

# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 50 number 2  
SUMMER 2017 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

# RECREATION AND TOURISM

Saskatchewan Parks: Our Best-Kept Secret; Recreation: Where Fun, Safety and Quality of Life Intersect; Promoting Municipal Recreation and Tourism; Sport Tourism; Lieutenant Governor's Award; Saskatchewan Municipal Awards; Highlighting Rural Tourism Operations; Get Outside and Explore Saskatchewan



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# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

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### VOLUME 50 number 2 SUMMER 2017 ISSUE

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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 KEN CHEVELDAYOFF**  
MINISTER OF PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT



*Southern Prairie Railway, Ogema, SK*

**SASKATCHEWAN** prides itself for being a celebrated recreation and tourism destination. We are proud to be home to such wonderful attractions as the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, MacKenzie Art Gallery, new Mosaic Stadium, and 35 beautiful provincial parks. Our province is the perfect place to enjoy a dynamic range of arts, culture, sport and outdoor activities. As our rising visitation numbers suggest, more and more people are visiting our province each year and discovering what those of us living here already know; that Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work and play.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport recognizes the important role recreation and tourism play in our province. From cultural events to days

spent in the great outdoors, they encourage us to celebrate our high quality of life. By promoting a sense of adventure and time spent with family and friends, recreation and tourism opportunities help us to feel more connected with our communities and our province. They provide job opportunities for people and help to support our growing economy.

Our rural municipalities play an important role in recreation and tourism destinations across the province. From operating one-of-a-kind businesses and historic buildings, to maintaining trails and communal spaces across the province, Saskatchewan is home to an abundance of hard-working, innovative and community minded citizens.

Saskatchewan is also home to some of the most volunteer-driven and welcoming citizens in the nation. Whether it's helping out with hometown bonspiels or slow-pitch tournaments, or with national events such as the Scotties and upcoming Canadian Country Music Awards, the kindness and enthusiasm of Saskatchewan citizens can be counted on time and time again.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I thank our province's rural communities for helping make Saskatchewan the wonderful place it is today. I look forward to the many years of events, park visits and community celebrations to be shared in our future.



## Looking through the **EYES OF A TOURIST**

**BY CARMEN STERLING** SARM VICE PRESIDENT

**WITH** summer fast approaching it seems only fitting that this issue of the *Rural Councillor* focus on Tourism. Tourism continues to be a very important driver of the economy for not only our communities but for all of Saskatchewan.

Our province has so much to offer vacationers and travelers. Sometimes we take for granted what makes each of our communities unique and enticing to tourists. Do we take the opportunity to really look at our communities as though we were tourists seeing it for the first time? If you were to take that opportunity, what things would you see differently?

Would it be the overall beauty of Mother Nature, which can be vastly different depending on the area of the province you are in? We are blessed with sunsets that can make the sky brilliant and colorful, sunrises that take our breath away (although my husband would argue I am generally not an early enough riser to see many of them...lol) and Northern Lights that defy the imagination! Each area of the province offers a different overall view of these spectacular displays. Many travellers to Saskatchewan hope to catch even a glimpse of any or all of these when they visit.

Would it be the outdoor areas, such as parks, playgrounds, hiking trails, lakes, rivers, pools or campgrounds? All these facilities are at our finger tips in so many of our communities. They become a part of our everyday activities, where we volunteer, where our children take summer jobs and where our families gather. Although we use them, we may not always recognize their appeal for tourists and visitors. Campers, cyclists, fishing enthusiasts, golfers, to name a few, all look to take advantage of those same recreational spots as we do!

Would it be the recreational activities, festivals, flea markets, farmer's markets, tournaments, sporting events, and community suppers and barbeques? These activities and services are integral to our families' enjoyment of our communities. They are also significant attractors for tourists when deciding where their travels will take them not only the first time but for repeat visits!

Would it be the historical sites, arts and craft shows and theatre productions? We have such diversity in our communities that provides us with the opportunity to not only attend these fantastic events, but to participate in them as well, enriching our lives in the process. Tourists and travellers will seek out these events for day trips along with friends and family, and they will use the time to not only attend the event, but to explore our communities as well.

I think it is very important to acknowledge the integral role rural municipalities and our ratepayer's play in supporting tourism in the province. Our ratepayer's volunteer, donate and participate in so many of these activities. RMs provide oversight on many inter-municipal facilities, such as regional parks, community swimming pools and ice rinks. RMs also donate time and money to support activities as well as provide the maintenance and upkeep of the transportation infrastructure used to access these facilities and activities. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

I would like to leave each of you with a challenge to look at your community through "new eyes", the eyes of the tourists who choose to make your community a destination this summer. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised! Enjoy your summer and hopefully you have an opportunity to enjoy a "staycation" as a part of your summer travel plans!

The graphic features the SAMA logo at the top, which includes three circular icons: a house, a wheat stalk, and an oil pumpjack. Below the logo, the text reads "sama" in a large, blue, lowercase font, followed by "SASKATCHEWAN ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY" in a smaller, green, uppercase font. Three circular images are arranged horizontally below the text: a house, a field of wheat, and an oil pumpjack. At the bottom, the text "PURSUING EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT POLICY AND SERVICES FOR SASKATCHEWAN" is displayed in white, uppercase letters. The contact information is listed at the very bottom in white, uppercase letters: "200 - 2201 11th Avenue • Regina SK S4P 0J8", "T: 306-924-8000 • TF: 800-667-7262", and "F: 306-924-8070 • W: www.sama.sk.ca". The background of the graphic is a blue sky with a green field and a tree.

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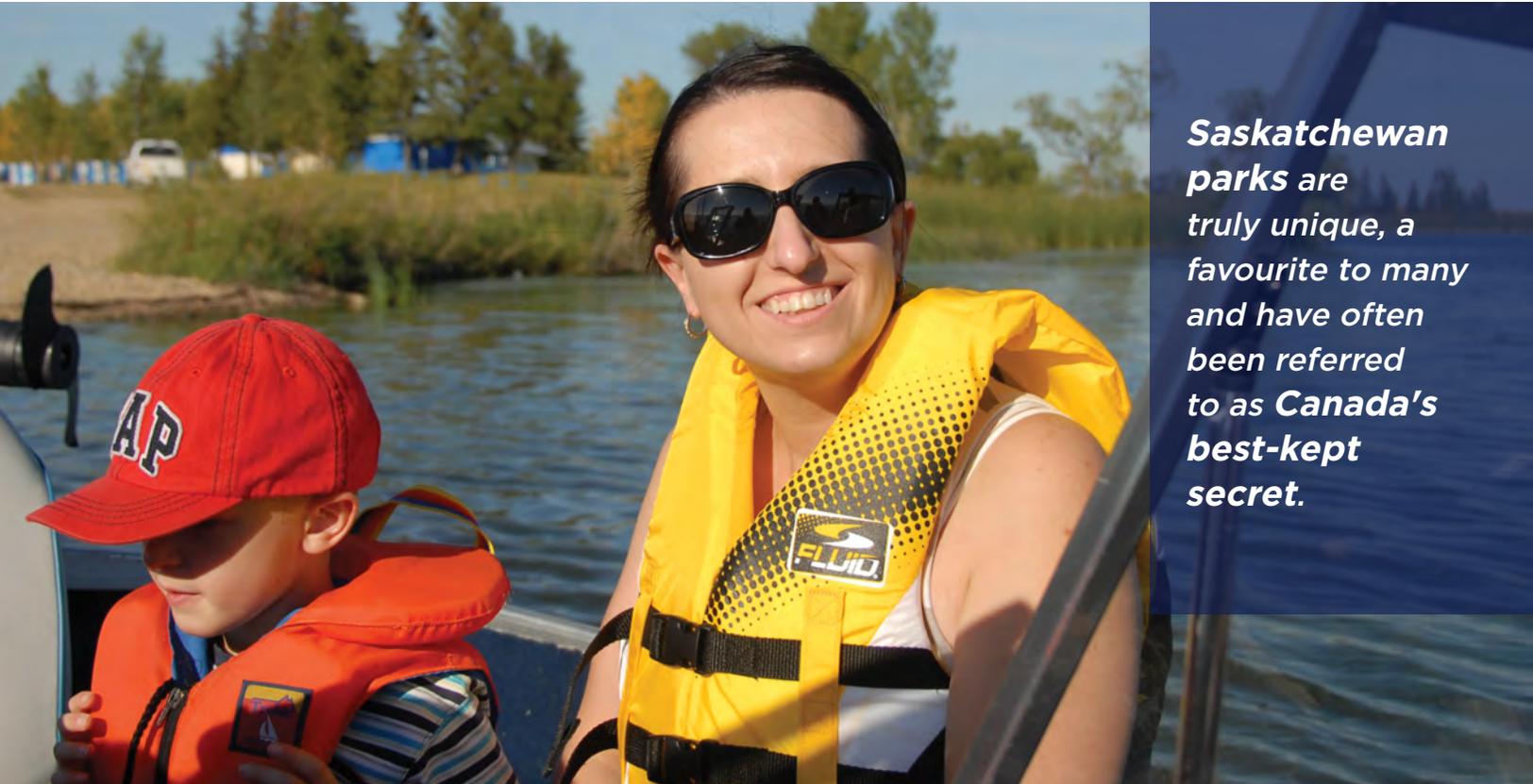
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# Saskatchewan Parks: *Our Best-Kept Secret*

BY JAY B. MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Saskatchewan parks are truly unique, a favourite to many and have often been referred to as Canada's best-kept secret.*

**OUR** province is fortunate to be home to over 100 provincial, regional and national parks that we all have an opportunity to enjoy. All of these parks are unique in their own special way.

Many different species are associated with parks, including ducks, marsh birds, swallows, the king fisher and herons. Animals, such as muskrat, beaver and mink, are often seen along with reptiles and amphibians. By the water you will find horsetail, common cattail, bulrush and marsh grass. A large variety of birds and mammals call the diverse habitat in these parks their home. The immaculate combination of elevation, forests, grasslands and climate changes produce several animal communities.

While in the northern parks, you may come across moose, elk, wolves, black bears and grizzly bears. In the south you may come across bison, white tailed deer, mule deer, elk, bobcat, cougar, antelope, porcupine, badgers and many small rodents that live in the parks.

The diverse climate at our Saskatchewan parks also provides a home to many insects as well as birds. You never know what you may come across when you walk the many kilometres of trails within our parks.

Our parks are an excellent location that give our people the opportunity to camp, fish, sightsee, picnic or get involved in recreational activities.

