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VOLUME 50 number 1
SPRING 2017 ISSUE

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ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Asset Management and Municipal Infrastructure; Clearing the Path Corridor Program; Regional Planning; RM of Sherwood's Inland Drive Reconstruction Project; 2017 Rural Saskatchewan Budget Priorities; Investing in People; Creating a Budget in a Reassessment Year; Can P3s Work for RMs?





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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 JEREMY HARRISON
MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY

THINKING big is a tradition in Saskatchewan. From the earliest days of our province's history that saw the establishment and building of our first communities, to the growth and opportunity that drives us forward today, Saskatchewan people have made no little plans.

Of the many advantages we possess that create the potential for prosperity in Saskatchewan, our people are the greatest. They are the bedrock upon which everything else we have is built. We in government have done our part to encourage and assist wherever we can, mainly by setting the tone for economic development and making it as easy as possible to live and work in Saskatchewan. By continually attracting and enabling investment, we are keeping our communities—and our future—strong.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of the Economy has helped develop the province into a low-cost, opportunity-rich jurisdiction by placing an emphasis on economic diversification across the board, creating the best possible environment to do business. Since 2007, there has been an estimated \$121 billion in new investments. This includes the K+S Potash Legacy mine—Saskatchewan's first new potash mine in 45 years—and more than \$300 million in capital investment from Cargill over

the past five years. The province's other assets include an innovation sector led by Canada's national synchrotron, a dynamic agri-business industry with access to half the arable land in Canada, and a widely-dispersed and solution-oriented manufacturing base.

Although we are endowed with mineral and energy resources the world needs, we also appreciate that the world needs to be able to access these resources fairly and sustainably; to that end, our Ministry has helped establish a competitive and stable royalty/tax regime anchored by sensible policy and responsible governance. The result is that we are ranked number one in Canada and fourth in the world for petroleum exploration and development attractiveness by the Fraser Institute; likewise, Saskatchewan is first in Canada and second in the world for investment attractiveness in mineral exploration.

Reliable, first-world infrastructure supports economic development in the province. Government investment in core infrastructure in Saskatchewan has totaled over \$9 billion since 2008-09, with an additional \$5.5 billion committed from 2016 to 2020. We are home to thousands of trucking companies and over a dozen short-line railways, and we have the largest road network in Canada,

with 190,000 kilometres of rural roads—enough to circle the globe more than four times. Adding to this is the Regina Bypass project, the largest transportation infrastructure project in our history, which will improve safety and provide enhanced support for economic activity for our residents. The Global Transportation Hub located outside of Regina is a logistics park that is integral to Saskatchewan's development into a major distribution centre, allowing efficient movement of goods by rail and truck. The importance of this capability is clear when freight transported from Saskatchewan can reach 71 per cent of the US market in less than 48 hours. Across the province, the federal Gas Tax Fund, which provides municipal governments with a revenue stream to upgrade local infrastructure, supported 309 local road and bridge projects in Saskatchewan's rural municipalities based on project planning in 2016.

Tens of thousands of people are moving to Saskatchewan, and businesses are investing billions here because they feel their opportunities and their futures are brightest in our province. They are thinking big. So are we. We look forward to fulfilling that potential together.



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID MARIT
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



IT was my honour to be appointed Minister of Highways and Infrastructure by Premier Wall on August 23, 2016. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our province in this role. It was not that long ago that I was advocating the government on behalf of Saskatchewan rural municipalities. Now that I'm serving you as a member of government, I look forward to listening to your concerns, and I assure you, they are not falling on deaf ears.

I strongly believe that investing in Saskatchewan's roads and infrastructure is vital to the success of the province, especially rural municipalities. Saskatchewan produces the food, fuel and fertilizer the world needs. We need the right infrastructure in place to get our goods to market safely and efficiently.

This year, the Highways and Infrastructure budget included \$355 million for capital construction. This investment translated into 1,650 km of repaved or upgraded Saskatchewan highways.

The province is facing fiscal challenges which have lasted longer than anticipated.

We are committed to living within our means to keep the province's finances in order. Some difficult decisions will need to be made to ensure we can continue to provide core services in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

At the same time, we are committed to making strategic investments that allow our province and economy to continue to grow, especially in rural Saskatchewan. As we work through next year's budget process, we will have a better understanding of funding available for future improvements to transportation infrastructure, but for now it is business as usual.

The fall tender plan includes more than 700 km of highway upgrades and 45 planned projects. Some of the major projects tendered include:

- Grading work for twinning on Highway 7, west of Vanscoy to Delisle;
- Grading and paving on Highway 322, north of Silton;
- Paving Highway 55, north of Big River;

- Paving Highway 4, north of the Highway 1 junction;
- Repaving Highway 11, north of Lumsden;
- Bridge work on Highway 1, east of Swift Current, Highway 21, west of Pierceland, and at three locations on Highway 55 near Shoal Lake.

The start dates for these projects will depend on when tenders are awarded, contractor availability and weather.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the roadbuilders, engineers, grader operators and ministry staff, who work on our Highways and Infrastructure. I appreciate their commitment and dedication. Their work ensures Saskatchewan roads are safe for the rest of us.

I'm excited to see what the coming year will bring and what we will accomplish together. I look forward to working with rural municipalities to build strong communities across Saskatchewan.



The Rural Economy and INFRASTRUCTURE

BY RAY ORB SARM PRESIDENT

GREETINGS to all reeves, councillors and administrators:

We are fortunate to live in a province as diverse as Saskatchewan. The province has a bountiful supply of gas and oil, vast areas of cultivated and pasture land, home to pristine forests and nearly 100,000 lakes, which are a fantastic attraction for tourists and recreation enthusiasts.

In spite of the abundance of natural resources over a large geographical area, as everyone knows, our population is fairly sparse, and in fact, just exceeded an estimated 1.1 million in the latter half of 2016.

Part of the issue is our climate, which usually isn't very people-friendly during the winter months.

However, the cold weather can actually be a blessing acting as a deterrent to disease spread in livestock and to some extent in humans. Also many pests and diseases that can plague agricultural crop production and forestry can be eliminated in subzero temperatures.

Another restriction is the province being land-locked, which is a challenge for primary production in all resource sectors and value-added processing as well. Challenges remain in moving our resource products to market, including grain movement on rail and crude oil by pipelines, including Keystone XL and the proposed Energy East pipeline.

Our largest trading partner is, of course, the United States which had an estimated population of approximately 322.7 million at the beginning of 2016. Sask Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) estimates that between 60 and 65 per cent of Saskatchewan's exports go to the United States, but the province also has substantial exports to China, Japan, Mexico, Italy, Bangladesh, Algeria, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2015, Saskatchewan exports equaled \$32.6B which was the second best year ever (exceeded only by 2014's exports of \$35B).... With all of the natural resources in the province and the need to meet ever increasing export demands, there's a corresponding pressure to... improve and expand our rural infrastructure.

In 2015, Saskatchewan exports equaled \$32.6B which was the second best year ever (exceeded only by 2014's exports of \$35B). Agricultural exports totaled \$15.1B and potash sales made up for the 43 per cent decline in petroleum products. The North American Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States has never been as important to us as now, and we sincerely hope the Trump administration will enhance and harmonize trade relations with Canada rather than disrupt them.

With all of the natural resources in the province and the need to meet ever increasing export demands, there's a corresponding pressure to constantly improve and expand our rural infrastructure. Improvements that need to come in the form of new roads, bridges, rail lines, pipelines (for delivering oil and gas) and communications, specifically high speed internet and cellular phone coverage, to better serve rural business, communities and ratepayers alike.

The federal government has listened and is promising to deliver more rural infrastructure funding through Phase 2 of the New Building Canada Fund (NBCF), allocating \$2B to rural and northern communities over 11 years. In the meantime, FCM is lobbying for

more funding for rural areas by allowing funding from other components of the NBCF to flow into the rural program envelope. The federal government is also paying attention to the rural voice that urgently requested more funding for high speed internet. Recently, the federal government announced the Connect to Innovate program that will deliver \$500M across Canada, enabling enhanced internet service to an additional 300 communities by 2021.

While there clearly have been some successes in lobbying for a fairer share of federal infrastructure funding, we can't forget our provincial budget requests for rural infrastructure.

While we have seen some cutbacks to the Municipal Road for the Economy Program and our provincial economy is a bit shaky, SARM is still asking for the province to reinstate the funding to \$25.5M and make it a two-year commitment. If our province is to advance and remain competitive, rural municipalities must have a committed partner in the provincial government. This will be our recipe for success.

Best wishes to everyone, and I hope to see you all at the March convention.



TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WITH the growing world of social media, we are all more connected than ever before. Being connected makes it easier to gain knowledge to what is happening around us. The use of social media is a tool used by election campaigns to energize their supporters. Twitter, for example, is in real time. It is a fast and easy tool to connect candidates and voters.

Although you get an immediate response, the challenge with social media is that not all that you read may be true, and it can be very divisive. Many times sources, such as Twitter, help encourage conversations many wouldn't have otherwise. However, these conversations can become personal and infuriating to the audience, no matter what side of the fence you are on. This infuriation encourages people to put their hands in the air in frustration of politics, especially during elections. The internet is now used as the main tool to drive change during elections. It is not going away and, if anything, it will be growing in strength by the next election cycle.

In just over a year we have seen federal, provincial and municipal elections in our province. In a democratic country, elections influence who is in power. A change in power will touch the economy in different ways, including possible changes to laws which will shape and drive the economy. A change in power may also see a change to the tax system that will build or even slow down the economy.

Democracy can be defined as the rule of the people. We are fortunate to live in a country where our voices are heard every four years through elections. With a full cycle of elections in such a short period of time, let's remind ourselves that people and parties come and go, hence the reason democracy is the greatest political system in the world. The people always prevail at election time.

All and all, no matter how dramatized and dysfunctional today's politics may appear, let us step back, take a deep breath and remember that without politicians we don't have democracy. While doing so, thank your local politicians, federally, provincially and municipally, no matter what party or position they belong to for stepping up and taking the position on. This is a job that not all are willing to do. They do this to assist the people of their area and to express their voice either at Parliament Hill, the Legislative Building, or your local municipal office.

The internet is now used as the main tool to drive change during elections. It is not going away and, if anything, it will be growing in strength by the next election cycle.

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2017 Rural Saskatchewan BUDGET PRIORITIES

BY BEN CHURSINOFF SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

THE current economic climate in Saskatchewan, due in part to lower commodity prices, means that the Government of Saskatchewan has to make some tough decisions in the upcoming provincial budget. With the deficit currently projected at \$1 billion, the government is looking at ways to reduce spending and the deficit. This may make it more difficult to fund new and existing programs in the province.

However, SARM has presented both the provincial and federal governments with six recommendations each for their consideration. SARM believes that these recommendations will work to greatly enhance the economic well-being in municipalities across Saskatchewan and assist in keeping the provincial economy moving by enhancing important services and infrastructure.

The first recommendation requests that funding for the Provincial Rat Eradication Program be increased to \$1.5 million and that funding for the Beaver Control Program remain stable at \$500,000. In addition to the funding amounts, a two-year funding commitment is also requested to provide more stability and planning opportunities for these programs.

