING!**

BY GUY LAGRANDEUR RMAA DIRECTOR, DIVISION 2



Photo credit: alijabos.com

IT'S obvious to anyone over 40 and 50 that staying fit isn't as easy as it used to be. It's never too late to focus on getting fit. Midlife creeps up on you, and before you know it, you've gained weight around your middle and lost muscle everywhere. What happened? Remembering back to high school or college, staying active was an effort we never gave much thought to. Beach volleyball, touch football with friends, even tobogganing after a day of shinny hockey on the pond was no big deal. Now, if you shovel your walkway after a snowfall, all you can think about is how nice the couch will feel after this 15 minute workout. Fortunately for our body's sake, it doesn't snow everyday (thank goodness), so we need to get motivated and leave our couches for other reasons. What is your mind set if this is the year of your high school reunion? A family wedding coming up and you haven't seen relatives in a long time. You stand in front of the bathroom mirror and say... well, we all know what you say.

As we enter our midlife stage, research shows that men and women lose more than five pounds of muscle every decade due to improper diet (lots of fast food), sedentary work life (desk jobs), and a sedentary home life (more time on the computer, watching television and driving short distances instead of walking or biking).

Exercise can help you take charge of your health and maintain the level of fitness necessary for an active, independent lifestyle. Many people think that as we age, we tend to slow down and do less; that physical decline is an inevitable consequence of aging. For the most part, this is not true. Much of the physical frailty attributed to aging is actually the result of inactivity, disease or poor nutrition. But the good news is that many problems can be helped or even reversed by improving lifestyle behaviors. One of the major benefits of regular physical activity is protection against coronary heart disease. Physical activity also provides some protection against other chronic diseases, such as adult-onset diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, certain cancers, osteoporosis and even depression. Research has also proven that exercise can ease tension and reduce the amount of stress you feel. To put it simply – exercise is one of the best things you can do for your health.

So as we start to become more active around the farm, and if we're lucky, get in a round of golf, how can we avoid getting an injury that may affect us throughout the summer, or worse, from here on in! Getting more active is a helpful way of avoiding these nagging injuries.

We have to start somewhere, so the easiest thing to do is get on your feet. It's even easier when you get a friend to help

you. Go for a walk around the farmyard or a park. Set up this walk the same afternoon every week. It's not much, but it's a start. Got a dog? Even better! They live for a good walk, always want to go, and I bet your dog could use the walk as much as you can. Simple activities are a great way to get started. After a meal (and dishes) allow yourself to think of a way to be a little more active. Looking into the future, SARM is actively supporting the completion of the Trans Canada Trail in our province. This would be an awesome place to do that brisk walk with your faithful pet or friend.

A mix of this starting one or more days a week can grow into four or five days a week. The best way to get fit and for changes to be made in your health and wellness is to let it become a habit. Habits take time to develop, about two to three months, so don't stress about it. Before you know it, you'll rather go off and walk down a path than watch your favorite TV show, your snack intake will go way down and your water intake will go way up as well.

We are very lucky here on planet Earth, just so happens that we are specifically designed to survive for reasonably long periods of time completely exposed to the elements of the planetary surface. So stand-by Houston for couch separation in 3...2...1.



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Federal Grade Crossing REGULATIONS

BY LIBBEY MORIN SARM POLICY ANALYST



IN pursuit of increased public safety, the federal government enacted the *Grade Crossing Regulations (GCR)* on November 28, 2014. Transport Canada's (TC's) main purpose was to save lives. A startling statistic shows that from 2009–2013, an average of 26 Canadians were killed and another 26 seriously injured in collisions at public and private crossings each year. The Transportation Safety Board raised serious concerns about the high risk of collisions between passenger trains and vehicles in busy rail corridors.

The regulations are intended to increase public safety by clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of railway companies and road authorities when it comes to information sharing, crossing surfaces, sightlines, roadway and railway signs, traffic signals and warning systems. They will be in full effect by 2021, but RMs must be in compliance with some aspects of the regulations before then.

As road authorities, RMs are required to share information about public grade crossings on municipal roads with federally regulated railway companies. These regulations do not apply to private crossings or short line rail, and RMs are not responsible for grade crossings on provincial highways. Information, as

outlined in the GCR, must be shared with railway companies by November 27, 2016. As changes are made to existing grade crossings or new grade crossings are constructed, information must be shared directly with the railway immediately, and a courtesy copy may be sent to TC.

There may be confusion over whether or not RMs need an engineer to collect or approve the information before it is submitted. The short answer is no. The long answer is that there is no requirement for an engineer to collect or complete the forms, but any required design changes triggered to meet the GCR must be done with sound engineering principles, and this work must be completed by a professional engineer.

Meeting the information sharing deadline is important, but it is only the first step. By November 27, 2021, RMs must meet the enforceable grade crossing standards, effective sightlines and all other aspects of the GCR. Road authorities and railway companies are required to bring grade crossings up to today's best engineering practices and standards as outlined by law. These standards will apply to surfaces, signs, sightlines and warning systems for existing crossings by November 27, 2021. Immediate compli-

ance is required when building a new or making changes to an existing crossing.

The GCR also includes formulas for defining the area railway companies, road authorities and private land owners must keep clear of anything that may block a road user's view of oncoming trains. Existing crossings have until November 2021 to comply, while immediate compliance is required of newly constructed or changed crossings.

Bringing all grade crossings up to standard by 2021 will be challenging. There are thousands of grade crossings in Saskatchewan's RMs alone. However, existing public grade crossings are required to meet Sections 57–71 of the GCR, which is more limited in scope than the requirements for changed or new public grade crossings. It is very important to understand that if changes are made to the crossing or road approach, the crossing must be brought fully up to standard.

The Railway Safety Act has funding available through the Grade Crossing Improvement Program (GCIP). GCIP provides up to 50 per cent of the cost of a crossing improvement project, to a maximum contribution of \$550,000, for a single project. Eligible work includes the improvement, closure or relocation of a public crossing in the interests of public safety. Only federally regulated railway line crossings that have been available for public use for at least three years are eligible for funding. GCIP funding covers the cost of safety improvements only; future maintenance costs are excluded. TC accepts GCIP applications year-round, but applications for a given fiscal year must be submitted by August 1 of the preceding fiscal year.

Given the number of crossings, and the related expenses, RMs should start work as soon as possible. November 2021 will arrive before we know it.



BUILDING BYLAWS

An RM's Obligation

BY MIKE MORRIS SARM DIRECTOR, LEGAL SERVICES AND
CRAIG WILLIAMS SARM DIRECTOR, INSURANCE AND BENEFITS PROGRAM

THE purpose this article is to outline the obligations of RMs in relation to the enforcement of building standards, what needs to be done to meet those obligations and what RMs may do to try to minimize the risks associated with those obligations.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES RE: ENFORCEMENT OF BUILDING STANDARDS

The starting point for an analysis of RMs' obligations in this regard is *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* ("the Act"), and in particular, Section 7 of the Act. It requires that all buildings be designed and constructed in accordance with the building standards legislation that was introduced in 1984.

The enactment of the Act was a major step forward in Saskatchewan, providing uniform building and accessibility standards across the province. Before this statute, the province resembled a patchwork in terms of building regulation. The enabling municipal statutes delegated authority to municipalities to adopt local building bylaws. Some did, but others did not. Even among those that did, the adopted standards varied, often by reference to different editions of the National Building Code.

The basic reason for building standards is to protect public health and safety.

By regulation, the province has adopted the standards set out in *The National Building Code of Canada, 2010*.

The primary responsibility of ensuring that buildings are constructed to code lies on the owner and/or builder. However, Section 4 of the Act imposes on local authorities the legal obligation to "enforce and administer" the Act and regulations. This provision has given rise to significant liability exposure for municipalities in recent years.

To explain, while the Act does not say what the civil law consequences would be of a failure to administer and enforce the Act, the courts have said that if a municipality is negligent in the performance of its duty in this regard, it will be civilly liable to anyone who sustains damage as a result. This duty extends not only to the owner, but also to any subsequent owners or occupiers, neighbors and indeed anyone who may be lawfully on the premises.

Note that builders, too, have a liability risk and that municipalities are often found liable for deficiencies along with the builders. However, because liability is what is called "joint and several" and because builders sometimes are long gone by the time deficiencies come to light [or do not have the means to satisfy a judgement], municipalities are often bearing most, if not all, of the financial consequences.

TO WHAT CONSTRUCTION DOES THE ACT APPLY?

The general rule is that all buildings are to be designed and constructed in accordance with the Act and the regulations. However, there are exceptions. The most significant of these, from an RM's perspective, is that for "farm buildings."

A "farm building" is defined by the Act to mean "a building associated with a farming operation." It includes a residence consisting of not more than two dwelling units, but it does not include buildings associated with commercial operations, multiple occupancy residences or assembly buildings.

The scope of this exemption was recently the subject of an appeal to the Saskatchewan Building and Accessibility Standards Appeal Board. The issue was whether a hog barn is a farm building. A decision has not been rendered on the appeal as of the writing of this article.

Note RMs can by bylaw have the building standards apply to farm buildings generally or just some [for example, dwellings only].

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO MEET OBLIGATIONS?

What precisely you should do to administer and enforce the Act will vary, depending on the amount of building construction activity in your RM and

whether it falls under the Act and its regulations. At a minimum, you will need to have a building bylaw [available from the Building Standards & Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations] which sets up a building permit system. Enforcement of the Act and regulations will be very difficult without a system where people have to let you know when they intend to undertake construction that falls under the Act and its regulations.