You can golf, swim, wakeboard, paddleboard and boat in our parks. Saskatchewan parks are truly unique, a favourite to many and have often been referred to as Canada's best-kept secret.

No matter where you live, there is a park nearby. Saskatchewan parks are your parks and many are assisted by funding from our municipalities, so get out there and enjoy them.

2017 is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation of our country, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate in one of our many parks, together with friends, family and neighbours.

*Photo credit: Mike Hanstock*



# SPORT TOURISM

BY GARY DZIADYK RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 5

**RECREATION AND TOURISM** are at the heart of growth of Saskatchewan's largest city: Saskatoon. Sports tourism has played a major role in putting Saskatchewan on the map with the recent attraction of the championship lacrosse team, the Saskatchewan Rush. Saskatoon has attracted several elite international events, including the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship and FIVB Men's World League Volleyball. Annual cultural festivals give residents the opportunity to take in live music at Jazz Fest, theatre events at Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, sample local food dishes at Taste of Saskatchewan, and even watch world-class 3-on-3 basketball.

A relatively new sport, 3-on-3 basketball is a quicker, simplified version of the game. Saskatoon's 3x3 team has been competing on the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Tour circuit since 2013 and has experienced great success. At the 2014 World Tour Final in Tokyo, they captured second place and have done well ever since. Currently, two members of Team Saskatoon are listed in the top ten in the world, with a third team member in the top twenty.

Saskatoon will be the first Canadian city to host and the first North American stop on the eight-city FIBA World Tour in 2017. Saskatoon will join cities such as Tokyo, Miami, Chicago, Prague and Rio de Janeiro on the growing list of privileged host cities for this event. Organized by FIBA, the 3x3 World Tour Masters tournaments are streamed live on YouTube to over 150 countries. For the next three summers, Saskatoon will see one weekend of intense live basketball action as the best 3-on-3 athletes compete for a spot in the World Tour Final. In its inaugural year, FIBA and Saskatoon Sports Tourism have the tournament set to take place on July 15-16 in the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Downtown Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon event will see its own team along with 11 other teams of four players from around the world competing in a two-day tournament. The tournaments are the peak of the competition network – with the top two teams qualifying for the World Tour Final in Beijing, China. A slam dunk contest and 3-point shooting contest will take place in-between games. Live music, cheerleaders, dance teams and skills workshops will be held throughout the weekend. And, an amateur 3x3 tournament is in the works to run beside the World Tour Masters.

## Spotlight on ELBOW



Further south along the South Saskatchewan River you'll find a relaxing tourism and recreation hotspot. Lake Diefenbaker is home to three Provincial Parks and three Regional Parks in addition to smaller communities and developments along its shores. The resort community of Elbow is a mere 80 minutes south of Saskatoon, boasting an 18-hole championship golf course, freshwater fishing, hiking and cycling trails, a full-service marina and the Lake Diefenbaker Yacht Club.

On a breezy summer day, the South Saskatchewan River is home to the sailboats and catamarans of The Lake Diefenbaker Yacht Club. Sailing may not be the first thought to your mind when it comes to prairie recreation, but it could be with ten sailing clubs in Saskatchewan. The LDYC offers many events throughout the summer months from learn-to-sail courses to championship races and social tournaments, such as the Martini Cup and Mildner Cup. The pinnacle of the LDYC season is a leisurely cruise organized by the club that sees participants cruise as far South as Saskatchewan Landing, overnighing in bays and coves along the way. Lake Diefenbaker is well-known as a fishing destination, with three world-record breaking catches in the last 10 years. Twenty-six species of fish can be found in the depths of Lake Diefenbaker, including plenty of walleye, rainbow trout and northern pike. Tournament fishermen open the season in the Lake Diefenbaker Walleye Classic (May 27-28) and enjoy recreation fishing all season long.

Harbor Golf Club is a sprawling championship 18-hole course on the sandy shores of Lake Diefenbaker. This scenic destination does not disappoint, with panoramic views of sandy beaches, colourful sailboats and an immaculate course. After a long day on this challenging course, visitors can relax in the Harbor View Bar & Grill overlooking the marina and enjoy a locally-sourced bison burger. With many options for stay-and-play packages, cabin and condo rentals, bed and breakfasts and RV parks & campgrounds – Elbow is sure to be a bustling destination this summer.

# **WETLANDS:** **NATURAL PROTECTION FROM** **BLUE-GREEN ALGAE, NUTRIENT** **RUNOFF AND POLLUTION.**

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## 2017 GRANTS; DON'T FORGET TO APPLY

**BY LAUREL FELTON**

SARM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

**WITH** the announcement of the 2017-18 Provincial Budget, SARM saw some changes to its grant programs for RMs this year. The Beaver Control, Invasive Plant Control, Rat Control (PREP) and Municipal Roads for the Economy Programs (MREP) will be continuing. Funding levels have also been maintained for the agricultural grant programs, whereas MREP saw a \$2 million decrease in its funding.

Given the current economic downturn in Saskatchewan, we saw provincial funding discontinued for the Irrigation Structure Repair and Replacement Program which won't be available this year for RMs.

To ensure RMs have the information they need at their fingertips when looking to apply for available grants, please take note of the important information below:

### BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM

- **Application Deadline:**  
May 31, 2017
- **Grant \$:** Receive \$15 for every \$30 an RM pays a designated trapper to remove a problem beaver in their RM.
- **Website:** <http://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/beaver-control-program>
- **Contact:** Annette Ellert at [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3744

### INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM

- **Application Deadline:** 2 parts – July 2, 2017 and October 31, 2017
- **Grant \$:** 100% rebate on approved herbicides used to control prohibited weeds. 100% rebate on approved herbicides used to control designated noxious weeds on public lands and 50% on private lands.
- **Website:** <http://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/invasive-plant>
- **Contact:** Annette Ellert at [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3744

### RAT CONTROL PROGRAM (PREP)

- **Application Deadline:**  
December 31, 2017

- **Grant \$:** 50% of actual RM rat control expenses to a maximum potential grant based on \$13.50 per farm site plus \$70 per township.
- **Website:** <http://prep.sarm.ca/>
- **Contact:** Annette Ellert at [aellert@sarm.ca](mailto:aellert@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3744

### MREP – CTP OR HEAVY HAUL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

- **Application Deadline:**  
November 30, 2017
- **Grant \$:** Receive up to 50% of total approved road construction project costs (MREP cap of \$750,000/RM).
- **Website:** <http://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/mrep> – new application forms posted in July).
- **Contact:** Terry Hoeving at [thoeving@sarm.ca](mailto:thoeving@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3736

### MREP BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR

- **Application Deadline:**  
November 30, 2017
- **Grant \$:** Receive 30% to 90% of total approved bridge construction project costs depending on bridge type (MREP cap of \$750,000/RM).
- **Website:** <http://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/mrep> – new application forms posted in July).
- **Contact:** Daniel Segal at [dsegal@sarm.ca](mailto:dsegal@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3746 or Alexander Udey at [audey@sarm.ca](mailto:audey@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3747

### MREP CTP CORRIDOR MAINTENANCE

- **Application Deadline:**  
Accepted year-round
- **Grant \$:** Receive \$1,000/KM per year for incremental maintenance costs incurred by an RM to allow primary weight traffic to use a designated RM road as a CTP Corridor.
- **Website:** <http://sarm.ca/programs/administered-programs/mrep>
- **Contact:** Terry Hoeving at [thoeving@sarm.ca](mailto:thoeving@sarm.ca) or 306.761.3736



## Budget 2017 and **RURAL SASKATCHEWAN**

**BY MIKE BOSSIO** MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
FOR HASTINGS-LENNOX AND ADDINGTON

I had the great pleasure of being invited to speak at the SARM Annual Convention in Saskatoon this past spring, just before the launch of the 2017 federal budget. Now that the budget has been released, I am pleased to have an opportunity to outline some of its impact on rural Canada.

Our government believes in laying the groundwork for sustained, inclusive economic growth, and that includes rural Canada, which contains more than 4,500 rural communities, more than one-quarter of the country's population, and about 80 per cent of Canada's territory.

We know that Canada can be an agricultural powerhouse. We've got the fertile land, the hardworking people, the know-how, and the world trusts the safety of our food. That was reaffirmed for me when I had the chance to visit the Rayner Dairy Research Centre in Saskatoon. I was very impressed by my tour of the facility.

With talent like we have in Saskatchewan and across the country, it is good to see the Innovation and Skills Agenda sets an ambitious target to grow Canada's agri-food exports to at least \$75 billion annually by 2025. Plus, there is \$70 million over six years, starting in 2017, for agricultural discovery science and innovation to support the sustainability of Canada's agricultural sector, in addition to the \$30 million in last year's budget for genomics research.

With an excellent debt-to-GDP ratio and historically-low interest rate, we are also making historic investments in infrastructure, because if we do not invest in Canadians, then who will? Investments will be made in five key priority areas: public transit, green and social infrastructure, transportation infrastructure that supports trade, as well as rural and northern communities.

Over the past year and a half of our government, Ministers Goodale and Sohi have announced over \$450 million in new public and community infrastructure projects in Saskatchewan, including major highways serving large rural areas and many local water and wastewater projects across the province.

We know that municipalities, particularly small rural ones, shoulder a heavy burden, and they need help. Truly small rural communities often find it very difficult to compete with communities of 100,000 people for the existing infrastructure funds. There are several reasons for this.

First, they lack the necessary human resources relative to larger "small" communities to successfully brand their need and complete complicated application processes, including as-

*"Our government believes in laying the groundwork for sustained, inclusive economic growth, and that includes rural Canada, which contains more than 4,500 rural communities."*

*- Mike Bossio, MP*

set management plans. That's why our government put forward \$50 million through the FCM for asset management plans.

Small communities also lack the financial resources needed to hire outside grant writers, or even to pay for the necessary reports to include with their applications. For example, a community of 2,000 people cannot afford a \$40,000 report for an application, particularly if that application is then turned down.

This is all very familiar to anyone who has lived the rural reality, and our government gets it. Thanks to SARM working together with the National Liberal Rural Caucus, we were able to see \$2 billion dollars set aside for infrastructure specifically for small rural and remote communities in the budget, which is in addition to access to other funding streams. It is an excellent start to address our rural needs, since we really need to level the playing field for small rural communities.

To me, ensuring that these funds address the unique needs of small communities requires a separate definition of what a truly "small" community is, which should vary in population from province to province since municipalities are structured differently. I can tell you one thing already though: a small rural community definitely does not have 100,000 people in it—not even close!

