RURAL COUNCILLOR VOLUME 50 number 3 FALL 2017 ISSUE PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES Publications Agreement #40062693 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMEN Saskatchewan Pastures Program Changes; Edenwold Legacy Tree Project; Common Landfill Issues; Mapping Technologies for Municipalities; Stress on the Farm; Protecting our Environment; Canada's Rail Transportation System; Best Value Procurement Process; Wind Energy Economic Benefits for Saskatchewan



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VOLUME 50 number 3 FALL 2017 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATIONOFRURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Official publication of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan.

Published four times per year by:

Benchmark Public Relations

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OUR VISION **OUR MISSION** By being the rural voice, SARM will effectively lead autonomous municipalities in creating a vibrant, diverse economy resulting in a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan.

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.





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

THE HONOURABLE LYLE STEWART MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



AS we celebrate 150 years of Canada, the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan is a shining light for the country and a great example of how far excellence and innovation can take an industry. Our industry continues to show its commitment to the environment with investments in research and adoption of new technology and practices.

According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, 93 per cent of Saskatchewan farms used conservation tillage practices. Of this, 74 per cent was zero-till, which is an increase from 70 per cent in 2011. Our farmers and ranchers are working to ensure our land is taken care of in the best way possible, keeping it a valuable resource for generations to come.

Agriculture in Saskatchewan is also a strong economic contributor to the province and important supplier to the world. Last year, we brought in the second largest harvest on record, and those products travelled to 147 different countries. In 2016, our agriculture exports reached \$14.4 billion – the second highest ever, only behind 2015's record-breaking total. Our reach extends around the globe, and we are a top supplier of many products in our own country. While Saskatchewan has been called Canada's bread basket and wheat and durum exports continue to be strong, today our wide variety of high-quality products makes us more like Canada's grocery basket.

We see the potential to add even more items to this basket by our growing value-added industry. Value-added revenue in Saskatchewan reached \$4.3 billion in 2016, up from \$3.5 billion in 2012. There is a lot of potential in this industry for future growth. The variety of value-added products we are capable of producing means we can offer much to Canada and the world – from high-quality canola oil to award-winning gin.

\$14.4BILLION

Saskatchewan's
2016 agriculture
exports - the
second highest
level in provincial
history

As our industry continues on its path of growth, it's important that consumers are walking right there with us. This is why a commitment to public trust is so important. We must let consumers know why our industry makes the decisions we do and how we all share the same goal of producing safe, sustainable, healthy food.

Thank you to all our farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and each of you involved in our industry. Your dedication has contributed greatly to the success of the agriculture industry, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

THE HONOURABLE SCOTT MOE

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATER SECURITY AGENCY



EACH and every day across this province people wake up and turn on the shower, make their morning coffee, get ready for work, brush their kid's teeth and send them off to school. In rural Saskatchewan, we go out to farm and continue to feed the world with our world class agricultural industry. This daily routine revolves around one essential thing: water.

Water is the most important resource we have in this province. Water also requires one incredibly important thing to ensure we all have it: vision. Vision to prepare for the years and decades ahead. This year, I am reminded of that with the 50 year anniversary of Gardiner Dam. Constructed between 1958 and 1967, Gardiner Dam remains one of the largest earthfill dams in the world. Both the Gardiner and Qu'Appelle dams created what we know as Lake Diefenbaker, a 225 kilometre-long reservoir. In today's dollars, the dam would cost over \$1 billion to build. Building this dam took real vision to see how Saskatchewan people would benefit from it today in 2017.

Recently, our government created the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan to have that vision to look decades ahead to ensure we can all enjoy the best quality of life in our province. Within that plan we committed to many different initiatives. Updating Saskatchewan's Agricultural Water Management Strategy was one of those initiatives. In 2015, the Water Security Agency (WSA) launched the Saskatchewan Agricultural Water Management Strategy. This strategy changes how we approach agricultural drainage in Saskatchewan. It focuses on controlled and organized water management networks.

We have completely overhauled the approach to agricultural water management with changes to policy, regulation and legislation. We are creating a more efficient and effective way to permit drainage projects. The simple idea behind the strategy is to organize, control and permit drainage. In February of this year, WSA issued the largest single agricultural drainage approval in the province's history. A single approval was issued to

73 landowners for more than 18,000 acres of an organized and responsibly managed drainage network. We will continue to work with producers and landowners around the province to approve these large scale drainage networks. In order to make this process as easy as possible for producers, WSA has been training extra resources to act as qualified persons. Qualified persons will help farmers and landowners facilitate drainage projects and assist with the approval process.

We understand that local knowledge is necessary when it comes to major drainage projects, and that local producers know these drainage issues best. As government, we are providing the tools in the form of regulations and legislation, and local producers will find workable solutions for their areas.

Sometimes vision takes change and it can be difficult in the beginning, but in the end, like the building of Gardiner Dam, we all get to experience the benefits in the future.



Agriculture and the Environment

BY TJ HARVEY
CHAIR OF NATIONAL LIBERAL CAUCUS

IT is with great pride that I write this article not only as a parliamentarian but also as Chair of the "National Liberal Rural Caucus" and Chair of the All-Party Agricultural Caucus. Growing up on a large potato farm in rural New Brunswick, farming myself and working in the food processing industry, has given me the privilege of seeing, firsthand, the tremendous opportunities and challenges surrounding modern agriculture in Canada today.

Modern Canadian agriculture has evolved over more than a century and a half of continuous transformation through innovation and a relentless focus on constant improvement to bring us to where we are today. Today's farms are highly advanced, they employ a highly skilled workforce and have implemented automation along with all the advanced technologies that businesses have at their disposal. This is crucial as Canada continues to play a key role in an increasingly globalized economy.

One of the areas that Canadian agriculture continues to be under tremendous pressure is in the area of environmental stewardship. Canada is a world leader in on-farm environmental programs, and the role that Canada will play on the global stage within the agriculture sector requires a focus on our ability to produce high yielding crops while respecting the environment. The sustainable production of food is critical for everyone and Canadian farmers rely on the environment to guarantee they have the best possible conditions to grow crops and raise livestock. As Canadians, we need to continue to lead the way through sharing ideas, creating programs and implementing best practices to ensure a strong economy and a clean environment go hand in hand on the agriculture front.

As government, we should be educating Canadians about the advantages of genetically modified organisms (GMOs),

and on the efforts being made by our agri-food industry to continue to be a world leader in agricultural based environmental stewardship practices, which will work to instill confidence in our food supply chain. Innovations which support the supply of high-quality foods to Canadians ought to be applauded, not ostracized. Although it's important to respect the farming of yesterday, it's just as important to appreciate how far we have come today and continue to be open minded about future innovation, development and growth opportunities to where we can go with the farming of tomorrow. As an overall industry, we should show pride in telling the story of agriculture within Canada and celebrate our individual family farming stories that brought us to where we are today. It is also important to share the process of how modern farming practices are utilized to ensure consumers have little to be fearful of when it comes to implementing new, innovative practices in an environmentally safe manner.

There is a genuine desire of Canadians from both rural and urban areas to better understand how their food is produced and how it gets from farm to fork. As our government moves forward on a national food strategy, measures to further educate and protect consumers' peace of mind could be, and should be, incorporated as it is just sound policy. This can be achieved by working collaboratively with Canada's farmers, processors and consumers to ensure that the needs of the consumer are met as well as the needs of the industry.

Released earlier this year, the Barton Report, specifically highlights agriculture as one of the best growth opportunities for Canada's economy in the coming decades with our large arable land base and broad-based acceptance of new technologies. Canada is strategically positioned to be an agricultural leader with the potential to become the second largest exporter in

the world. As indicated in Budget 2017, Canada's Innovation and Skills Plan agenda sets an ambitious target to grow Canada's agri-food exports to at least \$75 billion annually by 2025. This will be accomplished by growing the sector, and the government of Canada is ready to help. In fact, in Budget 2017, we allocated \$70 million over six years for agricultural discovery science and innovation to support the sustainability of Canada's agricultural sector in addition to the \$30 million dollar allocation in last year's budget for genomics research.

Ensuring that the protection of the environment and a strong economy in both rural and urban areas go hand in hand is of high importance to our government as we continue to build a more sustainable, inclusive economy that recognizes the tremendous potential of our agri-food sector. It is also necessary to recognize that this potential for economic growth also lies within the more than 4,500 rural communities throughout Canada, of which the majority have a thriving agricultural community. As the world's fifth-largest agricultural exporter, Canada has the opportunity to become the trusted global leader in safe, nutritious and sustainable food in the 21st century. The rural communities of Canada, where farming is the fabric of their society, will be relied upon to produce this supply of food, which demonstrates the important role agriculture plays in rural economic development and highlights how essential rural communities are to Canada's prosperity.

At the end of the day and in summary, the theme of my message translates to the idea that mainstream agriculture and food production in Canada and smart environmental stewardship must go hand in hand so our children's children are able to eat and enjoy reliable, affordable, safe and nutritious food that was responsibly produced.