You will also need to appoint a building inspector who can perform the plan review, site inspection and enforcement functions for you. Whether you employ your own or contract out the work will depend on the amount of activity in your RM that falls under the Act and its regulations.

Note that the Act does use permissive terms. However, without a building bylaw and a building official, there is no practical way to enforce the building standards.

THE PROCESS

When someone applies for a building permit, the building official is expected to review the plans to see if what is proposed will meet the code. Thus, a fair bit of information should be provided. If it is not, the application may be rejected for insufficient information.

During construction, the building official should be permitted to inspect at certain key times (see Subsection 17.2(1) of the Act). Note: the building official has the power to issue orders, pursuant to Section 17 of the Act, to require compliance with the building standards.

Just how far your inspector should go will depend upon the circumstances, including the gravity of the potential harm if the work being done is defective, previous experience with the builder and the cost of measures to determine if the standards have been met. The bottom line is that if the work is important and it is feasible to determine compliance with the standards by using the powers in the Act, they should be utilized.

Note: the owner and/or builder has a right of appeal from such an order to the Saskatchewan Building and Accessibility Standards Appeal Board.

If a person to whom an order, issued pursuant to Section 17 of the Act fails

to comply with the order, the RM has a number of options, including:

1. Pursuant to Section 21 of the Act, a building official or person appointed by the RM may enter the land or the building and do, or cause to be done, any acts that the building official or the local authority considers necessary to carry out the order. Any money paid or expended by a local authority pursuant to this section is a debt due and owing by the owner and may be added to the tax payable on the property and collected in the same way as taxes on the property.
2. Pursuant to Section 22 of the Act, the RM may initiate a prosecution of the person to whom the order was issued.
3. Pursuant to Section 23 of the Act, the RM may apply to a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench for an order requiring the person to comply with the order.

Survey Explained

A survey was conducted of all 296 RMs in the first two weeks of February 2016. The survey was produced by the Insurance and Benefits Department, jointly with the Legal Services Department, regarding our members' current practices with respect to building bylaws and building officials.

The six question survey asked the following questions:

1. Does your RM currently have a building bylaw?
2. Is there any construction of non-farm buildings in your RM?
3. Does your RM issue building permits?
4. Does your RM employ or contract the services of a licensed building official?
5. Does your RM receive and review all inspection reports from your inspector? Are follow-ups done on deficiencies?
6. Does your RM require the inspection of farm buildings?

Findings from the Survey

The results of the survey were:

1. 85% of RMs have non-farm building construction occurring within their boundaries (and should, there-

fore, be taking steps to enforce and administer the building standards)

2. A small majority of these RMs do have a building bylaw and have appointed a building official.
3. When it comes to the follow-up on reports provided by the building officials, the practices of RMs in the province varies. Many RMs (69%) receive and review inspection reports and follow-up on deficiencies that are noted by their building official. However, 25% of RMs are not taking steps to follow-up on the reported deficiencies. The remaining 6% of RMs are either simply filing the reports they receive without reviewing them or they are not receiving any reports from their building official.

It is felt that the survey results demonstrate the need for the Insurance and Legal Departments to work together to promote awareness of the importance of RMs having a building bylaw in place, particularly when there is non-farm building construction occurring within an RM's boundaries. This is a key area of importance for an RM to manage its insurance and litigation risk.

Going forward, the Insurance and Legal Departments strive to work closer with RMs on insurance risk management, so that together, the capacity can be built for more proactive approaches to managing risk, rather than only reacting to insurance claims as they occur.

How can an RM mitigate their risk with respect to Building Standards?

First and foremost, if an RM has non-farm building construction occurring within their boundaries and they do not have a building bylaw, the RM council needs to take steps to adopt one and appoint a building official.

Once an RM has a building bylaw and building official in place, the work does not stop there. RMs need to work with their building officials to ensure they are doing their job. RMs should always review the reports submitted by the building officials and follow-ups should be done with the officials to ensure that any identified deficiencies on the plan review or inspections are addressed.

Keeping detailed records is very important. As an RM, please ensure

that building permits, plan reviews and inspection reports are documented and filed. Problems with structures often do not show up until years later, so these records should be kept for a long period of time.

When and where it is possible, an RM should transfer the liability risk for building inspections to their building official by agreement. When entering into a contract for the provision of services from a building official, make it a requirement of the contract that the individual or company carry liability insurance (with a limit of liability that council is comfortable with) and require that the RM is named as an additional insured on that policy, with respect to their contract. Finally, obtain proof of that coverage from the individual or organization in the form of a certificate of insurance.

As upholding building standards is a statutory obligation of an RM under *The Municipalities Act*, when an RM appoints a third party as their building official, that individual or organization would have coverage under the RM's Liability Self-Insurance Plan coverage while acting within the scope of their duties. That being said, where an RM can transfer that risk to another individual or organization through their insurance, it is to the RM's benefit (as in the event of a lawsuit) if there is more than one party at the table with potential liability exposure and insurance coverage available to satisfy a claim.

Additionally, RM's can insure the risk exposure that faces them with respect to their duties under *The Municipalities Act*. Some coverage is provided in this respect through SARM's Liability Self-Insurance Plan (LSIP), and additional coverage is available through SARM's Excess Liability Program.

Insurance Coverage Explained

Under the LSIP policy, the coverage that protects participating RMs for this type of risk exposure is Coverage G: Administrative Errors and Omissions Liability.

The intent of this coverage is to pay compensatory damages (i.e. to provide indemnity) when someone files a claim against the RM because they have sustained an economic or strictly monetary loss – as opposed to being injured or sustaining property damage – and the loss is as a result of an alleged wrongful act by the RM. A wrongful act is defined in the policy as “any actual or alleged breach of duty, neglect, error, misstatement, misrepresentation or any other act or omission in the discharge of the Insured's duties.”

Examples of this type of claim include: claims for the alleged failure by an RM to provide building inspections; a mistake made by an RM in issuing a building permit; claims arising from the incorrect application of a zoning bylaw by an RM, etc.

The limit of insurance under this coverage is \$500,000 for each occurrence, and the deductible is \$500 per claim.

The coverage is subject to an annual aggregate of \$500,000, meaning that for all claims made against an RM in a particular year, there is only a maximum of \$500,000 available to satisfy all of those claims.

For example, an RM receives two claims alleging failure to adequately inspect a building in their municipality, and there are substantial deficiencies in construction. The total value of

the damages being sought between the two buildings is over \$1,000,000. If this RM was found negligent in both of these claims and a court assessed damages of \$1,000,000, there would only be \$500,000 paid by the LSIP policy, with the remainder coming out of the RM's pocket.

For those RMs that participate in LSIP, there is also an Excess Liability Program, which allows those RMs to purchase increased limits of liability coverage through an outside insurer.

New to 2016 is an optional insurance coverage to sit in excess of Coverage G on the LSIP policy. Previously this coverage was not available. RMs can now purchase an additional \$500,000, \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 in Administrative Errors and Omissions Liability coverage to sit in excess of the \$500,000 provided by LSIP. Coverage costs \$110, \$220 or \$330, respectively, depending on the limit sought, and it can be added at any time.

If your RM currently participates in LSIP, but doesn't participate in the Excess Liability Program, your RM can apply to join the program at any time and select the optional coverage when signing up. If your RM currently has coverage through the Excess Liability Program and would like to purchase the new optional Administrative Errors and Omissions Liability coverage, this can be done at any time.

The advertisement features a background image of a road curving into the distance under a clear sky. At the top, there is a stylized logo consisting of two overlapping triangles forming a larger triangle. Below the logo, the text reads: "Road Management Solutions for:" followed by a list of services: "Dust Suppression", "Road Mix", "Road Stabilization", "Surface Treatment", "Reclamation", "Asphalt Rejuvenation", and "De-icing". At the bottom, it says "Pounder Emulsions, A division of Husky Oil Operations Limited", "806 50th Street East, Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0X6", "Office: 306-934-3033", and "Mobile: 306-221-3691".



The Effective **RURAL COUNCIL** (Part II)

BY **GEORGE B. CUFF** FCMC

WHILE I intended to provide a broad overview of what I see as the appropriate roles of a rural council, I was distracted by your legislation and decided to spell out what I believe it intends. Part One of this series began at the beginning of *The Municipalities Act* and did not get much further than that!

THE POWER OF ONE

One of the greatest challenges for a council is to “rein in” one of its members who has not read Section 5 of the Act yet. This quaint section speaks categorically to the fact that a council must make decisions as a body and not allow each member to fire away at their whim. The Act states that “5(1) Unless otherwise provided by any other provision of this or any other Act, a municipality is required to act through its council.” This section further describes such decisions as being made through bylaws or resolutions. The message is clear: no citizen or staff member should be directed by a member of council. Their direction is to occur through council as a whole and the implementation of council’s direction is delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer. He/she is to be directed by the bylaws and resolutions of the council.

It is not that individual councillors do not have a degree of power. Each does. That power, however, is to act in concert with the other members of council and guide the organization through approved policies and bylaws. This requires more than one to enact. As a result, council members need to act very prudently and carefully when dealing with either the public or administration. Each elected official’s voice carries a lot more volume than it did the day before the election. As a result, that voice can do considerable harm or good to the system depending on how it is delivered.