The application process should also be simplified, and decisions on these simplified applications should be based on need, not on how well-branded an application is. Getting all these things right will go a long way to levelling the infrastructure playing field for small rural communities across Saskatchewan and the whole country. It will ensure that all Canadians benefit from—and play an active role in—their communities, and better safeguard the health and environment of communities across Canada.

In addition, one of the biggest ongoing impacts that last year's budget has had is through the Canada Child Benefit. To take the example of my own riding—but a familiar one in any rural setting across Canada—we have higher than average levels of child poverty. The Canada Child benefit has had a huge impact in my riding through the distribution of over \$5.9 million every single month to almost 9,300 low and middle income families, which has had a positive impact on almost 17,000 children. That is \$5.9 million each month in the pockets of families in my riding, which is spent at local businesses every month. The same goes for rural ridings across Saskatchewan and Canada.

This year, we have promised \$7 billion over 10 years starting in 2018 to support and create more high-quality, affordable child care spaces across the country. It's what families need and have been asking for, so we are responding with action.

Health care is also a top priority for rural communities. We are strengthening Canada's publicly funded, universal health care system to meet the needs of Canadian families. I am very happy to see that Budget 2017 confirms the government's historic health agreements with the provinces and territories by investing in better home care and mental health initiatives that will help the families who need it most. Investment in home care helps to distribute health and wellness further out into communities, which is a great benefit for our rural communities.

Whether it's roads and bridges, agriculture, high-speed internet, health care, or child care, these are the tools that our small rural communities need to attract and retain young families and businesses, and foster their economic development for years to come, and our government is delivering on them.



MP Mike Bossio addresses delegates at the 2016 SARM Annual Convention in Saskatoon, SK.



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.

## What can be recycled?



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PORTABLE COMPUTERS



COMPUTER PERIPHERALS



DESKTOP PRINTERS



DISPLAY DEVICES



PERSONAL OR PORTABLE AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS



VEHICLE AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS (AFTERMARKET)



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HOME AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS



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





# What does the federal budget mean for SARM?

BY LAURA KURKIMAKI AND SARAH BAIN HILL+KNOWLTON STRATEGIES

AS SARM's consultants in Ottawa, we were so pleased to travel to Saskatoon for SARM's AGM. The AGM was a week before both the provincial and federal budgets were released, so we were eager to connect with members from different RMs to hear what they wanted and thought we'd see in the budgets.

We wanted to report back to those we spoke to about the federal budget, and what better way than through the pages of the *Rural Councillor*. We'd like to thank the editors for inviting us to share with their readers our observations.

As expected, overall, the budget was considerate of external forces such as low oil prices and challenges south of the border. However, there were some aspects that directly affect Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, which we wanted to share with you:

## TRADE

- Governments across Canada finally reached an interprovincial trade deal! Budget 2017 announced that the feds worked with provincial and territorial governments to negotiate a new Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). In the federal budget the government tried to sell this as a big win, saying that opportunities will increase for businesses of all sizes to grow and innovate at home, so they are better equipped to compete internationally. That it would also increase choice and lower costs for consumers, and establish a process for future trade liberalization in areas such

as interprovincial trade. The CFTA is expected to enter into force in 2017.

- Budget 2017, similar to Budget 2016, contained language on the government's commitment to "deepening" trade relationships with key Asia-Pacific, and specifically mentions China, India and Japan. Budget 2017 proposes to invest \$256 million over five years for Canada to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in order to build our multilateral engagement with countries around the world. As the first North American country to apply for membership at the AIIB, the government says Canada is demonstrating our strong engagement in multilateral institutions, and it will commit to playing a unique and constructive role in supporting the Bank's operations and governance. The government will introduce federal legislation to operationalize Canada's membership at this institution in 2017.
- Budget 2017 announced a new initiative called Canada's Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative, which they say will help improve the quality of trade infrastructure across Canada—from border crossings in the south to airports in the north. Building on Transport Canada's "gateways" model, the Corridors Initiative will prioritize investments that address congestion and bottlenecks along vital corridors and around transportation hubs and ports providing access to world markets.

## AGRICULTURE

- While Budget 2017 did not include many surprises for the agricultural sector, it did offer a number of significant investments in agricultural research and food safety, which were key platform commitments and mentioned in Budget 2016.
- Budget 2017 referenced the Economic Growth Council's recommendations and pointed to many previously announced programs and investments, as well as announcing new funding for innovation-related initiatives, including:
  - \$200 million over four years, starting in 2017-18, to support clean technology research for Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This investment continues on the Liberal platform commitment to invest in agriculture research.
  - \$70 million over six years, starting in 2017-18, to further support agricultural discovery science and innovation, with a focus on addressing emerging priorities, such as climate change and soil and water conservation. In addition, as part of the \$200 million provided for the Clean Growth in the Natural Resources program, Budget 2017 proposes to provide funding to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support the expanded adoption



*Budget 2017 includes \$70 million over six years, starting in 2017-18, to further support agricultural discovery science and innovation, with a focus on addressing emerging priorities, such as climate change and soil and water conservation.*

*Photo credit: Chris Hartman*

of clean technology by Canadian agricultural producers.

- Additionally, the budget mentioned an investment of up to \$149.3 million over five years, starting in 2017-18, to renew core food safety inspection programming delivered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada.
- One outstanding commitment from the 2015 Liberal Platform is \$160 million to create an Agri-food Value Added Investment Fund, which would be funded over four years. This was not mentioned in Budget 2016, so many within the industry were holding out hope it would be in budget 2017; it did not make the cut, so we'll be watching closely for news on this one.

## INNOVATION

- In Budget 2016, the feds committed \$800 million over four years to support incubators and clusters. When the government unveiled the Innovation Agenda in June 2016, they identified six themes that would inform the innovation consultations that took place over the summer. Now, the government has identified three priorities that will act as the main focal points moving forward. They include: talent, technology, and helping companies scale-up and grow.
- Budget 2017 proposes to invest up to \$950 million over five years, starting in 2017-18, to be provided on a competitive basis in support of a small number of business-led innovation "superclusters" that have the greatest potential to accelerate economic

growth. The competition will launch in 2017 and focus on superclusters that enhance Canada's global competitiveness by focusing on highly innovative industries, such as advanced manufacturing, agri-food, clean technology, digital technology, health/bio-sciences and clean resources, as well as infrastructure and transportation.

From this we see many opportunities for rural communities, and we look forward to working with SARM and its members to move your objectives ahead with the federal government.

In closing, we wanted to thank all of those who attended the SARM AGM for your warm welcome, we also wanted to single out the Board Members and the SARM team for always making us feel like part of the community. Looking forward to seeing you all next year!



## Promoting municipal **RECREATION AND TOURISM**

**BY HEATHER KINDERMANN**

SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER/GIS MAPPING TECHNOLOGIST



*Sod House, Elbow Museum, Elbow, SK*

**THE** Province of Saskatchewan has identified recreation and tourism as a provincial interest to support a high quality of life for Saskatchewan residents, and it encourages municipalities to promote and grow their recreation and tourism opportunities. Municipalities can do this by setting out specific policies and goals in their official community plans and zoning bylaws to identify their existing recreational and tourism activities and facilities, how to use or maintain dedicated lands to grow tourism and recreation, and to make goals to engage in creating regional tourism and recreation opportunities.

Tourism and recreation opportunities contribute to quality of life for residents and must be considered during planning discussions. Recreational opportunities engage communities in volunteer work and getting to know each other which leads to stronger community bonds. Municipalities have a variety of tourism and recreation opportunities that range from recreational facilities to passive recreation, such as hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Regulations must be outlined in the municipal planning bylaws for a municipality to have input in how and where

these uses are developed. Some guidelines that a municipality may want to specify are the parking, access, road, and utility requirements that the developer will have to consider as part of their development proposal. A municipality may also want to ensure the effect of the development on adjacent land uses is minimized and assess the need for buffers, fencing and landscaping. The municipality will want to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas and flood prone areas from incompatible developments that may have an irreversible negative effect on the subject or adjacent lands. The municipal planning bylaws will provide guidelines for developers to ensure the use is sustainable, appropriate for the area and meets the needs of residents and the travelling public.

Municipalities can use dedicated lands, either municipal or environmental reserves, to develop recreational and tourism uses for public use. Environmental reserves are typically on environmentally sensitive lands not suitable for most types of development, so any uses that do get developed, must ensure that the lands are kept in their natural state. Environmental reserve lands are a great place for passive uses such as walking

trails, bird and wildlife watching, photography, etc. In some areas the environmental reserve lands may also be appropriate for water access and marina facilities. Municipal reserve lands are lands that are dedicated for public use at the time of a subdivision as outlined in Part IX of the *Planning and Development Act, 2007*, and which need to comply with the *Dedicated Lands Regulations, 2009*. Municipal reserve lands are a great place for public parks, recreation areas, schools, natural areas, and public buildings or facilities such as municipally owned recreational centers. If land for public use is not needed when a subdivision occurs, a municipality has the option to collect money in lieu of land. The money collected is kept in a special account until it is needed for a public use on municipal reserve lands. Neighbouring municipalities can also work together and pool their municipal reserve money to put it towards joint municipal projects, such as recreational centres or parks. When a municipality reviews a subdivision or development proposal, part of that review will be to ensure there are adequate recreational uses to service the new subdivision or development. The developer may be required to participate in the creation or expansion of recreational uses to service their proposal.

Clustering recreational and tourism development is a strategy that will bring more residents, businesses and tourists to the area. This is especially true in niche markets or areas that have historical significance or a topographical feature. Some examples include areas around a lake (campgrounds, ice cream shops, food and commercial services, golf courses, walking and biking trails), historical areas (tours, restaurants, gift shops), and ecological areas (ecotourism, bird watching, green development, wildlife conservation areas). The municipal planning bylaws can encourage or require clustering of these types of uses. This will not only encourage similar uses to locate in close proximity to each other, it will also preserve agricultural land for agricultural uses.

Municipalities will be able to find a number of local partners that will want to discuss and explore recreational and tourism development opportunities. Local economic development boards, chambers of commerce, school boards, local business owners, developers, residents, adjacent municipalities and provincial governments all have an interest in recreational and tourism development and can bring ideas and suggestions to the table. So with that, what are you waiting for? Plan to bring recreational and tourism development to your municipality!