Working for members; PROTECTING OUR **ENVIRONMENT**

BY RAY ORB SARM PRESIDENT

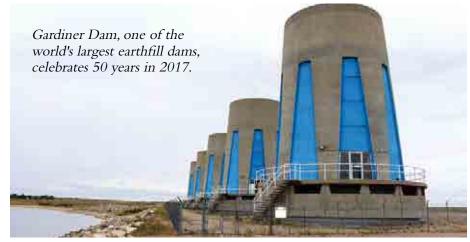
GREETING to all council members and administrators

Normally I would say that I'd hoped everyone was enjoying a great summer, but due to the fact that a good part of the grain belt is smack dab in the middle of a drought cycle, I'll refrain from saying that; for right now anyway.

There is no doubt that our climate is changing and that our average temperatures are increasing. A more alarming fact is that weather events, including rain fall and droughts, are becoming more volatile each year.

Many of our rural communities in southern Saskatchewan have received little or no rainfall since seeding time. For example, as of July 27 the Regina area received only 0.2 mm of rain and Swift Current only 0.8 mm in the month of July. Pastures and hayland conditions are dismal in many parts of the southern region, and they're being rated poor to average in over half of the province.

One thing for sure, you can't beat Mother Nature. But one thing we need to get better at and to plan more effectively for is water management, including building dams for irrigating cropland. On July 14 I attended a celebration that recognized 50 years of operation for the Gardiner Dam on Lake Diefenbaker. There certainly was a lot of foresight in the development of the Gardiner Dam since it serves as a drinking water provider to a large portion of our population, provides water to irrigate over 100,000 acres of farmland (with potential for more) and offers fishing and recreation to thousands of people every year. And yes the dam also generates 186 megawatts of electricity via the turbines at Couteau creek, enough to power 100,000 homes every year (according to the WSA).



As many of you know, SARM has been closely monitoring the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and noted that in April the federal Minister of Environment (and Climate Change) Catherine McKenna hosted a Ministers' Roundtable. Prior to that she struck her own SARA Advisory committee, and we were pleased to see Miles Anderson's name from the SSGA on the list. However, we also noted several special interest groups on the advisory committee list, and we are concerned that they may create an unbalance in the decision making as far as advice given to Minister McKenna.

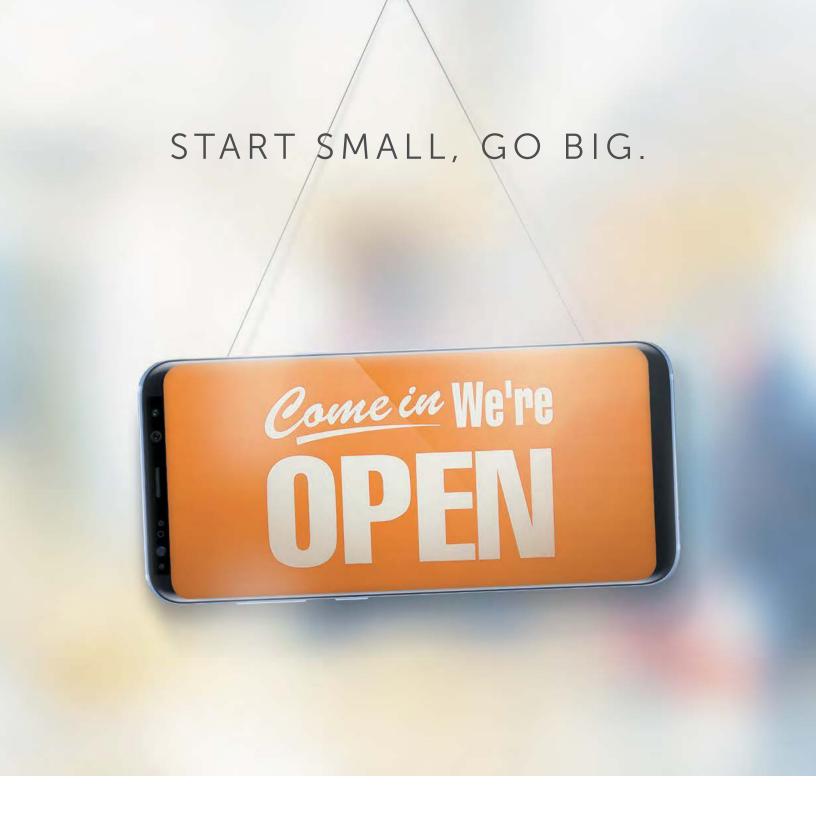
SARM is concerned with the SARA legislation itself since we believe ranchers and farmers may be penalized if a species at risk is found on their land, possibly by being forced to taking land out of production and also not being adequately compensated by the federal government to do so. SARM is planning a lobby trip to Ottawa in October and SARA will most certainly be on the list.

SARM was consulted several times on the next Ag policy framework and was informed that the federal government and the provinces have signed onto a new five year ag policy agreement called CAP, which stands for the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, CAP will be in place in April 1, 2018 and will focus on six priority areas, one being:

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change - "To help the sector reduce it's GHG emissions, protect the environment and adapt to climate change by enhancing sustainable growth while increasing production."

Although we don't know exactly what this means yet, we certainly hope the federal government takes into account that Saskatchewan and agriculture producers are opposed to the imposition of a federal tax on carbon. We believe we are already benefitting the environment by sequestering huge amounts of carbon each and every year in our province's forests and farmland. Incidentally, Saskatchewan is home to over 40% of the nation's farmland, and our producers are among the most productive and efficient not only in Canada but around the world.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and please have a safe harvest.



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SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION

BY JAY MEYER
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE health and safety of our agriculture producers is of utmost importance and should always be considered, especially during these busy times. Agriculture is one of Saskatchewan's largest and most hazardous industries. Given the importance of agriculture to the province, being proactive about safety is extremely important. Having a safety strategy helps to create a safe work environment for both the employer and employee.

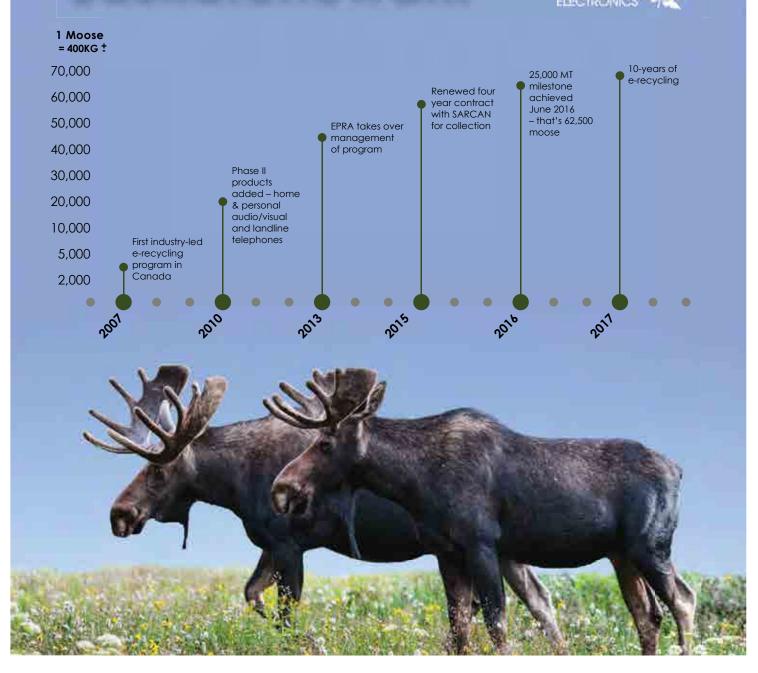
When it comes to safety, producers must make it a priority to not only educate themselves, but to also educate their employees. Education is key to the protection of everyone involved in a farming or ranching operation. There are many avenues to get educated and informed, including going to the Agriculture Health and Safety Network website, http://aghealth.usask.ca.

The Agriculture Health and Safety Network's mission is to improve health and safety on the farm through education, service and evaluation research. Their goal is to reduce injury and illness related to the farm environment. You will see many links and resources to assist, including safety workshops.

The network was developed in 1988 by SARM and six rural municipalities. Many of your local rural municipalities contribute an annual fee per farm family to assist in the operation of the Agriculture Health and Safety Network, so ratepayers can benefit from the network's resources.

We cannot ignore how dangerous, at times, as well as how important the agriculture industry is for this generation and generations to come. Times are changing, the world is moving faster than ever, and time and resources may not always be adequate. It is this change of pace that makes taking safety seriously so important. Please take some time and think about ways to be safe. We all want you home safe at night.

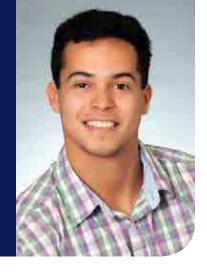
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Advocating for Canada's

RAIL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

BY BEN CHURSINOFF SARM SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

BILL C-49, also known as *The Transportation Modernization Act*, is a piece of proposed legislation that aims to improve Canada's transportation system. It will amend legislation that deals with rail transportation, railway safety, shipping by marine boat and air transport security. Bill C-49 passed second reading on June 19, 2017 and will go through it's third reading in the fall of 2017. After this, it must go through three readings in the Senate before it will receive Royal Assent and become law.

For SARM, it would have been preferable if the legislation received Royal Assent before the summer of 2017. This would have ensured that no gap would exist between the expiration of *The Fair Rail for Grain Farmers Act* and *The Transportation Modernization Act* (The Act). The new legislation will be important for ensuring that the national rail transportation system runs more efficiently and fairly as well as implementing better protections and tools for agriculture producers.