To help ensure that road infrastructure is maintained in the province, SARM submitted two recommendations regarding infrastructure programs. We requested funding for the Public-Industry Partnership Program (PIPP) and the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP). For PIPP, SARM requested that the provincial government allocate \$39.3 million, including \$200,000 per year to SARM for the duration of the program for administrative support. We also asked that \$39.9 million of the Provincial-Territorial Component

(PTIC) of the New Building Canada Fund be allocated as the federal contribution to PIPP.

SARM has recommended that MREP funding be restored to 2013-14 levels at \$25.5 million and include a two-year funding commitment. Together, these two programs will greatly assist RMs as they continue to build and maintain critical road infrastructure that is used daily by the public and industry, supporting economic development and furthering prosperity in the province. Economic development is not the only goal of SARM's budget requests; SARM is also working to enhance vital services, such as fire and road maintenance services, to First Nations communities.

Enhancing public safety by increasing the sustainability of emergency services between municipalities and First Nations would be greatly improved with the development and implementation of an emergency response fund. The purpose of this fund will be to provide compensation to municipal fire departments facing outstanding expenses due to a variety of reasons.

Non-emergency services, such as road maintenance, would be improved if their service agreements were made mandatory. This would be applicable for both existing and newly named TLE/First Nations lands. Mandatory mutual aid agreements will ensure that adequate funding is received by the RM providing the service. Therefore, SARM recommended that the Government of Saskatchewan and the federal government take steps to establish an emergency response fund and to make mandatory mutual aid agreements for existing and newly named TLE/First Nations lands.

Another important issue for SARM and municipalities is working to increase

Allowing municipalities to access the Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant will enable them to create and empower a better trained workforce.

and develop capacity. Provincial funding for the Municipal Capacity Development Program (MCDP) is no longer available, and as a result MCDP ceased operating as of March 31, 2016.

Prior to its conclusion, the MCDP Management Committee identified four specific areas of interest to guide its future mandate should it be re-implemented or a similar program be developed. They are: asset management; regional waste management; planning district and working group assistance; and regional recreation. These four areas are ideal for the type of work that MCDP facilitates to enhance municipal capacity through inter-municipal co-operation. As part of the upcoming provincial budget, SARM is recommending that \$250,000 be granted to the municipal associations in Saskatchewan for four years to renew MCDP and further enhance municipal co-operation in the province.

Municipalities with federal grade crossings are eligible for funding assistance to upgrade their grade crossings to new federal standards. Similarly, the Government of Saskatchewan is introducing proposed guidelines for public crossings, and SARM is recommending that some funding be made available to

improve provincially-regulated public grade crossings. The outcome will be to upgrade existing infrastructure, making it safer for both the public and the movement of products via rail.

SARM's 2017 federal budget recommendations will enhance access to education, health care and vital emergency services. The following recommendations focus on increasing the ability for residents, businesses and communities to contribute to the Canadian economy.

Rural broadband connectivity and reliability is an important piece of infrastructure that provides access to valuable information, education, health care, financial services, entertainment, and employment opportunities. Saskatchewan's rural areas are often left with subpar broadband access, and there remains much room for improvement. To improve access, SARM is recommending that the federal government update the Tier 4 service areas and/or minimum population coverage to ensure rural areas receive adequate service, that the federal government work with the provinces and territories to develop a definition of 'rural' that suits each province's needs, and that any spectrum allocated for use in

rural areas that is unused by an Internet Service Provider for two years be made available to those willing to bring service to the rural areas.

As more frequent and severe weather events occur, resulting in damages from natural disasters, SARM is recommending that extensive consultations be done with provincial and territorial governments to further develop the National Disaster Mitigation Program and the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. A more effective approach for limiting the impact of natural disasters on Canadians is to increase support for mitigation efforts, so that communities can be better prepared. Through consultations, the existing programs can be amended to better meet the needs of communities across Canada and reduce the effects of climate change.

To further assist with capacity in municipalities, SARM is requesting that municipalities be made eligible under the Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant. RMs are significant employers in their communities, but they can struggle to find qualified employees or fund training for existing employees. Allowing municipalities to access the Canada-Saskatchewan

Job Grant will enable them to create and empower a better trained workforce which benefits the entire province.

Finally, SARM respectfully requests that the federal government allow some flexibility under the New Building Canada Fund for projects and programs that use innovative financing arrangements to build and upgrade new and existing municipal road infrastructure that facilitates the continuous movement, increased weights, and large configurations of industry-related traffic. It is also requesting that additional funding be made available under the Small Communities Fund to ensure that RMs have a better chance of accessing federal infrastructure dollars and the population threshold of 100,000 be decreased, so that it more accurately reflects the size of small communities in Saskatchewan.

Both the provincial and federal budget requests have the desired outcomes of enhancing the economic well-being of those living in rural Saskatchewan. Full details of SARM's recommendations, including the submissions, can be read online at www.sarm.ca/advocacy/submissions.



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Creating a Budget in a **REASSESSMENT YEAR**

BY FERN LUCAS RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 4

THE Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) is responsible for establishing property assessment policy in the province. However, SAMA has no authority or responsibility regarding property tax policy. All assessments in the province are of a specific base date as established by a SAMA board order. Assessments are regularly updated on a four year revaluation cycle. 2017 is a revaluation year, so you must be prepared to understand the significance of the impact of the change between the 2016 and the 2017 municipal assessed values for each property tax class in your municipality, and how it will impact those property classes. Every municipality has received a 2017 revaluation taxable assessed value trend report that displays the 2016 and the 2017 taxable value of each tax class as a percentage of the total taxable assessment for 2017.

Every municipality must adopt a budget outlining expected expenditures and revenues, including the amount to be generated by property taxation. They must determine the tax rate used to generate the revenues to balance the budget. Relying on analysis and information provided by SAMA and their administrator, council members must decide the amount of revenues generated by taxation; the distribution of taxation across assessment; and the distribution of taxation between property classes.

The nature of the tax structure that is implemented will form the municipality's tax policy. It is important to bear in mind that council members are accountable to ratepayers and should be able to discuss why decisions regarding budget allocation and tax policy were

made. Determining the tax policy for a municipality is generally guided by three predominant schools of thought:

1. Those with higher assessed property should pay more taxes as they have a greater ability to pay.
2. Some classes of property should pay more than others because certain properties receive a higher level of service than others.
3. Everyone should pay a specific number of dollars to cover the basic services that all properties have equal access to.

All three ways of thinking about taxation lead to the question "How do we distribute the tax burden fairly and equitably?"

The historical approach to taxation is to establish the mill rate through the *ad valorem* method. The taxable assessed value is multiplied by the mill rate to determine the amount of taxes payable (taxable assessment x mill rate = taxes).

In this method, property taxes change proportionately with the assessed value of the property.

All assessed properties are categorized into three classes for the purpose of municipal taxation (agriculture, residential or commercial). Municipalities must now decide if they want to implement tax tools to redistribute the cost of public services within its tax base. There are three tax tools available for use within each property class to vary results both across the assessment and the results between property classes. Municipalities may choose to use one or more tools or none at all. Council decides how much of the tax revenue each of the property tax classes will bear.

Tax tools do not increase a municipality's tax revenue. A tax reduction for one property class results in increased taxes for another property class. If the owners of lower assessed properties pay more taxes, the owners of higher assessed properties

Assessments are regularly updated on a four year revaluation cycle. 2017 is a revaluation year, so you must be prepared to understand the significance of the impact of the change between the 2016 and the 2017 municipal assessed values for each property tax class in your municipality, and how it will impact those property classes.

will pay less. The decision to implement tax tools is directed by the results of the substantial change in the tax structure that each tax tool brings about.

MILL RATE FACTORS:

- Vary the uniform mill rate that has been set by council;
- Apply a ratio to increase or decrease the effective mill rate in each of the property classes; and
- Apply to all properties within a property class.

MINIMUM TAX:

- Increases the amount of taxation revenue generated from lower assessed properties;
- Benefits properties with higher assessed values;
- May be applied to any or all of the local property classes;
- May be a specific minimum amount of money levied against the property;

- May be an amount determined by a formula established by council such as a rate per front foot for each lot or a rate per acre of land;
- Will apply to a specific property if the minimum tax amount set exceeds the property tax calculated using the *ad valorem* approach;
- Produces minimal impact on the established mill rate because a property pays either the minimum tax or taxes calculated using the *ad valorem* method; and
- Is applied to all land, all improvements or all property, including land and improvements within each of the affected local property classes.

BASE TAX:

- Reduces the difference in property taxes between lower and higher assessed properties;
- May be applied to any or all of the local property taxes;

- Is a specific amount of money levied against the property;
- Significantly impacts the established mill rate as the total property taxes for a specific parcel of land will consist of a regular levy added to the base amount of tax; and
- Is applied to all land, all improvements or all property, including land and improvements within each of the affected local property classes.

It is advisable to look at the impact that revaluation has on the current tax policy in order for council to make an informed decision regarding changes that may be necessary. These decisions may be based upon your expectations as well as those of your ratepayers. Tax policy, whether the municipality chooses the *ad valorem* method of taxation or one or more of the available tax tools, is almost certain to generate discussion, so be prepared to justify the decision you make regarding your taxation revenue.



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asset management and MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE renewal in an era of rapid changes in climate patterns represents arguably the toughest challenge facing municipalities both in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Much of this country's community infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems and more—is either past or near the end of its lifecycle. By some estimates, dealing with the problem will cost \$123 billion.

Asset management makes it easier for RMs to plan and implement successful infrastructure projects.

Without infrastructure, it would be impossible for municipalities to deliver the services that residents rely on every day. When properly designed and maintained, community infrastructure typically lasts for several decades—up to 50 years, in some cases. Planning, upgrading and maintaining infrastructure is particularly difficult for Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, however.

"We have a population of only 490 people spread over about 840 square kilometres," says Wendy Gowda, Administrator for the RM of LeRoy. "Many of our roads were originally built for horse and buggy more than a century ago, when there was a house on every quarter section. Today, farms are much bigger, homes are further apart and traffic patterns continue to change. With a staff of only seven people, long-term infrastructure planning is tough."

An approach known as asset management makes it easier to plan and implement successful infrastructure projects. Asset management involves a broad,

integrated and long-term approach. Decisions about maintaining, upgrading and building infrastructure are based on a full analysis of all relevant factors, such as capital and ongoing costs, along with environmental, social and community impacts. Although it may sound complex, asset management need not be difficult, especially for small organizations such as RMs.

"Four years ago, we hired a consultant to assist with the preparation of an asset management plan," says Wendy Gowda, "but it's already out of date."

The key to successful asset management over the long-term is developing the appropriate expertise in-house. Two years ago, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) began implementing a multifaceted strategy that helps municipalities understand and apply asset management in their daily operations. In collaboration with the Canadian Network of Asset Managers, FCM developed the Leadership in Asset Management Program (LAMP), a peer-to-peer learning initiative. In 2015, the first cohort of municipalities began to participate in LAMP.

"Our goal is to raise the bar on the management of municipal infrastructure across the country," says Clark Somerville, President of FCM. "I'm confident that our programs, along with partnerships with regional groups such as SARM, will achieve this goal. Working together, we can maximize the impacts of federal investments in infrastructure."