It is sometimes not easy to get tourism to flow into an area, which is often why multiple municipalities will work together to promote tourism opportunities. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Rockglen Tourism District and the Calling Lakes Planning District, who with the municipalities in their area, have grouped together to showcase their regional recreation and tourism opportunities.

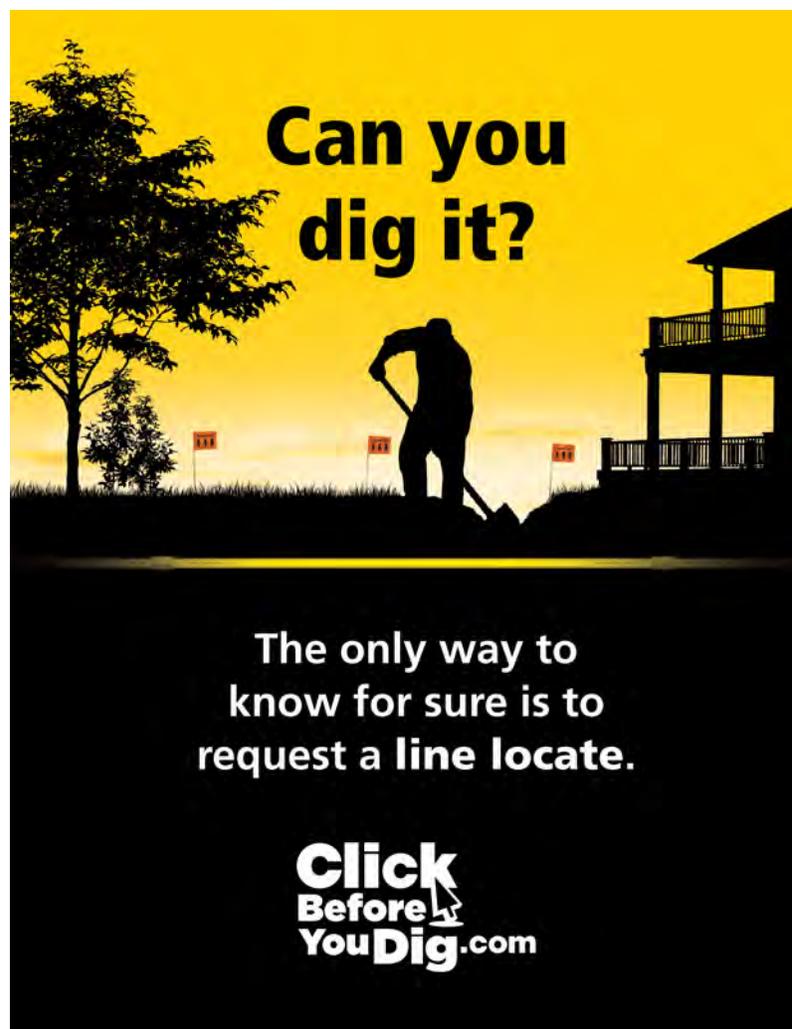
Promoting tourism and recreation opportunities involves informing the public. Things municipalities have done to promote tourism and recreation include brochures, mapping, signage, websites and even television commercials. There are a number of free online platforms municipalities can use to communicate with residents and perspective tourists to ensure that they know what makes your area great. Creating a plan to get people into your region is important. People are always looking at new and exciting places to explore, so it's important to promote what makes your area unique.



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# Ditch Mowing and Hay Salvage Program

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Ditch Mowing and Hay Salvage Program starts **June 7**  
Hay is available to everyone **July 8**

**HAY** is available for salvage at no cost in provincial highway ditches again this year.

Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure's early mowing program begins June 7 and runs through July 15 along high traffic roads, providing producers with an additional hay source.

Before July 8, priority will be given to adjacent landowners. After that date, hay can be cut and baled by anyone without the permission of the adjacent landowner, provided haying operations haven't started.

Hay must be cut at a uniform height in the ditches, and bales must be placed no less than eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. If hay bales are left in a location deemed to be dangerous to motorists, they may be removed by Ministry staff. All hay bales must be removed by August 8.

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

Contractors will conduct regular ditch mowing, cutting all four-lane highways between July 15 and the fall months. The

four-metre-wide strip will be mowed adjacent to the other highways, with additional mowing as required. Weather and ditch conditions are key factors in hay salvage and the progress of contracted mowers.

The annual mowing program helps control brush and weeds, which

maintains sightlines for motorists. The program also optimizes snow storage in ditches and reduces drifting on the road surface during the winter months.

For more information, contact a nearby Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure office or email [communicationsHI@gov.sk.ca](mailto:communicationsHI@gov.sk.ca).

### KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

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



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August 1 Last day to apply for coverage with AMHL or PMHL.

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## The Evolution of **CONSERVATION APPROACHES**

**THE** ever changing dynamic of conservation planning, administration and action is becoming more diverse and yet potentially more effective. The creation of the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. (SODCAP Inc.) and its partnership with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) is providing local action for the globally recognized demand for grassland habitat conservation.

Since the late 1800's Canadians have recognized the need for balancing our influences on the natural environment. From the *Act for the Regulation of Fishing and Protection of Fisheries* in 1868, to the *Species at Risk Act* in 2000, adoption of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015 and the Great Bear Rain Forrest Agreement in 2016, legislation directing conservation has been enacted. With each piece of legislation, conservation related science and corresponding land use planning has been evolving with the increasing understanding that locally driven action is taking root across North America.

In the US, the Sage Grouse Initiative and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative were developed in 2010 to create voluntary cooperation, deliver incentives and support communities where at risk wildlife exists. These initiatives are science driven, locally led and partnership based, all of which hinges on the trust and credibility of those involved. The goal is win-win conservation. A shared vision among the partners enables the work to occur on public and private lands. Both of these models have tremendous grassroots support from cooperating ranchers, conservation organizations and government, resulting in a less fragmented approach to conserving and increasing wildlife habitat and contributing real value to the landowners.

The same dynamics are at play in Saskatchewan with the Species At Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) programming funded by the Government of Canada, administered through the SSGA and delivered by SODCAP Inc. Not only does this model result in quantifiable habitat as described by the best science available, it allows the solutions to be created and economically viable at the local level. Compensation for the solutions is negotiated with the individual. The SARPAL projects are designed to facilitate real habitat results within agricultural operations and are based on globally recognized wildlife habitat science, economic evaluations and ranch-based solutions. This programming is leading edge in Canada, and provides real compensation for management to support quantifiable species at risk habitat. Management for species at risk habitat is becoming an opportunity.

To be effective, the opportunities have to outweigh other land use choices, such as annual cropping or increased rangeland use. The SARPAL programming is about finding a balance for agricultural production and wildlife habitat that is driven by specific targets rather than broad agricultural generalities.

To achieve these specific results, a variety of conservation tools are being employed. This approach is driven by specific habitat focus and is supported by conservation science that has identified the need for adaptive solutions for conservation to be effective (Rissman, 2011). Assistant professor in the Wildlife and Ecology Department at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Rissman examined the evolution of conservation tools and noted the opportunity to develop more effective tools to be used in concert with conservation easements. While conservation easements were effective in some situations, there was opportunity

for adaptation. Key to the discussion was the noted direction towards privately negotiated environmental policy and the need for adaptive solutions not limited to conservation easements. Conservation tools tailored to specific ranch situations and opportunities are developing with increasing landowner engagement. The SODCAP Inc. delivery model is a great example of adaptive conservation tools for privately managed lands. Projects underway include:

- Results Based Agreements
- Grass Banking
- Term Conservation Easements
- Habitat Management Agreements
- Habitat Restoration

Rather than a niche program, SARPAL programming is enabling planning and implementation of activities on a landscape scale and across land ownership boundaries with specific, quantifiable habitat results. While SSGA and SODCAP are leading by example, it is imperative that the adaptive, results-based thinking used to develop the programs, also produce results that are accountable to all partners. So far, the strength of the partnerships is yielding large-scale results.

Based on the scientifically accepted habitat targets, monitoring protocols and producer engagement, the SODCAP delivery model is helping to chart the future of environmental policy.

For more information contact:

Tom Harrison, Executive Director  
SODCAP Inc.  
(306)-530-1385  
ed@sodcap.com  
www.sodcap.com

Sage Grouse Initiative  
www.sagegrouseinitiative.com

Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative  
www.lpcinitiative.org



# Turn in Poachers and Polluters

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Saskatchewan  
Parks and Recreation  
Association

# RECREATION:

## Where fun, safety and quality of life intersect

**BY REAGAN ROD BENROTH** DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

**THE** people who work and volunteer in Saskatchewan's recreation sector take great pride in their roles as community builders. From facility operators, parks workers, fitness leaders, lifeguards and recreation directors, we are the people responsible for the "heart and soul" of your community – and it is a role we take very seriously. We can measure our work by the quality of our facilities and built environments or the attendance of our programs, but we can also look at the smiles of families enjoying a picnic

in our parks, or a young child taking to the ice for the very first time and know that our work has had a direct impact on their quality of life.

Behind the scenes of these invaluable moments and memories are trained professionals ensuring your experience is positive, safe and fun. Recreation professionals add value to your community's quality of life in a variety of ways. Here are a few of the things Recreation professionals bring to your community:

- **Community Development** - Recreation professionals are some of the most well-connected people in your community. They interact with residents daily, coordinate volunteers, and liaise and partner with a variety of services groups, committees and businesses. Armed with strong communication skills, these relationships contribute to a positive and efficient working environment which is essential to building capacity.

- **Facility Management** - Recreation facilities are fundamental to the recreation experience and are assets to your community. Recreation professionals protect these assets with properly trained front-line maintenance and program staff and operational plans that help preserve these community hubs for future generations.
- **Safety** - Smiles are verification that recreation services and spaces are enjoyed and appreciated, but safety is always the first consideration. A recreation professional can help mitigate risk and liability. They bring a commitment to safety through the development and implementation of sound policies and procedures and an awareness of standards and provincial and federal legislation. There is comfort in knowing your playground equipment meets current safety standards and your pool is operating in line with provincial legislation.
- **Programming** - They have a pulse on the community and develop appropriate programs through public consultation and assessing the community's needs. The availability of programs attracts businesses, tourists and residents and can enhance the health and social fabric of your community.

The list of benefits does not end there, and we know that recreation professionals are instrumental to the heart and soul of your community. Recreation isn't simply the personal pursuit of leisure, it's an investment in your community, and in the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents. Recent research shows recreation programs and facilities are highly valued by the people of Saskatchewan as they provide positive opportunities for youth, attract visitors and economic opportunities and help build a sense of community.<sup>2</sup> This is an investment that will appreciate over time, so consider how you manage and look after it.