With The Act, the federal government's vision for a long-term strategic plan for Canada's transportation system is laid out in the Transportation 2030 plan. That vision is to create "a safe, secure, green, innovative and integrated transportation system that supports trade and economic growth, a cleaner environment and the well-being of Canada's middle class." This vision aligns with SARM's advocacy efforts that are aimed towards ensuring that agricultural producers in Saskatchewan have access to fair and reliable rail service that facilitates trade.

There are five themes in the Transportation 2030 strategy. These include the traveller, safer transportation, green and innovative transportation, waterways, costs and the North, and Trade Corridors to Global Markets. Trade Corridors to Global Markets is especially pertinent to SARM and its members. Efficiently transporting goods to market is crucial in a landlocked province like Saskatchewan where goods and resources need to be transported via rail. Improving the transportation system's performance is essential for growing the economy.

As part of SARM's submission to the Canada Transportation Act (CTA) Review, SARM conveyed the importance of improving the pecuniary system to better ensure that level of service agreements are met. At the time of the CTA Review, an Order-in-Council mandated that a railway that failed to meet a weekly minimum of grain volume to be shipped would be fined \$100,000 per violation. With the new legislation, it is proposed that penalties will now be reciprocal. Meaning that shippers will be able to seek reciprocal financial penalties and dispute resolution mechanisms in service level agreements and service level arbitrations. It is still unclear how this might function, and SARM will continue to monitor developments.

To improve system performance the federal government's bill contains many changes. The new legislation proposes to amend the existing inter-switching provisions into a new long-haul inter-switching mechanism. This new mechanism will allow a shipper that has access to the lines of only one railway company at the point of origin or destination to apply to the Canada Transportation Agency for a long haul inter-switching rate. This would be up to a maximum of 1,200 kilometres, or 50 percent, of the total distance the traffic is to be moved by rail.

SARM President Ray Orb will be sitting on the Crop Logistics Working Group (CLWG) as it enters its fourth mandate. This group provides SARM with a key avenue for sharing information that will be relayed directly to the federal government regarding grain transportation and related issues. The CLWG is comprised of industry representatives from across the supply chain. SARM is looking forward to participating in this forum and continuing to advocate for changes that resolve logistical issues facing the grain transportation system.

The renewal and continuation of the federal Grain Monitoring Program is also welcomed by SARM. SARM has been advocating the importance of real time data and has pushed for enhanced reporting requirements. SARM would like to see this include the requirement for federal railways to provide their plans for dealing with cold winters in the prairies, equipment inventory, and the workforce necessary to move grain in any crop year. SARM believes that a valid list containing this information should be provided to both the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Transport. It is good to see that The Act will require class 1 rail carriers to report certain information to the Minister of Transport. It may not be all the information that we believe should be reported, but it is a step in the right direction.

A full costing review of the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE) is not part of the new legislation. This mechanism will be retained but with some minor modifications. This includes a proposal to remove containerized grain from the calculations. It is good news for SARM and its members that the MRE will remain in place, although it remains to be seen how it might be affected by the minor changes.

SARM will continue to follow the progress of The Act to ensure the transportation system continues operating smoothly. After the grain backlog experienced a few years ago, it is imperative that change be initiated. After the CTA Review and consultations, it appears that The Act will bring about much of the desired change but time will tell what impacts will be created.



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BEST VALUE PROCUREMENT

BY ALEXANDER UDEY, M.SC., ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING SARM MUNICIPAL BRIDGE PROJECT MANAGER

AS the public procurement of goods, services and construction is becoming more common for rural municipalities (RMs), using procurement methods that can provide RMs with the best value for every dollar spent is important. In the past, the vendor or contractor with the lowest bid would typically be awarded the work. In some cases, the lowest price did not always result in the best value as there were additional costs that were unaccounted for.

Unlike the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, RMs have always been able to evaluate tenders on cost in addition to other criteria. Recently, the legislation for the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure was amended to allow the Ministry to do procurement with best value. As a result, industry has become more familiar with best value procurement, and it may be time for RMs to investigate using it.

As RMs consider the procurement of their required goods, services or construction, RMs should determine if additional evaluation criteria will provide the best value. RMs are not obligated to use best value, and there will be projects where the lowest price will provide the best value to the RM. However, RMs may find that there are additional criteria that can provide more value to the project than just the lowest price.

When developing a best value procurement document, the first step is to determine what criteria will be used to determine the best value for the RM. The best criteria are ones where the bidders can be objectively evaluated on the criteria; however, any evaluation criteria can be included as part of best value. For example, when tendering the procurement of a piece of equipment, the location where the equipment will be serviced could be a best value criteria.

The RM should consider that purchasing equipment from out of province may cost less; however, the cost of the service may be more if the service needs to be done out of province. Although locally sourcing the procurement may seem beneficial, the New West Trade Partnership Agreement does not allow tenders to exclude out of province bidders.

Once the criteria for best value has been selected, the weight of the evaluation criteria is required. For the majority of tenders the price will have the largest weight and the best value criteria would be used to determine the winning submission if the two lowest bids are close in value. However, some projects may have more benefit by putting more weight on criteria other than cost.

Additionally, the method that the bidders use to submit their bids needs to be selected. RMs will generally select between two submission methods. The first method is a single-envelope system, where all of the information from the bidder is submitted to the RM in a single envelope. Each submission is opened, one at a time, and the bidder is evaluated on all criteria. Alternatively, a two-envelope system can be used, where the first envelope contains all of the information except for the price, and the second envelope contains only the price. With this method, the submissions are evaluated by opening the first envelopes and evaluating all of the submissions on the information contained within. Once all of the submissions have been evaluated from the information in the first envelope, then the second envelopes with the prices are opened, and the results are added to the evaluation of the first envelope. Using the two-envelope system allows for the bids to be evaluated on the merit of the best value criteria without evaluators being biased by the price. There are other submission methods that can be used; however, they are more typically used with complex projects.

Evaluation criteria, criteria weights, submission method and evaluation procedure need to be completely disclosed when the tender is posted. When evaluating the submissions, the evaluation must follow the procedure and use the criteria that was disclosed to the bidders. By following the stated procedure, liability risk is reduced if an unsuccessful bidder tries to fight the RM's decision in court.

The last requirement for best value procurement is the debrief. The debrief is required to be offered to all bidders, both successful and unsuccessful. The debrief gives an opportunity for a bidder to learn how to improve for the next tender. The score for each criterion can be disclosed to the bidder; however, the evaluation of any bidder shall not be disclosed to any other bidder, and other bidders shall not be discussed during the debrief. Additionally, the debrief does not give the bidder an opportunity to fight the results of the procurement.

For more details on procurement, visit sasktenders.ca. Priority Saskatchewan has a wealth of information available. The information from Priority Saskatchewan was developed with the provincial ministries and Crown corporations in mind; however, the information can be adopted for use by RMs. Included on the sasktenders.ca website are templates for different types of procurement.

SARM's Municipal Bridge Services Department also has staff that is knowledgeable and has practicable experience with preparing, posting and evaluating tenders. If your RM has any questions or concerns regarding tendering or best value, contact me at audey@sarm.ca or call 306.761.3747.



Mapping technologies for MUNICIPALITIES

BY HEATHER KINDERMANN

SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER/GIS MAPPING TECHNOLOGIST

Mapping and Geospatial Technologies

CREATING maps has come a long way in the past 30 years, with it evolving from hand drawn maps to online, interactive maps. In the October 1972 edition of *Rural Councillor*, Matt Gerla, the Secretary-treasurer of the RM of Lajord No. 128, stated that "The fastest, most accurate, and most meaningful way of recording and/or conveying information about an area is through a map or series of maps."

Gerla may have been discussing hand drawn maps, but his words still describe the importance of maps for municipalities in today's offices. All RMs have paper maps that hang on their walls and many utilize geospatial technologies that are available online. Geospatial technologies are described as a number of different high-tech systems and tools that acquire, analyze, manage, store or visualize various types of location based data.

Geospatial technologies include Geographic Information System (GIS) which can be characterized as computer based mapping used to analyze and to help with the retrieval of location based data. GIS technologies also include Global Positioning System (GPS) and Remote Sensing which is data and imagery from

the use of satellites or aircrafts. Many RM employees are probably familiar with or have retrieved data from FlySask, SAMA's interactive land assessment map, or Information Services Corporation (ISC). GIS in particular is a fast growing industry and allows all different sizes and types of organizations to utilize large amounts of data efficiently.

WHAT CAN MUNICIPALITIES UTILIZE?

Municipalities are probably already using geospatial technologies and they do not need to have their own GIS systems or special mapping programs. Google Maps is one familiar online application, but there are many other online applications that contain information RMs can utilize. The Saskatchewan Government launched gis.saskatchewan.ca which includes data, analytics and mapping for the public to use. Some of the information available through the province includes an interactive geological map that displays all of the provincial mineral and resource deposits, as well as the Saskinteractive website that compiles geographical data from multiple provincial ministries on one interactive map. These maps allow for residents, government officials and potential out of province developers to easily access provincial information.