This year marks the debut of two targeted FCM initiatives. The Government of Canada announced in 2016 a \$50 million program to be delivered by FCM that will offer new opportunities for municipalities that are building their foundations in asset management. The fund will encourage the development, adoption and application of best prac-

tices across Canada to help municipalities and communities make informed infrastructure investment decisions based on stronger asset management practices.

FCM will also offer a new climate change program, the result of a \$75 million federal investment, that will deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation programming for municipalities to build more resilient and sustainable communities.

The program will support the integration of climate change considerations into asset management plans. It will focus on communities with a foundation in asset management that are also committed to climate action. Participants will work with a group of municipalities with similar asset management goals, as well as connect with a broader network of mentor communities that are innovating in asset management.

FCM's new programs will provide grants for studies, plans, demonstration projects, and staff support. Along with these financial supports, the programs will offer capacity-building activities such as peer learning groups, training, workshops, conferences and webinars.

"So much has changed in our region in recent years that it's hard to plan effectively," says Wendy Gowda. "We have more intensive livestock operations than ever before and a new potash mine-site under development. Adjusting our road-maintenance plans to keep up with changing traffic patterns is not easy."

SARM, in conjunction with FCM, plans to continue to help municipalities develop appropriate policies and strategies, along with the capacity and processes needed to properly manage infrastructure and deliver services to residents. Subscribe to FCM's e-bulletin to receive up-to-date information on the new programs at fcm.ca/fcmgreen.





CLEARING THE PATH

Corridor Program (CTP)

BY TERRY HOEVING

SARM INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE ADVISOR &
MREP MANAGER

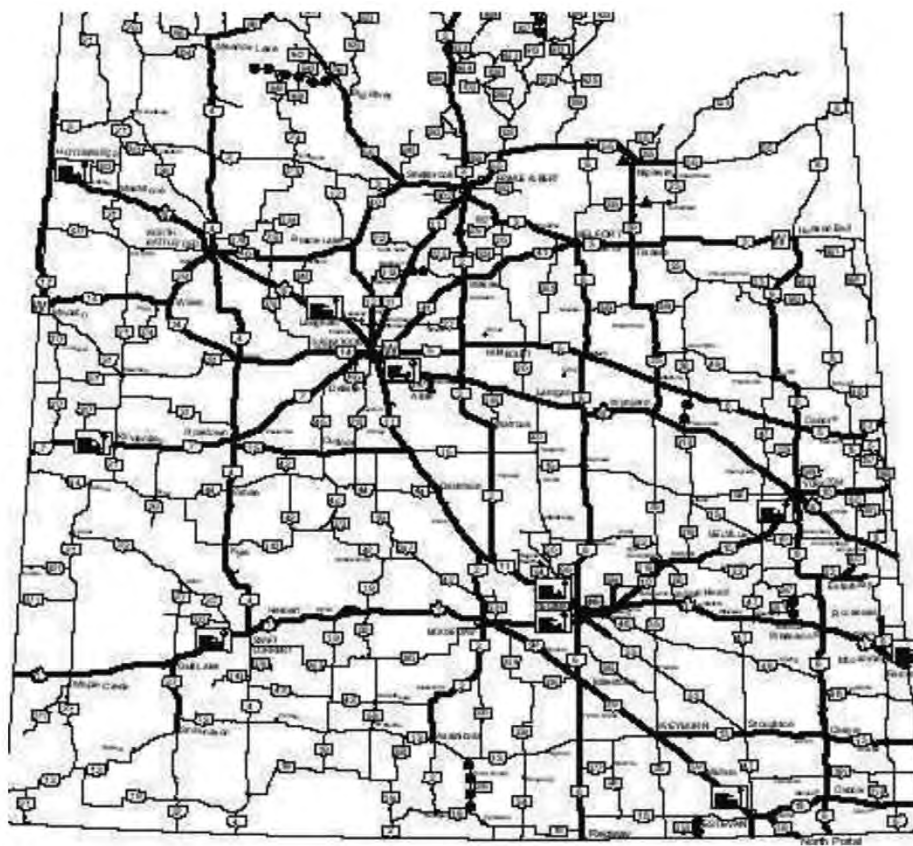
THE Clearing the Path (CTP) Primary Weight Corridor Program was originally developed in 2005 to address the lack of primary weight roads in the province, while complementing the existing system of provincial primary weight roads. RMs with approved CTP's receive incremental funding for the maintenance of a road to a primary weight status. The program has proven to be very successful as there are currently 6,615.2 km of CTP primary weight corridors in the province.

In the twelve years the CTP Program has been around, the province has seen increased benefits including:

- Attracting resource and agriculture based economic generators to rural Saskatchewan;
- Protecting the provincial thin membrane surface (TMS) roads that have well outlived their service life (referred to as protecting the provincial interest); and
- Providing a primary weight network for industry to move their goods seamlessly throughout the province, both nationally and internationally.

Economic generators, resource development and agricultural development has shifted all over the province since the inception of the CTP Program. This brings up much discussion—are we supporting the most strategic corridors? Have there been changes in the economic generators in your RMs? Does your RM really want to spend the money to maintain a road to a primary weight standard when the provincial highway is so accessible? Is your RM near a poor condition primary weight highway? Would it make more sense to declare a municipal road a CTP Corridor and take the pressure

Pre Clearing the Path Corridor Primary Weight Corridor Map



off the poor condition highway? Is there a new resource based development in your RM that could benefit from a new CTP Corridor?

The above questions are just some of the factors that will be looked at when re-evaluating the current CTP Corridors. Think about them and discuss them with your council with the following benefits of the program in mind:

- A strategic rural primary weight network;

- Protecting the provincial interest;
- Attracting resource and agricultural based economic generators to the province; and
- A seamless network for provincial, national and international movement of goods.

When evaluating a possible CTP for your RM, remember the CTP criteria for qualifying is adhered to when applying for a new corridor and will be followed closely in the re-evaluation process.

CTP CRITERIA:

A CTP Corridor describes a municipal roadway that:

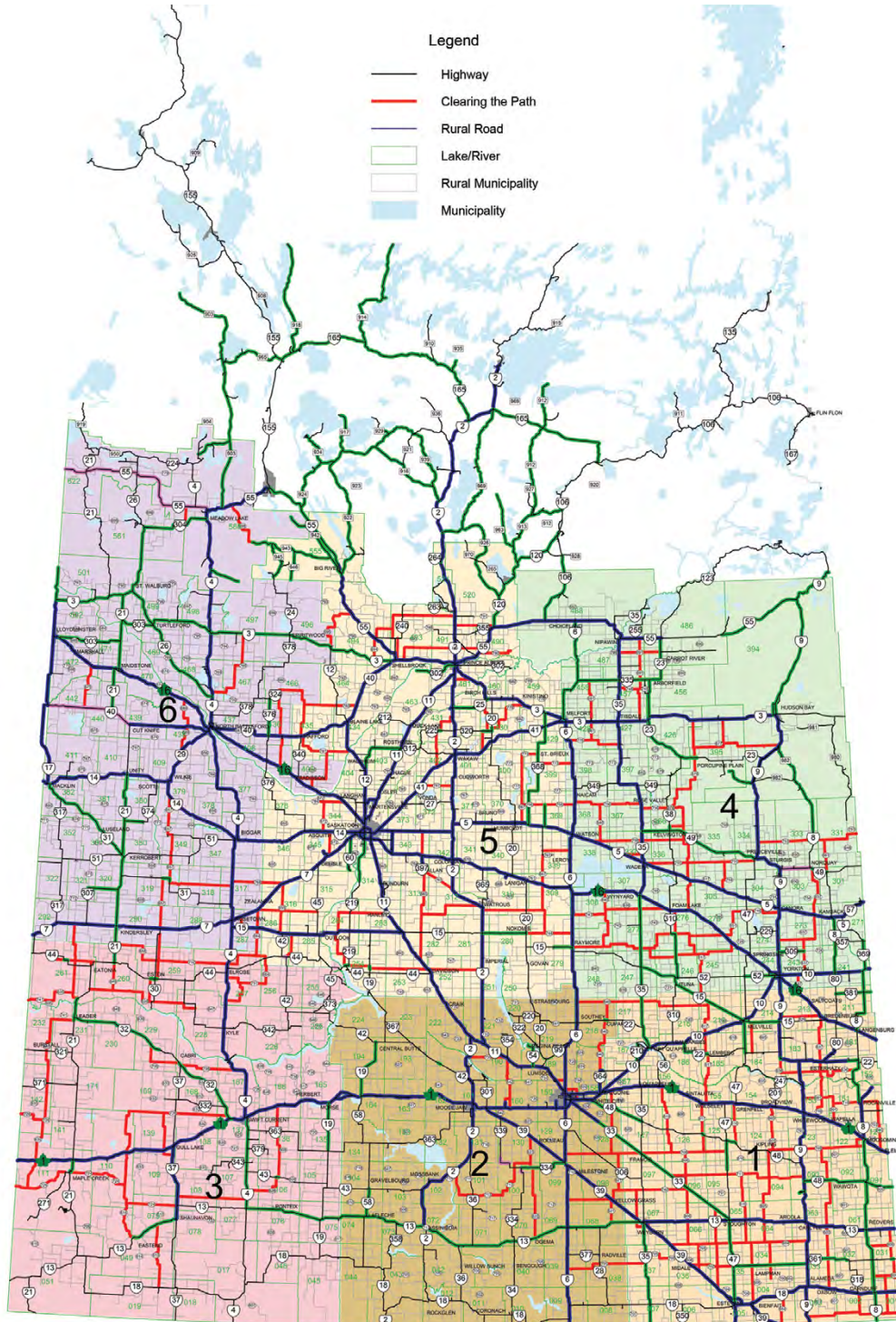
- Is able to carry primary weight traffic;
- Connects one primary weight road/highway to another;
- Is at least 15 km from a parallel primary weight road/highway; and

- Allows primary weight traffic in and out of a land-locked area over 20 km (i.e. a river or valley).

In some cases, a CTP corridor will cross municipal boundaries as it must connect two primary weight roads. In this case, all the municipalities involved must submit an application in order for the corridor to be considered.

The review of the CTP Corridor System will support the goal of a strategic, seamless primary weight system throughout the province for industry to move their goods, while attracting investors, global markets and economic generators to our province.

Current Clearing the Path Corridor Primary Weight Corridor Map



Currently, there are 6,615.2 km of Clearing the Path (CTP) primary weight corridors in Saskatchewan.



BY REAGAN ROD BENROTH DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

IN May 2016, Phase III of the Inland Drive Reconstruction Project was completed. This was the last of the three project phases undertaken by the RM of Sherwood starting in 2011. The total project cost was \$6.3 million for the reconstruction of 5.6 km of a heavy haul paved roadway around the City of Regina. This was a huge undertaking for any municipality, especially one where total RM property tax revenues are less than \$4 million per year.

