

The background of the cover is a photograph of three horses standing behind a wire fence in a grassy field. A large brown horse is in the center, looking directly at the camera. To its right is a dark horse, and in front of it is a smaller, lighter-colored horse. The fence is made of wire and wooden posts. The sky is bright and slightly overcast.

# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 49 number 3  
FALL 2016 ISSUE

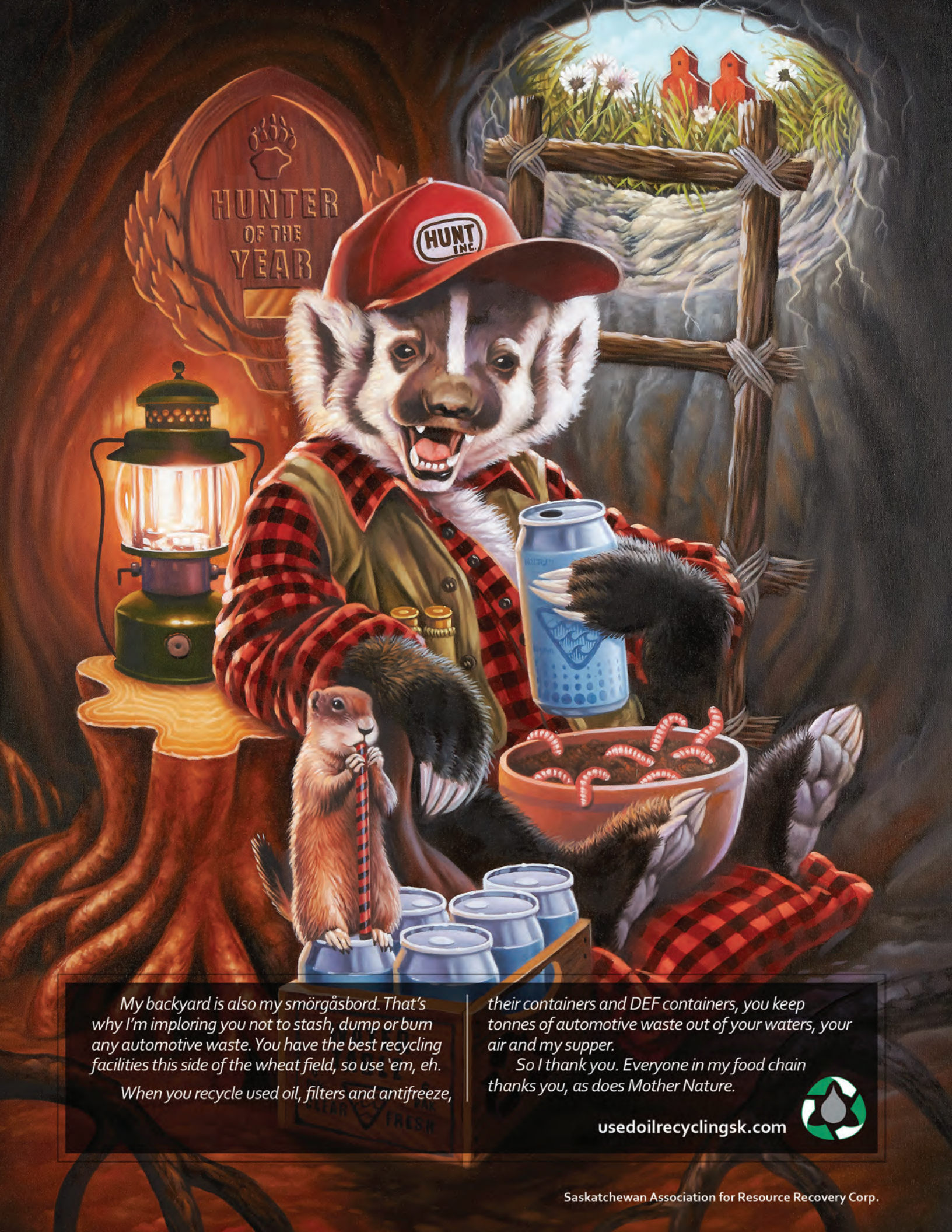
PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Renewing Canada's Ag Framework; Protecting Saskatchewan's Pollinators; 2016 RMAA Convention; Planning for Livestock Mortalities; ATV Safety; Environment vs. Economy; Training RM Administrators; Treating Saskatchewan Water Sources; Livestock Antibiotic Use Changes; What is Sustainable Beef?





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# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

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### VOLUME 49 number 3 FALL 2016 ISSUE

**PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
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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.



# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE LYLE STEWART**  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



**SASKATCHEWAN** agriculture is stronger, more sustainable and more profitable than it has ever been. This is due to the hard work and dedication of our farmers and ranchers, who are early adopters of state-of-the-art technology that not only improves productivity but also safeguards the environment while producing high-quality food.

Sustainability is important to Saskatchewan producers. Farmers and ranchers have often been called the original environmentalists, caring for our land, air, water and livestock. They are constantly looking to enhance practices and incorporate innovative technologies – such as zero-till, a technology pioneered right here in Saskatchewan – to help them

produce more, using less. Producers can be very proud of the fact that, thanks to their care, our environment will remain healthy for future generations.

Farmers and ranchers in this province are committed to good environmental stewardship and animal husbandry. Practices adopted by our farmers and ranchers have helped Saskatchewan make significant contributions to the mitigation of climate change. In the last 30 years, we have reduced our greenhouse gas footprint by 15 per cent through advancements in technology and management.

Agriculture continues to be a resilient and stable contributor to Saskatchewan's

economy. In 2015 alone we set a record for agricultural exports, brought in the second largest harvest in Saskatchewan's history and hit an all-time high for realized net farm income. The strength and profitability of our industry is evident. And it is encouraging to know this can be done with stewardship and sustainability in mind.

I want to thank our farmers and ranchers for their continued adoption of modern farming technologies and practices. Your efforts ensure this dynamic industry is sustainable and profitable for generations to come, and that is truly something to celebrate.





# WORKING ON YOUR BEHALF

## Addressing local issues

BY RAY ORB SARM PRESIDENT

**GREETINGS** to all reeves, councillors and administrators.

While the general public has heard a lot about "Transformational Change" as related to the health regions and school boards, there has been little mention of the topic from the province in regards to municipalities, except to quote the Finance Minister, "Everything is on the table."

Premier Wall has publicly stated several times at both SARM and SUMA conventions that as long as he's the Premier, his government will not force amalgamation. While I have absolutely no reason to doubt that, at the same time I think it is time to take a quick recap on SARM's position. SARM is, of course and for good reason, opposed to forced amalgamation, and in 2004 set out to prove that municipalities (both rural and urban) were not impediments to provincial economic development but rather how municipalities could help the provincial economy grow.

Through the Clearing the Path report, several recommendations came forward, one of them being that provincial stakeholders needed to create a pathway for all municipalities to work together. That was called the Municipal Capacity Development program, or MCDP, which brought together over 40 inter-municipal working groups that resulted in over 100 inter-municipal projects, most of which are still functioning today.

While this seemed to be a perfect model, and almost too good to be true, lately there was a change in how available funding from the federal gas tax fund was to be used. The MCDP could no longer receive the funding, and the last MCDP employee had to be let go.

On March 31 the MCDP effectively closed its doors, although a link for ongoing information can still be found on SARM's website.

SARM is still lobbying the province and federal government to reinstate the funding, so that the important program can be reinstated and inter-municipal cooperation can be expanded across the province. We really need the MCDP to continue, and we must find a way to fund the program.

We must not forget the principles and recommendations of Clearing the Path, and more than ever municipalities need to demonstrate how they are working and will work together with their neighbors in the future. This is the clear message that needs to be sent to the province and the general public.

You may have noticed that there was a federal/provincial agriculture ministers' meeting in Calgary to discuss the Next Policy Framework (NPF) Agreement. The "Calgary Statement" arose from the discussion which centered around seven main pillars:

- Markets and trade;
- Science, research and innovation;
- Risk management;
- Environmental sustainability and climate change;
- Value added agriculture and agri-food processing;
- Public trust; and
- Consultation and engagement.

SARM has been commenting on the NPF and will be part of the important and ongoing consultation process.

By now the Port of Churchill's closure for the 2016/17 shipping season will

have been widely discussed. SARM has taken a strong position on the closure as it directly affects farmers and municipalities in the north eastern part of Saskatchewan. We are particularly concerned about car loads of grain sitting on sidings and producers potentially not being paid for their grain.

There already have been calls for the federal and provincial governments, as well as the Canadian Grain Commission to intervene.

SARM supports the Hudson's Bay Route Association and will hopefully be meeting with some of the key stakeholders in the near future to discuss the dilemma which is being compounded by the challenge of moving another near-record grain crop to market.

SARM has made a submission to the *Canadian Transportation Act* to review and would welcome an invitation to have a meeting with Transport Minister Garneau and Agriculture Minister Macauley.

We have extended an invitation to Minister Macauley to attend an upcoming SARM convention and to tour a few Saskatchewan farms to give him a better sense of the diversity of western Canadian agriculture.

We are also in the process of arranging a meeting with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Minister Goodale as we view him as a key minister in our province to discuss disaster mitigation, disaster financial assistance arrangements, DFO, navigable waters and Building Canada Fund issues.

In the meantime, please stay tuned with SARM and view our website or contact board or staff members if you need assistance.



# ENVIRONMENT vs. Economy

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**THE** debate of what is more important to our people, the economy or the environment, has been going on for years. The supporters of our economy may state that a strong economy is more important than maintaining the environment as a strong economy grows our provinces and nation. The supporters of the environment may state that without a sustainable environment, we have nothing as it supports all life on earth and provides all natural resources.