Recreation professionals are innovators by nature. They stay current with trends, research and promising practices in an effort to remain responsive to community needs. Memberships to professional associations further support this innovation by keeping them up to date with what is happening in the sector and connects them to a network that encourages knowledge exchange. These



*"It's important to have a healthy community; a healthy community is a happy community. I think the heart and soul of a community is recreation."<sup>1</sup>*

*- David Trann, Former Mayor of Nipawin*

fresh ideas can improve efficiencies, as well as the quality of recreation programs and services.

Enhancing your own knowledge of the current state of the recreation sector can further benefit your understanding of the role of recreation and recreation professionals in your community. The *Framework for Recreation in Canada* is a national vision for recreation and an important introduction to the contributions recreation makes to foster active living, improve inclusion and access, providing supportive physical and social environments for participation and the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

The sustainability of recreation in your community is ensured by competent and trained recreation professionals. They are community builders, quality of life specialists and fun-makers. So the next

time you see them, say thanks to the life-guard at the next visit to your local pool, give a kind smile to the arena operator resurfacing the ice, or stop by the office of your recreation director and show your appreciation. You can trust that the heart and soul of your community is in qualified hands.

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) is a non-profit, member-based organization dedicated to the leadership and facilitation of programs and services to enhance the impact of recreation on the quality of life in Saskatchewan. To learn more, visit [www.spra.sk.ca](http://www.spra.sk.ca).

1. As quoted in *Nipawin Journal*, June 3, 2015.

2. *Recreation and Quality of Life in Saskatchewan: Research Report (2016)*, [www.spra.sk.ca/survey](http://www.spra.sk.ca/survey).

# GET OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE SASKATCHEWAN



**EVERY** year in Saskatchewan, one lucky individual is chosen for a position that involves travelling the province, meeting new people, experiencing amazing events and documenting the journey via social media. The position is known as the Saskatchewan Wanderer and, and this year, that lucky individual is me.

My name is Andrew Hiltz, and I am a small town, southern Sask guy who loves to explore. Being selected as the 2017 Saskatchewan Wanderer was beyond a dream come true, and after four months of

wandering, every possible expectation I could have imagined has been exceeded.

From amazing food, music and adventure, this province continues to surprise me. With the busy summer months around the corner, I know things are only going to get better.

If I had to pick the highlight of this job so far, it would be easy: the people. Every single day I'm given the opportunity to meet inspiring people who are doing amazing things for this province. Whether it's Café Terra in Eastend or

Sundogs Sled Excursions in Great Blue Heron Provincial Park, the people make the place. The experience is created by those individuals who have a dream to make this province as good as it can be.

As Saskatchewaner, my goal is to entertain, educate and inspire people to get out and explore this province. The idea that you have to use holiday time and book a flight to experience a grand adventure is crazy! Take a look outside; your back yard is one of Canada's most diverse provinces. Go explore it!



## Make protecting our environment a priority

**Growing Forward 2** is coming to a close March 31, 2018.

There are some deadlines you should be aware of:

**Farm Stewardship Program** pre-approval applications must be submitted by **June 30, 2017**. Pre-approval and rebate claim forms must be submitted by **January 31, 2018**.

**Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program** applications must be submitted by **August 1, 2017** and claims by **February 15, 2018**.

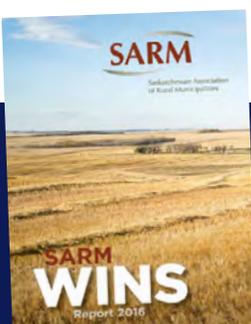
For assistance contact your local Agri-Environmental Group Plan technician working in your watershed.

Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

  
South Sask River  
Watershed Stewards

 Government  
of  
Saskatchewan 



Remember to check out the **2016 SARM WINS Report** at  
<https://sarm.ca/resources/wins-report>

# Highlighting RURAL TOURISM OPERATIONS

**SASKATCHEWAN'S** tourism sector honoured businesses and individuals at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala, which was celebrated in Saskatoon on April 5 at the Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel.

The awards bring profile to the businesses, attractions, events and people who go above and beyond to provide visitors with great service and experiences. Tourism Saskatchewan administers the Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence program and hosts the annual gala.

This year, nearly 40 of the 100 nominations were for operations in towns, villages, parks and northern communities. At the gala celebration, 33 finalists and 11 award recipients were recognized. Rural operations, individuals and events were well-represented, including the following award recipients:



Cowtown Kids Toy & Candy,  
Maple Creek

Recipient of the Rookie of the Year Award, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club

Housed in a heritage building on Maple Creek's Main Street, Cowtown Kids Toy & Candy is the largest independent toy store in Saskatchewan. With a unique focus on selling only traditional and nostalgic toys of impeccable quality, a visit to the toy store is a delight for not

only children, but also for parents and grandparents who are able to reminisce about their own childhoods. The low-tech product lines include the largest puzzle display and selection in Western Canada and an entire secondary building dedicated to children's books. Cowtown Kids Toy & Candy is the brainchild of businessman and father Bob Siemens. Seeing opportunity in Saskatchewan, Siemens sold his assets in British Columbia to start a new life with his family in the Cypress Hills area. Since opening in 2015, the business has become a tourism anchor in downtown Maple Creek, and its sales have been three times greater than initially projected.



Kristine Scheller, Cypress Hills  
Destination Area, Maple Creek

Recipient of the Tourism Employee of the Year Award, sponsored by Harvard Broadcasting

Kristine Scheller is the Administration and Finance Manager of Cypress Hills Destination Area (CHDA). Scheller has been employed by the CHDA since 2011, when the organization was a pilot program. She was the first staff member hired. Over the last six years, Scheller has provided the base from which the organization operates and has been an invaluable member of the team. She has consistently taken on tasks that challenge her abilities and has repeatedly

gone "above and beyond" in her duties, from co-ordinating membership events and taking visitors on tours of the area to providing additional support during transitional periods of the organization. Through her energy and dedication, Scheller has been a tireless ambassador for the Cypress Hills area.



Angela Schmitt, Redwillow  
Outfitting, Carrot River

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

With a background in business and board governance and experience in outfitting and organic farming, Angela Schmitt translates her knowledge and passions into a relentless drive to see tourism and economic development thrive in northeast Saskatchewan. Not only is she co-owner of Redwillow Outfitting, Schmitt is the East Central Representative for the Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, a shareholder and board member of the Carrot River Inn, and she sits on local tourism committees. In 2007, Schmitt spearheaded the establishment of the Carrot River Economic Development Committee. From that group, a tourism and branding initiative emerged, and in 2015, a community brand, *Saskatchewan's Outback*, was established with an official rollout in 2016. Today, the impact of the initiative is

evident with the brand being embraced throughout the community. Carrot River has seen an increase in community pride, business engagement and visitors interested in *Saskatchewan's Outback*.



Country at the Creek Music Festival, Big River

Recipient of the Community Event of the Year Award, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Arts Board

Country at the Creek Music Festival is a two-day showcase of exceptional entertainment, set in the northern boreal forest at the Ness Creek site. In its six years of operation, the event has doubled

attendance and earned a reputation for attracting major talent while maintaining a small-town feel. Country artists from across Canada and the U.S. who have performed at the festival boast about the intimate atmosphere, gracious audience and great hospitality. Country at the Creek Music Festival proclaims that “festivalgoers come for the music, but stay for the experience.” The friendly atmosphere and welcoming nature of local residents and businesses contribute to the positive experience that keeps attendees coming back. The music festival was proudly built by dedicated volunteers. The organizing committee hosts a number of promotional events throughout the year that engage and benefit the local community, while sustaining volunteer involvement.

These award winners, along with many of the finalists honoured that evening, speak to the diverse range of tourism experiences that Saskatchewan offers. A complete list of award recipients is available on [IndustryMatters.com](http://IndustryMatters.com). For information on all there is to see and do in the province, visit [TourismSaskatchewan.com](http://TourismSaskatchewan.com) or call 1-877-237-2273 (toll-free).

*The Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence bring profile to the businesses, attractions, events and people who go above and beyond to provide visitors with great services and experiences.*



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# Putting community back into **COMMUNITY POLICING**

BY MICHELLE NICHOLSON RM OF EDENWOLD

**WHAT** started as a need to manage barking dog complaints and overweight trucks on rural roads has become so much more.

The RM of Edenwold No. 158 was one of the first to sign on to the Community Safety Officer program and sponsor two trainees in Saskatchewan's first class of graduating CSO students.

The RM of Edenwold covers approximately 131 square miles. It includes Emerald Park and over 20 other subdivisions and estates. The towns of Pilot Butte, Balgonie, White City and the village of Edenwold are all bordered by the RM.

Three CSOs now work for the RM and the successes keep piling up.

"We did about 12 months of education before we started issuing tickets" explains CSO Ron Roteliuk. "We were clear that we wanted to improve the community, not just police it. Good conversations and connections resulted with people in the RM, the surrounding communities and with the local White Butte RCMP detachment."

Roteliuk has been lauded for saving a wedding. When a trailer transporting wedding gear failed on Highway 1 – he offered his own. Provincial media attention was gained after the story broke of Roteliuk who, after doing a bit of police work, returned garbage to the driveway of an offender who had illegally dumped trash within the RM.

"Helping people that need our help, I find that most rewarding," says Roteliuk.

Roteliuk says getting into the regional high school to talk to students about ATVs and snowmobiles is an important next step.

"Having the CSOs spend time at a high school to educate young people helps abate calls from angry landowners and farmers who may have just had a winter wheat field torn up. It is worth it," says RM Reeve Mitchell Huber.

"One of the big aims of the RM is having safer roads for people," says CSO Rod Ash. "Slowing down speeders helps the roads. It comes down to dollars and sense when it comes to maintenance."

The program started as an initiative of the Saskatchewan government's Ministry of Justice in 2014 to provide bylaw enforcement for smaller urban communities and rural municipalities. Having CSOs on the payroll frees up local RCMP to pursue criminal matters.

"I think we add to community safety and are able to pay attention to ratepayers when the RCMP have different priorities," says CSO Roteliuk. "We help the RCMP out with perimeter control for active investigations, and we've done some traffic enforcement together, [catching] speeders. We've also helped track down evidence for the RCMP to use for theft investigations taking place within the RM."

In hiring Ron Roteliuk and Rod Ash, the RM was fortunate. Both Roteliuk and Ash come with over three decades each of experience with Regina Police Services. At their graduation ceremony, the duo were lauded for adding an enhanced experience for the other graduates.