Section 92 speaks to the duties of both council and councillors. These duties are consistent across Canada and effectively say that a councillor is to:

1. represent the public and consider the RM’s well-being and interests;
2. participate in developing and evaluating the RM’s policies, services and programs;
3. participate in council and committee meetings, as well as meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed to by the council;
4. ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the council’s decisions;
5. keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council or committee meeting until discussed at a public meeting;
6. maintain the RM’s financial integrity; and
7. perform any duty or function imposed on councillors by this or any other Act or by the council itself.

REPRESENTING ALL

One of the challenges and, at times, tragedies of being a rural member of council is the notion that the councillor represents his/her division/ward. While this mistake in representative identity is simple enough to understand, it can be a major reason as to why the council as a whole never really “gets it.” Legislation provides for the dividing of a jurisdiction into divisions or wards to enable better representation of the people in that ward. That is, the people of a particular region can identify with one member of council more so than the others and ought to be assured that “their” member will be more attentive to their local issues. Given that expectation, it is surprising that legisla-

tion calls for all members to represent all citizens. Perhaps in doing so, the framers of the legislation understood that if the council is able to represent all, it will do a good job of representing the issues of each division.

PARTICIPATING NOT DOMINATING

The key to democracy is to speak where and when it counts. That is, most electors do not vote simply for a pretty or handsome face and expect that other than the oath of office not much else will be uttered. Nor do they expect that the best debates and expressions of intelligent thought will be confined to the parking lot after the meetings. If that is your style, waste no time in retiring. Your spot at the table was intended for a contributor.

Section 92 calls for council members to be involved in the development of policies and programs and be active in committee and council meetings. Such participation will vary between council members. Some will be unable to refrain from speaking on most topics, whereas others will reflect the adage that the “best way to save face is to keep the lower half shut!” However, all members “own” all decisions. While one can stand on the sidelines and say nothing during a debate, when the vote is called, you vote. Unless a member is excused for personal conflict, each member is required to vote. Doing so signals acceptance or rejection of the resolution which ought to mean that the person voting has actually thought the issue through and determined whether or not the resolution or bylaw reflects his/her opinion.

One can participate without dominating. Speaking your opinion is needed; trying to drown out all others is not. Thinking that your opinion somehow

counts more than your neighbour in chambers is a path to perceived supremacy and assured failure.

In some ways, saying nothing during the debate over a contentious issue may look wise or restrained, but it guarantees nothing. The other members of council who need to hear what you think will instead need to be content with knowing that your eyes are open. That may (or may not) reflect your mind.

OVERSIGHT AND GUIDANCE

The Act calls for each councillor to “ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions.” This does not require a council member to regularly “drop in” on the administrator to ensure that he/she understood their point of view as you expressed it at last night’s council meeting. Providing oversight to the functions and responsibilities of the administration can readily occur through the administrator’s reporting and council’s guidance by its policies. The administrator should be updating council on a regular basis with respect to the implementation of significant council decisions and updates on any major capital works projects. He/she will not require council members looking over their shoulder or “assisting” in the day to day routines.

Guidance is best done through a rigorous policy development framework rather than detailed directions. If the latter are deemed necessary, chances are you do not have an administrator but a dependent employee. Councillors must remember that this is not their farm or local business: it is “owned” by all citizens. You are a steward: not a manager, administrator, buyer, procurement expert, grader operator or an accountant. A steward. You provide oversight, leadership, policy guidance and the collective ideas and concerns of all ratepayers. If you are not doing this, who is?

KNOWING WHEN TO HOLD IT AND FOLD IT

Council members must keep matters in confidence that have been discussed during an in camera meeting of council. While the adage that “public business should be done publicly” should be the guiding philosophy, there are certain matters that ought to be discussed “behind closed doors.” Where that is needed, a council will vote to go “in camera.” A council does not simply think it is in camera because there is no one in the chambers besides council and senior administration. No, the right thing to do to ensure confidentiality is to move in camera. Once that vote has been taken and approved, it does not matter how you voted. If you voted against the resolution, you are still committed to being in league with the majority. The fact that you voted against going in camera may look good with certain audiences, but it matters for little else. You are expected to follow the rules regardless of whether you were in agreement. This is known as one of those “grown up” moments your granny probably spoke to you about: it may have included some encouragement to “stifle it” or words to that effect.

ENSURING FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Council has an obligation to preserve the RM’s financial standing and ensure it is well-positioned to undertake its responsibilities while being fiscally sound. This does not mean a council should be cheap or overly frugal: good things often happen through creative steps, including partnerships with neighbouring communities or local groups. Nor are you expected to

keep all of the money in the bank account that your council inherited. It’s not yours! These funds belong to the community. They are to be used for the good of the community.

Investing in a project (whether in your community or a neighbouring village or town) may be the best decision you make, which your predecessors refused to consider (i.e. we were elected to keep the money in the bank and do nothing). While caution should be considered, taking a well-reasoned step may be the best thing your region has done in years. Leaders lead.

DO EVERYTHING ELSE

Section 92 (g) is the favourite catch-all of well-rounded job descriptions: whatever else needs to be done, get at it! It would be impossible and counter-productive to cite all possible things that a council should handle. Some things will arise in this term that were unheard of in a previous term. Our council in my community today talks of developing a new website: my council would have considered that foreign and unintelligible language. Terrorism was what I felt when my father got home from work on a day that I was “up to something.” Things change. Councils adjust.

NEXT COLUMN

I think I may be good for one more attempt at clarifying what I think you as a council and community are empowered to do. Next article will outline a generic description of the other roles of a council who has been elected to add value.



- 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 starting in 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. To ensure that all parties have time to examine the assessment shifts and make tax policy decisions prior to 2017, assessment trends were communicated to Government Relations the first week of April, 2016 and will be sent to our client municipalities in June, 2016.
- For more information on SAMA or Saskatchewan's assessment system 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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SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL AWARDS

BY KATEE GALANDY SUMA



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

The 9th Annual SMAs took place at SUMA's Convention and SARM's Mid-term Convention. What a wonderful way to celebrate the innovation and excellence in Saskatchewan's municipalities, surrounded by colleagues and peers. This year the SMAs received 11 nominations representing 20 municipalities, which must have made for a big job for the selection committee, which consisted of:

- Keith Schneider, former Executive Director of SUMA and Principal with ADVOCO Consulting;
- Ken Engel, former Executive Director of SARM;
- Jim Scarrow, former Mayor of Prince Albert and former Vice-President of Cities for SUMA;
- Gordon Barnhardt, University of Saskatchewan President and former Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor;

- Neal Hardy, former President of SARM; and
- Jeff Mulligan, Managing Partner of AHHA Moments Inc. and former Mayor of Lloydminster.

Thank you to the entire committee for their work in celebrating local governments in Saskatchewan.

It's very exciting to see the excellent work that happens in municipalities across the province, and the SMAs were a great chance to celebrate the municipalities who are going the extra mile. Everyone benefits when municipalities do well, so we offer inspiration in the form of the winning projects. Maybe you can turn that inspiration into innovation in your own municipality, and it could be your project on these pages next year!

You can see all the details on the winning projects, including videos with project and community leaders, on the SMA website, www.municipalawards.ca.

- **FIRST PLACE:** Doctor Recruitment/Retention Strategy and Community Health & Wellness Centre (Town of Kamsack). *Winning Practice:* established a committee that developed a strategy to recruit and retain physicians in the community, including the construction of a health and wellness facility.

- **SECOND PLACE:** Kindersley Waste Water Project (Town of Kindersley). *Winning Practice:* an agreement allowing the oil and gas sector to access and use wastewater from the water treatment plant to alleviate steadily increasing water consumption.

- **THIRD PLACE:** Jubilee Park (Town of Shaunavon). *Winning Practice:* rehabilitated recreational infrastructure including a new arena, curling rink, skate park, tennis courts, playground, ball diamonds, swimming pool, basketball courts and an outdoor rink with more plans for the future.

- **REGIONAL COOPERATION:** Planning for Growth Services Agreement (RMs of Mervin, Frenchman Butte, Parkdale and Turtle River; Town of Turtleford; Villages of Paradise Hill, Glaslyn, Mervin and Edam). *Winning Practice:* A shared-services agreement giving 19 RMs, towns and villages in the area access to the services of a growth professional planner, enabling better planning for future subdivisions and servicing requirements for increased infrastructure needs.

Above: (left) SUMA's Regional Cooperation award recipient; (right) SARM's Regional Cooperation award recipient.

Get recognized for going the extra mile in your municipality!

Award-winning municipalities will be celebrated at the SARM midterm convention in November 2016, and the SUMA convention in February 2017.

Nominations for the 10th Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards close **Friday, September 9 at 4:00 p.m.**

Why should we apply?

- ✦ Provincial exposure
- ✦ Recognition from peers
- ✦ Share best practices
- ✦ Market your community with a promotional video provided to award winners
- ✦ Celebrate your accomplishment by displaying the awards plaque in your office

What types of projects receive awards?

- ✦ Awards presented to the top three initiatives showing innovation and betterment for the municipality in any area, including environment, heritage, leadership, recreation, and more!
- ✦ An additional award profiles a regional co-operation project, given to a group of municipalities working together.

Who can apply?

- ✦ Urban and rural municipalities
- ✦ Municipal council, administration and/or staff

How can I apply?