This debate has recently become very political. Over the past year, special interest groups have been lobbying for such things as the development of pipelines, increased rail capacity, development of wind turbines, and green initiatives. All of this development, we have to be reminded, is important to the environment


and the economy. It is easy to segregate them to one side or the other, making the topic political. We have witnessed this many times in Canada through the east versus west debate, which has been a political hot button for years. It seems that when we start to divide environment and economy the notion of Western Alienation becomes more prevalent, a notion that western provinces have been alienated from mainstream political affairs in favour of the central provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

As a population, we have to focus on what is good for both the economy and the environment across the country. Just like a healthy population, a healthy economy is a moving economy. It is critical to the economy that we move commodities from one end of our country to the

other. We have to allow our producers to move at a maximum efficiency in both time and cost.

Just like a sustainable population, we have to live safely. It is critical that we move these commodities in a safe fashion with minimal or no impact on the environment. Anything that moves can be classified as unsafe, but the analogy of “if nobody moves, then nobody gets hurt” isn’t efficient and only acts as a barrier to production. Supporters of both sides must work together towards the sustainability of both the economy and the environment. Let’s take politics out of policy development and do what is best for both our provincial and federal economies.



A man in a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans stands on a rocky shore, fishing. He is holding a fishing rod that is bent, indicating a catch. In the water, a fish is jumping out, creating a splash. The background shows a calm body of water with a forested shoreline.

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GREG HUSZAR PHOTOGRAPHY



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# Renewing Canada's AG FRAMEWORK

BY BEN CHURSINOFF SARM SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

**GROWING** Forward 2 (GF2) is the agricultural policy framework that has been in place since 2013. It is set to expire in 2018, and talks have begun for establishing the next agricultural policy framework that will replace it. The current framework was developed in consultation with Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector, as well as other relevant stakeholders. This framework outlines policies and priorities for the agriculture sector, and then each province has some ability to customize the programs to fit their own regional needs. Funding for GF2 is provided on a 60 per cent federal and 40 per cent provincial split, and this will be maintained for the next iteration.

The following are some current statistics from the Government of Saskatchewan on GF2. At the national level, over \$4 billion in government funding has been provided for business risk management since GF2 was implemented. This breaks down to \$2.8 billion to agri-insurance, \$518 million to agri-stability, \$517 million to agri-invest and \$5 million to agri-recovery. In Saskatchewan, \$1.3 billion has been delivered to our producers. That breaks down to \$1 billion for agri-insurance, \$164 million to agri-invest, \$155 million to agri-stability and \$1.5 million to agri-risk.

From 2013-2018, GF2 programming has invested \$388 million in Saskatchewan, and to date, over \$232 million has been spent on strategic initiatives. GF2 programs are built around three broad national priorities: innovation; competitiveness and market development; and adaptability and industry capacity. These priorities are met through various strategic initiatives and programs that are categorized into eight areas: agriculture innovation; research and technology transfer; farm business management; trade and market development; value-

added business development; rural water infrastructure; environment, food safety, plant and animal health; and agriculture awareness initiatives. Programs in these categories are available to producers, associations, municipalities, First Nations and agri-food and agribusinesses.

Preparations for the next framework are underway. This has included a consultation meeting on June 14, 2016 hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan. This meeting brought together representatives from different associations and groups in the agriculture sector to discuss GF2. SARM attended the meeting as it was an opportunity to ensure that the programs offered in the framework continue to support producers and municipalities.

Flexibility in the framework is an important requirement as there can be drastic changes in the sector over five years, and each region faces different circumstances. For example, markets fluctuate, market access may change and the weather provides for extremes on both ends of the spectrum (flooding, fires and drought). SARM will continue to participate in the consultations and actively provide recommendations to support both our producers and municipalities.

As part of the federal lobby, SARM recommends that agri-stability be returned to original levels, increasing coverage from 70% to 85% of the reference margin. SARM further recommends that the limit on matching government contributions be increased for agri-invest, and that the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program includes funding for raw water pipelines. There are also a number of other recommendations that SARM is putting forward for crop insurance and forage insurance. Over the course of the next few years, SARM will continue to provide feedback on the framework and its programs.

Recently, the Calgary Statement was released by the federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers. The next policy framework will aim to achieve the following objectives:

- Expanding domestic and international markets and trading opportunities for the sector;
- Enhancing competitiveness and strengthening competitive advantages by advancing science and innovation capacity and encouraging the adoption of products, practices and processes;
- Anticipating, mitigating and responding to risks in a manner that supports the sustainable growth of the sector;
- Supporting the sector's resiliency and environmental sustainability to ensure long-term adaptation and growth;
- Improving the growth of the value-added agriculture and agri-food processing sector; and
- Securing and growing public trust in the sector.

In order to achieve these objectives, the next framework will focus on the following priority areas:

- Markets and trade;
- Science, research and innovation;
- Risk management;
- Environmental sustainability and climate change;
- Value-added agriculture and agri-food processing;
- Increasing public trust; and
- A commitment to consultations and engagement.

SARM is looking forward to seeing the next framework and its programs build upon the successes of the current GF2.





# RM ADMINISTRATORS

## Training for the future

BY LAUREL FELTN

SARM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

AS part of SARM's mission, and at the request of its members, a number of programs have been developed to meet the growing needs of rural Saskatchewan.

One of the greatest needs is that of RMs being able to employ a qualified administrator to not only manage the day-to-day functions of the RM office but to also manage RM staff and be a supportive resource to both the RM council and its ratepayers.

After consultations with the municipal sector in 2012, it was estimated that nearly half of municipal administrators anticipate retiring or leaving the profession in the next ten years. It was also determined that municipal administration, like most professions, is experiencing difficulty attracting and retaining qualified professionals as RMs are competing with other sectors for qualified people to fill these positions.

To assist RMs with these issues, SARM along with the Rural Municipal Administrator Association (RMAA) created the Rural Municipal Administrator Internship Program (MAIP), Rural Municipal Administration Scholarship, and Promoting the Profession. We fund these valuable programs through the Strategic Initiatives funding we receive from the Rural Revenue Sharing pool.

MAIP provides approved RMs with up to \$20,000 to train an RM administrator intern over a 52 week period in their own RM office either for succession planning (an existing RM administrator is retiring) or if an RM has the time and ability to train an intern who will then work elsewhere.

MAIP has funded 22 successful internships since its inception in 2012 and accepts applications from interns

and RMs that may be interested on an ongoing basis. More information on this program can be found at: <http://sarm.ca/programs/sarm-programs/maip>.

SARM also offers an annual Rural Municipal Administration Scholarship. This scholarship assists students with the cost of taking the Local Government Authority (LGA) program on their path to becoming a qualified RM administrator. In total, 13 scholarships of \$1,000 have been awarded over the last four years to worthy recipients enrolled in the LGA program; the most recent scholarships were awarded in October 2015.

We award three scholarships each year and encourage LGA students to apply by October 15. Application forms and more details can be found at: <http://sarm.ca/programs/sarm-programs/rmasp>.

Lastly, SARM uses some of the funding to assist the RMAA in their efforts to Promote the Profession of RM Administration to students choosing a career for their future. RMAA participates in career

fairs at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the universities of Regina and Saskatchewan and emails information to Saskatchewan high school career counsellors and post-secondary institutions.

RMAA has also expanded its efforts and are now targeting three rural-based career fairs in Yorkton, Muenster and Rosetown in hopes of reaching more students.

The fact that SARM offers these programs is only one step in the process of ensuring we have well trained RM administrators in the future. We need RMs to use the programs and encourage people in their communities looking for a bright career path to seriously consider becoming and a RM administrator.

If you have any questions about these programs or would like to apply, please contact SARM at 306-757-3577 or visit [www.sarm.ca](http://www.sarm.ca).

*The Rural Municipal Administrator Internship Program provides approved RMs with up to \$20,000 to train an RM Administrator intern over a 52 week period in their own RM office either for succession planning (existing RM Administrator retiring) or if an RM has the time and ability to train an intern for work elsewhere.*





# Protecting Saskatchewan's **POLLINATORS**

**BY HEATHER KINDERMANN**  
SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER

**AGRICULTURAL** operations and bees are an inseparable team. Many prominent crop varieties grown in Saskatchewan, such as alfalfa, canola, potatoes, mustard, caraway, coriander and all fruit bearing plants, depend on pollinators to produce seeds and fruit. Farm producers understand the importance of pollinators for their crops, and a municipality's official community plan and zoning bylaw can help establish agricultural industries and the natural ecosystems through simple policies and regulations. RMs, through their planning documents, are able to promote and protect pollinator habitat areas and include regulations that allow for bee keeping and honey extraction facilities.

## PROMOTE HABITAT PROTECTION

According to the *Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations*, Saskatchewan has an interest in conserving biodiversity, unique landscapes and ecosystems. Rural planning documents must contain policies that establish appropriate development standards and mitigation measures for new development, as well as identify significant natural lands and features that they want to maintain and protect. The benefits of protecting the natural land-

scapes and features include mitigating flood impacts, protecting water quality and ground water resources, wildlife protection, and of course, helping out local pollinators.

## BEE KEEPING AND HONEY EXTRACTION FACILITATES

Most rural zoning bylaws contain regulations that allow for bee keeping and honey extraction facilities in their agricultural areas. It is important that rural municipalities continue to allow for bee keeping and honey extraction facilities as well as review their policies to ensure they reflect current economic opportunities and situations. For example, in recent years urban bee keeping has grown in popularity and many cities have updated their planning documents to allow for this use. The Canadian operator of luxury hotels and resorts, Fairmont Hotels, has capitalized on this and now has 40 honeybee apiaries placed on their rooftop gardens worldwide.<sup>1</sup> This not only helps the local ecosystems, but allows the Fairmont to harvest its own honey to be used in its restaurants and resorts. RMs could also decide, through public consultation, to allow for urban bee keeping as a way to capitalize on this economic opportunity.