This 5.6 km stretch of roadway is a dedicated over-dimension route for all over dimension loads bypassing the City of Regina to the north from Highway #46 to Highway #6 and/or Highway #11. Originally this 5.6 km “D” route consisted of an 8 m wide gravel road that was virtually impassible during wet weather. We were constantly grading and applying granular base course material on a weekly basis to accommodate the traffic volumes. During dry weather, we saw a few accidents due to reduced visibility from blowing dust in which rear end collisions occurred while maintenance was being performed. In wet weather, many over-dimension loads became stuck in the middle of the road leaving motorists unable to pass and trucking companies having to get towed through the route.

The last traffic count conducted on Inland Drive by the Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure (MHI) in 2008 saw 990 vehicles per day (VPD), with 29.9 per cent of that being truck traffic. I decided to do a visual traffic count of all vehicles from 6 am to 6 pm to determine the type and quantity of traffic along this corridor as I felt the numbers were inaccurate. The visual traffic count was around 1,280 VPD with 25 per cent being truck traffic, and that was for only 12 hours of the day.

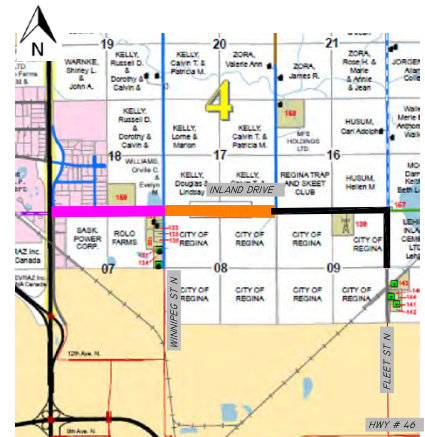
In 2011, AECOM originally tendered the project under the Municipal Roads

for the Economy Program (MREP) as a heavy haul, double seal coat surface design; however, we felt that with those volumes the roadway should be an asphalt paved surface. This over-dimension roadway is a connection between provincial highways and an arterial roadway connecting the city with the Sherwood Industrial Park located north-east of Regina and adjacent to the Evraz Steel Mill.

The big question in the fall of 2011 was how we were going to accomplish or realistically pay for it when our current revenue streams allow for roughly \$750,000 per year to be put towards capital purchases. The original tender for reconstruction without surfacing was \$3.9 million, so I decided to split the project into three phases, which would fit within our \$750,000 budget for capital expenditures and allow us to reroute traffic at each mile to minimize the detour either around or within the city's limits. We then contacted the adjacent land owners to widen the right-of-way from 20 m to 42 m, and the city agreed to sell 14 acres of their land for \$1 as the route was a benefit to divert all loads that were too high, too wide or too heavy to travel outside the city's limits.

The first phase was 2.4 km, which was tendered and completed in the fall of 2012. We started at the east end of the project along Fleet Street as it was in the worst condition. We skipped construction in 2013 due to commitments by council to spend the capital budget on equipment for the Public Works Dept. In 2014 we completed Phase 2 which was 1.5 km along Inland Drive and ended at Winnipeg Street. Phases 1 and 2 were constructed by Pasqua Paving Ltd. from Regina.

Phase 3 was the last mile of the project from Winnipeg Street to Highway #6 which is located within an existing industrial subdivision. The 2013 MHI



traffic count saw traffic volumes increase two times, so we decided that design changes were required. We lowered the posted speed limit along the roadway to 50 km/hr and included a center median turning lane to accommodate left turns into the existing developed lots on the north side of the roadway. In the previous two phases we did not allow individual lot access driveways, only one subdivision street access point. ASL Paving Ltd. was the successful bidder on this phase, but delays in the relocation of existing underground utilities, prevented them from completing the project in fall 2015.

We had two developers who subdivided 200 acres along Inland Drive in 2011, and during the subdivision process we were able to collect \$1.6 million from “Off-site servicing costs” within the servicing agreements. The total MREP funding for three separate phases was \$2.2 million, with the RM of Sherwood contributing \$2.2 million over three years with only roughly \$900,000 on a short-term loan to pay for the last phase.

It is anticipated with future growth along this Industrial corridor that more roadway improvements may be required, such as dedicated turning lanes and possible signalized intersections.

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REGIONAL PLANNING

working together to succeed

BY HEATHER KINDERMANN
SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER,
GIS MAPPING TECHNOLOGIST

THE late Henry Ford once said, “*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*” The people of Saskatchewan know that working together brings success, and they have a long history of working together to solve both big and small problems. With 296 rural municipalities and 462 urban municipalities, there are many opportunities for municipalities to work together collaboratively.

RMs make up sections of larger economic, transportation, environmental and resource regions that extend beyond the legal boundaries of an individual RM. These larger regions impact the local infrastructure, housing needs and way of life for local residents. When multiple municipalities are faced with similar issues, such as a large resource project coming into their area, multiple municipalities often work collaboratively to accommodate the new project as well as plan for the changes that it will bring.

Municipalities who have come together to work as a region may decide to work formally or informally in a variety of different ways. When municipalities begin working together, it is important to continue to foster the relationships they have built as well as continue to see other opportunities to work as a region.

WHAT MAKES A REGION?

Legal boundaries delineate all of the 296 rural municipalities in the province, but many RMs fall into other types of regions that do not correspond with their legal boundaries. Shared priorities—such as economic, environmental, transportation or tourism—create their own regional areas which often overlap the legal boundaries of the RMs. These regions often have a larger impact on the RMs

than their legal boundaries. Examples can be seen in economic regions, such as RMs that surround large urban centres or RMs that have a large natural resource processing facility. Transportation infrastructure that supports the residents of multiple municipalities is often an important planning issue for regions.

Environmental regions may encompass a cluster of small hamlets, resort villages, RMs and towns that surround a body of water. The health of the lake as well as tourism and recreational development are of importance to the region. However, since many municipalities may share the water body, they may have different interests, goals and challenges.

RMs are aware of the larger regions that they are a part of and how these regions impact their community. Different regions will have different focuses, needs and opportunities.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL REGIONAL PLANNING

Formal or informal regional planning is occurring all across the province every day. It occurs in many different ways either through formal regional planning groups or informally through a variety of different ways.

The Planning and Development Act, 2007, provides the legislation for municipalities to enter into formal regional planning frameworks. Formal planning groups can be characterized as planning districts, inter-municipal agreements, district planning commissions, and district and regional planning authorities. Currently, there are 33 planning districts comprising 170 municipalities, two First Nations communities and one regional park authority in the province.

Informal regional planning can include the sharing of resources—such as staff, a lagoon, a water system—or shared emergency services. It can also be as simple as an understanding between municipalities to complement each other as they grow, or special meetings for the region where discussions about current events and problems are discussed.

Whether regional planning occurs formally or informally, it allows municipalities to work together for a stronger voice in their region. When municipalities of common interests work together, they are often more efficient and effective at improving their region as a whole.

WHERE TO BEGIN AND HOW TO CONTINUE

Often municipalities come together over a common issue or goal, whether it is a new recreation facility or a large development project that impacts multiple municipalities. Other municipalities begin talking because of common interests or due to a similar problem that would be solved more effectively together. Whichever way regional talks begin, it is important for municipalities to continue to seek out opportunities to work together and to keep communicating with one another. A sense of trust is integral to a constructive partnership, and often this is achieved simply by frequent discussions on current issues. Once a strong relationship of understanding has been formed, it becomes easier to work together as a team on multiple issues.

For more details on regional planning and how to start a regional working group, visit <http://municipalcapacity.ca/>.

CAN P3s WORK FOR RMs?

YOU'VE seen them in Regina. You've seen them in Saskatoon. And you probably didn't even know you were looking at a project delivered through a public-private partnership (P3).

In fact, Saskatchewan is one of the most active P3 markets in Canada. There are 10 projects across the province, including schools, roads, health care centres, waste water treatment plants, affordable housing units, a correctional facility and the home of the Riders.

P3s are an innovative and efficient way to design, build, finance, maintain and even operate some of our most important infrastructure. Fifty of the 250 P3s in Canada are projects led by municipalities. Local councils are finding P3s a versatile way to deliver critical projects on-time

and on-budget. P3s aren't just a 'big city' phenomenon. Smaller communities are taking advantage of public-private partnerships and the benefits they afford to local ratepayers.

Goderich sits 230 km west of Toronto in Huron County, Ontario. Canada's "prettiest town" has greatly benefitted from partnerships with the private sector, says Chief Administrator Larry McCabe.

The P3 approach has "given us access to the resources and expertise of some of the world's best companies while still keeping local ownership and control," says McCabe.

After thorough review, the town council determined that Goderich would be better served if it were to contract a private sector partner to manage its water

and sewage system to meet public health and environmental standards.

Nearly two decades later, the Water and Wastewater Treatment plant serves a population of just over 7,500 residents, meets all the regulatory requirements at a lower cost and has improved the water quality in Goderich. The town also owns the facility and determines the water and sewage rates.

Deb Shewfelt, former Mayor of Goderich, says "This partnership in the management of our water supply and sewage water treatment system ensures public health and safety, improves environmental performance, reduces costs and fosters economic development by maximizing infrastructure capacities."



Committing to our planet's future means properly recycling our electronics of the past. That's why EPRA works to keep over 15 million devices out of Canadian landfills every year through convenient and regulated e-recycling programs. Plus, recovered materials go back into the manufacturing supply chain so that fewer natural resources are required.

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



A grader works on the Regina Bypass, one of the many P3 projects currently underway in Saskatchewan.

Portage la Prairie, Manitoba is hoping for a similar success.

The town council unanimously supported the use of a P3 to design, build, finance, operate and maintain a new wastewater treatment plant. As in Goderich, (and all current P3 projects in Canada) the public will maintain ownership of the plant while transferring most of the more expensive project risks to the private sector partner. That transfer of risk is at the heart of the savings you get from a P3 project. In the Portage example, Ernst and Young determined the savings to be in the 10-20 per cent range.

Canada has developed and evolved its own P3 model over the past 25 years. The Canadian model is viewed as among the best in the world.

Mark Romoff, President and CEO of the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships (CCPPP), explains: "We tend to define a P3 as a partnership where the private sector designs, builds, finances, maintains, and sometimes operates public infrastructure on a fixed price contract over a period of roughly 25-35 years."

In the P3 model, the private sector partners put their own money on the line, and that acts as a strong incentive to perform.

"If the private sector doesn't deliver, they don't get paid. That acts as a strong motivator to deliver on-time, on budget, and to keep infrastructure well-maintained," says Romoff.

It is important to note that P3s are not suitable for all projects. First and

foremost, P3s should only be used on the right project for the right reason. They would normally be used for larger projects like major highways, hospitals or Mosaic Stadium in Regina.

Private sector partners would typically only consider a P3 arrangement on complex projects worth \$50 million or more over the lifetime of the asset.

That could pose challenges for rural municipalities in need of critical infrastructure. One option, Romoff suggests, may be to work with neighbouring municipalities. It's happening right now in Saskatchewan.

"The size of the project is a factor, not the size of the community," he makes clear. "The bundling of projects within or across communities has proven successful. For example, Saskatchewan is currently procuring 18 schools across a number of communities in the province at significant savings."

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

- Are there gaps in your RM's expertise that would benefit from the input of private partners? This may be experience in heavy construction, wastewater treatment, or other industries.
- Does the project come with risks that a private business would be better at managing?
- Can you describe what you want to achieve in a performance-based way?