- ✦ Nominations open Friday, June 10, 2016.
- ✦ Visit www.municipalawards.ca to get full details and a nomination form.
- ✦ Deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 9, 2016.**

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Connecting **RURAL SASKATCHEWAN**

BY MIKE BOSSIO MP, HASTINGS-LENNOX AND ADDINGTON,
CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL LIBERAL RURAL CAUCUS



THE great dream that was the national railroad in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries made Canada as we know it possible. It linked our country together, expanded the settlement of rural communities, and drove our economy forward by opening up our markets and fostering opportunities for entrepreneurs from around the world. Fast forward to the twenty-first century, and you find a new national dream with equally great possibilities for linking people, retaining and even expanding rural populations, and driving economic growth – call it a broadband revolution.

Both of these periods in time have seen a great transformation where technology and globalization have revolutionized the workforce. We can ensure that rural Canada can not only survive this transformation but thrive in this globally connected economy helped, in part, by a transformation in the Canadian entrepreneurial spirit, facilitated by equal access to high-speed Internet in rural communities.

Before I became the MP for the rural riding of Hastings-Lennox and Addington in Eastern Ontario, I operated my own business as a recruiter for the global high-tech industry. I worked from my home in the tiny community of Lonsdale, which has not many more people in it than you can count on your

fingers and toes. I am an example of how rural entrepreneurs can work on a global scale when they have the tools to do so, but we know that there are many more examples in rural Canada with potential just waiting to be unleashed. Rural Canadians have the ideas and a vast under-tapped capacity for driving economic growth in this country.

National Liberal Rural Caucus gets it. We have all experienced shortfalls in high-speed Internet in our own rural communities. We bring that experience to government. As chair of this strong, almost 50 member caucus, I was blessed with the chance to raise these issues of connectivity and economic potential with our colleagues in government.

And, you know what? They listened. The result in Budget 2016 was an additional \$500 million in funding for broadband in rural and remote communities across Canada. I'm very proud to be part of a government so willing to listen and to look forward not to the next election, but to the next generation.

Over 300,000 households across Canada will benefit from this broadband infrastructure, which we all know is critical for long-term economic growth and sustainable prosperity. These communities will also have better access to online education and e-health, improved communications and media, and increased

access to online goods and services. By delivering increased broadband coverage to underserved areas across Canada, we are enabling rural Canadians to unleash their entrepreneurial spirit, push employment and business opportunities up, and grow the middle class.

In getting high-speed Internet right in rural communities, we would be improving the ability for innovation and incubation centres to spring up. These hubs of thought leadership don't need to remain the purview of universities and cities. These are dynamic centres to drive private sector growth, which have the advantage of helping to ensure that public sector investments like high-speed Internet get the best bang for their buck. They are multi-disciplinary and bring together entrepreneurs and producers, supply-chain operators, marketers and consumers in an exchange of ideas. It's one thing to hang a shingle on your door to say "I make and sell widgets," and quite another to market that for a successful long-term business, one that can compete on a national and international stage. We can do it when we work together, share know-how and play to each other's strengths.

It's all about connection. When we talk about high-speed Internet connection, of course what we're really talking about is human connection. Connecting a child to the online tools they need for school; connecting the small scale entrepreneur to online markets for their products; connecting rural Canadians to each other and the world. There has been a wealth of success stories that have emerged from communities across the country when they have truly become digitally engaged. We can learn from their success and not just replicate but expand upon their economic potential – not just for the near future but for generations to come.

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Wetlands provide...



Clean water

As nature's water filters, wetlands play a key role in keeping our water clean.



Recreation spots

Natural beauty and serenity make wetlands the ideal place to relax and have fun.



Abundant wildlife

Wetlands are among the most diverse and vibrant ecosystems on our planet.



Flood control

Wetlands absorb excess water like giant sponges, helping reduce flooding.



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Protect wetlands.

ducks.ca

Rural businesses highlighted at **SASKATCHEWAN TOURISM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**



TAKE a trip to any community in Saskatchewan and you will find a tourism operation, from a restaurant or hotel on Main Street to a fascinating attraction or experience just down the road. Unlike many industries that cluster in a few locations, Saskatchewan's tourism businesses can be found nearly everywhere, from hotels and attractions in the southwest corner of the province to the lakes and lodges of the north.

On April 14, 2016, representatives of Saskatchewan's tourism industry gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of their peers at the 27th Annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence gala. The awards profile the businesses, attractions, events and people who go above and beyond to provide visitors with great service and experiences.

Tourism Saskatchewan administers the Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence program and hosts the annual gala. The call for nominations is issued in the fall and nominations close at the end of January. This year, almost 30 of the 80 nominations were for operations in towns, villages, parks and northern communities.

At the recent gala in Saskatoon, 33 finalists and 11 award recipients were honoured. Rural operations were well-represented that night, including the following award recipients:



*Taste-It Food Tours Ltd., Avonlea
Recipient of the Rookie of the Year Award, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club*

Before launching its first tour in July 2014, Taste-It Food Tours researched the market. Despite the popularity of food tours in cities across the United States and Canada, the concept had not

been introduced into Saskatchewan. Taste-It Food Tours was the province's first company to take guests on a three to four-hour excursion to a half-dozen restaurants where they sampled signature dishes and learned about local history. The goal of season one was to establish two itineraries in Moose Jaw, with sights set on expansion to Regina. As the demand became obvious, plans for the Regina tours were expedited. Weekly lunch and dinner outings were offered in both cities that summer. Nearly 200 guests later, it was obvious that Taste-It Food Tours had the recipe for success. In 2015, the company added a food tour in the Cypress Hills Destination Area. The season ended with a total of 50 tours in three locations and plans in the works for Saskatoon.

*The Star Café & Grill,
Maple Creek*

Recipient of the Business of the Year Award (Under 20 Full-Time Employees), sponsored by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

In June 2007, Tina Creswell and Dave Turner opened The Star Café & Grill



in Maple Creek with a vision of creating a destination restaurant, one that promised its customers freshly prepared good food and excellent service. Their vision inspired other entrepreneurs to invest in Maple Creek and provide a boost to the local tourism industry. Staff are thoroughly trained in Service Best and other programs to ensure excellent customer service and memorable dining experiences. Cresswell and her staff have mentored young people in their pursuit of a culinary career. The restaurant participates in a work experience program for Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge inmates and runs a frozen food program for seniors. The Star Café & Grill is an

important tourist destination in the area and has earned several awards and positive reviews on social media. Most recently, it was named one of the “Top 10 Canadian Highway Hotspots” by Food Network.



Cheryl Hughes, Balcarres

Recipient of the Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award, sponsored by Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Cheryl Hughes founded Women on the Go Tours in 2013. The company’s mandate is to provide guests with unique and fun Saskatchewan experiences and promote local businesses, events, venues and people, all while showcasing Saskatchewan’s fascinating history and impressive landscapes. Guests come from

across Saskatchewan and neighbouring provinces to enjoy these fun-filled tours. Over 840 people joined Hughes on 20 tours in 2015 that took them to rural areas and tourist attractions across the province, covering over 10,000 kms. Economic impact exceeding \$189,000 was one of many positive results of this initiative. The company’s “giving back” program donated over \$3,000 to Saskatchewan charities and non-profits. Hughes works tirelessly with organizations and communities to provide great guest experiences, even designing custom group tours. Her efforts have turned Women on the Go Tours into a uniquely Saskatchewan success story.

These award winners, along with the other finalists honoured that evening, speak to the range of tourism experiences that Saskatchewan has to offer. All of the finalists and recipients deserve applause for their exceptional work and accomplishments. A list of all the recipients is available at IndustryMatters.com. For more details on Saskatchewan’s outdoor adventures and all there is to see and do, visit TourismSaskatchewan.com or call 1-877-237-2273 for free travel advice from professional travel counsellors.



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



Neil Fisher – your 2016 SASKATCHEWANDERER

IMAGINE spending an entire year where every day of work is more fun than your weekend! A year where you've been tasked with exploring and sharing your adventures inside this incredible province – my name is Neil Fisher, and I am the 2016 Saskatchewaner. I've had quite the start as this year's Saskatchewaner. From Mixed Martial Arts to Clydesdales to exploring Saskatchewan's unique landscapes, I have absolutely loved 'saskatchewanandering' so far. Check out some of my adventures:

Before there were tractors there were horses – big horses. Today farmers use space shuttle-like tractors, and draft horses have become a recreational pastime for most. However, in Rouleau I discovered how one farmer transformed a hobby

of horses into more than a pastime. Bill Aulie and Jack Mendal shared with me what it takes to shape young Clydesdales into champions. On the day I visited, they had eleven horses, but Bill told me a one point he had fifty-three Clydesdales on site – I can't fathom the amount of work required to care for that many animals. It was such an amazing day, hanging out with two incredibly humble men and some spectacular gentle giants.

Professional Mixed Martial Arts is a brand new, and increasingly popular, form of live entertainment in Saskatchewan. No one is happier to fight in front of a home crowd than Kurt Southern. While most of us dabble in the odd playground scuffle while in grade school, or at least battle with a sibling, very few people can claim to be professional fighters. Kurt is



just that – a lifelong athlete, coach and Canada’s number one ranked featherweight mixed martial arts fighter. He taught me how to throw a punch, then tried to downplay how much time and effort he dedicates to being the best.