## GOOD FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Promoting bee keeping and habitat protection for pollinators in your municipality helps promote a sustainable, dynamic and diversified agricultural sector. Bees and bee products are a growing industry, with quality honey a much sought after product. Local Saskatchewan honey can be found on the shelves of large grocery chains, farmers markets and local businesses. Other bee products, such as beeswax and pollen, are also widely used in a variety of health and beauty products.

## CONCLUSION

Healthy pollinator populations are important to Saskatchewan's agricultural economy. By implementing practical development standards, protecting existing natural landscapes as well as including bee keeping and honey processing facilities in rural planning documents, RMs are aiding in the productivity of local crop operations, keeping their local pollinator populations healthy, and diversifying their local economies.

<sup>1</sup> [www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com)



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# 2016 RMAA CONVENTION

## Highlights

### MONDAY, MAY 16

#### Annual Golf Tournament:

**THE** RMAA held its annual convention golf tournament at the Royal Regina Golf Club in Regina. 104 golfers participated in the par 3, shotgun start event. The 'Gang of Three' (Canada Culvert, Finning Canada and Signal Industries) were once again major sponsors of the event. The weather was sunny and warm, and participants enjoyed the afternoon of golf and comradery.

That evening, Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHI) staff looked after the delegate registration for the convention. Delegates enjoyed a wine and cheese reception at the Delta Hotel Regina.

A Food Bank donation area (complete with donation barrels) was set up near the registration area. The donations were part of the target for the Humanitarian Services Committee's efforts for 2016. At the end of the convention, the food drive was deemed a success.

### TUESDAY, MAY 17

#### Morning Seminars:

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

**Municipal Assessment Appeals**  
Seminar led by Clint Krismer  
— Gord Krismer & Associates Ltd.

**Construction Procedures**  
Seminar led by: Cindy Schreiber  
RM of Wilton, No. 472

#### Records Management

Seminar led by: Denise Harry, Supervisor, Records Management, SGI Canada

#### Opening Luncheon:

The 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the RMAA officially opened at noon with a luncheon. There were 255 administrators, 33 spouses, nine associate members, one honorary member and 11 visitors for a total number registered of 309.

President Wendy Gowda called the luncheon to order and asked for a moment of silence for those administrators who had passed away the previous year. Following the meal, Rick Kindrachuk, former administrator of the RM of Fish Creek, No. 402, gave a brief address and officially opened the convention. Ray Orb, President of SARM, and Wade Murray, Deputy-Mayor of the City of Regina, brought greetings to the delegates. RMAA Vice-President Darren Elder responded to the greetings, and Gowda presented each of the RMAA's 31 new members (that were in attendance) with a membership certificate and an association pin. The meeting recessed at 1:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday Afternoon

##### President's Address:

Executive Director Kevin Ritchie reconvened the meeting at 2 p.m. Ritchie made several convention announcements, asked for and received a resolution to accept the annual audited financial statements for 2015 and a resolution to appoint Jay Meyer, Executive Director

of SARM, as Returning Officer for the 2016 elections. Ritchie then introduced Gowda, who gave her address to the delegates.

#### 25 Year Members:

Gowda presented 25 year membership pins to four members.

#### Rural Board of Examiners:

Gowda, Rural Board of Examiners Representative Darren Elder, and Secretary to the Rural Board of Examiners, Kevin Ritchie, presented the advanced Rural A Certificates and Rural Superior A Certificates to the successful applicants.

#### Fraternal Delegates:

Gowda then recognized the visiting delegates from our fraternal organizations who were in attendance:

UMAAS – Kim Gartner, Macklin, SK  
AARMA – Tyler Lawrason, Provost, AB  
MMAA – Chad Davies, Onanole, MB

#### SARM Update:

Orb, Meyer, and Laurel Feltin, Director of Programs and Operations for SARM, brought greetings and spoke about a number of current issues that SARM is working on that involves RMs.

#### Keynote Speaker:

Elder introduced Jeff Mulligan as the Tuesday afternoon guest speaker. Mulligan's presentation was sponsored by SMHI.

The convention adjourned for Tuesday at 5 p.m.



# *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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

## **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](http://www.municipalawards.ca) to get full details and a nomination form.
- ✦ Deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 9, 2016.**

## **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.

Thank you to our returning title sponsor:

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## WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

The morning began at 9 a.m. with greetings from Keith Comstock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Government Relations.

Advisory Services Branch Staff presented a review of several amendments to various legislation.

Cynthia Mamer, Rural Addressing Administrator, Emergency Management & Fire Safety Branch, Prince Albert, gave a short presentation updating the 911 Rural Addressing project.

At 11:45 a.m. a pizza buffet luncheon was served to the delegates.

At 12:30 p.m., participants were encouraged to begin round table discussions. Several topics were suggested and the topics were displayed as a slide show on the screen.

### President Elected:

At 2 p.m. Meyer announced that Gowda, Administrator for the RM of Leroy, No. 339, was re-elected President of the RMAA by acclamation. Gowda spoke briefly to the convention thanking them for their support and for putting their trust in her once again.

### SMHI Address:

SMHI CEO Rodney Schoettler gave a brief address concerning small changes to the SMHI process for 2016. Schoettler then introduced the SMHI sponsored Keynote Speaker, David Irvine. Irvine gave an interesting and amusing presentation. The afternoon session was recessed at approximately 3:45 p.m.

## SMHI Banquet:

At 6:30 p.m. delegates enjoyed a banquet sponsored by SMHI.

Gowda acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Also seated at the head table were Elder and his wife, Leeta; Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter and his wife, Bonnie; Orb and his wife, Val; Wayne Black, SMHI President; Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs; and Ritchie, recipient of the 2016 Lou Jacobs Award, and his wife, Tammy.

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

Black and Schoettler made presentations recognizing outstanding SMHI sales and performances in 2015.

Orb also made three draws for door prizes at the end of the night.

## THURSDAY, MAY 19

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

From 9 to 9:30 a.m., Steve Suchan gave a presentation on behalf of SAMA.

Meyer announced that nominations for Vice President were closed at 9:15 a.m. and that Elder, Administrator for the RM of Wilton, No. 472, was declared elected by acclamation. Elder gave a brief address thanking the members for placing their trust in him.

RMAA Committee Reports were presented by the RMAA Executive from 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

## Divisional Meetings:

Around 10:15 a.m. all members went to their respective divisional meetings. The current Divisional Directors for Divisions 1 and 5 (Sheila Keisig, RM of Tullymet, No. 216 and Gary Dziadyk, RM of Aberdeen, No. 373) were re-elected by acclamation. Linda Boser, Administrator for the RM of Swift Current, No. 137 was elected by acclamation as the new Director for Division 3, replacing Lori McDonald, who did not seek re-election.



At about 11 a.m., the divisional meetings adjourned and the main meeting reconvened. Gowda introduced the RMAA Executive members for 2016-17. As well, she introduced Janet Black as the incoming RMAA Executive Director. Black will replace Ritchie as the Executive Director effective July 1, 2016.

No resolutions were brought forward from the divisional meetings.

### SARM Door Prize Draws:

Several draws were made for SARM door prizes. The 2016 RMAA convention adjourned around 11:30 a.m.





### **Schedule of Upcoming Modules**

**\* Municipal Leaders Roles and Responsibilities  
(for SARM Members)**

November 8, 2016 -Saskatoon

**Strategic & Financial Planning for Municipalities**

November 28, 2016 - Village of Meota

**Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals**

November 30, 2016 -Village of Loreburn

**Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace**

November 29, 2016 -Prince Albert

**PR & Communications for Municipalities**

December 2, 2016 –Swift Current

**Community & Land-Use Planning**

December 2, 2016—Yorkton

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

Municipal Leadership Development Program

200-2221 Cornwall Street

REGINA, SK S4P 2E1

Email: [mldp@sasktel.net](mailto:mldp@sasktel.net)

Phone: 306.761.3931

Fax: 306.565.2141

**\* THERE IS NO PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THIS MODULE**

To register for all other modules or to learn more about the program visit [www.mldp.ca](http://www.mldp.ca)





## The Effective **RURAL COUNCIL** (Part III)

BY GEORGE B. CUFF FCMC

### What You Really Do!

**THE** first two segments of this article dealt with the legislative base of a council; that is, what are you required to do by law. This article deals with what else a councillor is expected to do, which may not be legislated but is no less part and parcel of the job of a local government elected official. Council members are required to do other things which may not be stated expressly in legislation but are akin to the expectations of staff as the last line in many job descriptions, so cleverly stated as “any other related duties as may be required from time to time!”

But what are those “other related duties?” Based on my experience with councils across Canada these include:

#### Representing Others

Every elected official holds his/her position at the discretion of the electors. No one is entitled to office, regardless of how long they have served or how successfully. They retain the support of their residents through hard work, continual focus on local issues and ongoing contact with a broad cross-section of the people who make up their community.

While council members may have few mechanisms available to them to discern the will of the public, they can listen to the voices around them and seek out individual comments wherever possible. It is clear that most, if not all, council members are elected due to their fellow citizens belief that their favoured candidate for office is actually sincere when he/she says “I am here to represent your interests.” While that may not be satisfactory to the citizen whose cause is rejected by a majority of councillors, it is the sense that the councillor is legitimately concerned with “getting

it right” on behalf of the majority that must underlie public confidence.