These are just some of the keys to a successful P3.

The way to know if a P3 is right is to develop the business case. Each P3 the provincial government has begun has gone through extensive financial analysis to make sure a P3 is the right decision.

"Take the time at the beginning to get the advice you need. Hire the experts that can help," reiterates Larry McCabe.

A well-run, well-managed project is particularly important at the RM level.

"Large, complex infrastructure projects have a history of delays and cost overruns," notes Romoff. "A cost overrun is harmful to any municipality, but a major cost overrun to a small municipality can be devastating to the finances of a community that the tax base will struggle to absorb. Having long-term cost certainty on a project is critical."

P3s in Canada have a great track record of on-time, on budget performance that has led to major savings for governments.

At pppcouncil.ca, readers can access a guide to help municipalities, who are considering a P3 for the first time.

SaskBuilds is also a great resource for any RM with questions.

Established in 1993, the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan, member-based organization with broad representation from across the public and private sectors. Its mission is to promote smart, innovative and modern approaches to infrastructure development and service delivery through public-private partnerships with all levels of government.



POLICING RURAL SASK

IT will come as no surprise to rural residents that property crime rates are trending upwards in several jurisdictions in Saskatchewan. But in many cases, statistics show that the perception of increased crime far exceeds the reality.

Having said that, property crime is a legitimate concern in rural areas, and the RCMP endeavours to respond to every complaint it receives. But between resource levels, call volumes and the distances officers sometimes have to travel, it can take time to respond. And, calls where people's lives may be in danger (i.e. motor vehicle collisions, firearms threats, domestic disputes) will always take priority over minor theft or trespassing complaints.

That is not to diminish the efforts of police or normalize the financial and emotional impact of property crime. People understandably feel vulnerable and violated when they become victims of property crime. So what's a rural resident to do?

Well, actually, the answer to that question is "plenty."

For starters, people can and should take measures to secure their property. While we may feel nostalgic for the days when we left our houses unlocked and keys in our vehicles, those days are unfortunately gone. Here are some recommendations to deter would-be thieves:

- Lock your houses, sheds, outbuildings and fuel tanks;
- Remove the keys from all unattended vehicles;
- Record the serial numbers and photograph your ATVs, snowmobiles, power tools, farm implements and other valuables;
- Consider installing additional lighting, alarm systems or surveillance cameras;
- If you spot suspicious vehicles or activity, call the police;

- If you feel threatened on your property, retreat to your home, lock the doors and call the police; and
- Do not attempt to confront, subdue or pursue suspects. No property is worth getting injured or killed over. Observe, note details and call the police, so that they can do their jobs.

Reducing crime is more than an individual undertaking. Saskatchewan has always been about neighbours looking after neighbours. We have a proud history of community cooperation and mobilization. The best weapon in the fight against crime is community engagement.

The RCMP encourages communities to explore programs such as Rural Crime Watch (RCW) and Citizens on Patrol. These are community-driven and community-led programs that are supported by police. Crime prevention and crime reduction are achieved through the sharing of information. Most importantly, these groups operate safely and within the boundaries of the law.

RCW is a collaborative program where volunteers with a vested interest in their communities' safety act as "eyes and ears" for the police by being vigilant when travelling in the area. Organized patrols—either on foot or in vehicles—can be part of the program. Information is shared by email, social media or phone about suspicious vehicles or activity. RCW signage is displayed prominently in the area as a deterrent, and participants follow a process of "Observe. Record. Report."

- Observe suspicious activity, people or vehicles;
- Record details, descriptions, times and locations; and
- Report the activity to the police.

For their part, the RCMP informs the RCW group of criminal activity and trends that may be developing in or migrating towards the area. Statistics show

that areas with an active, engaged and organized Crime Watch tend to have a significant reduction in criminal activity.

Citizens on Patrol Programs (COPPs) are very similar but with added emphasis on organized patrols. All COPP volunteers patrol in pairs—on foot or in vehicles—and are in direct contact with RCMP members who are also on-duty.

There is also an education component that involves increasing awareness and providing crime prevention information to local citizens, businesses and community organizations. COPP groups also conduct regular meetings that often include some basic training sessions.

Both programs require that: volunteers undergo criminal record checks; steering committees are set-up; leaders are elected; clear policies, procedures and geographical boundaries are established; and groups apply for membership with the parent organizations.

The RCMP participates in and liaises with both of these programs and can assist in planning, setting-up and launching the groups. Feel free to contact your local detachment to learn more.

The ultimate goal is to have a group of engaged citizens working with police to help prevent and reduce crime, and to do it safely and within the parameters of the law.

While our sense of community in rural Saskatchewan may seem different now, it is still built on the same values:

- Looking out for each other;
- Sharing civic responsibility; and
- Living up to our community commitment.

While policing is the RCMP's responsibility, safe and secure communities are everyone's responsibility. Talk to your neighbours, your RM or town councillors and your local detachment today to find out how you can make a difference.



STRONG GOVERNMENT, STRONG COMMUNITIES, STRONG PROVINCE

BY ASHLEY LEUGNER

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, MLDP

HAVE you ever heard the Lay's potato chip slogan, "Betcha can't eat just one"? This always comes to mind after speaking with someone who has completed their first Municipal Leadership Development (MLDP) module. Clearly we are not eating these modules, we are taking them, so more appropriately, "Betcha can't take just one." Once people take their first module, they take them all. It only takes one for participants to realize that these courses will strengthen their roles in local government. Local government plays an important role in our daily lives, not only the ones holding a seat at the table, but the general public as well. An educated local government is a strong local government. I challenge you to try to take just one MLDP course; educate yourself, strengthen your government, community and the province.

The program initially launched in 2003 and is a partnership between SARM, SUMA, RMAA, UMAAS, New North and the Ministry of Government Relations. The modules and course materials have since evolved to meet the needs of our municipal leaders and staff.

MLDP is a series of six modules offered by request in the fall and twice in the winter. The winter sessions are always the day before the SUMA and SARM conventions. The SUMA Convention has now passed, but there are still spots available on Monday, March 13 in Saskatoon, the day before SARM's Convention. To register, visit www.mldp.ca.

Watch the SARM Update and Urban Update to catch new dates and locations of future modules OR get some communities together and host your own!

MLDP's goal is to strengthen local government through education. It addresses issues and challenges facing municipal officials through these modules:

Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities

Geared toward newly elected officials, this essential module offers current information to help you understand council procedures and your role in policy decision making and being a community leader. These modules are delivered separately through SARM, SUMA, and New North newly elected workshops.

Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities

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

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

Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

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

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

Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace

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

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

Public Relations and Communications for Municipalities

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

"Best class so far!" - participant

Community and Land-Use Planning

This module covers areas around community and land-use planning: the roles and responsibilities of council, administration and the public; the creation, adoption and amendment process for official community plans and zoning bylaws; the subdivision process; servicing agreements; the development and permit process; the development appeal board process; enforcing bylaws; the building permit process; and regional planning.

"Very knowledgeable presenter, great flow of presentation"
- participant

Not only are these modules a great source of information and skills for you to take back to your municipality, they present a great opportunity to network with other municipal leaders to share experiences, successes, and challenges. As these testimonials show, you will be provided with exceptional information from well informed facilitators, you will not regret taking them all. We hope to see you at an MLDP module soon.



invites SARM Delegates to
be our guests at the
Registration Reception



SARM Convention

Prairieland Park, Hall A, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Monday, March 13, 2017
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.



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On Friday, January 20, 2017, Buffalo Narrows Conservation Officers observed a pile of whole walleye that were dumped and left to waste on Churchill Lake. The walleye were dumped approximately one mile from the village of Buffalo Narrows. There were twenty-two walleye that had been caught in a net. There was no commercial fishing season open on Churchill Lake at the time of the violation. Do you know the person(s) responsible for this Fisheries violation or did you see any suspicious activity in the area? *The public's help is needed to solve this case.*



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SASKATCHEWAN SAFETY COUNCIL



ONLINE AGRICULTURE SAFETY TRAINING

Adopted by Sun West School Division

ACCORDING to the Saskatchewan Farm Injury Surveillance Program at the University of Saskatchewan, on average, 13 people are killed on Saskatchewan farms annually. Most incidents occur in the farm yard, and 75 per cent of the fatalities involve machinery, such as grain trucks, semis, tractors and combines, and 14 per cent involve youth.

Benjamin Franklin is generally credited with saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and those in safety know that education, knowledge and awareness go a long way when it comes to preventing injuries and fatalities. To that end, in February the Saskatchewan Safety Council launched the Online Agriculture Training System, or OATS, a high quality, interactive agricultural safety awareness training course. OATS is a general orientation for young or new farm workers, and it is an excellent source of information for more experienced workers as it provides an

overview of the health and safety hazards and risks on most farms.

“Encouraging safe workplace practices is a priority for all Sun West DLC agriculture courses. We have adopted the Saskatchewan Safety Council’s Online Agriculture Training System as a mandatory component of all courses in our agricultural strand.” Says Tanya Ringdal, Marketing and Business Development for Sun West Distance Learning Centre (DLC).

Based in Kenaston, Sun West DLC is an online school that delivers web-based courses for Saskatchewan learners in Kindergarten through Grade 12. With over 80 electives at the high school level, the DLC offers choice and flexibility in a way that is often unavailable in many of the province’s smaller rural communities. They currently offer eight agriculture courses for high school credit: Ag Tech Cow/Calf 10, 20, 30; Ag Tech Field Crop Production 10, 20, 30; and Ag Tech

Equine Studies 10, 20, with Equine 30 becoming available in January 2017.

“The partnership between the Saskatchewan Safety Council and Sun West School Division is a really good fit”, explains Terri Kerbrat, Community Relations Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Safety Council. “We developed OATS with young farm workers in mind, so it is gratifying to see it incorporated in the agriculture courses for high school credit. Sun West School Division has paved the way for other divisions to consider it for inclusion in their course materials as well, and that is very exciting.”

The online format provides the use of interactive scenarios, visuals, audio and text-based learning in a self-paced environment. Users can save their progress and log in from multiple locations allowing them flexibility in completing the program. The entire course takes approximately three hours to complete, and users receive a printable certificate upon

successful completion. Thanks to the generous support of the Safety Council's partners and sponsors, the program is fully online and completely free.

OATS is also one of four components of the Early Safety Training Program (ESTP), a more comprehensive certificate program offered by the Saskatchewan Safety Council. In its entirety, the ESTP includes the Young Worker Readiness Course, WHMIS, First Aid/CPR plus one other safety elective; OATS is one of the elective options.

Since 1955, the Saskatchewan Safety Council, a non-profit registered charity, has been dedicated to the prevention of injury in Saskatchewan . . . at home, at play, and at work. Funded by donations, membership contributions, sponsorships, grants, and the distribution of its safety

programs and materials, the revenues generated by the Safety Council are invested within the province of Saskatchewan to further promote safety.