## Things to consider when starting a CSO program

### Set goals, track success

Ask your staff: what bylaw infractions are staff and council hearing about the most? Track those. Come up with a plan with the CSOs as to how to educate and ticket.

### Communication

Presence prevents. Letting the ratepayers know about the program, what CSOs can enforce, and how the program is there to help ratepayers helps curb behaviours. Let your local weekly newspaper know. Add messages to tax notices and utility bills.

*"With the CSOs writing tickets, there is the possibility of cost recovery," says CSO Roteliuk. "With that cost recovery it would easily pay the wages."*

### Consider costs

- Salaries that commiserate with experience.
- Ticket books, securing a 'pay to code' and subsequent court costs.
- Uniforms and badge design.
- Vehicles, licensing and insurance.
- Vehicle decals, safety lights.
- Subscriptions to databases and tracking software.
- Overweight vehicles an issue? Portable scales and a container to keep them in will start at about \$5,000.
- Inter-municipal cost sharing? Ensure bylaws are consistent in what constitutes an infraction and what the penalties for contravention are.

CSO Ash says the RM council made it clear, they weren't looking for a stereotypical Hollywood sheriff-type in mirrored sunglasses running roughshod.

"What I like most about working out here is that you can talk to the people. It's not always a confrontation. It can be a conversation," says Ash. He says the teamwork shown by all members of the RM team, in working with the outdoor staff, planners and grader operators makes the results of the CSO program ultimately more effective.

Les Ferris was added to the RM's CSO team in November 2016. Ferris, a military veteran, former truck driver and Highway Transport Patrol officer brings much needed understanding and skill to help combat the damage wrought by overweight vehicles travelling RM roads.

"[Having a CSO program] shows accountability on behalf of the RM. They take responsibility for the roads and the money invested in infrastructure," says Ferris.

Ferris says meeting with ratepayers, providing a valuable service for them and assisting the RCMP in their duties within the RM is very rewarding.

The RM of Edenwold's Chief Administrative Officer, Kim McIvor, understood the value in the CSO program from the beginning.

"Often times, the calls we would get to the RM office were about repeated bylaw infractions. It was frustrating. Time consuming. Highway 1, 46, 48 and 33 run through the RM, and the local RCMP detachment are kept busy. We needed help. We needed to put some teeth into bylaw enforcement," says McIvor.

McIvor was charged by council to pursue the costs and details, and in 2015, the RM launched their CSO program. At the 2015 SARM November Convention, McIvor addressed delegates and spoke of costs and due diligence other RMs need to consider.

"We budgeted for salary and benefits, but we also needed to budget for trucks,

safety lights, uniforms, annual fees to access databases, uniforms, badges, bylaw ticket books. The RM was in the process of completing our new maintenance shop, so we were fortunate to build an office for the CSOs to use," explains McIvor.

Under the RM's General Penalty Bylaw, four or more offences mean an offender is liable on summary conviction. The municipality then works with the provincial court system.

"We updated relevant bylaws to give people the option for early payment," says McIvor.

This work helped prepare the way for potential inter-municipal agreements with surrounding municipalities, all keen on having some extra enforcement in their communities as well.

"Heavy haulers are getting the message," McIvor says. "Speeders are getting the message. What is that worth to our ratepayers? It's priceless."

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PRESENTING:

# Saskatchewan Municipal Award Winners

It's time, once again, to reflect on a year of municipal success with the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards. The program is sponsored by Affinity Credit Union and is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities, and the provincial ministry of Government Relations.

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards (SMAs). The award presentations took place at the SUMA Convention and the SARM mid-term convention. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the innovation and excellence in Saskatchewan municipalities, surrounded by colleagues and peers.

This year, the awards program received 15 nominations representing 21 municipalities. It was a big job for the selection committee when they selected the winners last fall. The selection committee was made up of:

- **Keith Schneider:** former Executive Director of SUMA and Principal with ADVOCO Consulting;
- **Ken Engel:** former Executive Director of SARM;
- **Jim Scarrow:** former mayor of Prince Albert and former Vice-President of Cities for SUMA;
- **Neal Hardy:** former President of SARM;
- **Jeff Mulligan:** managing partner of AHHA Moments Inc. and former mayor of Lloydminster; and
- **Gordon Barnhart,** who wrapped up his work on the SMA selection committee before he ran for SUMA President.

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

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

The committee was 'blown away' by the quality of nominations for the 10<sup>th</sup> round of SMAs, and it shows in our very first tie for third place! You can see all the details on the winning projects, including videos with project and community leaders talking about their projects, on the SMA website at [www.municipalawards.ca](http://www.municipalawards.ca). ■

**Congratulations to all the winners, and we hope to hear about the great work in your municipality when nominations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards open this June!**

## First Place

**Oil Spill and Water Crisis Response (City of Prince Albert)**

**Winning Practice:**

Activated an emergency operations centre in response to an oil spill that contaminated the source of their drinking water, the North Saskatchewan River.



## Second Place

### Our Humboldt Strategic Framework (City of Humboldt)

**Winning Practice:**

Developed and implemented a framework setting out a vision and strategy for Humboldt, and used it to align policy and the budget process to the framework.



## Third Place (tie)

### Highway 316 Concept Plan (RM of Blucher)

**Winning Practice:** Developed a comprehensive concept plan for the area that addressed infrastructure needs, existing development, future development, surface water considerations, and environmental factors.



### Unmanned Aerial Vehicle/Laser Survey (Town of Kerrobert)

**Winning Practice:** Used drones and laser technology to survey the town to create an asset map and topographical map to help develop an infrastructure upgrade master plan and drainage plans.



## Regional Cooperation

### Wallace Creek Watershed Association Board (RMs of Sliding Hills, Wallace, Calder, Saltcoats, and Churchbridge, and the Village of Rhein)

**Winning Practice:**

Founded a watershed association to proactively manage water resources to reduce flood damage to agricultural land, and protect private property and municipal infrastructure.





## Ituna Resident Receives Lieutenant Governor's Award for **OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO RURAL SASKATCHEWAN**

*Left to right: SARM Division 1 Director William Huber, SARM President Ray Orb, Orest Zrymiak, Gail Zrymiak (wife) and Tyler Zrymiak (son) at the presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan.*

**OREST ZRYMIAK** was the 2017 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan. Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and Mike Marsh, President and CEO of SaskPower (sponsor of the award), presented Mr. Zrymiak with a framed print by renowned Canadian artist, Glen Scrimshaw, at the 2017 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention. Orest's wife, Gail, was also presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

This prestigious award is presented to a reeve, councillor or administrator for his or her contribution to rural Saskatchewan. Orest has a lifetime of accomplishments and community involvement to be proud of. From a very young age, Orest has been active in community affairs, including being elected councillor of Division 1 in the RM of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246 from 1966-91 and then as reeve from 1991-2010 – a total of 44 continuous years on council.

Orest was born and raised near Hubbard, SK and graduated from high school in Ituna, SK in 1959. During his school years, he helped out on the family farm, and after graduating from high school, he moved to Thompson, MB to work in the mines. After saving up enough money, he returned home to the Hubbard area to purchase farmland and build a house. He met Gail Pawliw and was married in 1966 – the same year he was elected councillor for Division 1. Orest and Gail spent their lives together working on their family farm. For many years, Orest also worked part-time as a maintenance worker at the Ituna Union Hospital and later on at the Ituna Pioneer Lodge & Health Centre. In the fall 2008, Orest and Gail moved to Ituna to enjoy their

retirement years. Orest has always had a passion for farming and continued to farm full-time until 2009.

Orest and Gail are blessed with three children and five grandchildren. Their oldest son, Calvin, and his wife, Candace, and their daughters, Karlene and Courtney, live in Dawson Creek, BC where Calvin is the manager of a grain elevator. Their daughter, Tracy, and her husband, Curtis, and their son, Cody, live and farm in Cupar, SK. Their youngest son, Tyler, works as an RCMP officer and lives with his wife, Haley, and their children, Emmy and Wilder, in Saskatoon.

Some of the committees Orest has served on over the years include the Ituna Hospital Board Committee, the Ituna & District Pioneer Lodge Board, the Ituna & District Regional Park Board, the Ituna & District Centre (Old Hospital) Operating Committee, and the RM and Town of Ituna Joint Landfill Committee. Orest has also served as president of the Ituna Curling Club and volunteered with making ice in the curling rink. He has also helped canvass for donations for the artificial ice plant.

Orest was involved with bringing the Bon Accord Genetic Nucleus Unit to the RM, which later became the Hypor Bon Accord Hog Barn. Before the barn burned down in 2008, it was an integral part of the municipality that was very supportive of community functions and provided employment to many people in the area. Before a permanent maintenance person was hired for the Ituna & District Centre, Orest also volunteered to check on the heating and cooling systems in the building as it housed the Deer Park Villa Activity Centre for the physically and mentally challenged citizens of our community who reside in Ituna's group homes.

During Saskatchewan's Centennial in 2005, Orest received the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan. It was an official honour of the Crown and part of the Saskatchewan Honours and Awards Program. The medal recognized individuals who had made a significant contribution to the province and was a symbol of the pride and vision of Saskatchewan and its people.

In 2013, he was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. Orest was nominated for his years of service, dedication and commitment to local government, the RM, and the local committees he participated in.

Orest truly is a dedicated community person who is always willing to help – whether they be his neighbours or strangers – day or night, and on any day of the week. He is equally a caring and generous family man. He is everyone's friend, young or elderly – always has a joke or story to tell, and sometimes a few words of caution or advice. Although he is no longer a council member, he still has a love and a passion for what is going on in the RM. He is a wonderful source of information as to what went on when he was on council. Orest has a great sense of humor, an ability to get along with everyone, and a respected sense of fairness.

Throughout his life, he has been a wonderful example of what a good neighbour should be and has provided outstanding service to rural Saskatchewan. It is clear that more often than not, Orest has gone over and above the call of duty to contribute to his community and has tried to make it a better place to live for everyone. He is a true community leader. Congratulations Orest!