GOING BEYOND MAPS

There are some municipalities that have the capacity to go beyond information maps and engage in GIS in new and unique ways. Saskatoon recently launched a new GIS application allowing residents to report large potholes using their computer or mobile device. When residents see a pothole, they open the app on their computer or mobile device designed by the City of Saskatoon, where they can report the pothole or unsafe road condition. This app allows residents to be involved in their city as well as help the city repair problem roads and potholes fast and efficiently. The Town of Oakville, Ontario has developed a similar application to report coyote sightings in the town because coyotes have been causing problems. It is not only a way to get work done faster, but it is a way to engage with residents in the community.

MOVING FORWARD

Getting involved and using geospatial technologies is an important tool for municipalities in all of its daily operations. A RM's involvement with geospatial technologies will vary, but being aware of what geospatial information or GIS technology is available is important for current municipal operations as well as for the municipality moving forward.



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THE NEW FACES AT SARM





Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

KELSAY REIMER

A/Director of Policy & Research

Kelsay brings a wealth of experience and passion to the role of Acting Director of Policy and Research with SARM. She has spent most of her career in the economic development sector: building community capacity, working with industry, and advancing competitive advantages for rural regions.

She is no stranger to Saskatchewan as she hails from Swift Current and spent several years working in the Southwest, most recently as the CEO of the Southwest Enterprise Region. Kelsay earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Linguistics and English from the University of Alberta and furthered her studies in Communications and Culture at the University of Calgary. She also completed the Economic Development EDAC year one and year two at the University of Waterloo. She is excited to lend her skills to assist SARM in being the 'voice of rural Saskatchewan'.

JENNIFER CHAMBERLIN

Senior Community Planner

Jennifer has over 10 years of progressive professional planning and community consultation experience in Saskatchewan. As a graduate of the University of Manitoba's Environmental Design program, Jennifer developed a strong multidisciplinary approach to community development.

After the completion of her degree, Jennifer returned home to Regina to work in the area of community revitalization as the Manager of Planning & Development for the Regina Downtown BID.

Jennifer continued to expand upon her planning experience as a Community Planner with Associated Engineering (AE). As part of a multi-disciplinary team of planners and engineers with AE, she provided a collaborative approach to planning and infrastructure development throughout the province. Applying her knowledge of infrastructure development and consultation, Jennifer most recently worked at SaskPower as a Stakeholder Engagement Specialist involved in the siting and routing of major transmission and generation projects.

Jennifer is a Registered Professional Planner and a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. She is also certified in Public Participation with the International Association of Public Participation. Jennifer is excited to join SARM and continue to build upon her planning expertise to serve the needs of Saskatchewan communities.

The Liability Self-Insurance Plan (LSIP)

was enacted in 1987, making 2017 the Plan's 30th Anniversary

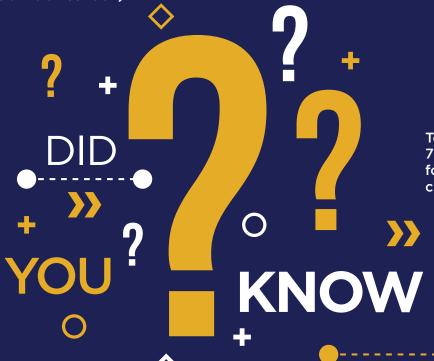


To the end of 2016, 774 claims of Rihave been paid by LSIP (21.05% of all claims since 1987)

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

To the end of 2016, 81 of 774 paid claims have been for over \$10,000 (2.3% of all claims since 1987)

To the end of 2016, LSIP has handled 3,550 liability claims against participating RM's since 1987



⋄°???* ◇°??*

To the end of 2016, 163 of 774 paid claims have been for over \$5,000 (4.6% of all claims since 1987)

To the end of 2016, LSIP has paid out over **\$11.7 million** in damages to claimants

To the end of 2016, LSIP has covered over \$4.9 million in legal and defence costs

SARM Benefits Plan was first implemented in 1967, making 2017 the Plan's 50th Anniversary

66% of all claims made against RM's have been for the alleged disrepair of roads; however, only 9% of those claims have ever resulted in a payment by the Plan. Conversely, claims for the alleged negligent operation of municipal equipment make up 16% of all claims made against RM's, and 67% of these claims have resulted in a payment by the Plan.

Above/pg 4 photo credit: vectorstock.com

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT FACTS



Highlights of the 2017 RMAA CONVENTION

MONDAY, MAY 15

The conference commenced with the annual RMAA Golf Tournament on Monday at the Moon Lake Golf and Country Club and the "Women on the Go" tour into the revitalized Riversdale area of Saskatoon. The golf event was sponsored by the 'Gang of Three' -Canada Culvert Ltd., Finning Canada and ATS Traffic Ltd. Following a meal for the golfers at the clubhouse, awards and prizes were presented. Convention registration was carried out by the capable staff of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHI). The evening concluded with a wine and cheese reception and social evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 16

Morning Seminars

Mark Holfeld, representing SMHI, presented a seminar entitled "Municipal Hail Insurance Refresher."

Phil Brown, Municipal Peace Officer; Jan Whitridge, Executive Legal Officer and Registrar to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan; and Melissa McCloy, Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Government Relations, presented a seminar entitled "How To Proceed With Bylaw Enforcement Through The Court System."

Opening Luncheon

The 97th Annual Convention was called to order by President Wendy Gowda with the noon luncheon.

A total of 292 administrators, spouses and visitors registered for the convention at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Center. Following the meal, President Gowda asked for a moment of silence for those administrators who had passed away the previous year. Terry Lynn Zahara, former administrator for the RM of Prince Albert No. 461, gave a brief address and officially opened the

convention. Delegates also heard from Donna Harpauer (Minister of Government Relations), Tammy Kirkland (Deputy Minister of Government Relations), Ray Orb (President of SARM), Bev Dubois (Deputy Mayor of the City of Saskatoon) and Kevin Lalonde (Director, Business Support Services, SaskPower Corporation) who brought greetings on behalf of their respective organizations. Twenty-eight new members were inducted into the Association by President Gowda, Vice President Darren Elder and Executive-Director Janet Black.

Tuesday Afternoon

At 2:00 pm Executive-Director Black reconvened the meeting. Black provided convention announcements, asked for and received a resolution to accept the annual audited financial statements for 2016 and a resolution to appoint Jay Meyer, Executive Director of SARM, as Returning Officer for the 2017 elections. There were also changes made to Bylaw 4 to provide for a two-year term of office for the President and Vice-President beginning in 2018.

President Gowda introduced the current Executive Board. Gowda then made her formal address to the delegates. Fraternal Delegates to our 2017 convention were introduced:

- UMAAS Chris Costley, UMAAS Vice-President, Town of Mossbank;
- AARMA Cindy Vizzutti, CAO, MD of Willow Creek, Claresholm, Alberta;
- MMAA Mike Rempel, CAO, Municipality of Rhineland, Altona, Manitoba; and
- SASBO Jocelyn Possberg, Director of Transportation, Horizon School Division, Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

Following the President's address, four 25 year members were recognized and

presented with a pin denoting their long service to rural local government.

Presentations were then made by the Rural Board of Examiners for certificate upgrades by administrators who had achieved their Class 'A' or Superior 'A' designation during the past year. The RMAA Board of Examiners was represented by Vice-President Darren Elder, President Gowda and Board of Examiners Secretary Kevin Ritchie.

SARM President Ray Orb addressed the delegates. Jay Meyer, Executive Director of SARM, addressed the delegates as well as staff members: Laurel Feltin, Director of Programs & Operations; Annette Ellert, Programs Manager; Ashley Leugner, Communications & Marketing Coordinator; Amy Roettger, Insurance Program Administrator; Breanna Janzen, Manager of Trading Services; and Alexander Udey, Municipal Bridge Project Manager. This concluded the Tuesday session at 4:45 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

The Wednesday session commenced at 9:00 am with an address by Advisory Services and ministry staff on a variety of current topics. Cathy Moberly and Kathy Rintoul discussed asset management; Colin Chicoine discussed the PST changes; Bonnie Chambers brought us up-to-date with the legislative changes; and Steve Suchan from SAMA spoke about revaluation and looking ahead to the next one. The ministry's session concluded at 11:45 am. The convention then recessed for lunch.

At 12:50 pm Linda Boser, Chairperson of the RMAA Humanitarian Services Committee, introduced the Saskatoon Food Bank as our charity of choice. Following the Food Bank presentation, the trade show booth prizes were drawn for and awarded to the winners.





(L-R): RMAA President Wendy Gowda presents the 2017 Lou Jacobs Award to Don McCallum; rural administrators who earned their Class 'A' or Superior 'A' designation from the Rural Board of Examiners; and convention keynote speaker Jody Urquart.

Richard Davis from Today's Technology then gave a presentation about "Up and Coming Threats to Computer Data and RM Survival."

Rodney Schoettler, CEO of SMHI, gave a brief overview to the delegates on the 2016 hail year. Schoettler also noted several policy changes for SMHI and AMHL, including changes to the payment to agents and the reason behind the changes that would be in effect for the 2017 hail year.

At 2:00 pm Returning Officer Meyer announced that nominations for President of the RMAA for the year 2017-2018 had closed. Two nominations were received: Wendy Gowda of LeRoy and Darren Elder of Marshall. Meyer declared that there would be an election for President by secret ballot at 9:00 am on Thursday, May 18, 2017.

At 2:05 pm Rodney Schoettler introduced Jody Urquart as the keynote presentation. Urquart's address was entitled "All Work and No Say." Once again, our friends at SMHI sponsored the keynote speaker, who was very well received by delegates.