The Safety Council's roots in agriculture safety can be traced to 1962 with the formation of our Farm Division. Much of the Farm Division's early work was to track and report on agriculture related injuries and deaths. Since its inception, the Farm Division took the lead in several farm safety groups and initiatives. The following are a few:

- Created the Farm Safety Video Program which, over time, was renamed the Farm Safety Resource Library and expanded to include print and online resources;
- Developed and delivered four injury prevention workshops: Farm Safety

Workshops for Women; Farm Safety for the Family; Farm Safety School Presentations; and the Pesticide Safety workshop; and

- Implemented the Farm Safety Team, a group of teens and disabled farmers who were trained to deliver presentations. In 2000, it was renamed, the Power PAC Farm Safety Team. In its first year, the team reached 8,000 students in 134 schools. By the time the program wrapped up, three "Safety on the Farm" videos had been produced and over 1,500 presentations on safety and injury prevention had reached more than 400,000 students in 300 plus schools.

For more information, or to register for OATS, visit: www.sasksafety.org.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Creating a stronger municipality



AS the world of municipal government continues to evolve, so must the skills of municipal employees and leaders. To be truly responsible and adaptable to the needs of ratepayers, our municipalities are looking to not only retain their employees longer, but are also recognizing the need to create strong training and development programs as well.

To help RMs in this goal, SARM has created a partnership with Southeast College to develop a Municipal Management Essentials training program. Different from the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP), which focuses on responsibilities and concepts, the Management Essentials program focuses on building skills and capacity. This program has a stream of training for administrative staff and another for foremen. Many of these workshops are also applicable to councillors. The modules are as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING STREAM

- Conducting Effective Meetings
- Presentation Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Communicating Effectively
- Time Management & Organizational Skills

- Assertiveness for Personal & Business Success
- Basic Business Law
- Marketing for Managers
- Conflict Management

FOREMAN TRAINING STREAM

- Supervisory Skills
- Being a Safety Leader
- Customer Relations
- Accounting & Finance for Non-Accountants
- Negotiation Skills
- Problem Solving & Decision Making
- Communicating Effectively
- Time Management & Organizational Skills
- Conflict Management

Each stream contains nine modules totaling 112 hours of training. Students that complete 35 hours of training will receive a SARM – Southeast College Level 1 Certificate. After 70 hours of training, they will receive a SARM – Southeast College Level II Certificate, and after all 112 hours have been completed, they will receive a SARM – Southeast College Level III Certificate.

These are essential skills to today's workplace. The challenges facing our

employees today are much different than they were even 15 years ago. We ask much more of our employees today, and that is why investing in them is critical.

Beyond building a better team to serve ratepayers, having a structured training system in place also aides in developing and retaining quality people. Municipalities now have the ability to help their employees achieve milestones that can be linked to salary negotiations or promotions.

The quality of this programming is excellent, and in fact, SUMA has joined forces with SARM and Southeast College to promote the Municipal Management Essentials program to their members. Saskatchewan Municipal Hail (SMHI) and SARM have also partnered to provide a specified amount of Entrance Awards to Administrators who complete the training modules. This will reduce tuition costs for those individuals by 50 per cent!

Please take this opportunity to elevate yourself and your municipality to the next level. For more information on this exciting new initiative, please reach out to our partners at Southeast College.

Thank you for your commitment to rural Saskatchewan and its people.

Agricultural Health and Safety Network **DISCOVERY DAYS**

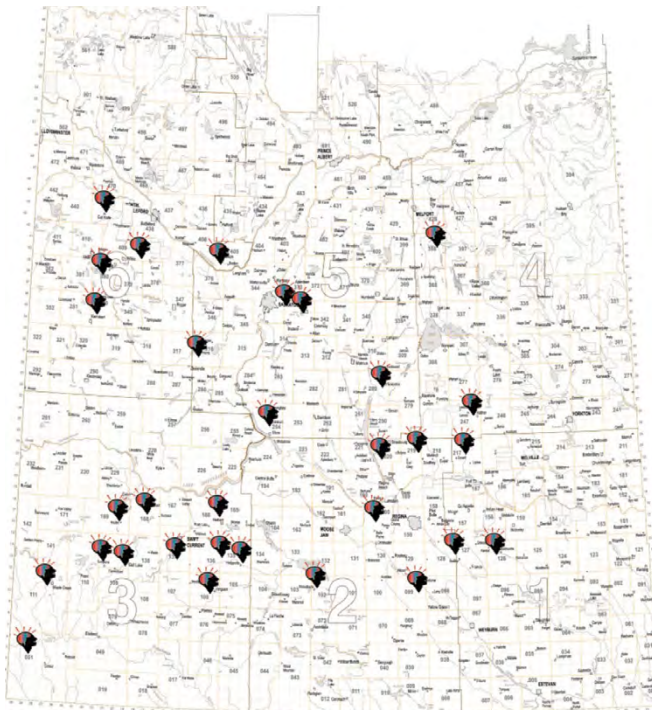
THE Network Agricultural Health and Safety Network Discovery Days pilot program was a success in the Spring of 2016. The Network reached over 1,500 children at 22 schools and community events in the spring of 2016. This program was complemented by the *Growing up on the Farm Safely* resource that went out to over 27,000 farm families in Saskatchewan with the Summer Network Newsletter. The purpose of this program was to fill a safety gap in Saskatchewan. There isn't much farm safety programming directed specifically at farm children at this time.

WHAT IS A DISCOVERY DAY?

Network Discovery Days are farm safety education days for rural Saskatchewan children. A Discovery Day is an afternoon event where children visit multiple farm safety stations to explore and participate in learning activities around the topic of farm safety. Each student goes home with a family safety package.

If your RM is either interested in becoming a member or would like to request a Discovery Day in your community, please call (306) 966-6647 or (306) 966-6644, email aghealthandsafety@usask.ca or visit aghealth.usask.ca.

2016 Discovery Day Program Locations, SK



DID YOU KNOW?

SARM

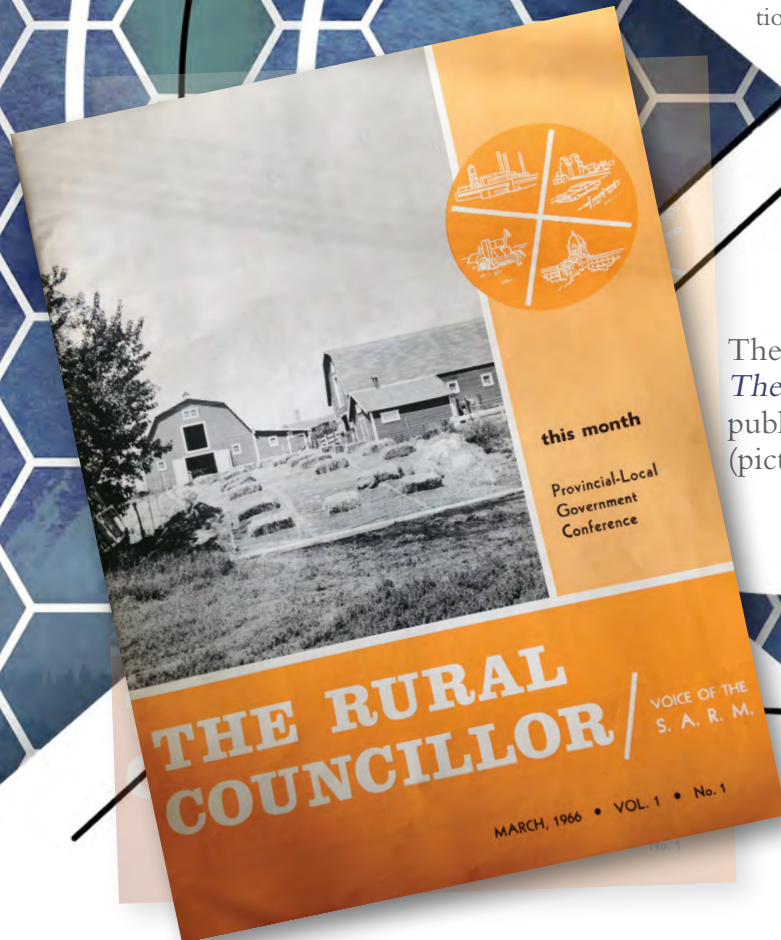
Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities

SARM HAD **OVER 60 WINS** IN 2016.

A win is defined as an amendment that is legislative or regulatory in nature, a program change and/or milestone that advance SARM's objectives and the interests of our members. This also includes SARM gaining membership to important committees and participating in processes/reviews that create desired outcomes for SARM.

*Read more about SARM's policy wins in the *2016 SARM Wins Report* that will be distributed to delegates at our Annual Convention.

The very first issue of *The Rural Councillor* was published in March 1966 (pictured left).



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Alternative names for the publication were: "The Saskatchewan Arm," "SARM Silhouette," "Saskatchewan Duster," "SARM Advisor," "SARM Bruit," "Prairie Courier," "Rural Echoes" and "Saskalily."

J.B Jansen, Secretary-Treasurer of the RM of Grass Lake No. 381, came up with "The Councillor" and SARM's board interjected the word "rural" to create *The Rural Councillor*. Meanwhile, Vernon Ross, Secretary-Treasurer of the RM of Coalfields No. 4, came up with "Voice of the SARM," which eventually became our slogan: *the Voice of Rural Saskatchewan*.

RC



SPRING IS COMING

(And, so are the weeds)

BY HARVEY ANDERSON

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP
PLANNING ADVISOR

NOW is the time for RMs to prepare their staff to assault the Invasive Alien Plants that will be soon popping up from the ground. There is still time for educating your staff, and especially your appointed weed inspector. Remember, a weed inspector appointment has to be forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture on an annual basis, so they are properly licensed and have the authority to enforce the *Weed Control Act*. No person in the RM has any right to enforce the Act unless they receive a notice card back from the Ministry of Agriculture, that they have the proper license.

The RM spray applicator does not have to be the appointed weed inspector, but to enable them to apply herbicides on public lands, which the ditches of roads within the RM are classified as, they must hold a current Pesticide Applicator License of the proper category.

Clark Brenzil, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Weed Specialist, just sent the following message and suggested I pass this information on to the RMs.

"I just happened to be looking through the course offerings on the SaskPolytechnic Pesticide Training website and found out that there is a four day classroom session for industrial licenses being made available in Saskatoon on April 3-6, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm each day. The cost is \$595 for the in-class course vs. the \$275 price for the home study course. I know that I have received calls from RMs on occasion to find out if there are in-class opportunities for this license training, so it would probably be helpful to RMs to circulate this info [to them]. To find out more about this opportunity and to register, they should visit saskpolytech.ca and then select the Industrial Vegetation Appl (PEST 171) link and the information and registration for both the home study and the in-class options.

RMs should also be aware that once their prospective applicator has completed the course, they will receive a certificate that they will then have to present to our Pesticide Licensing Program along with their registration fee to receive their Pesticide Applicators License.

As an additional note; the acquisition of a Pesticide Applicator's License is not a prerequisite to becoming a weed inspector, but it can be a useful tool for a weed inspector and allow them to respond quickly to the appearance of small infestations on RM property including rights of way.

This training should not be confused with the Saskatchewan Weed Inspector Training Clinics (SWITC) which are being planned for the following week in April. More information on the dates and locations for SWITC will come at a later date."

Online courses in Invasive Species Management are available, and as Shauna Lehmann, an Engineer with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, writes: "I took these online courses through Southeastern Community College in North Carolina, and they were fantastic; they are now being offered in association with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Dr. Westbrook is very passionate about invasive species management and keeps in close contact with his students to ensure thorough learning. I would highly recommend them."