On a surprisingly warm, sunny Sunday at the beginning of March (yes, March!), I spent the day at the beach, but it’s a beach without waves. South of Sceptre are the Great Sandhills, and after visiting, I would argue the name needs an upgrade – maybe the Super Freaking Awesome Sandhills? The hills are literally alive. With some assistance from the wind, it was easy to watch the sand inch its way forward. Of course, after spending the entire day rolling and frolicking, I was covered. Nose, mouth, eyes, hair and camera; all filled with sand. I actually considered collecting the massive quantity of sand in the bot-

tom of my shower, so that I could return it to its rightful place.

After a long day of exploring it’s nice to find a relaxing spot to watch the sun tumble over the horizon. Jones Peak (*featured on the front cover*) is just west of Eastend, and even without the setting sun it’s a stunning landscape. The peak is named after Harold Saunders “Corky” Jones, who was a Eastend rancher and amateur paleontologist – having discovered a number of fossils, including a Triceratops skull.

I encourage everyone to be their own Saskatchewaner. Step outside of your comfort zone. Go places you haven’t been. Chat with unfamiliar faces. I guarantee Saskatchewan’s beauty will delight your eyes and its hospitality will warm your heart. To follow my wanderings, head over to Saskatchewaner.ca.

HAVE BOAT, WILL TRAVEL

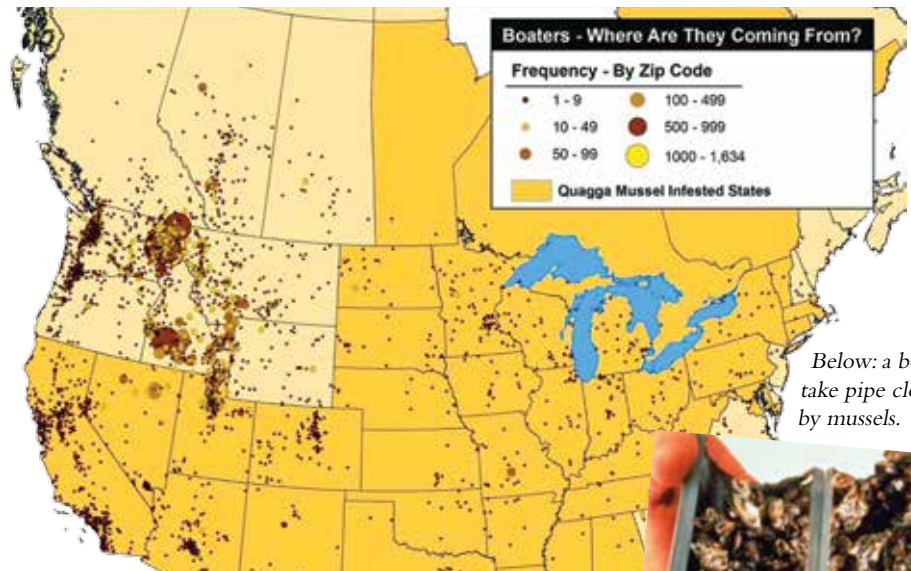
BY LYNNE SAAS PARCS MEMBER SERVICES

THE theme of this issue, *Tourism and Recreation*, leads perfectly into an explanation of an issue that is near the top of the list of concerns for the cottage community members of PARCS (Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan), along with SARM and SUMA – namely the threat of Zebra and Quagga Mussels which attach themselves to boats and hitchhike to new lakes. Unlike native mussels that bury into the bottoms of lakes and rivers, these foreign mussels attach themselves to hard surfaces like the hulls of boats.

It is believed that these tiny foreign mussels arrived in the USA in 1986 via the ballast water of overseas cargo vessels, soon spreading into Ontario and, in 2011, into the Red River, North Dakota. By 2013 Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake and the Red River in Manitoba were all infected.

Once one tiny mussel finds its way into a lake, the future of that lake becomes grim. Not only do these mussels interfere with the recreational use of the lake by coating the undersides of boats, docks and the bottoms of the lakes, they have a huge economic effect on water-operated infrastructure due to the blockage of intake pipes, clogging of irrigation lines and screens, and interruption of dam operations – requiring new capital and huge maintenance costs for water users. In 2013, the Alberta Department of Environment and Renewable Resources estimated that the annual cost of an invasive mussel infestation is \$75 million.

The worst news is that once they are introduced, it is virtually impossible to eradicate them, making prevention key to stopping their spread from Manitoba to Saskatchewan. Biologists feel that the ecological risk of their spread into Saskatchewan is high. We have the correct water quality for mussels to survive and a growing number of boats both leaving and coming into our province. Most of Saskatchewan is classified as having “a very high probability of invasion.”



Below: a boat intake pipe clogged by mussels.



Last summer, 11 infected boats from Ontario were stopped at the Alberta border as they attempted to cross into the province and were decontaminated. If just one of those boats had stopped off in a Saskatchewan lake, that lake would now be infected.

We know that about half of Saskatchewan’s drinking water comes from the fresh waters coming into our province through the South and North Saskatchewan Rivers, flowing north out of Gardiner Dam, through Saskatoon and on to Tobin Lake, and flowing south through Buffalo Pound which provides water to Moose Jaw and Regina, into Last Mountain Lake and the Qu’Appelle chain of lakes. If one of these lakes were to become infected, all of these people could face higher utility bills for drinking water. The effect on the hydroelectric power could have a similar effect on electrical bills. The impact on the irrigation industry, the decrease in property values for cottage owners, and the loss of tourism and fisheries would be devastating on any lake and result in significant costs for all taxpayers in Saskatchewan. An impact study in Ontario shows that they are spending \$75 to \$91 million annually as a result of their mussel invasion.

Alberta and the states to the south of us have mandatory inspection and decontamination at their borders. Saskatchewan is the only western province refusing to allocate the funds necessary to implement border inspections. Manitoba’s government recently allocated \$1 million dollars annually to fight further spread within their province. It has been estimated that, for the same annual amount, Saskatchewan lakes and our water-operated infrastructures could be protected. The AIM to STAB movement (*Aquatic Invasive Mussels – Stop Them at the Border*) is a coalition of communities formally supported by SAW (Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds), PARCS, SUMA and SARM. The latter three organization recently wrote a letter to the Minister of Environment, requesting a meeting “to discuss this issue in further detail to ensure work and action begins in time to protect our waterways for the 2016 boating season.”

Can our province afford to keep boats from infecting our lakes and water-based infrastructure? Can we afford not to?

TCT tourism and recreation opportunities in RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

THE Trans Canada Trail (TCT) is well on its way to becoming the longest and grandest recreational multi-use trail in the world. And, if you live in rural Saskatchewan, there's a good chance it might just be in your municipality.

The TCT spans nearly 19,000 kms of urban, rural and wilderness trails across land and water. Every province and territory is home to its own TCT section.

In Saskatchewan, the TCT currently spans 1,571 kms and features beautiful panoramas, pedestrian bridges, breathtaking lookouts and meandering waterways. Saskatchewan's TCT provides users with a chance to behold a vast array of flora and fauna that flies in the face of any preconception you may have on what you can expect to find in Saskatchewan. What's more, the majority of the TCT's provincial route runs through RMs.

TCT has been working with RMs to help build their tourism infrastructure, researching and adapting trail routes to highlight points of interest and link some of the province's most meaningful cultural and historical sites.

TCT rerouted through the RM of Douglas to pass by Crooked Bush Grove, offering trail users a mystical touch to a day-hike, into a maze of majestically twisted aspen trees, a medieval atmosphere like something out of a fairy tale.

Near the Village of Marcelin, TCT worked with the Green Leaf Hutterite Colony, which now allows trail users onto their private land to witness their way of life as part of the trail experience.

In March, TCT President & CEO Deborah Apps spoke at SARM's convention, thanking Saskatchewan's RMs that have worked with the TCT to develop trails through their boundaries. The swell of support from RMs has created vital infrastructure that will benefit Saskatchewan for generations to come.

"The TCT in Saskatchewan gets people out of the cities, back to the land and to their roots as Canadians," says TCT's Trail Development Manager Kristen Gabora, who lives in Canora. "This trail system celebrates our beautiful rural landscapes, inviting people into nature, the woods, and back to the Earth."

MUST-SEE TCT IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

Regina to Lumsden

If you're up for a great day-hike, try walking the TCT from Regina to Lumsden, which lets you leave the city behind, taking you along the Saw-Whet and Wascana trails. On your way, you'll likely see a variety of wildlife and beautiful open fields and rolling hills.

Louis Riel Trail

For cycling, try this scenic, cycling-friendly section of the TCT that follows the route travelled by Métis leader Louis Riel. From Saskatoon, this section leads cyclists to the National Historic Site (NHS) at Batoche, Riel's headquarters and the site of the last battle of the 1885 Northwest Rebellion. Along the way, it connects to a second NHS, com-

memorating Seager Wheeler, "the Wheat Wizard of Rosthern."

Qu'Appelle Valley

The TCT makes its way into Qu'Appelle Valley south of Melville near Crooked Lake, after which it continues west along the historic Fort Ellis Trail, into Fort Qu'Appelle and onto the Qu'Appelle Valley Waterway. This section of the trail is brimming with picturesque countryside, rolling grasslands and open marshes and makes for an ideal getaway hike, a reprieve from the hustle and bustle of the city. The TCT here is an important addition to the region's recreational infrastructure, and it makes a great tourist attraction thanks to the collaboration of the RMs of McLeod, Elcapo, Wolseley, Abernethy and North Qu'Appelle.