SMHI BANQUET

At 6:30 pm delegates enjoyed a banquet sponsored by SMHI. President Gowda acted as the MC for the evening, seated with her at the head table were Darren Elder; Ray Orb and his wife, Val; Wayne Black; Dan Dufour; and 2017 Lou Jacobs award winner Don McCallum.

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

Don McCallum was introduced as the winner of the prestigious Lou Jacobs Award. President Gowda presented him with the award as well as an Honorary Life Membership. Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs, brought greetings to the delegates as well as a congratulatory message to McCallum on behalf of the Jacobs family.

Rodney Schoettler and Wayne Black, President of SMHI, presented a number of awards recognizing SMHI sales and performances in 2016.

The draw for three door prizes sponsored by SARM was also completed, and the delegates were then entertained by comedian Kelly Taylor. The entertainment was sponsored by SMHI.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

At 9:00 am Returning Officer Meyer informed the delegates of the rules of the President's election. With the help of the SARM Board members who were present, the election by secret ballot took place. Gowda was declared elected as RMAA President for 2017–2018.

Following the election, committee reports were presented by the various RMAA committee chairs.

Meyer also handled the election for RMAA Vice-President for the year 2017-2018. Two nominations were received: Ryan Domotor of Turtleford and Guy Lagrandeur of Rouleau. Meyer declared that there would be an election for Vice-President by secret ballot immediately, and the SARM Board members present helped conduct the election. Lagrandeur was declared elected as Vice-President for 2017-2018.

Delegates broke into their divisional meetings at roughly 10:15 am. Elections were held in Divisions 2, 4 and 6. Fern Lucas, Division 4 Director, was re-elected by acclamation; Mike Wirges, RM of Moose Jaw No. 161 Administrator, was elected by acclamation as the

new Director for Division 2, replacing Lagrandeur; and Michelle Buechler, RM of Paynton Administrator, was elected by acclamation as the new Director for Division 6, replacing Jade Johnson, who resigned effective January 1, 2017.

Following the divisional meetings, President Gowda introduced the new RMAA Executive for 2017-2018. The Resolutions Committee asked for a motion to destroy the ballots for the president and vice-president elections.

Two resolutions were received by the Resolutions Committee: "Whereas it is becoming hard and harder to field curling teams with a minimum of two members of council:

Be it Resolved that the curling teams consist of any members of council and/ or employees of any rural municipality" which was carried; and the second resolution, "Whereas in 2007, 2014 and 2017, the salary schedule accepted by the RMAA and SARM included flat rate salary increases instead of salary increase based on percentage; and Whereas setting flat rate increases creates inequity between the certificate levels and years of service levels, where less experienced Administrators receive a higher calculated percent of increase compared to those administrators with higher certificate levels and more years of service;

Be it resolved that all future salary schedules presented for acceptance use a percentage based system to calculate salary increases each year" which was defeated.

Several draws were made for SARM door prizes. The convention concluded with a draw for a two-night stay at Elk Ridge Resort, which was won by Rhonda Brandle, Assistant Administrator, RM of Round Valley No. 410. The convention was adjourned around 11:30 am.



The Ministry of Agriculture will offer current SPP patrons the option to lease the pastures as the program is wound down.

IN March 2017, the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture announced the end of the Saskatchewan Pastures Program (SPP). This program existed for more than 95 years and was instrumental in the settlement of Saskatchewan and the development of the beef industry in our province. As the agriculture industry in the province evolved, the need for this program diminished. The number of patrons supported through the SPP only represents 12 per cent of the beef producers and five per cent of the total herd (2011 census data) in Saskatchewan. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture evaluated its programs and how we deliver them, determining that caring for producers' livestock was not a core function of government. This coupled with the experience gained through the federal pasture transitions solidified the decision to end the SPP.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Extensive public engagement and consultation was done to ensure the solutions for the management of the SPP lands aligned with the needs of the industry and stakeholders. Meetings were held meetings with various stakeholder groups, including SARM, to determine what the management model should look like for the SPP pasture lands. In addition to those meetings, two meetings with the First Nations and Métis communities took place in Prince Albert and Regina.

As part of our public engagement and consultation processes, we were pleased to have more than 2,000 individuals respond to our public survey with nearly half identifying as producers.

WHAT WE HEARD

During the consultation process, we heard:

- A majority of individuals and groups supported Crown ownership of the land;
- The majority of people wanted these lands to continue to be grazed and for the patrons to have the first opportunity to embark on whatever option to be proposed, and;
- Environmental needs should be addressed, regardless of the management model. It was very important to all respondents that these Crown lands be monitored to ensure environmental sustainability and rehabilitation where necessary.

The majority of those who provided feedback wanted to ensure the solution met the needs of the industry, while preserving the ecological value of the lands.

NEXT STEPS FOR SPP LAND

Based on these findings, the patrons will have the opportunity to lease the pasture lands from the Crown, similarly to the PFRA transition model. This aligns with what we heard during consultation – that the ownership be retained by the Crown, that the patrons should have

the opportunity to continue to graze these lands, and that the Crown have a part in ensuring ongoing environmental stewardship. In order to enter into a lease, patrons must form grazing companies or corporations to take over the management of the pasture.

If interested parties, such as environmental agencies, municipalities or First Nations, want to work with patron groups that are unable to lease the land alone, they may partner with patrons to obtain the 15 year lease.

TRANSITION SCHEDULE

The transition from SPP to the new management model will occur over a three-year period by region. Patrons have been notified of this schedule and meetings with SPP Pasture Committee Chairs have occurred with the pastures impacted in the Northwest.

- The Northwest's final SPP managed grazing season will be 2017;
- The Northeast's final SPP managed grazing season will be 2018; and
- The South's final SPP managed grazing season will be 2019.

As with all agriculture Crown leases, these lands will be monitored to ensure the land is maintained as per the lease agreement, preserving the ecological value of the land for future generations.

For more information on the transition process, schedule and survey results, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/pastures.



2017 Fall Schedule

Strategic & Financial Planning for Municipalities

Wednesday, November 22, 2017 - Borden, SK Wednesday, November 29, 2017 - Esterhazy, SK

Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals

Monday, November 20, 2017 - Battleford, SK Thursday November 23, 2017 - Kyle, SK

Human Resources for the Municipal Workplace*

Monday, November 27, 2017 - Lampman, SK Thursday, November 30, 2017 - Preeceville, SK

Public Relations & Communications for Municipalities

Monday, November 20, 2017 - Canwood, SK Monday, November 27, 2017 - Lafleche, SK

Community & Land-Use Planning

Tuesday, November 21, 2017 - Cupar, SK Tuesday, November 28, 2017 - Shaunavon, SK

For more information and to register visit www.mldp.ca or contact the Program Administrator at 306.761.3931

Dates and locations are subject to change.

All workshops are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Human Resources runs until 5:00 p.m.



Common Landfill Issues and Guidance



Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment is responsible for the regulation and compliance of more than 450 provincial landfills and transfer stations.

Every year, the ministry makes significant efforts to educate communities on proper landfill operations so that they are safe for residents and the community. This includes issuing permits.

Typical landfill permit conditions include ensuring site security (fencing), cover and compaction, monitoring, reporting, animal management plans and prohibition of certain types of wastes. Permits also include a ban on burning, except if approved for burning clean wood in a designated area away from other garbage.

The ministry conducts rotational inspections on operating landfills with priority given to those that pose a higher risk and have a past record of not complying with the conditions of the permit.

Saskatchewan's top four landfill issues include:

1. Not covering and compacting waste often enough, or in accordance with permit conditions.

Why is this an issue? This is a problem because frequent and adequate covering and compaction of waste helps reduce the spread of blown litter, reduces the chance of any fires spreading, reduces the attraction of wildlife to the site, helps reduce odour issues and increases the lifespan of the landfill (compaction).

2. Unlawful material in the wood burn pile.

Why is this an issue? The burning of waste other than non-painted or treated clean wood, lumber and brush is an unpermitted industrial activity.

Materials such as treated wood, plastics and rubber emit toxic substances when burned, and may create contaminated leachate that runs into surface waters and infiltrates ground water.

Allowing communities to burn clean wood, lumber and brush is permit-specific and some sites are not authorized for this activity. See your permit for specific details.

3. Unauthorized expansion such as construction/excavating of another waste cell, digging of trenches and pits, and filling in unused areas without proper approvals.

> Why is this an issue? Expansions are a contravention of the regulations, unless they are authorized by a separate permit to construct. An "expansion" means a horizontal increase outside of the existing approved waste footprint, or a total increase in the designed waste disposal capacity.

Construction and operation of unengineered waste cells may present a significant risk to the environment as they will not contain seepage barrier systems (liners) and leachate collection systems. Waste disposal cells and mounds need to be engineered

facilities that meet accepted standards.

4. Inadequate record keeping and site inspections as per permit.

Why is this an issue? As a permit requirement, this ensures the operators of waste disposal grounds are inspecting and documenting the condition and operation of their site on a regular basis.

This information will help maintain compliance with other operational conditions and provide valuable information for the long-term operation of the facility.

Through education and compliance, the ministry is hoping to reduce the frequency of these types of problems . . . and keep Saskatchewan beautiful for the future.