Subject: Global Announcement – Launch of the NAISMA Online Invasive Species Management Training Program

To: IVS Colleagues Worldwide

Over the past 10 years, my wife Becky and I (Randy Westbrook) have developed and offered a series of six online

Invasive Species Management Training Courses that cover all aspects of IVS Management—from Regulatory Exclusion at Ports of Entry to EDRR and Long Term Control. The courses were offered as part of Becky's Community College Environmental Science Technology Program here in southeastern North Carolina, until her recent retirement. The courses include:

- IVS 110 – Introduction to Invasive Species
- IVS 210 – Overview of IVS Management Strategies
- IVS 211 – Overview of Federal, State, and Local IVS Management Programs
- IVS 220 – Invasive Plant Survey Methods (With Field Lab Component)
- IVS 221 – Invasive Plant Control Methods
- IVS 260 – State Pesticide Exam Preparation

The courses are based primarily on the concepts I learned as a Federal IVS Prevention Specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from 1979-2012.

We are now offering these online courses in association with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Students who complete the six course program will earn a Certificate of Invasive Species Management from NAISMA. The first semester of courses will begin on February 6, 2017, ending on May 26, 2017. Summer 2017 semester courses will begin in early June 2017.

For details or to register, visit www.naisma.org/committees/ivs-course.

rural councillor **MEMBER NEWS**



**RM OF WAVERLEY, NO. 44
IN MEMORIAM
BOYD M. ANDERSON**

Boyd, much loved family man and well known and respected rancher from southern Saskatchewan passed away with family at his side in Moose Jaw on December 1, 2016 at the age of 96. Boyd was born on March 1, 1920 near the Montana border. He lived all his life in southern Saskatchewan, except between 1942 and 1945 when he served in World War II.

Boyd settled happily into ranching and family life with his new wife, Lorene (nee Landers). However, he also had a drive to improve living conditions for ranching and farming communities. Immediately after returning from Europe, he became involved in community and political affairs, and this continued for over 40 years. His contribution to his community has been recognized with many honours, including an honorary doctor of law degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Order of Merit and membership in the Order of Canada. Boyd will be missed by many, especially by his family. He loved sharing his love of the hills, the prairie and their history with everyone.

He loved family get-togethers and was keen to host and celebrate all special occasions. In later years, Boyd and Lorene enjoyed many family visits and trips with their children and grandchildren. Boyd and Lorene were proud of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all will miss Grandpa Boyd's wisdom, warmth and wonderful stories.



**RM OF SHAMROCK, NO. 134
IN MEMORIAM
EDWIN "EBBIE" HENRY**

Ebbie of Moose Jaw, formerly of Shamrock, passed away on October 25, 2016 at 93 years old. He is survived by his wife, Sarah (nee Peters) and their five children and spouses. He also leaves behind 12 loving grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was born on the family homestead near Shamrock and spent most of his life as a village resident. He joined the Canadian Army in 1941 and served overseas with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion. When he returned, he became the postmaster before taking the job of secretary-treasurer for the RM of Shamrock, where he worked for 47 years and received the Lou Jacobs Award for outstanding service in municipal govern-

ment as well as to the community. For 25 of those years, he also managed the Shamrock Credit Union.

He was active in the community, including sports, Lions, Legion and the United Church. He also helped establish Shamrock Regional Park. He was devoted to family and community and was a respected friend to all who knew him.



**RM OF CHAPLIN, NO. 164
IN MEMORIAM
DUANE FARNEL**

Duane passed away at the age of 69 on March 16, 2016. He was born on October 8, 1946 to Sylvia and Harvey Farnel. He spent his childhood in Tuxford, SK. He completed his elementary grades in Tuxford and continued his education at St. Louis College in Moose Jaw.

After spending the early 1970's in Alberta, he returned to Saskatchewan and fulfilled his life-long dream of purchasing a ranch in the Chaplin area. He served as reeve for the RM of Chaplin No. 164 from 1999-2001 and was a member of the Chaplin Library Board and Chaplin Seniors Group. He valued his independence, privacy and solitary life. He loved cartoon movies, reading and a "good deal" at an auction sale. He will be greatly missed.

NEWS TO SHARE? Be sure to email a short article – including the RM number, individual's name and event (i.e., retirement, in memoriam, award, etc.) in the title – to sarm@sarm.ca and we will include it in an upcoming edition of the Rural Councillor. *Note: please send photos as separate JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files and not as part of a Word document.*



**RM OF FERTILE VALLEY,
NO. 285
IN MEMORIAM
ALVIN BARRINGTON**

Alvin was born in Outlook in January 1945 and passed away in January 2017 just shy of his 72nd birthday. He was the only child of Alec and Gladys Barrington. When he finished school, he worked for O'Hara's Farm Equipment and later with Sibbald Motors from 1962-80.

In 1963, he was a member of the first graduating class of Automotive Mechanic Tech from Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (SIAST), and he went on to obtain his journeyman papers.

Al was often heard saying "life on the farm has its rewards, and he wouldn't change his life for anything." The family was involved in mixed farming, and he was a family man who loved spending

time with his wife, sons and grandchildren. He was a volunteer firefighter and Fire Chief in Conquest for several years. He was also a proud member of the Conquest Elks Lodge No. 294.

He served 32 years with the RM of Fertile Valley; first as councillor for Division 5 from 1981-94 and then reeve from 1997-2016. The RM honored Al at their past Christmas party for his service. He will be lovingly remembered by all, especially his wife, Kathy, of almost 50 years, his sons Craig (fiancée Colleen Wozney) and Gary (Shawna), and grandchildren, Breanna, Brody, Brandon and Tori.



**RM OF ELFROS, NO. 307
IN MEMORIAM
HENRY BZDEL**

Henry of Wynyard, SK passed away at the age of 71 in June 2016. Henry was born

in Wadena in February 1945. He was the fifth child born to John K. and Annie Bzdel. He grew up on the family farm in the Rushville area.

After high school, Henry played for the Regina Rams as a left end for a year. From 1963-69, he held various jobs: labourer for Wappel Construction in Regina; labourer for Manix Construction at the Potash Mine by Belle Plain; driving cat for Wilbur Webb; operating a cat and scraper to build roads for the RM of Big Quill; mechanic at Walt's Service in Wynyard; mechanic at Brook's Motors in Wynyard; mechanic, road builder and later foreman for the RM of Elfros. In 1969, he bought land and started farming. In 1974, he quit working for the RM and bought his parents' farm to farm full-time. In 1994, Henry became a councillor for the RM of Elfros and was reeve from 2004-2011.

In 1965, Henry married Beverley Ann Fewster. They were blessed with four children and five grandchildren. Family and friends were important to Henry, and he loved his grandchildren. He was never too busy to help out a friend.

Henry was predeceased by his parents;

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brothers, Wilfred and Sylvester Bzdel, and sister-in-law, Helen Bzdel. He is survived by his wife of 50 years; children: Shelley (Dean) Sargent of Carlyle, SK, Gerald (Gloria) Bzdel of Saskatoon, SK, Scott (Shauna) Bzdel of Emerald Park, SK, and Lorie (David) Rithaler of Grenfell, SK; grandchildren: Kyle and Taylor Sargent, Landon and Keaton Bzdel, and Ava Rithaler; siblings: Jim Bzdel, Christine Elaine (Ray) Clark and Len (Lois) Bzdel; sisters-in-law: Cathy Bzdel, Darlene (Ernie) Welta, Linda (Wayne) Timmerman and Lorna (Gerry) Onyskevitch and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Henry was loved by many and will be missed by all.



**RM OF ELFROS, NO. 307
IN MEMORIAM
KENNETH ALFRED JONES**

Kenneth was born in August 1927 in the Copeland District near Raymore, SK. He was the oldest of three children born to Alfred and Hilda Jones. He attended Popular View School and began farming at an early age. In 1942, his father sold their land in Copeland and purchased land north of Elfros. There, Ken attended Argyle School before farming full-time with his dad at the age of 15. He continued farming after his dad retired in 1963. Ken farmed for 66 years before retiring at age 81. In 2005, he received a certificate of recognition from the Canadian Wheat Board for 'over 50 years of producing high quality and wholesome food.'

In the early years, Ken worked at the IHC dealership in Wadena as a mechanic.

Ken met his wife, Evelyn Lindbom, at Round Lake Bible Camp where she worked summers as a counselor. Their home was always open for coffee or tea, with company regularly invited over for supper and fellowship or a Bible study.

He had a number of hobbies. He played mandolin and restored his beloved '29 Chev and D John Deere tractor,

which he loved to share with others in parades or for a ride around the block. Many awards and plaques could be found around his house for Best Classic Vehicle from town and country fair parades.

He served as deacon, treasurer and member of the building and Bible Camp committees for the Wadena Baptist Church. He also served as local school board trustee, a Sask Wheat Pool Committee Member (15 plus years), a councillor for Division 5 of the Elfros RM, and a member of the Weneeda Park Lodge board. As vice-chair of that board he helped create the Pleasant View Care Home. Ken was also an active member of the Wadena District Museum.

Ken was predeceased by his wife (2012), father Alfred (1987), and mother Hilda (1988). Left to cherish his memory are daughter, Colleen (Darryl) of Calgary, AB, and son, Brent (Lorraine) of Surrey, BC, grandsons, Devon, Kyle, Bradon and Tavian, as well as sister, Hilda (Elfros, SK) and brother, Eric (Springside, SK). He will be missed.

**RM OF EYE HILL, NO. 382
IN MEMORIAM
JAMES ALEXANDER CONLY**

James was born on the farm in October 1921 to Alexander and Martha. He and his brothers, Maynard and Ken, attended elementary school at Abercrombie. He completed his high school in Macklin. In 1943, he joined the RCAF and served as an instrument mechanic on Lancasters and Spitfires, as well as duties in British-occupied Germany after the war. When he returned from the war, he attended the U of S from 1947-49 obtaining his diploma in Vocational Agriculture. He married Susan Halliday on July 27, 1949. He built their house on the family farm and began his lifelong love of the land, cattle and chickens. Together, they had three children, Susan Kathleen, Robert Laurie James, and Douglas Alexander.

Jim was also involved in his community. He was passionate about the co-operative movement and served on the Federated Co-operative Board for years, as well as other local boards. Jim was also involved in the Evesham Community Church and was a councillor for the RM of Eye Hill from 1976-79.



**RM OF BLAINE LAKE, NO. 434
IN MEMORIAM
CYRIL DAVIDSON**

Cyril always believed in strong communities and that the strength of a community came from individuals helping out whenever they could and when there was a need. Although a lot of his time was focused on farming, he still devoted his time to a number of responsibilities outside of the farmyard.

When the kids were still very young, their parents left their jobs in the banking sector and moved from Saskatoon to the family farm in the RM of Blaine Lake. The farm has been in the family for almost 120 years. Becoming farmers took up a lot of time, but Cyril still found time to help coach his hockey teams. He later took on active roles within the Blaine Lake Optimist Club.

He supported the Blaine Lake Community Association, and he served in a variety of capacities over ten plus years with the RM starting in the 1980s.