Aside from providing residents and visitors with exciting options for affordable outdoor recreation, the TCT is helping to build a "Trail culture" of sorts.

"The work TCT is doing with the local municipalities in Saskatchewan to develop trail is simultaneously creating a kind of trail culture, where public support is rallied around the notion that trails have amazing benefits for communities," says Sinclair Harrison, Chairperson of TCT's Saskatchewan Vision 2017 Trail Committee. "Trails get people active, in nature, and they celebrate the history and cultures of communities. And, with the TCT, there's the sense that we're all connected to something really grand that will endure for generations to come."

For more details, visit www.tctrail.ca.

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Find out how and where to safely and securely recycle your electronics now at: recycleMYelectronics.ca/sk. Nature's warranty is counting on it.

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



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

Saskatoon Conservation Officers received a dead Snowy Owl that had been shot sometime around January 1st, 2016 on Tamke Road, approximately 3 - 4 miles east of Highway #11 south of Saskatoon. The owl was shot with a rifle. Owls are protected in the province and there is no season for them. The public's help is needed to solve this case. Please call the TIP line at 1-800-667-7561 or on Sasktel cellular #5555. You can also submit your tip online at saskatchewan.ca/conservation.



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The Hazards of **ILLEGAL DUMPING**

SCENIC prairie landscapes. Pristine lakes. Clean pure air. Breathtaking natural vistas. These are just a few of the treasures we experience living in our province. However, the natural beauty we enjoy can be threatened by two disturbing and illegal trends – unauthorized landfills and open dumping of garbage.

It's not unusual for a farmyard to have the odd rusty or discarded machinery or vehicle, old buildings or other assorted odds and ends. But it's against the law for a farm or acreage to accept third-party garbage and waste, as well as burn certain waste materials.

“One common issue we see is people trying to avoid landfill fees after they demolish buildings,” says Mike Rathwell, an environmental protection officer with the Ministry of Environment. “Some landowners will then compound the problem by burning hazardous materials that can result in further environmental concerns.”

Young children and older adults, especially those with existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, are most susceptible to the immediate negative health effects from open-air burning. Exposure to hydrocarbons, dioxins and furans are linked to problems with cancer, the liver, the immune system, endocrine system, reproductive system, and developing systems of the young. Other pollutants of concern in the smoke can include nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, arsenic, mercury, lead, hydrochloric acid and volatile organic compounds.

Open-air burning of hazardous materials results in pollutants settling on crops, in lakes and rivers and where animals graze or live. These pollutants can affect micro-organisms, plants, fish and mammals, or may be deposited on plants and eaten by livestock.

Landowners accepting or burning waste can also be fined under the province's environmental laws or they may be forced to do a costly cleanup.

Rather than burning hazardous waste materials, farmers and ranchers are en-



Report Illegal Dumping



couraged to take materials to their local landfill or recycle them where possible.

Those who dump garbage on the side of a road or in a clearing may also face fines or a cleanup order. Computer components, household trash, building supplies and bags of leaves and grass are some of the commonly-discarded items. Illegal dumping or littering can quickly escalate from one or two bags of garbage to a larger unsightly and potentially dangerous situation, with others using the same area to discard their waste.

Random dumping poses a big problem says Rich Hildebrand, a Prince-Albert based conservation officer with the Ministry of Environment. “For instance, old or broken appliances can leak chemicals that are hazardous to the environment, especially near water. Plastics, such as grocery bags and pop can rings, do not break down and can be dangerous for fish and wildlife,” he says. “Even innocuous items, such as bags of branches and leaves, can become fire hazards.”

Fortunately, many RMs are stepping up to stem this growing threat. For instance, the RM of Edenwold has started returning garbage left on the side of rural roads to the offender, usually by finding a personal identifier such as a bank statement in the discarded material. In another case, Edenwold's community safety officer, Ron Roteliuk, drove the garbage back to an address found within the refuse, much to the chagrin of the people who thought they would be re-

ceiving lost property instead of garbage. He says in other circumstances, people pay others to get their trash to the dump, but it doesn't always make it there.

Many illegal dumpers are trying to circumvent tipping fees that landfills charge, but that's a dubious practice.

“Many municipalities advertise special days or time periods when landfill access is free, so we encourage residents to take advantage of those opportunities,” adds Hildebrand, noting that landfill charges here are among the lowest in Canada.

Recycling offers another practical alternative for residents seeking to get rid of waste. There are a number of programs in Saskatchewan that collect and recycle products such as old tires, used batteries and electronics, compact florescent bulbs, oil and paint, plastic shopping bags, and construction and demolition materials. If you're not sure where you can recycle, the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council's website (saskwastereduction.ca) can help you locate recycling resources in your community.

Through education and compliance, the Government of Saskatchewan is hoping to reduce the frequency of both problems and keep Saskatchewan beautiful for the future.

For more details, contact the ministry's Client Service Office at 1-800-567-4224. If you suspect someone is dumping or burning mixed waste unlawfully, call the TIP line at 1-800-667-7561 or #5555 from your SaskTel cellular phone.



Enjoy the sun safely:

PROTECT YOUR SKIN AND EYES

DID you know that skin cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in Canada and one of the most preventable? Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun or a tanning bed causes skin cancer, premature skin aging, cataracts, and causes about 90% of melanoma cases. In 2015, an estimated 6,800 new cases of malignant melanoma and 78,300 cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were diagnosed in Canada.¹ While a sunburn or tan may fade, the underlying damage remains. Skin damage can build up with each UV radiation exposure from the sun or tanning beds. So, this summer and year-round, the Canadian Cancer Society encourages you to protect your skin to reduce your cancer risk.

HERE'S YOUR HANDY SUN SAFE CHECKLIST:

- **SEEK** shade under trees, tents, awnings, or create your own shade in open areas such as beaches by using an umbrella.
- **SLIP** on lightweight, loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing (like cottons) that keep you cool while protecting your skin.
- **SLAP** on a wide-brimmed hat that covers your head, face, ears and neck, especially when you're out hiking or on the beach. Note: hats without a wide brim (like baseball caps) do not provide enough protection.
- **SLIDE** on a pair of sunglasses that have 100% UV protection or UVA and UVB protection to protect your eyes.
- **SLOP** on sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and remember to re-apply according to the directions on the bottle, especially after swimming, exercising or sweating.

Extra bonus tip:

- Practice extra sun safety from 11am to 3pm when the sun's rays are strongest and whenever the UV index is 3 or more.

NATURAL SKIN TONE IS THE BEST SKIN TONE

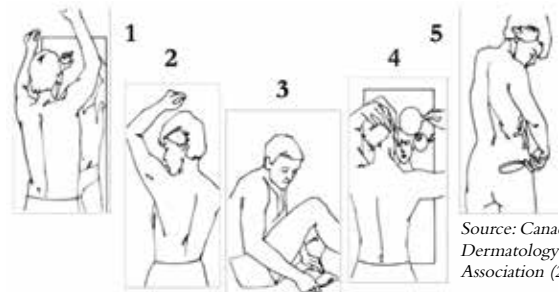
Tanning beds are not a safer way to tan. Tanning beds emit UV rays that are 5X more powerful than the sun. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has put tanning beds as a level 1 carcinogen, the same level as tobacco and arsenic, so they are known to cause cancer. Go tan-free; learn more at tanfree.ca.

KNOW THE FACTS

- A 'base tan' from the sun or tanning bed is evidence of skin damage and offers you the equivalent of SPF 2 or 3 from sunburns or further sun damage.
- Tanning beds can increase your risk of developing malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer.

SIGNS: ABCDEs OF MALIGNANT MELANOMA

Checking your skin for early signs of skin cancer can be as easy as knowing your ABCDEs. Recognizing the signs can help you tell the difference between a normal mole and one that could be malignant melanoma.




Source: Canadian Dermatology Association (2016)


MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

KNOW THE SIGNS, SAVE A LIFE


ABCDEs of Melanoma




A ASYMMETRY
The shape on one side is different than the other side.




B BORDER
The border or visible edge is irregular, ragged and imprecise.



C COLOUR
There is a colour variation with brown, black, red, grey or white within the lesion.



D DIAMETER
Growth is typical of melanoma. It is usually more than 6 mm although it can be less.



E EVOLUTION
Look for change in colour, size, shape or symptom such as itching, tenderness or bleeding.

Photos provided by Dr Joël Claveau

GET TO KNOW THE SKIN YOU'RE IN

Examine your skin regularly and visit your doctor if you notice any of your moles or pigmented spots show any of these signs or if there's any unusual, new marks or growths on your skin.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR REMINDER FOR LIFE!

Your life is important at any age. Sign up for Reminder for Life to receive an annual email or mail reminder to visit your doctor for your checkup and what you may need to discuss based on your age and gender. It's free, takes less than a minute to register at reminderforlife.ca and may save your life. For details, contact the Canadian Cancer Society toll-free at 1-888-939-3333 Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, or visit healthychoicesforlife.ca.

¹ Canadian Cancer Society (2015). *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2015: Special topic: Predictions of the future burden of cancer in Canada*. Retrieved from <http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-101/canadian-cancer-statistics-publication/?region=sk>

COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS:

Growing our contribution to rural Saskatchewan



ALL of us enjoy the warmer months in Saskatchewan, but summer can bring special perils, from insect bites to seasonal allergies to sprains, strains and other minor injuries that can happen when we're active outside enjoying the sun and big blue skies. So it is great to know that safe and effective professional health care is as close as one of 360 community pharmacies – many of them operated by pharmacist-owners – in Saskatchewan.