Ministry of Environment Inquiries

1-800-567-4224 (toll free in North America) or 306-787-2584 centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Turn in Poachers and Polluters Report unlawful landfill practices to our TIP line at 1-800-667-7561.



Learn from the Solid Waste Advisory Team

Saskatchewan has more waste disposal facilities per capita than any other Canadian jurisdiction. Amongst provinces, Saskatchewan also has the second highest waste disposal rate at 897 kilograms per person, while only 13 per cent of waste is diverted from landfills – the lowest rate in Canada. Through the Solid Waste Advisory Team, the Ministry of Environment works with stakeholders and municipalities to provide guidance and improve solid waste management in Saskatchewan.

Who we are

The Solid Waste Advisory Team is made up of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Government Relations, SUMA, SARM, Association of Regional Waste Management Authorities of Saskatchewan, Supply Chain Management Association, and Saskatchewan towns and municipalities.

What we do

The Solid Waste Advisory Team works to address landfill issues and identify solutions to achieve sustainable solid waste management. The Team provides recommendations to communities that are struggling with solid waste management regulations to help them achieve

compliance with landfill permitting and legislative requirements.

Join a solid waste advisory meeting

Saskatchewan communities are welcome to participate in Solid Waste Advisory Team meetings to discuss issues, develop solutions, and learn from team members and other communities. Municipal representatives can join meetings via teleconference or by attending in-person.

The next Solid Waste Advisory Team meeting date is:

October 18, 2017 (Saskatoon)

Contact Us

To learn more about the Solid Waste Advisory Team or to join a meeting, please contact 1-800-567-4224



WIND ENERGY

Bringing economic benefits in Saskatchewan

BY TRACY WALDEN DIRECTOR, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS, CanWEA



SASKPOWER'S plan to add 1,900 MW of wind energy to the province's power grid by 2030 promises more than long-term opportunity for the wind energy industry. It will also bring significant economic and environmental benefits to the province and its residents. That is why it is critical that we all work together to get it right.

The competition for the first 200 MW of wind is underway right now. Sask-Power received 23 submissions in the request for qualifications stage, and it has invited eight companies to submit proposals by next May's deadline. It's on the ground, in partnership with SaskPower and in collaboration with the residents of Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, that these projects will move forward

SaskPower estimates that its goal of having renewable energy make up 50 per cent of the province's generating capacity by 2030 will help cut electricity sector carbon dioxide emissions 40 per cent below 2005 levels.

and Saskatchewan's goal of having wind energy make up 30 per cent of the province's generating capacity will be met. If you ask any wind energy developer, they'll tell you that the most successful projects are those in communities that embrace them.

Plenty of communities do, for a lot of very good reasons.

For farmers, wind energy represents a new cash crop, providing a steady source of land lease income they can count on when either commodity prices fall or bad weather interrupts the harvest. For municipal governments, wind farms are a source of new tax revenue they can use to fund community-based projects and services. And for residents, wind energy projects provide new work for local trades people and contractors, new customers for local businesses, and new skilled local jobs in operations and maintenance.

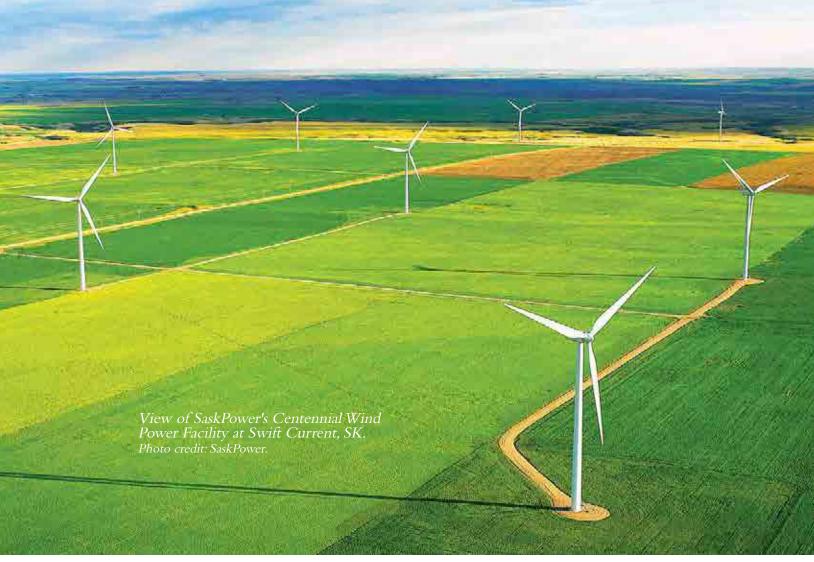
Beyond wind's local economic benefits is the opportunity for rural Saskatchewan to play a critical role in building the province's clean energy future. Saskatchewan farmers and rural governments have always been stewards of the province's natural resources because they know that protecting the long-term health of the land, water and air not only assures their economic future, but it also sustains the rural landscape for generations to come.

Wind turbines generate electricity without polluting the air, emitting

greenhouse gases or producing waste of any kind. In fact, SaskPower estimates that its goal of having renewable energy make up 50 per cent of the province's generating capacity by 2030 will help cut electricity sector carbon dioxide emissions 40 per cent below 2005 levels. The American Wind Energy Association notes that the average wind farm leaves 95-98 per cent of land undisturbed, allowing farmers to continue to harvest their crops and graze their cattle as they have always done. The production of wind energy also conserves water resources that would otherwise be used to cool thermal power plants, something that is important in years when the province is hit by drought.

However, these benefits will require long-term support for local wind farms by municipalities and their residents. To gain that acceptance, our industry is committed to serving as responsible stewards working side-by-side with residents and communities.

Wind energy developers are committed to establishing meaningful relationships with local stakeholders based on trust, transparency and collaboration. The Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA) and its members recognize the right of citizens to have a say in developments that affect their community. We know they have the right to ask questions, be skeptical and be concerned. We also know that, most importantly, they have the right to be heard.



To us, meaningful engagement means involving the community at an early stage in the planning process so that clear intentions are communicated, a dialogue is opened, and feedback is incorporated. It means taking steps to learn about the unique characteristics of a community and responding to its unique needs.

It's hard work, and there are no short cuts, but it works. Canada's wind energy sector has become a leader in developing innovative partnerships with rural governments and Indigenous communities. That is reflected in the fact that out of the 21 new wind energy projects that came on line in Canada last year, Indigenous groups, municipalities or local farmers had ownership stakes in 16.

The work wind energy companies are doing in host communities is informed by CanWEA's Best Practices Guide for Community Engagement and Public Consultation, which we created in 2010 with input from industry, municipal leaders and communications experts. The guide is also a valuable resource for local decision makers, letting them know

what they should expect when wind project developers come to town. We're in the process of updating it now, and we will have a new version out this fall that we're eager to share with interested municipalities.

For a province that currently gets three-quarters of its electricity from coal and natural gas plants, Saskatchewan's wind energy plans will bring big changes. The province is looking at a 10-fold increase in its wind generating fleet in just 13 years. We know that kind of rapid growth is achievable.

A 2016 technical study prepared by GE Energy Consulting with the input of SaskPower and other grid operators in Canada, and co-funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and CanWEA, found Saskatchewan's electricity system could handle twice as much wind energy as it is targeting without compromising grid reliability. And because wind energy is one of Saskatchewan's lowest-cost options for new electricity supply, the current and future expansion of wind power makes financial sense.

It all adds up to many more wind farms in many more Saskatchewan communities. Our goal is always to deliver the best possible projects at the best possible price, and by working collaboratively with residents, communities, landowners, local decision makers, government ministries and SaskPower, we are confident we can get the job done in a way that benefits everyone.

Tracy Walden is the Director of Media and Communications for the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA). She is focused on strengthening the industry's position as a global wind energy leader and ensuring Canada's abundant wind energy potential is top of mind as decision-makers navigate lower-carbon pathways to prosperity. She is a member of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), and in 2015 she was certified as a member of the Climate Reality Project's Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Wind turbine photo courtesy of SaskPower.



Celebrating Canada with the Legacy Tree project

ON May 16-17, 2017, the RM of Edenwold Canada No. 158 had more than 1,700 tree seedlings delivered to every elementary school child in the communities of Balgonie, White City, Emerald Park, Pilot Butte and the Village of Edenwold.

"When you plant a tree, you're putting a bit of hope into the ground for the future."

RM of Edenwold Reeve Mitchell Huber

"When you plant a tree, you're putting a bit of hope into the ground for the future," said Reeve Mitchell Huber. Trees were sourced from Help International's Shelterbelt Centre in Weyburn.

The RM's Canada 150 Legacy Tree project is one of many activities planned for the year to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. The first delivery of seedlings went to the Balgonie Elementary School (see the image above).

A threshing bee was also scheduled in the RM for August 12. "The bee honours the history of the RM, the pioneers who built our community and allows for people to reach into the past to learn about the level of effort once required to process crops," said Councillor Craig Strudwick.



On January 1st, SAMA implemented the 2017 Revaluation which saw property values in the province updated in relation to the January 1, 2015 base date.

SAMA is currently working with municipalities to resolve inquiries and appeals that have arisen from the revaluation.

The Agency is also looking ahead to the fall, when maintenance work for 2018 will begin. The timely delivery of maintenance will be a major priority for the Agency moving forward.