# *Get recognized for going the extra mile in your municipality!*

*Award-winning municipalities will be celebrated at the SARM midterm convention in November 2017, and the SUMA convention in February 2018.*

Nominations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards close **Friday, September 8 at 4:00 p.m.**

## **Why should we apply?**

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

## **What types of projects receive awards?**

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

## **Who can apply?**

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

## **How can I apply?**

- ✦ Nominations open Wednesday, June 7, 2017.
- ✦ Visit [www.municipalawards.ca](http://www.municipalawards.ca) to get full details and a nomination form.
- ✦ Deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 8, 2017.**

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# Overview of municipal complaints to **THE OMBUDSMAN IN 2016**

**THE OMBUDSMAN** received 506 complaints about municipalities in 2016, which was the first full year of the Ombudsman taking municipal sector complaints. Municipal complaints now make up about 15 per cent of all the complaints made to us. Here is a breakdown of the complaints we received in 2016 by municipal type.

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Cities                  | 114        |
| Towns                   | 94         |
| Villages                | 82         |
| Resort Villages         | 35         |
| Rural Municipalities    | 156        |
| Northern Municipalities | 18         |
| Other / Not Disclosed   | 7          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>506</b> |

We take complaints about municipalities under *The Cities Act*, *The Municipalities Act*, or *The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010*, including complaints about municipal councils, council committees, controlled corporations and other bodies established by a council. We also take complaints about the actions and decisions of council members, including complaints about council members' conflicts of interest or contraventions of a code of ethics.

We received administrative complaints on a wide variety of matters, including water bills, snow removal, gravel, land use and referendums, to name a few. About one third of the 2016 complaints were about council member conduct, such as potential conflicts of interest.

In early 2017, we reported publicly on three investigations into council member conflicts of interest that we completed in 2016. We reminded council members about the importance of knowing and following the rules for dealing with conflicts of interest. We sent out a new conflict of interest brochure to all municipalities. We also invited council members and administrators to attend webinars about our Office on February 9, 13 and 23. They included general information about us and about conflicts of interest. About 125 people from across the province participated. We plan to continue to offer webinars such as these from time to time. There is also growing interest in our "Fine Art of Fairness" workshop, that covers such topics as Ombudsman 101, an introduction to fairness, how people's interests affect their views of fairness, and how to make and communicate fair decisions. Several municipal representatives have participated in our workshops, and we plan to make them available in more locations in the coming months.

## CASE EXAMPLES

### Conflict of Interest Cases

The Ombudsman investigated council members from two municipalities alleged to have conflicts of interest in matters before their councils and failing to take the steps required to deal with them as set out in *The Municipalities Act*.

### Selling Municipal Land

One case involved the decision of the Village of Manor to sell municipal land to the then-mayor's son. The land had been gifted to the Village and used as a rest stop, picnic site and campground for over 30 years. The Village sold the land without giving public notice, contrary to its own bylaw under which it was required to give public notice before it sold any municipal land and contrary to *The Municipalities Act*, which also requires public notice be given before a municipality disposes of land used for park purposes. We found that, in several instances, the mayor did not declare a conflict of interest and take the steps required to deal with the conflict as required by *The Municipalities Act*. As the mayor was not re-elected in 2016, we did not recommend that the council take steps to have the mayor disqualified. However, we did recommend that the village pass a bylaw so allegations of conflict of interest can be properly addressed at the local level. A full copy of our public report can be found on [www.ombudsman.sk.ca](http://www.ombudsman.sk.ca) under Public Reports.

### Recovering Legal Fees

The other case involved the RM of Sherwood. At a January 13, 2016 council meeting, the council heard from a delegation and discussed a motion about Sherwood taking steps to recover money it had reimbursed to several council members for legal fees incurred during the Barclay Inquiry. The legal fees had been reimbursed under a bylaw that was later determined by the courts to be invalid. Two council members who had their legal fees reimbursed were present at the meeting. We found that the two council members had a conflict of interest as they had a financial interest in not having to pay back the money. We found that by not declaring their conflict of interest and leaving the meeting, but instead staying to listen to the delegation, participating in a discussion about whether the motion to seek reimbursement was properly before council, and then voting to table the motion, they did not comply with the conflict of interest rules in *The Municipalities Act*. One council member did not run for re-election in 2016. The other council member was still on the council, so we recommended that the council, at its next regular meeting, vote on whether to apply to the court for an order declaring the council member to be disqualified from council. A full copy of the public reports can be found on our website under public reports.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CASES

In each of the following examples, the name of the complainant has been changed to protect his or her identity.

### Checking the Process

Kegan contacted us with concerns about the way his municipal council was handling a proposed development project. He was against the development and had started a petition. A number of people signed the petition, and Kegan took the matter to council. The council then voted not to proceed with the development.

Although Kegan got the result he wanted, he did not think that the council had handled the process correctly. We looked at the requirements in *The Municipalities Act* and the municipality's bylaws. We also checked the meeting minutes, which the municipality had published on its website. We found that it had followed the Act and its policies in responding to the petition, and that its decisions were clearly documented and accessible on its website.

*Status: No Further Action*

### Lost and Found

Kim contacted us about a situation with her municipality. She told us she had an agreement in place for her tax payments, and had then encountered other financial problems. In trying to deal with her finances, she needed to provide a third party with a copy of the agreement. She had lost her copy, so asked the municipality if it could provide one, but was told that its copy was also lost. Later, the municipality sent Kim an enforcement letter, which quoted from the agreement.

She said that she had talked to the municipality and asked how they could quote from a lost agreement. The conversation had not gone well, and Kim's relationship with the municipality had deteriorated. We said that we would see if there was a role for our Office.

We inquired with the administrator who confirmed that the agreement had been lost until recently, just before the letter was sent. She provided us with copies of the letter and agreement, so we asked if a copy of the agreement could also be sent to Kim and her spouse. She agreed and mailed it to them.

*Status: Resolved*

### Water Disconnect

Leslie contacted us because her water had been cut off. She told us that Social Services had been paying her water bills, and she did not know that the bills had been unpaid for two months. She contacted Social Services and a worker emailed the municipality stating that Social Services would pay the bill. When the water was still not connected, Leslie contacted Social Services a second time and was told that a second email would be sent. When she contacted Social Services again to say that the water had still not been turned back on, she was told that they had done all they could. Leslie was concerned because she had two infants at home and needed water to care for them.

We contacted Social Services to confirm the emails had been sent and we contacted the municipality. The municipality said the emails had not been received, but the collections manager reviewed the file and decided to reconnect the water.

*Status: Resolved*

# YOU CAN HELP AND RECEIVE CASH REWARDS



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

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



On the afternoon of April 24th, 2017, a cow moose and her unborn calf were shot and left to waste on private land, approximately six miles south east of Alvena along Pitt Road. Only the hind quarters and the fleshy part of the nose were taken off the cow moose. The calf was cut out of the cow and did not survive. Officers determined a vehicle had been stuck in the same field, while landowners stated that two males in their late 30's were approaching farmers the same afternoon asking for assistance to have their vehicle removed from a nearby field.  
*The public's help is needed to solve this case.*

STAY UP TO DATE BY VISITING [WWW.SASKTIP.COM](http://WWW.SASKTIP.COM) OR FOLLOW SASKTIP ON TWITTER/FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Municipal Management Essentials Program

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE COUNCIL MEMBERS?

**MANY** council members are encouraging RM employees to participate in the Municipal Management Essentials (MME) Program but believe the training would not be applicable to council. This could not be further from the truth. There are a number of workshops that council members can benefit greatly from.

For instance, no one wants to leave a meeting feeling as though their time was wasted because nothing was accomplished, or that the meeting went on far longer than it needed to. In the Conducting Effective Meetings workshops, participants learn the three key stages of holding a meeting and how to ensure meetings are productive and successful. The administrators, reeves and councillors who have attended this workshop have found great value in not only the material, but also in the ability to interact with their peers who they find are dealing with many of the same issues themselves.

Although the Being a Safety Leader workshops were originally designed for municipal foremen, many participants found that as the foremen come to understand the role they need to play in the safety of their workplace and their legal responsibility, they understood councils' need to be in the room as well. Safety in the workplace is everyone's responsibility, and leaders need to have the information as well.

Conflict is a normal and expected aspect of working together and dealing with the public; it exists in human relations at work as well as in other areas of our lives. Handled poorly, conflict can damage relationships, lower morale and impact productivity. In the Conflict Management workshop, participants learn how to apply an intervention and resolution framework based on a collaborative, interest-based conflict management approach. They are provided with tools that will assist them in managing conflict and challenges more effectively. This workshop is ideal for anyone who deals with staff, co-workers or the public.

Leadership is the art of motivating and inspiring people to work toward shared aspirations. It requires solid character and highly developed communication skills. The Leadership Skills workshop covers important leadership topics and will help participants build their skills/strengths in the following areas: personal awareness and consciousness, developing and communicating a vision, influencing others, championing change, and maintaining morale. This workshop would benefit both administrators and municipal council members.

Negotiation skills also benefit everyone as they have a significant impact on

decision making. We negotiate more often than we realize; for purchases, project timelines, priority management, decisions, and personal development opportunities. The Negotiation Skills workshop focuses on how to negotiate by developing a plan, preparing for meetings, handling objections, and reaching agreements.

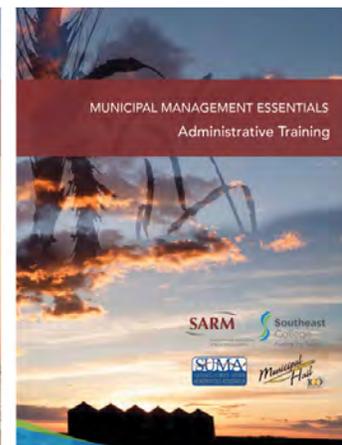
## WHAT ARE PARTICIPANTS SAYING ABOUT THE MME WORKSHOPS?

- "Very interactive"
- "Instructor was great"
- "Good material"
- "Will recommend to others, especially Council members"
- "Excellent"
- "Very well done"
- "Truly enjoyed the class"
- "The Instructor was very approachable and knowledgeable"
- "I learned a lot from group discussions"

Participants are responding with such positive comments for a number of reasons. Southeast College prides itself on having highly qualified and relevant instructors. MME workshops are limited to 25 participants due to the interactive style of the workshops, which has proven to give the learner the best possible learning experience. The College works diligently to maintain the highest standards of course material.

For more information on the MME program, including the schedule of workshops, visit <https://www.southeastcollege.org/courses/municipal-management-essentials/>.

Workshops can be arranged at your location when minimum enrollment numbers are met. To find out more about this opportunity, contact Jacquie Becker, Southeast College Business & Program Development Consultant, at 306-848-2506 or [JBecker@southeastcollege.org](mailto:JBecker@southeastcollege.org).