Remembering that citizens are the target audience and not the staff nor other members of council is absolutely central to successful citizen representation. This requires encouragement to the public to become involved in the political process and ensure that there are avenues available for useful and timely input. It does not require finding ways by which the public becomes involved in all issues or even a majority of them. Rather, an elected official should be concerned with the removal of any apparent barriers to public participation that do not seem to be reasonable or necessary.

While much has been said about the need for public input, and while there should be such input on very significant issues, an election process is often the best public input available to all citizens. If they like what you are doing, chances are you will be back. If not...

#### Governing Collegially

There are two related components to this fundamental task. One is to place

the focus on governance rather than on the details of administration. The second is to seek to work together with one's colleagues in arriving at decisions that best reflect the interests and needs of the population. Governance necessitates placing the focus on “what is to be done,” whereas administration has as its major focus “how to accomplish council decisions and policies in an efficient, effective manner.” Policy (i.e. governance) deals with “what;” procedures deal with “how.”

The lack of focus by a council on what needs to be done results, unfortunately but almost consistently, in an inordinate preoccupation on administrative decision-making and actions rather than on the tasks entrusted to a council. Frequently, and unfortunately, some rural councils involve themselves on day-to-day procedures and far less on what direction council should be providing through its policies and budgets. Administrators can often do little other than wringing their hands as they hear from individual councillors on how projects are to be completed knowing that a



more trusting council would leave such issues to an administration they trusted.

Working together to accomplish council-approved goals and targets is the litmus test of an effective council. Focusing on governance (i.e. the making of council decisions) as opposed to interfering in the day-to-day administration is part of the challenge. The other key aspect is finding a group of people to serve on a council who are sufficiently mature to set aside personal differences and focus on the broader picture (i.e. what is in the best interests of the taxpayer).

Let me be blunt. Do you want to know whether or not you as a council are doing your job? Tell me: what and when was the last policy you developed, approved or amended? So... the last council did all the heavy lifting and got those all done, did they? If so, why did you run?

#### Determining (or Confirming) the Direction for the Community

This is the one feature that is often accorded the least degree of attention. Yet, this is the one that holds the most

promise for anyone hopeful of making a real impact as a council member. Members are charged with setting the course and allocating the necessary resources to get the job done. Unfortunately, and all too frequently, a council quickly moves into the role of reviewing a draft budget and discussing and deciding upon issues that have either been left over from the prior term or that are specific to that day. While these are important challenges, their value will seem of little value if the council does not step back and determine where it plans to take the community and the issues that it sees as the top priorities over the next few years. Being on a council is not about carrying forward the status quo. If that were true, why would anyone want to change the make-up of a council? No, the real challenge is to chart a new course and set out the markers that will assure council that substantive progress is being made.

#### Preparing for Meetings

Meeting preparation is an essential aspect in the life of a council member. While it may appear to be onerous for some

because they have never felt comfortable with reading, learning how to review reports and discern what the key governance issues are is not as difficult as it may first appear. Being prepared for meetings, however, is critical to the success of an elected official.

Experienced council members will say that while it is important to review materials, spending too much time on all the details in some reports does little to help the councillor add value as a member of the governing body. Preparation requires reading, reflecting and perhaps asking questions of your CAO. Asking questions before a council meeting is also preferable as the CAO will have time to prepare a reasoned response. Otherwise, the process of asking tough, value-laden questions at a council meeting is often treated as a game of gotcha.

**Next article:** I will continue along this path in the next segment by pointing out several other critical roles, including building consensus, representing council's interests, monitoring progress on priorities, and maintaining best interests.



YOUR TRUSTED RECYCLING EXPERTS







**Ombudsman  
Saskatchewan**  
Promoting Fairness

# Getting acquainted with the **OMBUDSMAN SASKATCHEWAN**

**WHEN** *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015* came into force on November 19, 2015, it expanded the Saskatchewan Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include municipalities. In the months that followed, we had several opportunities to reach out to municipal councils and administrators. They wanted to know our role and what to expect if a ratepayer called us with a complaint. At the same time, ratepayer calls began coming in and have steadily increased. This article provides an overview of our process in light of some of the questions we have heard so far, and an update on municipal complaints during the first half of 2016.

## TALKING WITH MUNICIPALITIES ABOUT OUR PROCESS

During 2016, Ombudsman Mary McFadyen and others from our office have had the pleasure of speaking at various municipal gatherings, including SUMA and SARM's annual conventions, a City Mayors' Caucus meeting, the City Clerks' Association spring session and SUMA's Village Sector Meeting. On April 19-21, we offered webinars to explain our role and answer questions about our process. About 150 people participated from many different types of municipalities. The feedback we received told us:

- the introductory information was helpful;
- there are some questions and concerns that these sessions have helped to address; and
- some people would like more detailed information.

To help municipalities, here is an overview of our process that highlights some common questions.

## First Steps

An imaginary ratepayer – we'll call her Joan calls the Ombudsman's Office with a complaint. We will want to know a few things:

- What person or entity is Joan's complaint about? It may be about a municipality or council member, including a council committee, a controlled corporation, or another body established by a council.
- What is Joan's complaint about? It may be about a decision or an action (done or omitted), or an allegation of conflict of interest or a code of ethics contravention.
- What has Joan done to try to resolve the issue? We are an office of last resort, so whenever possible and appropriate, people should try all avenues available to them before we will get involved. We will talk with Joan to help her understand whether she needs to take any other steps first. If so, she will be welcome to call us back later if she thinks the outcome is unfair.

## You wanted to know:

How did Joan find out about the Ombudsman? Joan may have found out about the Ombudsman through word of mouth (friends, family, etc.), which accounts for about one third of the people who contact us. About another third of the people who contact us tell us they know about us through having made a previous complaint. Others tell us they heard about us from our website, promotional materials/advertising, or a municipal office or council member.

Should municipalities do something to inform ratepayers? Some ratepayers may be aware of the Ombudsman's role and some may not. This is an opportu-

nity for you to explain your complaint processes and to assure ratepayers that you are still their first point of contact. You can help them to understand that, if you are unable to resolve an issue, then Ombudsman Saskatchewan is available; an impartial third party that can look at the matter objectively, assist with finding a resolution, and investigate when appropriate.

Reaching out to ratepayers proactively helps ensure that the information they have is accurate. It also demonstrates that you are being open about your complaint processes and that you are interested in helping ratepayers find a fair resolution when issues arise. When providing information about the Ombudsman, you are welcome to refer to the general information that is available on our website, [www.ombudsman.sk.ca](http://www.ombudsman.sk.ca), and in our brochure. If you would like paper copies of the brochure or if you have any questions about your communications plans, you are welcome to contact us.

## Informal and Formal Approaches to Complaint Resolution

If Joan has tried to resolve the problem using all the options available to her and she still thinks the outcome is unfair, we may try to resolve the issue informally. For example, after talking with Joan and reviewing her information, we may contact your municipal office to see if you can tell us more about what happened and why. Through conversations both with you and Joan, we may be able to work out a solution.

If that doesn't work or if it is not the kind of problem that can be resolved informally, we may decide to investigate. At the end of an investigation, we will review our findings and analysis and decide whether to make any recommendations.



You wanted to know:

How will the municipality know if Joan has contacted the Ombudsman's Office? It depends on what happens with the complaint. For example, if we refer Joan back to your office, we will not tell you, and we will leave it up to Joan to contact you. If we try to resolve the problem informally, we will likely call your office to make inquiries and talk about possible solutions. If we decide to investigate, we will provide written notice to the appropriate official. Depending on the nature of the complaint, we will provide notice to the administrative or executive head of the municipality, or to the mayor or reeve, or to the Minister of Government Relations. If we decide to make recommendations, we would provide our draft recommendations to the same party and provide them with an opportunity to respond to us before we finalize the recommendations.

You may be interested in knowing how many complaints, in total, we receive about your municipality. At the end of the calendar year, we will tally the complaints received and provide those totals to you. At that time, we will also let you know how much of that information we will publish in our annual report, which is tabled each year in April.