For more information on SAMA or Saskatchewan's assessment system please visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

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



Getting to know ATS TRAFFIC

Interview Questions for Kyle Monette, ATS Traffic

When did Signal Industries and Guardian Traffic Services merge to form ATS Traffic? Can you briefly describe the merger experience?

ATS Traffic purchased Signal Industries in 1998 as a part of an Eastern expansion. Over the past 20 years, Signal has been manufacturing local traffic signs in Regina for Saskatchewan customers.

In the Spring of 2016, Alberta Traffic Supply Ltd. consolidated all regional branches into one company through an initiative entitled the Power of One, intended to bring ATS employees together across the country and strengthen our offerings Canada-wide. At this time, the ATS Traffic and Signal Industries Sales Forces were merged, making it easier for customers to purchase a wider variety of our product and service offerings.

What are the advantages of the newly merged company for SUMA advantage members?

Our recently merged company makes it possible for us to increase our variety of offerings to SARM members, including:

- · On-street services
- Installs
- · Equipment rental
- · Crash attenuation
- Outdoor event solutions
- Wayfinding solutions
- · Traffic engineering and consulting
- Crosswalk enhancement programs
- On-street and off-street parking solutions
- Sign management programs
- · Traffic detection

ATS Traffic is a one-stop shop for all our customer's needs, providing traffic products and solutions for every municipality.

What types of products does ATS Traffic offer?

There are very few traffic safety products that we don't offer, but here are some examples of what we do offer:

- Municipal and provincial signage (regulatory, warning/construction, information and guide, specialty)
- Sign mounts
- · Traffic devices
- · Message boards
- Flagging devices, safety apparel, etc.
- · Road markings
- Winter-specific products
- Confined space safety products (trench shoring/rescue and retrieval)
- Parking meters/revenue control systems

Are there any new products you would like to discuss?

We've been getting lots of requests on the Civic Address program being launched in Saskatchewan. If any SARM members have questions regarding pricing and design of what other RMs are implementing, they can reach out to us directly. We have a wide variety of Wayfinding options that are suited for the Civic Address program and other provincial signage specifications.

Driver feedback signs and pedestrian crossing items have also become very popular for school zones and high-volume pedestrian crossings. We offer everything from solar powered equipment,

LED lights and pavement markings to full crosswalk enhancement solutions. We can also provide the install for these products, as well as temporary rental, if permanent installation is not an option.

Are there any 'specials' being offered to SARM members in the near future?

Absolutely! We're working with SARM and SUMA's marketing teams to promote new products and member discounts in the monthly newsletters. Keep your eyes open for product specials and programs we're offering!

How do municipalities place an order with ATS Traffic? What about invoicing?

Municipalities can place orders by phone or email with ATS Traffic Regina or Saskatoon (please see below for contact info). If a site visit is required, contact myself, Kyle Monette, and I will arrange for an area manager to meet in person.

All invoicing is done through SARM.



Who do SARM members contact with questions?

Members can contact myself by email at kylem@atstraffic.ca or by phone at 306-536-4456.

ATS Traffic – Regina: call 306-522-0511 or email info@signalindustries.ca.

ATS Traffic – Saskatoon: call 306-242-4407 or email info@signalindustries.ca.



FARMING and ranching in Saskatchewan is guaranteed to be stressful partly because of the factors outside of the operator's control. However, we can decide how to react during stressful times. Here are just a few quick tips for you to consider to productively deal with stress, get a good night's sleep, and where to call for help when you need it.

The following are a few tips from the Network's new stress resource: *Daily Chore: Handling Stress on the Farm.* It is designed to help you understand stress, its impact and explore various coping methods. Get your copy if you don't already have one from the Network.

10 Positive and Productive Ways for Dealing with Stress

- Strive for a good rest period
- · Go for a brisk walk
- Keep it simple and positive
- Take time to relax
- Prioritize
- Be assertive
- Eat healthy
- Keep your mind active
- Get if off your chest
- Accept that there are some things you cannot change

Sleep issues and stress go hand in hand and can form a vicious cycle. Sometimes just a few small changes can make a big difference.

Try a few of the following sleep tips from the *Sleepless in Saskatchewan* resource. Get the *Sleepless in Saskatchewan* DVD and resource from the Network or find it on our website for free.

Tips for Getting a Good Sleep

- Practice a regular bedtime routine
- Try to have a consistent bed time
- Take a warm bath before bed
- Read calming material
- Make sure your room is very dark
- Eat very lightly in the evening
- · Avoid smoking, caffeine and alcohol
- Have a 20 minute nap during the day

To get a copy of the above resources, visit aghealth.usask.ca or request a paper copy by calling (306) 966-6644.

Farm Stress Line: 1-800-667-4442

24 hours per day. Seven days per week. Free and Confidential. There is no call display.

The Farm Stress Line is staffed by peer counsellors, men and women from the farm, trained to assist people in crisis, taking calls on personal and family issues, financial situations and other concerns affecting the farm operation.

Photo credit: Pixabay.com





UNDERSTANDING STRESS, ITS IMPACT, AND EXPLORING COPING METHODS.











SASK CRIME STOPPERS

celebrates 30th anniversary

SASKATCHEWAN Crime Stoppers was founded in 1987 with the objective of providing the program to all rural municipalities, cities, towns and villages not previously benefiting from a Crime Stoppers program. The residents of these areas are the beneficiaries of the Crime Stoppers program by making their communities safer places to live. This is being accomplished through an increased percentage of crimes solved and stolen property recovered. The program also sends a strong preventative message that we, the residents of Saskatchewan, are not willing to turn a blind eye to crime. It's a community program that successfully combines the efforts of the public, the media and the police to solve crime in our communities.

By offering cash awards and ensuring complete anonymity, Crime Stoppers has eliminated two of the biggest obstacles that normally keep the public from getting involved: namely fear and apathy.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers mission is to provide a community based program that encourages public participation through anonymity, and which effectively and efficiently combines the efforts of the public, media and police to solve crime and make our communities crime free environments.

The Media

The goal of combating local crime promotes better relations between the community, the police and the media. Through the Crime Stoppers program, the media has the opportunity to assist in resolving a criminal activity in addition to reporting the occurrence.

The Police

Crime on our communities requires innovative, effective programs that generate information for law enforcement agencies dealing with criminal activity. By encouraging greater public participation, the police have a better chance at combating crime in our communities.

Crime Stoppers has become one of the most effective and successful examples of community based policing.

Who Administers the Program?

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

Who Funds Crime Stoppers?

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization that is funded by contributions from urban and rural municipalities, individuals, small businesses, major corporations, community service clubs as well as civic, social and professional organizations.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers does not receive any provincial or federal funding. To help Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers continue with their work, you can send a tax deductible donation to:

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Bag Service 2500 Regina, SK S4P 3K7

Current Statistics

Cases Cleared 3759

Arrests Made 3259

Property Recovered \$9,436,620

Drugs Seized \$8,196,994

Total \$ Recovered \$17,633,614

Who Benefits?

Our communities.

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

If you have information about a crime in your area, call Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or Text "Tip206" and your tip message to "CRIMES" (274637). Or go online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



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YOU CAN HELP AND RECEIVE CASH REWARDS

IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVIC TION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED. ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CRIMES SHOULD CONTACT THE PROVINCIAL TOLL FREE TIP LINE. CALLS ARE NOT TRACED OR RECORDED AND CALL-ERS CAN CHOOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT ONLINE AT SASKATCHEWAN.CA/TIP



TURN IN POACHERS 1-800-667-7561 OR #5555 FREME CASE THE TURN IN POACHERS 1-800-667-7561 OR #5555

On Tuesday, July 4th, 2017, Conservation Officers received a TIP call regarding garbage that had been dumped on a dirt road between Tuxford and Buffalo Pound Lake. This road is located one mile south of the resort village of Sun Valley and South Lake. It appears the garbage is from recent renovations. Items include shingles, siding, cement, a screen door, carpet and other household items.

Do you know who might be responsible for the illegal dumping of this material?





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

rural councillor

MEMBER NEWS

RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5 ROBERT "BOB" ANDRIST IN MEMORIAM

Robert "Bob" Andrist was born on April 4, 1943. He was raised on the farm in the valley south of Estevan. When he was sixteen he acquired his pilot license. Bob worked on the family farm and then purchased the farm and moved there in 1985. It was in the RM of Estevan. He loved fishing, swimming, camping, trivial pursuit and the Blue jays. He and his wife, Cheryl, were married for a wonderful 52 years. He passed away at St. Joseph hospital on May 31, 2017.

Bob's memory will live on through his loving family. Bob and Cheryl had two daughters and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bob served on council for the RM of Estevan from 1991–97. He was also a member of the Board of Revision. We, the RM of Estevan, would like to remember Bob for his years of experience and the dedication he brought to the RM.



RM OF INDIAN HEAD NO. 156

JAMES HOCKLEY
IN MEMORIAM

James Stewart Hockley was born in the family farmhouse in the Wide-Awake District of Indian Head, SK in December 1932. Eighty-three years later he died peacefully in Indian Head Hospital in April 2016. Although he grew up in Indian Head, he wanted to explore the world. He started at Luther College for high school, then on to the University of Saskatchewan. History was his passion.