Councillor Brad Loppe (left) presents Brian Northeast with a retirement gift.

**RM OF ENNISKILLEN, NO. 3
RETIREMENT
BRIAN NORTHEAST**

On behalf of the RM of Enniskillen, we want to thank Brian for his years of service as councillor (1988-2004) and reeve (2004-2016), and we want to congratulate him on his retirement.

Over the years, Brian has served on many boards and committees within the RM and surrounding areas. He served

the ratepayers with dedication, kindness and fairness. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Brian for sharing his knowledge and experience.



Councillor Brad Loppe (left) presents Jack Twietmeyer with a retirement gift.

**RM OF ENNISKILLEN, NO. 3
RETIREMENT
JACK TWIETMEYER**

On behalf of the RM of Enniskillen, we want to thank Jack for his years of service as Division 5 councillor from 2009–2016 and congratulate him on his retirement.

Jack has served on many boards and committees within the RM and its surrounding areas. Jack's passion is for Saskatchewan watershed and environmental issues. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Jack for sharing his knowledge and his dedication.



**RM OF CHAPLIN, NO. 164
RETIREMENT
RAYMOND MANN**

The ratepayers, council and staff of the RM of Chaplin express their appreciation and gratitude to retiring PCO Raymond Mann for his 35 years of service to the municipality and district.

Raymond started working as a PCO for the RM in October 1979, and over the next 35 years, he was involved in various boards and activities within the community and area, as well as being the PCO for the RM of Rodgers for about eight years and the PCO for the RM of Enfield for approximately 25 years.

Raymond loved his job and travelled many, many miles sharing his extensive knowledge on rats as well as other pests

and the baiting/trapping methods that worked best for each situation.

Thank you, Raymond, for your commitment to your community. We wish you all the best.



**RM OF ST. ANDREWS, NO. 287
RETIREMENT
GARRY NISBET**

A program honoring Garry Nisbet, retiring reeve of the RM of St. Andrews, was held on December 1, 2016. Many distinguished guests, family, friends and ratepayers attended. Garry has served on the RM council for 27 years. He was Councillor for Division 1 from 1989–2008 and reeve from 2008–2016.

Garry was born and raised in the Sovereign area. After graduating from high school in Rosetown, he attended the University of Saskatchewan, obtaining a Degree in Agriculture. Garry and Lucille have farmed in the Sovereign area since the early 1970s. They raised two children on the farm, Shawna and Troy. Garry and Troy are still actively farming.

As a council member, Garry served on many committees and completed many projects, including community wells, municipal constructions, the new long-term care home, and the Municipal Medical Clinic, to name a few.

Present at the program was Honorable Jim Reiter Minister of Health and MLA for the Rosetown Elrose Constituency. Minister Reiter presented Garry with a plaque. Rod Wiens, SARM Division 6 representative, also presented him with a SARM recognition plaque, while Mayor Adam Krieser conveyed congratulations on behalf of the town of Rosetown. Reeve Geoff Legge presented Garry with an engraved gold watch and a Public Service Award certificate.

Garry has been a strong voice on the RM council and will always be respected for his dedication and commitment to the RM of St. Andrews.



**RM OF MARRIOTT, NO. 317
RETIREMENT
COLIN G. AHRENS**

On November 25, 2016 the RM of Marriott hosted a retirement celebration honoring Colin Ahrens. Colin has served on the RM council for an unprecedented 47 years, as councillor for Division 3 from 1969–96 and then as reeve from 1996–2016. In the fall of 2016, he chose not to seek re-election.

A social and program was held in Rosetown for the public followed by a private dinner of both past and current municipal council and staff. Colin received a Public Service Award, gold watch, custom metal bench, and numerous other gifts in appreciation for his service to the RM.

Throughout his tenure, he was involved in all municipal matters and served on many boards and committees on behalf of the RM. His long standing knowledge of municipal history, projects and events will be greatly missed. On behalf of the RM of Marriott council and staff, we thank Colin for his commitment to local government, and we wish him all of the best in his retirement.



**RM OF MARRIOTT, NO. 317
RETIREMENT
DON FORTIN**

The RM of Marriott recognized Don Fortin for his four years of service as councillor of Division 5 from 2012–2016 at a supper held on December 16, 2016. Reeve Orville Minish presented him

with a public service certificate and gift. The RM thanks Don for his service and commitment during his tenure.



Incoming Reeve Maurice Patenaude (right) presents retiring reeve Stanley Elmy (left) with an engraved watch.

**RM OF KELVINGTON, NO. 366
RETIREMENT
STANLEY ELMY**

At the December 8, 2016 meeting of the RM of Kelvington, retiring council member Stanley Elmy was presented with an engraved watch in appreciation of his years of service to the municipality as Division 1 councillor from 2003-2007 and reeve from 2007-2016.



**RM OF REFORD, NO. 379
RETIREMENT
JEROME LOERZEL**

Jerome Loerzel began working for the RM of Reford in May 1980 as the grader operator, and he continued in this role for over 35 years. During his tenure, he operated under the leadership of four reeves, 33 councillors and six administrators. On September 30, 2015 he retired from the RM.

A celebration was held in June 2016, where Jerome was joined by his family, co-workers, council and spouses, to pay tribute to him for his outstanding commitment and dependable service to the municipality. Jerome's knowledge of

the RM surpassed most of us, and he will be missed by all. On behalf of the RM, Reeve Gerald Gerlinsky presented Jerome with a custom made fire ring and a framed certificate.

The ratepayers, council and staff extend their sincerest thank you to Jerome for his outstanding dedication and years of service. Best wishes in your retirement!



**RM OF ST. LOUIS, NO. 431
RETIREMENTS
HENRY GAREAU,
DONALD GAUDET AND
LOUISE HODGSON**

On October 12, 2016 the RM of St. Louis honored retiring reeve Henry Gareau (right) who served as the reeve

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from 2006–2016. He also served as councillor in Division 3 from 1995–2006. Throughout his time served in the municipality, Henry was involved on many boards, committees and activities.

Donald Gaudet (left), who served as councillor in Division 3 from 2006–2016, did not seek re-election this fall.

Louise Hodgson retired on December 31, 2016 as the administrator. She joined the RM in 1996 and was the administrator from 2000–2016.

Reeve Emile Boutin thanked them for their contributions and extended best wishes on behalf of the RM, council and staff. In appreciation for their time served, the RM presented Henry and Louise with a gold watch.



**RM OF CHAPLIN, NO. 164
AWARD
RON LASOTA**

Ron Lasota was elected councillor for Division 6 in the RM of Chaplin in November 2011 and served the RM until April 2016. For his dedicated service to the RM, council presented him with a miniature die-cast RM Grader replica.

The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Ron for sharing his knowledge and experience and offer best wishes for a happy, healthy future!



**RM OF CANA, NO. 214
AWARD
IRVIN GULASH**

Councillor Irvin Gulash (left) was appreciated at the annual Christmas supper on December 9, 2016. Reeve Robert Almasi, (right) on behalf of council,

staff and ratepayers of the RM of Cana presented Irvin with a Public Service Award and gift certificate from the RM. Irvin was a councillor for Division 5 from 2012–2016. We thank Irvin for his service to the municipality and wish him all the best.



**RM OF GOOD LAKE, NO. 274
AWARD
JOHN NEUFELD**

The RM of Good Lake honoured Councillor John Neufeld at their annual Christmas Supper held on December 5, 2016. John (left) was presented with a Framed Glass Lily print from Berting Glass by Reeve Dave Popowich (right).

John served as councillor for Division 2 from November 2011 to November 2016. Reeve, council and staff would like to thank John for his dedication and commitment to the RM during his years on the council.



**RM OF PLEASANT
VALLEY NO. 288
AWARD
LAREN VALEN**

On June 23, 2016 the RM of Pleasant Valley recognized Laren Valen in recognition of 25 years of service as Foreman to the RM.

During a dinner held in celebration, Reeve Blake Jeffries presented Laren with a certificate, Glen Scrimshaw print and a gift card in appreciation of the dedication he continues to show to the RM and its ratepayers.

Laren's many hours spent tending to the maintenance of the RM's roads are second to none. On behalf of the council and ratepayers, we thank you.



**RM OF DUCK LAKE NO. 463
AWARD
ROBERT BANNERMAN**

The ratepayers, council and staff of the RM of Duck Lake wish to express their appreciation to Councillor Robert Bannerman for 35 years of service to the municipality. Thank you for your commitment to our community.

MEMBER NEWS TIPS

Here are some tips to help you prepare your *Member News* submissions:

- Do not include photos in Word documents. Send them as separate high resolution JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files.
- Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of websites. Scans of printed documents and online photos do not reproduce well.
- Photos should be a minimum of 300 dpi resolution. Tip: check the file size. If the photo file is less than 100 kb in size, it may not print properly in the magazine.
- Check your cell phone camera resolution before taking photos. Often to save file space, photos are taken at a low or medium resolution. Ensure that the camera's settings are set to High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Try to keep the length of submission write-ups under 250 words.

Please email questions or Member News items to sarm@sarm.ca. Thank you for all of your submissions. We love sharing your stories and achievements with our readers!

FENTANYL

What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful prescription painkiller about **100 X** more toxic than morphine. It is now being imported and sold illegally with tragic consequences.

Facts

- Fentanyl has been mixed with other drugs such as heroin and cocaine.
- It has been used in tablets made to look like prescription drugs.
- Overdoses have occurred where individuals were not aware they were consuming fentanyl.
- It is odourless and tasteless, and therefore hard to detect.
- It is often found in powder, pill, liquid and blotter form.
- 2 milligrams of pure fentanyl (the size of about 4 grains of salt) is enough to kill the average adult.
- Unintentional exposure to pure fentanyl – touching or inhaling – can cause serious harm including death.
- Fentanyl-related deaths have been increasing in Canada.

Tips for speaking with youth

- Educate them about the harms and consequences
- Maintain a calm, two-way conversation
- Try not to lecture, threaten, or judge them
- Discuss peer pressure and ways to say no to drugs

Overdose signs and symptoms

- Severe sleepiness
- Slow, shallow breathing
- Lips and nails turn blue
- Person is unresponsive
- Gurgling sounds or snoring
- Cold and clammy skin
- Tiny pupils



If you suspect an overdose, call 911 immediately.

Fentanyl nicknames include

Apache • China Girl • China White • Dance Fever • Friend • Goodfella • Green Beans • Jackpot • Murder 8 • Shady 80s • TNT • Tango and Cash

Naloxone

Naloxone is a drug that can **temporarily** reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Naloxone wears off within 30 to 90 minutes, so it is important to **seek further medical attention.**

Resources

RCMP Centre for Youth Crime Prevention

Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU) alerts and bulletins

In collaboration with:



Canadian Centre
on Substance Abuse
Centre canadien de lutte
contre les toxicomanies

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$2,000.00 for information which leads to an arrest or charge of person(s) responsible for this offence or any other serious crime.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is 100% anonymous and does not subscribe to call display nor are your calls traced or recorded. Web and Text Tips are encrypted. Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), text TIP206 and your message to CRIMES (274637), or you can submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com where you can also view other unsolved crimes.



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