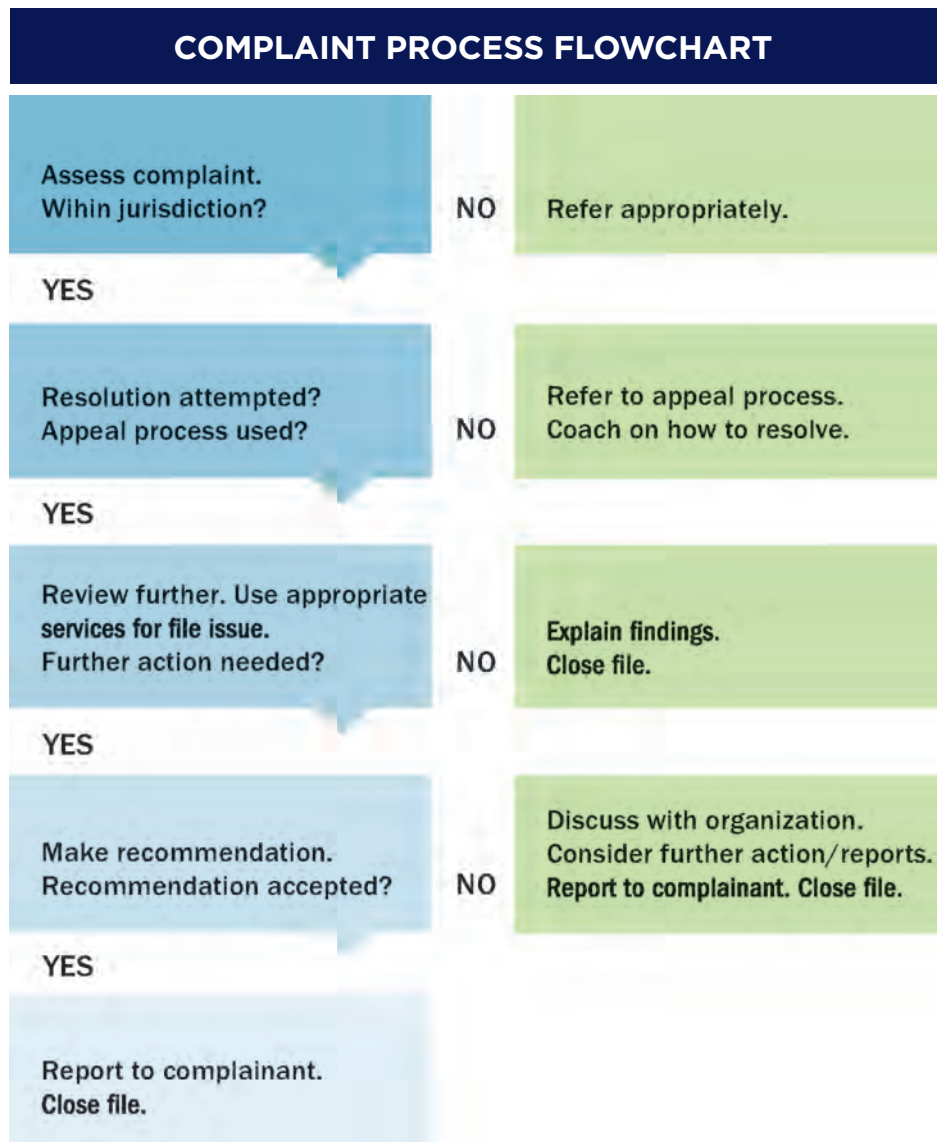
### COMPLAINTS OVERVIEW FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2016

From January 1 to June 30, 2016, we received 275 complaints about municipalities: 63 were received about municipalities under *The Cities Act*, 192 were received about municipalities under *The Municipalities Act*, 14 were received about municipalities under *The Northern Municipalities Act*, and six were about undisclosed municipalities.

### COMPLAINT EXAMPLES FROM OTHER PROVINCES

It is too early to provide specific examples of the complaints we have been receiving, but here are some examples from other provinces to help give you an idea of the types of issues that may arise.

- Four people complained that their eligibility for paratransit was unfairly assessed.



- A property owner complained that his subdivision application was handled unfairly.
- A hotel owner complained that special taxes imposed on local accommodations were not being used for destination marketing as originally planned.
- A ratepayer complained because her municipality wanted to change a plan that would enable it to change a zoning bylaw. When the municipality advertised a public meeting to discuss the changes, it did not explain the implications of what would be discussed.

### ON THE HORIZON

Much of our focus since November of 2015 has been on introducing our Office to municipalities and providing a basic understanding of our role. In the coming months, we plan to build on that information by offering more training opportunities and reference materials.

After the election period, we plan to continue offering introductory presentations and webinars for those who are newly elected or who have not yet attended.



# STOP THE SPREAD of Aquatic Invasive Species

**IN** Western Canada, aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels pose a serious threat to lakes and waterways. Invasive mussels have been confirmed in Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake, the Red River and in North Dakota waterbodies, as well as many other U.S. states.

Invasive species have the potential to severely impact aquatic habitats, recreational and commercial fisheries, and water-based infrastructure. Maintenance for infrastructure impacted by invasive species could cost millions of dollars a year. For example, in the Ontario Great Lakes region where invasive mussels are prevalent, maintenance costs to power generation and water treatment alone were \$267 million between 1988 and 2004, or about \$15.7 million annually. Meanwhile Alberta estimates annual maintenance costs of \$75 million if invasive mussels become established there.

That is why Saskatchewan is working hard to keep aquatic invasive species out of the province. Prevention is the most cost-effective way to control their spread, and the province has undertaken a number of initiatives to combat these alien invaders.

## LEGISLATION

The province has been active on this issue for years. Regulations prohibiting the importation, possession or transportation of high-risk aquatic invasive species (including invasive mussels) have been in place since 2011.

In 2015, regulations were amended to strengthen the ability of conservation officers to inspect, quarantine and decontaminate watercraft known, or suspected, to contain aquatic invasive species.

Federal legislation has also improved. Fisheries and Oceans Canada worked with the provinces and territories to develop new federal regulations pertaining to aquatic invasive species through the National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. These regulations came into force in June 2015, and the province has been working with Canada Border Ser-

vices Agency staff to identify high-risk watercraft entering the province.

## PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The province's prevention and educational efforts include increased watercraft inspections and decontaminating high-risk watercraft found entering the province. These inspections focus on watercraft being brought into the province from southern and eastern jurisdictions. This includes coordinating watercraft inspections and decontaminations with Canada Border Services Agency staff.

Saskatchewan has two mobile decontamination units that are used on high-risk watercraft found in or entering the province. The Ministry of Environment initiated watercraft inspection and decontamination training for staff in 2014. Roadside inspections will be conducted at a variety of areas of the province in 2016, including provincial parks and at organized watercraft events.

The Clean, Drain, Dry initiative launched in 2015 is the main focus at inspection stations and events to demonstrate the importance of making this critical practice a habit for all watercraft operators. Clean, Drain, Dry is a common message in North American jurisdictions and is the focal point of ministry educational and advertising efforts.

These education efforts include profiling the issue in the ministry's hunting and anglers' guides, and in radio, online and print-based advertising. It is also featured on the government website, boat launch and highway signage and will be highlighted in a video public service announcement on Bell Media.

The province also proclaimed Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week in 2015 and 2016 as a way to raise awareness for the issue and importance of the Clean, Drain, Dry initiative.

Early detection monitoring is conducted through the larval (veliger) sampling program by both ministry staff and SaskPower. This program focuses on testing water for mussels in their larval

form. About 20 Saskatchewan lakes are tested each year.

An important part of the fight is the Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) Program. Partners such as the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Water Security Agency, Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre and other non-government organizations and members of the public assist with the detection of aquatic invasive mussels.

## FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In June 2016, an interprovincial "Co-ordinated Regional Defence Against Invasive Species" agreement was signed by the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. This agreement will increase coordination between jurisdictions in western Canada, resulting in shared resources and planning related to both prevention and response to aquatic invasive species.

In 2012, a WEST911 system alert led to the State of Utah decontaminating a boat travelling to Saskatchewan. WEST911 is a network of western states and provinces that alerts jurisdictions when high-risk watercraft are travelling across borders. The provincial government is also a member of the Pacific North West Economic Region's invasive species working group, dealing with aquatic invasive species and prevention.

## WHAT'S NEXT

The focus in 2016 and beyond will be on increased inspections, decontaminating high-risk watercraft entering the province, and education efforts to protect our fish populations, aquatic habitats and water-related infrastructure. We will also continue to work with other jurisdictions and agencies and co-ordinate inspection efforts wherever possible.

To report suspected invasive species, contact the Ministry of Environment or call the TIP Line 1-800-667-7561.





# Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

# CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY

# YOUR BOAT

Before returning home from out of province, visiting Saskatchewan or moving between waters within the province, make sure to:

## CLEAN

all visible plants, animals and mud

## DRAIN

all on-board water and leave plugs out during transport and storage

## DRY

your watercraft and all related gear completely

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash and dump bait bucket water on land.

**To report suspect invasive species, please contact the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP Line.**



[saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment)  
1-800-667-7561 | #5555 SaskTel Cell

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— of —  
Saskatchewan





# TREATING SASKATCHEWAN WATER SOURCES

**BY DR. HANS PETERSON**

SAFE DRINKING WATER AMBASSADOR, SAFE DRINKING WATER FOUNDATION

**SASKATCHEWAN** “imports” great quality water from the Rocky Mountains. This water is picked up by Saskatoon from the South Saskatchewan River and, indirectly, by the Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant through diversions from Lake Diefenbaker. Unfortunately, many small municipalities and First Nations communities in Saskatchewan do not have access to good quality source waters.

## WATER SOURCES IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN

Indeed, rural Saskatchewan has some of the poorest quality raw water sources anywhere. In terms of global water quality, we are right at the bottom. So much so that our provincial government felt it was necessary to condition our residents to accepting drinking poorer quality water than most other people in the world. Specifically, the Saskatchewan Guideline for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS – a measure of the amount of salt) was changed from Canada’s (and the rest of the world’s) guideline of 500 mg/L to 1,500 mg/L. Without this change, most communities using groundwater sources would never meet our regulations. Saskatchewan people just have been expected to get used to drinking salty water.

While high TDS is not a health concern, it often imparts a taste to the water. Today, there are no concrete guidelines in place for aesthetics. Taste and odour

have been forgotten by both provincial and federal regulators, until Prime Minister Trudeau proclaimed that he wanted safe and potable drinking water for First Nations. What about residents in rural municipalities? Many small communities in Saskatchewan are depopulating and can no longer afford to support their old water treatment plant much less invest in modern water treatment facilities that can meet technical water quality requirements, as well as provide water that is aesthetically palatable.

## CONTAMINANTS IN OUR WATER SOURCES

There are many components other than salt in our tap water.

The average person in Saskatchewan would be surprised to learn just how many contaminants there are in ground water typically found in Saskatchewan. These compounds include iron, manganese, ammonium, arsenic, hydrogen sulphide (a gas that smells like rotten eggs) and methane (another gas, but it has no smell). There are also other compounds that are critical to successful water treatment in Saskatchewan: the removal of bioavailable compounds and nutrient sources for bacteria as well as the removal of dissolved organic carbon (DOC).