In recent years, provincial legislation has enabled the province's 1,400 pharmacists to invest in providing more access to a growing variety of health care services. In addition to providing traditional services, such as fulfilling prescriptions, many pharmacists may now prescribe medication for minor ailments and allergies and provide emergency prescription renewals. In many communities, patients don't need to book a doctor's appointment to obtain injections for vaccines and a range of other injectable medicines.

Pharmacists are well known for their expertise in prescription medications and provide consultative services for patients to ensure the safe use of prescriptions – especially helpful to those who may be taking many different medications for chronic conditions.

According to research conducted by Abacus Data this past winter, Saskatchewan people recognize the essential value their local community pharmacy brings and count on the services to be there into the future. At the same time, over 60 per cent expressed the view that it may be more difficult for pharmacist-

owned and operated pharmacies serving small towns to stay in business.

"Small communities recognize that their pharmacist is operating a small business as well as a providing access to valued health care services," said Dawn Martin, Chief Executive Officer, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan. "In many small towns, pharmacists must balance their investment in the training and capacity to provide expanded services with continuing excellence in traditional services, such as prescription filling."

Value of Prescription Dispensing

As pharmacists expand health care services, they must also maintain the traditional prescription dispensing capacity so central to excellent patient care. Many patients are so accustomed to having their medications dispensed that it is easy to forget what makes this essential health care service so important and valuable.

With a deep understanding of over 20,000 medications, their clinical use, as well as possible interactions, a patient's pharmacist uses that knowledge as a starting point for a careful, step-by-step series of actions that help ensure they are receiving the right medication, right dosage, and right course of treatment.

"The pharmacist acts as an expert consultant when patients need prescriptions filled," said Martin. "Every patient is treated with specific attention to the potential impact and side effects of the prescribed medication for that patient."

Pharmacists undertake the following actions before a prescription is dispensed:

- Review the medication to ensure the type of medication will be effective in treating the patient's condition;
- Assess the dosage, based on the patient's ability to process the medication through the liver and kidneys, to ensure it is safe;
- Check patient history and lifestyle to consider how well the patient will tolerate the prescribed medication;
- Consult with the patient's prescribing physician as needed to confirm important details about the medication, the dosage, and the course prescribed. For rural patients especially, this service saves time-consuming commutes to their family doctor; and
- Once the medication is packaged for dispensing, the pharmacist undertakes any billing that may be involved. Many patients are covered by a combination of public, private and spousal insurance plans, and the pharmacist completes the required – and often complex – billing directly on the patient's behalf. This saves patients from having to obtain reimbursements from health insurance providers.

Contributing to Community Life

Saskatchewan is Canada's most rural province, with the lowest population density. With fewer primary care facilities and physician practices in rural Saskatchewan, these communities rely more heavily on local pharmacies. In about 80 locations, the town pharmacist may be the only health care provider. As local businesses, pharmacies contribute employment, taxes and access to services. They also help RMs attract other service providers to their communities. The pharmacy's presence brings vibrancy to community life through their investment in the local community and their support of neighbours and civic life.

"Pharmacies are more than professional health care providers," said Martin. "As local business organizations, they contribute every day in different ways to their communities. Saskatchewan pharmacies advance community well-being as well as patient well-being. Both are essential for us to flourish as a province."

annual ditch mowing and hay salvage

JULY 8 DATE FOR PRODUCERS

HAY is available for salvage at no cost on provincial highway ditches as the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is once again planning an early mowing program between June 7 and July 15 along high traffic roads.

Priority for cutting and bailing highway ditches is given to the adjacent landowner before July 8. However, after July 8, the hay can be recovered by anyone, without the permission of the adjacent landowner. Of course, this is providing that salvage operations haven't already begun.

For those who participate in the program, hay should be cut at a uniform height in the ditches and bales must be placed no less than eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. The Ministry may remove hay bales in locations deemed dangerous for motorists. As well, all hay bales need to be removed by August 8; otherwise, they will be subject to removal by the Ministry.

Ministry contractors will mow a four-metre-wide swath along shoulders adjacent to Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, along with portions of Highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. During this time, mowing may also be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

Contractors will also conduct regular ditch mowing, cutting all four-lane highways between July 15 and the fall months. The four-metre-wide strip will be mowed adjacent to the other highways with additional mowing possible as required.

The annual mowing program helps control brush and weeds, which maintains sightlines for motorists on curves and intersections. The program also optimizes snow storage in ditches and reduces drifting on the road surface during the snowy winter months.

KEY DATES

- **JUNE 7 TO JULY 15 (STAGE I):**
Mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut adjacent to the road on all highways within Gateway Corridor Network; the National Highway System is included in this category. Some highway intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.
- **JULY 8:**
Prior to this date, a landowner or lessee nearest to a highway ditch has the first option to cut or bale hay. After this date, anyone may cut and bale hay or grass in a highway ditch without getting the permission of the adjacent landowner, provided salvage operations haven't begun.
- **BETWEEN JULY 15 AND OCTOBER 15 (STAGE II):**
Ministry contractors will begin mowing the entire width of ditches along all four-lane highways, while all other highways will get a four-metre cut adjacent to the highway shoulder. Some additional mowing may occur.

For more information, contact either your nearest Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure office or email communicationsHI@gov.sk.ca.

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COMMON TANSY – becoming a common problem

BY HARVEY ANDERSON

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP PLANNING ADVISOR

TWENTY years ago this plant was most often seen in garden patches, but it has become a very common roadside and pastureland weed. Common Tansy can form dense stands and has become a serious concern in pastures. This plant produces many seeds in flower heads, which hold the seed long into winter where winds can scatter the seeds on top of snow, which when crusted over, can act as sliding surface. Another main source of spread is through the use of rotary mowers, late in the year after the seeds have become viable.

This plant is a perennial which can grow to 1.5 meters tall. In flowering season the bright yellow, button shaped flowers that occur in flat-topped clusters at the top of the plant, are easily recognizable. The leaves are deeply divided and have a fern-like appear. The individual leaflets have toothed edges and are strongly aromatic when crusted. The plant has shallow, branching roots, which can locally spread the plants by rhizomes emerging from the root system, but the plant can also spread seed as explained above. Common Tansy can be transported by birds, animals, vehicles, and other motorized equipment that have been in an infested area. Seeds can remain viable up to 25 years; therefore, stopping seed spread is a main concern in the management of this weed.

Common Tansy can reduce the productivity of pastures for livestock and wildlife in wildlands and threatens the ecological health of infested areas. This plant contains several toxic compounds that pose a health risk for animals and humans if ingested or absorbed through the skin. Normally cattle and horses

will not eat much of the plant because of the bitter taste, but in dairy cattle it has been reported as the cause of some tainted milk. In pastures, it can grow in very thick, dense patches, which may act as barriers that stop cattle from utilizing available grasses beyond its boundaries. It is reported, in many sources, that sheep and goats will graze this plant without noticeable effects, as long as they have other plants to use in their overall diets.

Common Tansy prefers sunny areas with well-drained soils, and often infests stream banks, abandoned farm sites, pastures, and disturbed areas such as rail lines and roadside ditches. This plant does not tolerate intensive cultivation, but it will remain along slough edges within cultivated fields where there was no cultivation or spraying.

Small infestations can be dug up, but this is likely not practical for larger areas. Since this plant is rhizomatous, flowering stems can regrow from severed root segments. If cultivation or digging of plants is used for control, follow-up checks must be made in future years to watch for regrowth. Regular mowing can reduce seed production, but it must be repeated regularly to eliminate regrowth from the rootstock. Repeated stem removal will eventually deplete the food energy stored in the roots.

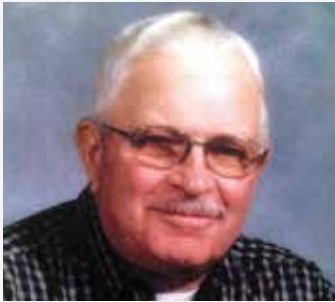
Various herbicides will control Common Tansy, including Escort, Clearfield, Milestone, Reclaim II, Truvist and Navius VM, so refer to the product labels as the herbicide costs can vary widely and there are restrictions on some of these products for use in pastures. Then, choose the most suitable product for your situation.



At this time there are no biological controls available, but this may change shortly as there is an ongoing program to look for possible, effective agents.

Harvey Anderson is an Invasive Alien Plants Advisor, working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and SARM. Funding of this project is provided through the Canada-Saskatchewan "Growing Forward" Program.

rural councillor
MEMBER NEWS



**RM OF CAMBRIA, NO. 6
 IN MEMORIAM
 ROBERT (BOB) HURREN**

Bob Hurren of Estevan, SK passed away on October 21, 2015 at the age of 78 years. In June 1964, Bob married Phyllis Udsogn, and they had five children. They devoted their lives to each other and the family farm. Bob was an active councillor member for the RM of Cambria, No. 6 from 1976-2005 in Division 2.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughter, Shauna Sorenson (Lane); daughter, Sandra Barnstable (Glen) and grandchildren, JJ, Connor, Cole and Cazlynn; son, Darren; son, Don (Paula) and grandchildren, Emily Jackson, Marcus, Josie and Noah; and daughter, Heidi Fleck (Wade) and grandchildren, Gavin, Jenna, Sophia and Andrew; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.