He furthered his studies and did his Masters work at the University of Oregon. Then to Harvard for his PhD work in history. He spent a year in Paris learning French and studying at the Sorbonne University. His teaching career took him to Columbia University in New York and then on to the University of Toronto. But the farm always called him home. He started managing the farm business part-time and eventually gave up teaching altogether when his parents could no longer manage. Elaine and Jim were married in 1995 and spent 21 happily married years together.

James was a councillor at the RM of Indian Head from 1992-96 then moved into the position of reeve from 1997-2000. He leaves behind his family to remember and mourn him. Loving wife, Elaine; stepsons, Mike Pearen; and his sons, Liam and Adam, Scott Pearen (Igo) and their children Matteo and Alyssa; nieces and nephews: Elspeth (Alain), Graham (Darby), Anne (Andrew), Hamish (Lisa) and their families; his mother and father-in-law. Erna and Elmer Neufeld.



RM OF COTE NO. 271 KEN KALMAKOFF IN MEMORIAM

Kalmakoff, Ken Richard – born June 9, 1956 to April 1, 2017. It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Ken at the Palliative Care Unit at Kamsack Hospital, after a brief battle with cancer. Ken was born in Yorkton. He was educated in Kamsack and then ventured to western Canada to work. After a few years, he returned to Kamsack to help with the family farm.

In 1992, Ken married Sherry Tomilin. They continued to farm and raise various animals including goats, wagyu cattle and white tail deer. They also grew specialty and conventional crops. Ken served 22 years as a councillor for the RM of Cote. He enjoyed many winter vacations, snowmobiling and fishing, and he recently began camping. He loved to play cards, visit the casino and being a great host to friends and family.

Ken is predeceased by his parents, Ann and Alec Kalmakoff (2005). He is survived by his wife, Sherry, sister, Shirley (Stan) Kuryluk of Humboldt, sister-in-law, Ruby Tomilin Duxbury of Winnipeg, brother-in-law, Bob (Andrea) Tomilin of Kamsack, four nieces, one nephew as well as four great nephews and two great nieces.



RM OF CLAYTON NO. 333 NICK ANAKA IN MEMORIAM

Nick Steven Anaka, beloved husband of Phyllis Anaka of Stenen, SK, passed away suddenly at the Yorkton Regional Health Centre on January 31, 2017, at the age of 91. Nick was born on the family farm on March 17, 1925, to Steven and Ksenka (Parasiuk) Anaka. He was a life-long resident of the Stenen area. He ventured out on a few occasions to work on mining and construction projects, but he always returned to the farm. He participated in community life by becoming involved in the United Grain Growers, Wildlife Federation, the RM of Clayton and the Grace United Church in Sturgis, SK.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. Nick was predeceased by his parents, Steven and Ksenka Anaka (later Gorgitza); sisters: Dorothy (Nick) Mirka, Marie (Joe) Michalishen, and Ann (Al) Lane of Saskatoon, SK; brothers: Fred (Marie) Anaka, Peter Anaka, and John (Evelyn) Anaka and brothers-in-law, John Petrash and Maurice Rougeau. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Phyllis (nee Davis); his daughters, Ginger (Saul) Jacobson of Ottawa, ON, and Naomi (Doug) Couttie of Surrey, B.C. and grandchildren: Matthew (Niki Hyde) Jacobson of Montreal, QC, Philip (Britney Lee Fache) Jacobson of Winnipeg, MB, Kya (Daniel) Borba and their son, Isaac of Surrey, B.C., and Shelby (Louis) Ramirez and their daughters Gillian and Jamie of Surrey, B.C. He is also survived by two sisters, Pearl Petrash of Truro, N.S. and Victoria Rougeau of Portland, Oregon, and sister-in-law, Anne Anaka, as well as nieces and nephews and their families.

Those wishing to make expressions of sympathy may make donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, as tokens of remembrance in memory of Nick Anaka.

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The Anaka family is grateful to Rev. Miles Russell for his compassion, care, and kindness in preparing the funeral service, as well as the friends who have shown support. Our thanks also go to Leson's Funeral Home for their preparation of his funeral service.



RM OF CLAYTON NO. 333 WAYNE LAZARUK IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Ernest Lazaruk passed away at the Yorkton Regional Health Centre on June 13, 2017 at the age of 64. He was born on February 17, 1953 to Mike and Annie (Ewaschuk) Lazaruk in Canora, SK. He was the youngest of five children. He attended South Porcupine School (Grades K-6) and Sturgis Composite High School (Grades 7-12). Growing up

he played catcher for the Danbury Dynamos, and he loved every minute of it.

After graduating high school in 1971, Wayne wanted to farm, despite his parents' wishes for him to go on to school. He joined his father, and together they started farming. To earn extra money, Wayne went away to work during the winter. His jobs took him to Red Deer, AB and Regina, SK where he drove truck, but he always returned to the farm for spring seeding.

In 1979, Wayne met Arlene Holodniuk. On July 18, 1981, they were married at Sacred Heart Church in Norquay, SK.

Over the years, Wayne and Arlene welcomed three children: Patty, Mathew and Megan. They were his pride and joy; he loved spending time with them. As they grew, there were many adventures as Wayne was involved in almost as many activities as the kids. He was a dad, coach, chaperone and chauffer. He also led the cadet bingo. The cadet program was a passion for him, with both Mathew and Megan being involved, and he worked hard with staff and parents to bring the Preeceville air cadet squadron up to full potential.



Wayne and Arlene continued to farm for many years. Wayne also worked for the RM of Clayton. He was the jack-of-all-trades: he cut ditches, replaced road signs, broke up beaver dams and was a councillor and then reeve for a couple of years. He loved the farm and hunting. Wayne was also a big sports fan. His favorite teams were the Saskatchewan Roughriders and Toronto Maple Leafs. If the game was on, he was watching it.

Wayne struggled with many health issues, but he always seemed to rally. In 2012, as his health declined, they moved to Canora.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. Wayne was predeceased by his parents, Mike and Annie Lazaruk, and his bother, Peter (in infancy). He is survived by Arlene; his children: Patty (Dale) of Regina, SK, Mathew of Winnipeg, MB, and Megan (Brian) of Brandon, MB; his sisters: Ruth (Ernie) Geisbauer of Regina, SK and Gloria (Gene) Smolinski of High River, AB; and his brother, Lawrence (Carol) Lazaruk of Calgary, AB; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.



RM OF BENGOUGH NO. 40
WILLIAM NICOLAY
RETIREMENT

On June 24, 2016, Foreman William Nicolay retired from his position after more than 14 years of service.

At the annual Christmas party on December 3, 2016, William was presented with a two-night stay at the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Mineral Spa and a die cast grader with a plaque from RedHead Equipment.

The council and staff of the RM of Bengough No. 40 wish William all the best in his future endeavors.



RM OF SPY HILL NO. 152 GILES NOREK RETIREMENT

A retirement party and supper, honouring Councillor Giles Norek for 26 years of service, was held in RM Council Chambers in November 2016. It was attended by council, staff and spouses.

Giles was councillor for Division 5 from 1988 to 2001. From 2002 to 2006 he was a councillor for Division 4 and again as councillor for Division 5 from 2007 until his retirement in 2016, when he chose not to let his name stand for re-election.

During his years on council, he was the deputy reeve and served on various committees.



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His contributions were of great value to the council and the community. His knowledge, experience and sense of humour will be missed at council meetings.

Giles was presented with a framed picture of an elk in the mountains that was painted by a local lady in the RM.

His wife, Carol, was presented with a rustic picture frame for all her support of Giles over the years and for supplying the council with a delicious lunch on council meeting days.



RM OF SARNIA NO. 221 LEN CHYPISKA RETIREMENT

On November 4, 2016, a retirement party was held where Len was presented with an engraved watch and gift certificate. Len serviced as Division 1 councillor from November 2001 to October 2016. We are grateful for the knowledge Len provided throughout his 15 years of dedicated service. We wish him all the best in the future.



RM OF SARNIA NO. 221 BRIAN GOTTSELIG RETIREMENT

The RM of Sarnia recognizes Reeve Brian Gottselig for his service. He served as Division 3 councillor starting in November 1982, then as reeve from November 2004 to October 2016. A retirement party was held on November 4, 2016 where Brian was presented with an engraved watch and gift certificate. The council, ratepayers and staff sincerely thank Brian for all his wisdom and knowledge he has contributed over the last 34 years. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.



RM OF HUMBOLDT NO. 370 REGINALD SCHIDLOWSKY RETIREMENT

Division 3 Councillor Reginald Schidlowsky retired from the RM of Humboldt in October 2016 after 13 years of service. Administrator Corinne Richardson presented Reginald with a retirement gift (see above photo).

The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Reginald for his many years of dedicated service, and we wish him all the best in the future!



RM OF BENGOUGH NO. 40 ROGER CARLSON AWARDS

Congratulations to Roger Carlson for 10 years of service. Roger started with the RM of Bengough on March 12, 2007 as a seasonal patrol operator, and on July 27, 2016 he became the foreman. At the April council meeting, the council presented Roger with coat in recognition of his years of service.



RM OF BENGOUGH NO. 40 LARA HAZEN AWARDS

Congratulations to Lara Hazen for 10 years of service. Lara started with the RM of Bengough on May 22, 2007 as the administrator. At the June council meeting, council presented Lara with a coat in recognition of her years of service.

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 <u>High</u>, <u>Highest Quality</u> or <u>Maximum</u> 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!



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