Without proper treatment, bacteria can and will grow in treated water reservoirs and distribution systems right up to your tap.

## FULLY TREATING OUR WATER

There is more. Treating water must also effectively deal with disease-causing microbes that most regulators overlook because they are so darn difficult to detect. For example, in the United States two-thirds of all waterborne illnesses are caused by viruses. In Canada that number is zero. Why? Did the United States Department of Homeland Security not allow viruses to cross the border?

Funny, a provincial medical doctor actually publicly stated that the hepatitis A virus is only a waterborne illness in developing countries. At that time, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to implement its Groundwater Rule, which was prompted by the presence of viruses in U.S. well water sources. It was understood then that seven percent of U.S. wells were contaminated by the hepatitis A virus.

If we were to add disease-causing microbes to what is wrong with rural water sources, we would have to add many more problems that cause difficulties in the treatment of our water sources. And, some disease-causing microbes are sparse in the raw water, but the walls of pipelines offer an ideal growth surface – they attach, multiply and form a biofilm (slime layer) coating the pipes right from the water treatment plant to your home.



## THE SCIENCE OF TREATING POOR QUALITY SOURCE WATERS

The study of the science regarding raw water of poor quality being treated using inadequate water treatment processes and then the inadequately treated water being distributed can be summed up in one word: Depressing. It is depressing because now we have the tools to deal with all of these problems, but as long as it is easier for regulators to ignore the issues and look the other way the quality of distributed water in rural Saskatchewan will remain questionable.

## KNEE-JERK WATER TREATMENT

Most regulators, engineering companies, and manufacturers have knee-jerk reactions to water quality problems. See a problem, find a solution. What they should do instead is to look at the issues and find solutions not for one, but for more than a dozen problems. This shortsightedness is what has got Canada's First Nations into a pickle with more than 90 per cent of communities being unable to meet the full complement of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

While the national media has focused on boil water advisories, they are just symptoms of pervasive poor water treatment processes. Municipalities need to take notice as their state of affairs is not better than most First Nations communities; these are problems we share equally. Let's look at a couple of articles in this regard.

## THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND SAFE WATER

*The Canadian Medical Association Journal* carried an editorial by Steve Hruddy "Safe water? Depends on where you live!" (CMAJ 2008, 178:975).

Mark Torchia and I responded to his article: "Safe Drinking Water for Rural Canadians." Our comments centered on the poor quality water that many rural communities have to treat and the challenges associated with treating these source waters. This combination has led

to the distribution of poor quality tap water across Canada's rural communities, whether in towns and villages, or in First Nations communities. We suggested that we need better, not inferior, water treatment technologies to solve this problem.

## BETTER WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES REQUIRED

This is an exceptional, but not insurmountable problem, and yet we ask communities with poorer raw water sources than cities to accept shortcut water treatment approaches using versions of technologies that cities use.

Is there something inherently problematic in using conventional technologies on high quality city source waters? Not really. But, when you apply those technologies on poor quality source waters, the end result is often not good. Our suggestion in CMAJ was "A simpler and universal solution exists. Better water treatment systems are needed for rural water users."

## SUCCESS IN WATER TREATMENT: SEPARATING WASTE FROM PURE WATER

Success in water treatment will not come without a thorough understanding of the physics, chemistry and biology of the water. The problems are many, but there is a way we can move the problems to one side and pure water to the other side. In the photo on the top right we did this. We used a Reverse Osmosis (RO) membrane and split up the raw water source for Saddle Lake Cree Nation's IBROM into a concentrate (waste) and permeate (pure water).

In a conventional treatment, the water is not split, and all the water is treated. What we drink is everything. This may be okay when high quality raw water sources are used like in the cases of Saskatoon and most other cities. However, the federal government has gone so far as to label many local water sources as "untreatable." Some 15 years ago "untreatable" raw water at Yellow Quill First Nation caused the Department of Indian Affairs to support a two year project to try to get rid of the "un" in un-treatable.

## THE INTEGRATED BIOLOGICAL AND REVERSE OSMOSIS MEMBRANE TREATMENT PROCESS

A water treatment process called the Integrated Biological and Reverse Osmosis Membrane (IBROM) treatment process was developed. The IBROM can treat even the poorest quality raw water sustainably and produce tap water of 10 to 100 times better quality than what is required by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

The head operator for Yellow Quill First Nation's IBROM plant and I presented the IBROM development at the United Nation's headquarters in New York in May 2005.

## FULL-SCALE IBROM PLANTS

There are now 16 First Nations in Saskatchewan and one in Alberta producing some of the highest quality tap water in the world using the IBROM process. This all started at Yellow Quill, which belongs to the Saskatoon Tribal Council. This tribal council looks after six water treatment plants, five of which are now IBROM plants.

There is proof that very poor quality water can be treated most effectively and economically; mission accomplished.

This was my dream come true as my marching orders from Indian Affairs Jouko Kurkiniemi was to develop a technical solution that was able to produce safe and great tasting tap water. The un- in un-treatable had squarely been removed.

The then Saskatchewan head of capital projects for Indian Affairs, Earl Kreutzer, and I walked into the Yellow Quill high school for the opening ceremonies of the first IBROM plant in the spring of 2004. Earl turned to me and said: "You know Hans I always worried about coming to Yellow Quill because we had done such a poor job of the water treatment, but now I think I could be elected Chief."

For more information on the Safe Drinking Water Foundation, please visit [www.safewater.org](http://www.safewater.org).

*Article simultaneously being published in Environmental Science and Engineering.*





# BE SAFE ON YOUR ATV

**BY RACHEL TURNQUIST, BSA, PAG**  
REGIONAL FORAGE SPECIALIST, MOOSE JAW  
REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH, AGRIVIEW



Photo: Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association

**FROM** checking fences to Sunday fun rides, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are often a part of farm life. However, it is also important to think about ATV safety.

To drive an ATV in Saskatchewan, you are required to wear a helmet and must be 16 years old with a valid driver's license. A person under 16 must be under the direct supervision of someone with a valid driver's license. You may only carry passengers if the ATV is designed to carry passengers. These rules are there to help you or someone in your family stay safe. The complete suite of rules can be found in *The All Terrain Vehicles Act*.

## WHAT ARE SOME OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT IN TERMS OF ATV SAFETY?

As with all farm equipment, keep maintenance up-to-date and do regular

checks. Catching a low fuel tank or an under-inflated tire before you leave the yard is always best. Inspect your loading ramps and ask yourself if they are safe. Are they in good shape? Are they slip-free?

Before you head out to check pastures or bins, make sure you let someone know where you are going and when you may return. This is important! In the event that something goes wrong, it is good to know that someone will be out looking for you.

Farmers and ranchers work long hours. When riding in the dusk or dark, keep in mind that just because you can see, does not mean others can see you. Turn on your ATV's lights. This is a good practice any time of day.

When you are loading and unloading, take a moment to make sure you are lined up properly. There is no need to

rush.

What about training? You are never too old to learn new things, so take an ATV safety course. This is especially important for young and inexperienced riders. An ATV safety course will take you through everything you need to know about ATV safety. When having to make split-second decisions, you will know what to do because you are prepared.

For more information:

- Visit the Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association at [www.satva.ca](http://www.satva.ca);
- Visit the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute at [www.skprevention.ca](http://www.skprevention.ca); or
- Visit the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association at [www.casa-acsa.ca](http://www.casa-acsa.ca).





Almost half of all power line contacts involve large equipment. Be aware of power lines around you.

#skpowersafe

LOOKUP  AND LIVE

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## Planning for a **LIVESTOCK MORTALITY EVENT**

**BY BRYAN GOURLIE, BASC, PENG**

PROVINCIAL LIVESTOCK ENGINEER, LIVESTOCK BRANCH,  
AGRIVIEW

**ALL** livestock producers should adopt appropriate plans for safely disposing of carcasses when death losses occur. While it is expected that a small percentage of livestock will be lost to normal causes of death, what happens when a disaster strikes and there are a large number of carcasses that need to be disposed of quickly and safely?

Whether it is a disease outbreak, barn fire, ventilation failure, or lightning strike on a wire fence, mass livestock mortality events happen, and producers need to have plans in place to deal with them. When livestock are housed in confined areas, such as corrals and barns, the risk of a large death loss increases.

Disposing of large numbers of carcasses can be challenging. When the carcasses are located in a barn that has been damaged or destroyed, it may be difficult to access or separate the carcasses from the debris. Burnt carcasses may not be suitable for rendering. Weather conditions and the potential for disease transmission may impact the urgency and methods of disposal. Frozen carcasses are more difficult to bury and excavating in frozen soil is difficult. Expect the burial site to settle over time and require additional cover soil, especially if the burial occurs during the winter.

Having a carcass disposal plan in place ensures the producer can respond quickly to a disaster. This helps minimize the risk of disease transmission, environmental contamination and nuisance complaints, and contributes to a rapid industry recovery.

Saskatchewan Agriculture, through the *Growing Forward 2* suite of programs, will reimburse 75 per cent of eligible expenses to a limit of \$30,000

for the development of carcass disposal plans. The Carcass Disposal Planning Beneficial Management Practice is primarily intended to offset the cost of a site investigation study to verify that the geologic conditions are suitable for burial. Projects must be pre-approved to be eligible for funding.

*Growing Forward 2* is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

For more details, visit [Saskatchewan.ca/agriculture](http://Saskatchewan.ca/agriculture) and search for the Farm Stewardship Program or call the Saskatchewan Agriculture Financial Programs Branch at 1-877-874-5365.