**RM OF PENSE, NO. 160
 IN MEMORIAM
 WILLIAM (BUD) SPEARING**

William (Bud) Spearing was born in the Oxbow area in September 1928 and passed away in August 2015. He is predeceased by his wife, Betty, and two sons,

Calvin and Peter. He is survived by his children, Robin, Daniel, Neil and Nancy.

In 1951, Bud moved to a farm in the Pense area. He became involved in the community coaching hockey and ringette and sitting on the committees and boards of the Cottonwood Church, St. Andrews United Church, Keystown Wheat Pool and Lumsden Heritage Home.

He was the Councillor for Division 4 in the RM of Pense from 1977-1997 and took a great interest in road building, maintenance and water drainage. He was easily accessible to ratepayers and willingly discussed their issues with an open mind and friendly manner. He enjoyed and cared about his position. Bud was a great asset to the RM of Pense.



**RM OF KELLROSS, NO. 247
 IN MEMORIAM
 BARRY CHOAT**

Barry Choat of the Lestock area, the Mower Operator for the RM of Kellross, No. 247, passed away in December 2015 at the Regina General Hospital. He was 51 years of age. He was hired in 2010 for the mower operator position and worked for the municipality until his passing. Predeceased by his parents, William and Helen, and his sister, Lorraine. Barry leaves to cherish his memory his three children, Alexandra, McKayla and Faith; a sister, Myrna Kosloski of Regina; two brothers, Darrell of Regina and Darcy (Brenda) of Ituna; two nieces, Cara and Shayla, two nephews, Brayden and Brandon; as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Barry will be sadly missed.



**RM OF EYE HILL NO. 382
 IN MEMORIAM
 VICTOR JOSEPH STANG**

Victor Joseph was born in Primate, SK to Jacob and Mary (Gerling) Stang in May 1931. Born into a farm family, he grew up playing hard and learning to work hard along with eight other siblings. As a young man, Victor met and married his beloved wife, Theresa Buechler, in August 1954, and together they raised their family of nine children. Victor served his community as Councillor for Division 3 in the RM of Eye Hill, No. 382 for 20 years from 1971-1991. He spent the last few years of his life as a resident of St. Joseph's Health Centre. Surrounded by family, He went to his eternal home on April 16, 2016 at 84 years of age.



**RM OF HURON, NO. 223
 RETIREMENT
 LORNE ERICKSON**

The RM of Huron, No. 223 and its ratepayers honored Foreman Lorne Erickson who retired at the end of 2015 after serving with the municipality for 38 years. It should be noted that Lorne served in various municipalities for

a total of 49 years as a patrol operator and/or foreman. The council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Huron, No. 223 would like to thank Lorne for his many years of service and wish him all the best in the future.



**RM OF BIRCH HILLS, NO. 460
RETIREMENT
GAYLEN TORGUNRUD**

Gaylen Torgunrud retired from the RM of Birch Hills, No. 460 Public Works staff on September 30, 2015. He began working with the RM in April 1984, totaling over 31 years of service. In that time, Gaylen built and graded many miles of roads throughout the RM. He served under the leadership of four Reeves and three administrators during his tenure. The council, staff and ratepayers would

like to thank Gaylen for his many years of service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Pictured with him at his retirement celebration in November 22, 2015 are the four Reeves he worked with: (L-R) Earl Mickelson (1997-2012), Gaylen, Alan Evans (2012-present), Dennis Rask (1978-1986), and Wayne Hovdebo (1987-1996).



**RM OF LAC PELLETIER,
NO. 107
10 YEARS OF SERVICE
KEN MARTENS**

Ken Martens was elected Councillor for Division 4 in the RM of Lac Pelletier, No. 107 in November 2005. He served the RM for 10 years until his retirement in October 2015. As Councillor, he served many terms as Deputy Reeve and was a committed representative for the RM to

the Lac Pelletier Regional Park Board, the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards, the Chinook Regional Library and the Development Appeals Board for the Village of Neville. For his dedicated service to the RM, Reeve Cornie Martens presented Ken with a SARM Public Service Award and an engraved mantle clock. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Ken for sharing his knowledge and experience and offer best wishes for a happy, healthy future!



**RM OF FRANCIS, NO. 127
30 YEARS OF SERVICE
DARREN SOLIE**

On April 14, 2016, the Council of the RM of Francis, No. 127 formally recognized employee, Darren Solie, for his achievement of reaching thirty years

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of exemplary service. Reeve Clayton Schmidt presented Darren with a plaque to commemorate the milestone. Darren started with the RM in 1986 as a seasonal road crew employee mastering the art of road building and grading, and now fills the position of Foreman with five road crew employees under his direction. On behalf of the ratepayers, fellow employees and council for the RM, we would like to congratulate Darren on reaching such an achievement. Here's looking forward to 30 more years!



**RM OF HUMBOLDT, NO. 370
40 YEARS OF SERVICE
ALBERT SCHREINER**

The RM of Humboldt, No. 370 honors Albert Schreiner for 40 years of excep-

tional service. Reeve Jordan Bergermann presented an engraved plaque and model sized Grader to Albert on behalf of all council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Humboldt. Congratulations Albert on reaching this achievement!



**RM OF BIRCH HILLS, NO. 460
10 YEARS OF SERVICE
TODD DEVENIS**

The RM of Birch Hills, No. 460 would like to acknowledge Todd Devenis for his 10 years of service. The RM council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the RM over the past 10 years, and we hope for many more years to come. Reeve Alan Evans (right) presented Todd with a

Certificate of Recognition and a gift on December 4, 2015.



**OF BIRCH HILLS, NO. 460
5 YEARS OF SERVICE
VICTOR DODERAI**

The RM of Birch Hills, No. 460 would like to acknowledge Victor Doderai for his five years of service. The RM council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication to the RM over the past five years, and hopefully, for many more years to come. Reeve Alan Evans (left) presents Victor with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift on December 4, 2015.

CRIME STOPPERS

making our communities safer SASKATCHEWAN CRIME STOPPERS

SASKATCHEWAN Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization that combines the efforts of the public, the media and the police to solve crimes in our communities. Founded in 1987, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers works with the RCMP to provide anonymous reports of criminal activity in Saskatchewan's RMs, cities, towns, villages and First Nations communities. There are four other Crime Stoppers programs operating in the province, working with their local police departments: Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw.

By offering cash rewards of up to \$2,000 in exchange for information leading to an arrest or charge while maintaining tipster anonymity, Crime Stoppers is making our communities safer to live, work and raise a family.

Over the years, we are proud to have contributed to more than 3,200 arrests, the recovery of over \$8.8 million in stolen property, and \$8.1 million in drugs seized in Saskatchewan!

WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is very grateful for the support it receives from our funding, media and community partners, such as SARM. It is through their support that we are able to make this province safer – one tip at a time!

Key Highlights From 2015

It was a busy year for Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers in 2015. To drive awareness and usage of the program, we worked with local media outlets, travelled across

the province attending trade shows, and delivered numerous program presentations to community groups, schools and First Nation Bands.

The Results

- 6,735 calls received
- 1,457 tips
- 101 charges laid
- 83 cases cleared
- 46 arrests made
- \$40,670 in property recovered
- \$32,221 in drugs seized
- \$19,950 in tips awarded



And, with your help, 2016 will be even better!

Saskatchewan Pharmacists: Invested in growing their contribution to community health care



Most of us take for granted that we can get our prescriptions filled through our local pharmacy. Far fewer know that the contribution of Saskatchewan's pharmacists goes well beyond the 16 million prescriptions dispensed annually from 360 community pharmacies in hometowns across our province.

March is Pharmacist Awareness Month when we recognize the contribution of 1,400 pharmacists to Saskatchewan health care.

This year, we have more to celebrate than ever.

It begins with providing expertise in the clinical use of more than 20,000 medications and related consulting services to support the safe and effective use of medications—including the provision of medication assessments for patients taking multiple prescription drugs to treat serious or chronic conditions.

But that's not all. Many pharmacists now provide injections for some drugs and vaccines.

If you've ever needed your prescription filled urgently, you'll know that pharmacists can extend refills on existing prescriptions and offer emergency prescription services.

One in three residents of Saskatchewan lives in a rural or remote community, and relies on any of 145 pharmacies—many of them operated by pharmacist-owners—to provide timely access to health care.

When community health and wellbeing are at stake, the local pharmacy makes an essential contribution. And that's something to celebrate!

Saskatchewan Pharmacists Annual Services Highlights

 **145**
rural or remote
pharmacies

- 360 community pharmacies, 1,400 pharmacists
- 145 remote or rural pharmacies
- Nearly 16,000,000 prescriptions dispensed

 **9,000**
medication
assessments for
seniors and other
Saskatchewan
residents

- 9,000 medication assessments for seniors and other Saskatchewan residents
- 7,800 patients receive pre-assembled pill packs that help individuals take their medications safely
- 7,300 minor ailments services
- 5,600 smoking cessation services

7,300
minor
ailments
services 

- 126,000 interventions to ensure patients do not have interrupted drug therapy (i.e. prescription renewals, emergency prescriptions, follow up to ensure correct information/dosage, etc.)

55,000
influenza vaccinations
between October
2015 and March 2016 

- 55,000 flu vaccinations have been administered at Saskatchewan pharmacies between October, 2015 and March, 2016

Saskatchewan Pharmacies...

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