**sama**  
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## Changes ahead for **ANTIBIOTIC USE IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

**BY WENDY WILKINS, DVM, PHD**  
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE VETERINARIAN,  
LIVESTOCK BRANCH, AGRIVIEW

**IN** April 2015, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced that Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate will introduce new federal regulations that will require increased veterinary oversight of the use of antimicrobial drugs administered to food animals, along with other regulatory and non-regulatory policy changes. These initiatives are part of the Government of Canada's Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada, which builds on the federal Framework for Action announced in October 2014.

Not all antimicrobial drugs are affected by these changes. The only drugs being targeted are those that are considered medically important antimicrobials (MIAs), which are those of significant importance to human health. As part of the changes:

- Growth promotion claims will be eliminated.
- Veterinary oversight will be increased, so that current non-prescription MIAs will only be available by prescription.
- MIAs can no longer be imported by individual producers for their own use, and veterinarians and pharmacists will be required to have approved Establishment Licenses and Good Management Practices in order to import the raw forms of the commercially available MIA products they use.
- Feed mills producing medicated feed will require a prescription for all MIAs included in the feed.
- The approval process for Veterinary Health Products will be streamlined. Veterinary Health Products include homeopathic preparations, botanical



*Photo: Chris Hartman*

supplements, and vitamins and minerals, which may increase immune function and reduce the need for antimicrobial drugs.

- Anyone who manufactures, imports or compounds antimicrobial medications will be required to report sales data annually.

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS IN SASKATCHEWAN?**

For most producers, the most notable impact will be that they will no longer be able to buy antibiotics, such as penicillin off the shelf. Instead, they will require a

veterinary prescription and will only be able to fill the prescription at a pharmacy or the prescribing veterinary clinic.

Feed mills and producers purchasing medicated feed from these facilities will also be significantly affected.

Health Canada is holding consultations on these regulatory changes to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback. Producers interested in contributing should go to the Health Canada website and search for consultations.

For more information, visit Health Canada's website, [www.hc-sc.gov.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gov.ca).





# WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE BEEF?

**BY KIM MCLEAN, PHD, PAG**  
PROVINCIAL CATTLE SPECIALIST,  
LIVESTOCK BRANCH, AGRIVIEW



**RETAIL** marketing campaigns are having a huge effect on the beef industry. This will be a fact of business for producers raising meat for consumers. The public often hears “natural” or “organic,” and recently the new buzz word “sustainable” has surfaced. A lot of people ask, what does this mean? Producers often respond by saying, “If we weren’t sustainable, we wouldn’t be here!”

The Canadian Cattlemen’s Association has responded to this marketing challenge by forming the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB), which works closely with the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. Sustainability is a critical part of the National Beef Strategy as it is a priority to enhance the competitiveness of Canadian beef. Members of the CRSB include producer organizations,

food and retail service companies, non-governmental organizations and food and agri-business groups. The goal of the roundtable is to become the leading forum on sustainable beef by advancing existing and new sustainability efforts.

The roundtable’s vision is for the Canadian beef industry to be recognized globally as economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible. Members hope to create the framework in which the industry can become a global leader in the continuous improvement and sustainability of the beef value chain through science, multi-stakeholder engagement, communication and collaboration.

What is sustainable beef? The CRSB has defined this as a socially responsible, environmentally sound and economical-

ly viable product that prioritizes planet, people, animals and progress. It is one thing to say that; it is another to measure and verify it.

The CRSB is developing a framework in which stakeholders can produce and source verified sustainable beef. This involves establishing indicators and verification strategies. Indicators determine what production practices or methods should be measured on individual operations, and the verification requires a set outline on how to ensure sustainability is met. The organization is currently in the process of developing these key indicators and developing assurance protocols for on-the-farm indicators.

For more details, visit the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef website, [www.crsb.ca](http://www.crsb.ca).



# The foundation for **SUSTAINABLE AG GROWTH**

**BY SHELLEY JONES, MANAGER**  
AGRICULTURE AWARENESS UNIT,  
REGIONAL SERVICES BRANCH, AGRIVIEW



Photo: Chris Hartman

**AT** the Ministry of Agriculture, our objective is to support the continued growth of Saskatchewan's agriculture and food industry – and to achieve that growth sustainably. Think of sustainable growth as the seat on a three-legged stool, secured by three strong legs: production practices, sound economics and social license. Without just one of these legs, our stool becomes wobbly, and sustainable growth very difficult to achieve.

If, as producers and agribusinesses, we are free to respond to market signals, access responsive risk management tools, adopt best farm and business management practices, and make decisions based on what is right for our own operations, our economic viability should be guaranteed. But that's just one leg of the stool.

Seeking out and implementing science-based production practices that let

us realize our growth potential while, at the same time, stewarding our land, water and wildlife, is crucial. This also includes a commitment to not only following animal care codes but considering how they can be improved. The goal is to ensure good stewardship of the resources we use to grow and provide food safely and humanely.

The third leg of our stool, and perhaps the most vulnerable, is social licence. We'll have it when society trusts and supports modern food production. And, we'll earn it by doing the right thing and building awareness around what we do, and why we do it.

As a Ministry, we work to ensure you do what's right through extension services and technology transfer, investments in research, and appropriate regulation. As a communicator, we tell

the agriculture story every chance we get and support your efforts to tell it too, through programs such as the Agriculture Awareness Initiative Program. Our investments in agricultural education, through organizations like Agriculture in the Classroom and Farm and Food Care Saskatchewan, help reach student and consumer audiences. And, through *thinkAG*, we work to engage a new generation of advocates.

As producers, industry and government, we each have roles to play in ensuring these three legs remain strong. The sustainable growth and future of Saskatchewan's agriculture and food sector depends on us embracing these principles.

For more information, please email [awareness@gov.sk.ca](mailto:awareness@gov.sk.ca).





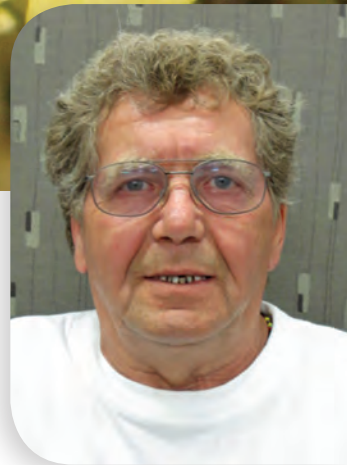
RURAL COUNCILLOR

# DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

## a rail line nuisance

**BY HARVEY ANDERSON**

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP PLANNING ADVISOR



**RECENTLY**, I was called to assist the RM of Vanscoy weed inspector who had noticed a new weed growing on the CN Rail right-of-way near the small community of Grandora west of Saskatoon. The weed inspector was unable to find a local CN contact person or phone number of someone in Saskatchewan responsible for eradicating this weed as is required under the *Weed Control Act*.

The weed, Dalmatian Toadflax, is a prohibited weed in Saskatchewan, and RMs have the authority to require landowners to eradicate it.

Dalmatian Toadflax is a close relative of the common Yellow Toadflax, which is present in Saskatchewan and occurs

widely, usually in fairly small patches. There is information that these two species can cross and create high-breeds. Originally, Dalmatian Toadflax was brought to North America as an ornamental plant over 100 years ago from the Mediterranean Region of Africa. It is a perennial forb that spreads by creeping roots and by seed. An individual plant can grow to 40 inches in height, with pale green stems and showy yellow flowers ringed by orange, which can each be about one inch long. The flowers resemble Snapdragon Flowers. The leaves are broad, heart-shaped and waxy leaves, which grasp the stem. A single mature plant, with multiple stems, can produce

up to 500,000 seeds beginning in late June/early July, which can remain viable in the soil for up to ten years. Dried floral stalks can remain standing and retain seed for a couple of years, but most of it is dispersed in the first year.

Dalmatian Toadflax has a deep and extensive root system, which spreads the plant locally by sprouting from the lateral roots. It can spread quickly due to its aggressive nature. It thrives in course, well drained soils and will take root on roadsides, rail line beds, and in rangeland, hay land, and overgrazed pastures and wasteland. This weed, like many invasive species, is favored by soil disturbances, such as road construction, frequent fires

and overgrazing. Once established, it can completely dominate by crowding out desirable forbs and grasses, altering the native plant communities and reducing grazing value for both domestic animals and wildlife. Dalmatian Toadflax contains a poisonous glucoside, which is harmful to cattle if consumed in large quantities. Most cattle will avoid the mature plants, but apparently sheep and goats will graze this weed with no reported ill effects.

Localized populations will likely spread onto agricultural lands, if they are not quickly eradicated in the rail line owned property, and I want all RMs with rail lines to be aware that they are known as major "Pathways of Spread of Invasive Plants," so should be scouted periodically. This scouting can be a problem with rail lines restricting access to non-rail-line employees. Permits for scouting may be required, but weed inspectors should have the right to trespass under the *Weed Control Act* without paying for a permit to work on rail line property.

CN Rail is likely responsible for bringing the plant to Saskatchewan via

the crushed rock they prefer for rail beds. I believe this material is imported from southern BC where Dalmatian Toadflax is reported in high populations. At present there are only two reported locations of this weed here, one along a CN Rail main line and one on a recently acquired former CN Rail line.

Through the *Weed Control Act*, a RM council can designate a quarantine area around the weed population. But what do you do when the rail line splits the total population, with weeds on both sides of the rail bed? Can a RM block a main railroad line? Does a national rail company like CN Rail have to follow and abide by Saskatchewan law?

In the past, I have heard from weed inspectors that rail lines are the hardest landowners to get to control invasive alien plants on their properties. Local employees of the rail companies, if asked, explain that CN and CP are governed under federal legislation and only have to respect Ministry of Transport legislation. They often sight the lack of personnel to control small patches of weeds and

offer explanations such as the company spends millions of dollars across Canada on vegetation management every year.

Having unsuccessfully contacted a local CN Rail employee, I googled CN Rail and found phone numbers for staff at their Montreal head office. While on the site, I downloaded and printed the CN "Code of Business Conduct" in which it states that "CN employees must comply with the laws, rules and regulations applicable in their jurisdiction."

The head Of CN's Environment Division tried to put me off, so I contacted the head of the Legal Division, who was willing to comply with the *Weed Control Act* and is taking action through the Environment Division to get their contractor to the Grandora site and eradicate the weed before it spreads further.

*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.*

Photo: www.dreamstime.com



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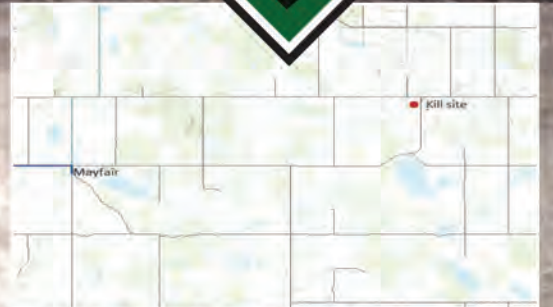
IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVICTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED, ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CRIMES SHOULD CONTACT THE PROVINCIAL TOLL FREE TIP LINE. CALLS ARE NOT TRACED OR RECORDED AND CALLERS CAN CHOOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT ONLINE AT [SASKATCHEWAN.CA/CONSERVATION](http://SASKATCHEWAN.CA/CONSERVATION)



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

On Thursday, April 7, 2016, Conservation Officers from Spiritwood were called to a report of two calf moose shot and killed east of Mayfair. At 8:30pm investigating officers found two dead moose shot in a stubble field 8 miles east and 1.5 miles north of Mayfair. It is believed the moose would have been shot within the past couple of hours. Evidence was collected at the location. **A suspect vehicle was seen in the area and fled to the east. This vehicle did not have tail lights, but did have brake lights.**

*The public's help is needed to solve this case.*



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# rural councillor **MEMBER NEWS**



**RM OF SPY HILL, NO. 152  
IN MEMORIAM  
ADAM FAUL**

Adam Faul passed away in March 2016 with his family by his side, at the age of 86 years. He was born and raised in Regina to Jakob and Katharina Paul.

Adam was an accomplished boxer. At the age of 18, he was the Canadian Lightweight and Heavyweight Champion. A year later, he was the Canadian Heavyweight Champion and represented Canada at the 1948 Olympics in London, England. Adam was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1976. He also played for the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 1946 and 1947.

He was married to Marjorie (Shaw) in 1950 and worked for CN Rail in Regina. Following a transfer in 1958, Adam and Marj moved to Moose Jaw where they lived till 1964. That same year, Adam went to Spy Hill to complete his training in local government administration. Adam, Marj and family then moved to Abernethy, where Adam worked as the RM Administrator.

In 1966, Adam and his family moved to Spy Hill, where he worked as RM Administrator until he retired in 1994.

Adam stayed involved in sports coaching the boys' baseball and hockey and umpiring baseball. He also started the Spy Hill boxing club with his first students being his grandson, Scott and a number of his friends.

Adam was also involved in the community serving as Mayor of Spy Hill from 1976-78 and again from 1981-85. He also served on the local credit union and local school boards, church parish council and the Knights of Columbus.



**RM OF EYEBROW, NO. 193  
IN MEMORIAM  
GORDON (GORD) D. AITKEN**

It is with much sadness that we share news of the passing of Gordon Aitken on June 8, 2016 at the age of 57. He is survived by his mother, Doreen Aitken; wife, Joyce; children, Crystal (Jason) Schellenberg and Cory (Marni) Forrest; as well as by a large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Gordon was born in Moose Jaw and aside from attending Olds College in Alberta, he spent his entire life in the Eyebrow area as an organic farmer and livestock producer. He retired from the RM of Eyebrow's Council after serving eleven years as Councillor for Division 5. He was a part of a dedicated municipal family. His father, Donald, was a former councillor and reeve of the municipality, serving as Division 5 Councillor from 1959-70 and reeve from 1970-80.

Gord was an avid curler, served on the United Church, Eyebrow Fire and Eyebrow Recreation boards, and in his spare time, he loved to travel with Joyce. His genuine interest in people, infectious smiles and witty jokes made him the kind

of person who everyone was happy to be around and call a friend. His passing has left deep sadness in the hearts of his family, friends and community, but they rejoice in the assurance that he is safe and at peace in the arms of Jesus.



**RM OF COLONSAY, NO. 342  
IN MEMORIAM  
PIUS STECKLER**

Pius Steckler was born on May 9, 1943 and spent his early childhood on the farm north of Elstow, SK before moving to Vancouver, BC and Saskatoon. He farmed in the Elstow/Colonsay area for more than 40 years first with his father and then with his two brothers. Pius retired from farming in 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Bernadette (Jeanneau); four daughters, Rachelle (Marc) Normand, Vanessa (Jason) Forster, Leanne (Sean) Malone, and Colleen (Berani) Kniaz; and grandchildren, Brayden, Jordan, Logan, Hayley, Emily, Adelyn, Carter and Lillian.

Pius served on the RM of Colonsay, No. 342 Council for 33 years as Councillor for Division 4 from 1976-2003 and Reeve from 2004-2008.

He had a great love for his family, nature, reading and watching baseball. He enjoyed spending time with his family at the cabin at Wakaw Lake, travelling with his wife, visiting with family and friends and caring for the 1,000 plus trees he planted around the farmyard.



**RM OF GRANDVIEW, NO. 349  
IN MEMORIAM  
DONALD ALLAN PHILLIP  
LOERZEL**

Donald Allan Phillip Loerzel died in June 2016 at the age of 61. He was born in Dodsland in June 1955 to Henry and Margaret Loerzel. He grew up on the family farm near Handel, SK with his seven siblings where he was taught to box, butcher, make and smoke sausage and become a jack of all trades. He was a character with a beautiful sense of humor and a big heart. He was a farmer, elk rancher, oil rigger, everything else in between, a hunter and a marksman. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Angie Churchill and Leona Frey. He is survived by his other siblings and their families. Allan served as the Reeve for the RM of Grandview from 1995-1999.



**RM OF STANLEY, NO. 215  
RETIREMENT  
MARIE STEINER**

RMA Marie Steiner retired from the RM of Stanley, No. 215 in April 2016. She began working as the Administrator in March 1984, serving over 32 years with the RM. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Marie for her many years of service, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



**RM OF GULL LAKE, NO. 139  
RESIGNATION  
DOUGLAS STEELE**

As of March 14, 2016 Reeve Douglas Steele resigned to start a career in provincial government as MLA for Cypress Hills.

Doug served as Councillor for Division 5 from 1995-2006; he then served as Reeve from 2006-2016.

Council presented Doug with a lovely engraved pocket watch and thanked him for all of his years of dedicated service to the municipality. Council wishes him the very best in his career with the provincial government.

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# CRIME STOPPERS CELEBRATES 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**IN** July 1976, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Michael Carmen, a university student, was killed during a gas station robbery. After six weeks of investigation, the police had very few leads as to who was responsible.

Police investigators thought that if the public was able to observe a re-enactment of the crime on television this may lead to a citizen providing information that may lead to an arrest. The police investigators were right. A caller contacted the police department the next day after seeing the re-enactment. The tip information was enough to lead the police to the two men who were responsible. Within 72 hours of the reenactment being aired, the police had solved the murder. This was the beginning of Crime Stoppers, and Canadian born Detective Greg MacAleese is credited with the Crime Stoppers idea.

Since the program first began, more than 1,100 Crime Stoppers' programs have been introduced worldwide in 16 countries, over 425,000 crimes have been solved, and more than \$1 billion worth of stolen property and narcotics have been seized.

Since 1987, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers alone has helped recover over \$8 million dollars in stolen property and illegal drugs.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is managed by a volunteer board of directors. They establish policy, raise funds, promote the program, oversee the payment of awards and are responsible for the effective and efficient administration of the program. The board of directors is comprised of people from all across Saskatchewan who are chosen for their

abilities in their field and their commitment to the principles of Crime Stoppers.

The RCMP work in partnership with Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers and provide a coordinator who oversees the day-to-day running of the program, the collection of tips, and promotion of the program throughout the province.

When you call Crime Stoppers you never have to give your name and you will not be asked to testify in court. Our Crime Stoppers tip line is never recorded, and tracing devices are never used. We do not subscribe to the telephone feature of "call display." All calls placed to our toll-free tip line are processed by specially trained personnel who pass along information about a crime to investigating officers.

Callers remain anonymous because they are issued a confidential code number when they call the Crime Stoppers line. This number helps us track the tip information, and if the caller's information leads to an arrest or charge for any serious crime or drug related offense, the confidential code number is used to make a cash reward of up to \$2,000. The payment is then made through a bank or credit union of the caller's choosing.

Through Crime Stoppers you have the opportunity to use an anonymous method to become more involved and take responsibility in your community. In doing so, you can make an important contribution towards solving and deterring crime, resulting in a safer community in which to live, work and play.

If you have information about a crime in your area, call Saskatchewan Crime



*Canadian born Detective Greg MacAleese is credited with the Crime Stoppers idea. Since the program first began, more than 1,100 Crime Stoppers' programs have been introduced worldwide in 16 countries, over 425,000 crimes have been solved, and more than \$1 billion worth of stolen property and narcotics have been seized.*

Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or Text "Tip206" and your tip message to "CRIMES" (274637), or go online to [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com).





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