## Did you know?

The **SARM 50/50** draw and raffle for STARS at our Annual Convention raised **\$4432**, enough for STARS to fuel up for **four lifesaving flights**.

*(STARS photo)*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



In 1921, 301 rural municipalities were spread across Saskatchewan, and 276 of them were members of SARM. It would take two more decades to have all RM councils become members of the larger organization.



*“The work of the Association in fostering public interest in municipal questions & in improving municipal conditions generally has been of real service to the cause of good government in this country”*

- J.J. Smith, Deputy Municipal Affairs Minister, 1925



## SARM 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Student Scholarship in **AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND RURAL HEALTH**

**IN 1995** the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities auctioned off the first copy of its history book for \$2,600. The SARM Board of Directors directed this \$2,600 to the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture to create the SARM 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$1,000 student scholarship in Agricultural Safety and Rural Health. The Network has maintained the scholarship with the assistance of the Founding Chairs Program at the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture. Saskatchewan Grade 12 students, who have parents or guardians paying taxes to an RM, are invited to write an essay on “The Importance of Health and Safety on Our Farm.”

Two scholarships of \$1,500 were awarded to grade 12 students, Kyla Zrymiak of the RM of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246, and Eryn Stewart of the RM of Moose Creek No. 33. Congratulations!



### **ERYN STEWART**

The more we know and understand about farm risks, the wiser we will be about making farm related decisions. Before you hurry to finish a job, skip an instruction manual or simply do not pay attention, think of the consequences. One false decision can ruin a person's life, but one smart decision, can save it.

### **KYLA ZRYMIAK**

On my farm, home and piece of serenity, I might think I am on the safest place on earth, but it is actually the land I can never be too safe on.

Over time I have learned that you can never be too safe, so it is better to take an extra look or second with every move you make on the farm to potentially save your life. With all the long hours put in from farmers around the world, their health and safety is important because without them I wouldn't be living on the land that I do today.



## **2017/18 Scholarship**

If you are a grade 12 student planning on studying at a post-secondary Saskatchewan school in the fall of 2018, you should consider applying for our scholarship. This year there will be two scholarships of \$1,500 available. The deadline to apply is December 5, 2017. Your parents must own or rent land and pay taxes to a rural municipality. Download the application and additional information at <http://aghealth.usask.ca/scholarship/index.php>.

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



# BIOCONTROLS

## For invasive plant species

**BY HARVEY ANDERSON**

SARM INVASIVE ALIEN PLANTS GROUP  
PLANNING ADVISOR

**BIOCONTROLS** are a suitable approach to managing invasive alien plants that are established over a large area and where using herbicides alone is an economic burden. Biocontrols will not entirely eliminate a weed population, but they can help reclaim land that has lost much of its productivity due to the weeds, particularly grass for beef production. Biocontrols should be used as one of the elements in an integrated weed management plan.

### Leafy Spurge

Numerous biocontrols have been released in Canada for this invasive plant, but only three flea beetle species have survived our climate and been able to over-winter and reproduce. The black dot, brown dot and black beetles are established (some at low population levels) on many populations of leafy spurge, in locations across the province. They all have slightly different microenvironments where they thrive, but generally the two dotted beetle species prefers dryer open rangeland, while the black species do well in riparian areas and will tolerate slightly more shade. The black beetle species seems to do well on soils with higher clay and organic matter. The two dotted beetle species do well on slightly sandier soils, but none of the species do well in sandy, fine soil regions.

None of them does well in spurge populations that are densely crowded with spurge stems, but they all seem to prefer more scattered stems that are usually present around the edges of a dense spurge or slightly scattered patch. All of them like the heat from direct sunlight, but they do not like too much dead grass thatch on the soil surface.

### Scentless Chamomile

Three different biocontrols have been used in Saskatchewan to reduce scentless chamomile, but the stem mining weevil did not tolerate our climate well, so it

is not available for further releases. The two biocontrols that have survived are the seed weevil and gall midge. The seed weevil has been spread across the province with slightly more releases in the eastern region. The weevil survives, but the population seems to fluctuate from year to year, in a manner that is not totally predictable and appears to be moisture, or weather, related. This species' larva hatches in the flower head and eats a high proportion of the flowers' seeds.

Seed weevils can be moved when high populations are found, but finding them is difficult due to the unpredictable population levels from season to season.

The gall midge survives well in all areas of the province, and population levels are more predictable and easier to collect to ship to a new site. With this biocontrol, the chamomile plants where the midge has laid eggs are noticeable, and as these plants readily reroot and grow upon transplant, the trick to moving this biocontrol is to dig up live plants with midge galls on the stem and transplant a dozen of them to a new location. The plants must be kept alive as the midge larva use the plant tissues for nutrition and have to complete their natural life cycle before they emerge as adult midge, to start another life cycle. There are at least two cycles of this insect per year and sometimes, if the season is long enough, there can be three lifecycles. Both of these biocontrols can travel great distances and spread readily throughout a district in a short time frame.

### Nodding Thistle

The nodding thistle seed weevil has spread throughout Saskatchewan and has done well controlling the overall population. From time to time, though, soils are disturbed when a road is constructed or widened, or a new dugout is dug in the middle of a pasture, and as nodding thistle seeds can be carried by wind to

these new soil areas, which are a long distance from the original population, the biocontrol generally gets left behind.

Over time, the biocontrol will likely catch up to this new population, but without the biocontrol, the new thistle population reproduces and spreads at will. We can intervene by collecting the biocontrols and spreading them around the new location. Gradually the thistle population will decline as the biocontrol reproduces and spreads.

### Purple Loosestrife

Purple loosestrife is found in wetlands and has effected native plants around ponds and lakes, affecting waterfowl habitats in North America. Several years ago, biocontrols were released, and the Galerucella beetle proved very effective. The adult beetle and it's larva feed on the plants' foliage and flowers, greatly reducing its seed reproduction. This beetle is present in some loosestrife populations in Saskatchewan, including near Saskatoon, so I have been learning about the beetle populations' locations and lifecycle and to determine the best method of capture and time for capture and relocation.

I believe I could find, collect and relocate this biocontrol if I received a request.

### Other Invasive Alien Plants

The Agriculture Research Station in Lethbridge, AB is working on biocontrols for Yellow Toadflax, Russian Knapweed and other knapweed species. In upcoming years, there will be more news on the success of these programs and possible releases of some of these insects.

McClay Biosciences, a privately run organization in AB, has a contract to manage a biocontrol screening program for common tansy. They are evaluating the effectiveness of about eight different insect species, and the rumor is that at least one of these is due to be approved for release in 2013.

## making our communities safer **ONE TIP AT A TIME**

**AS** you may know, Crime Stoppers is a non-profit community based organization that combines the efforts of the public, the media and the police to solve crimes in our communities.

The Tip information is received from the public by phone, email or text and is 100 per cent anonymous. By offering a cash reward of up to \$2,000 in exchange for information that leads to an arrest or charge of a criminal, Crime Stoppers is making our communities safer to live, work and raise a family.

### “Is Crime Stoppers really anonymous, and how can they guarantee 100 per cent anonymity to Tipsters?”

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

Callers remain anonymous as they are issued a confidential code number when they contact Crime Stoppers. This number helps us track the Tip information, and if the Tipster's information leads to an arrest or charge for any crime of drug related offense, the code number is used to make a cash reward.

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

entitled to the protection of anonymity. They went on to confirm that it prevents disclosure not only of the name of the Tipster (even if it were to be known), but also of any information that may implicitly reveal his or her identity.

### “What is the process for a Tipster to get paid?”

1. When you call, email or text Crime Stoppers, you are given a unique code number. You use this number as your ID when corresponding with us.
2. Your Tip information is forwarded to the investigating agency, and if an arrest or charge or the matter is cleared as a result of the information you provided, you are eligible for a cash reward.
3. The result of your Tip is inputted into a formula that calculates the reward amount.
4. Your Tip and the amount is presented to our board of directors, which authorizes the amount to be paid to the Tipster.
5. If it was a web or text Tip, the Tipster is contacted and advised of the amount they are rewarded; if it was a phone Tip, we have to wait for the Tipster to call back to advise them of the reward.
6. The Tipster is asked what financial institution and date they would like to go and pick up their cash at.
7. Our Accountant will then mail a cheque to the manager of the financial institution with instructions to cash the cheque and place

the cash in an envelope with the Tipster's unique code number on it.

8. The Tipster attends the bank on the date they requested, asks the manager for the envelope with their number on it, and the manager hands them the envelope, with no questions asked.

### Since 1987, the Results for Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers are:

- 127,764 calls received
- 25,428 Tips received
- 1,807 charges laid
- 3,733 cases cleared
- 3,237 arrests made
- \$351,441 in Tips awarded
- \$9.4 million in property recovered
- \$8.2 million in drugs seized

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 per cent anonymous and does not subscribe to call display, and your calls are not traced or recorded. Web and text Tips are also encrypted.

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), text TIP206 and your message to CRIMES (274637), or submit a tip at [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com) where you can also view other unsolved crimes.

Thank you for your support.



## IMPAIRED DRIVING: The Reality

**SPEND** time with those responsible for investigating collisions involving impaired drivers, and you are left with the feeling that they are fighting a losing battle.

Despite years of public awareness campaigns, messages from police agencies, work by advocacy groups, and stern reminders from politicians, the numbers tell a grim story. There continues to be a problem of impaired driving in Saskatchewan. In the most recent numbers available from SGI, 54 people were killed in collisions where alcohol was involved in 2015. More than 560 people were injured in alcohol involved collisions.

You might have an opinion about these numbers: more than you thought, less than you thought. Let's compare the number of people killed in alcohol related collisions to the number of people who were murdered in 2015: 43 murder victims; 59 people killed in alcohol related collisions.

In every month in 2015 in Saskatchewan, there were more than 65 collisions involving alcohol. There were more than six months in 2015 with over 100 alcohol involved collisions.

Impaired driving enforcement is expensive, and significant resources across the province are involved in enforcement initiatives, including proactive stop checks and patrols targeting impaired drivers. Additionally, the Saskatchewan RCMP has a dedicated team of 14 investigators who spend half of their time investigating alcohol involved collisions with death or serious injuries.

"Unfortunately," said Sgt. Ryan Case, Indian Head RCMP Detachment Commander and Collision Reconstructionist, "there is never a shortage of work."

Unless we all change our attitude towards impaired driving, people will continue losing their lives and suffering injuries.

Sgt. Case believes 100 per cent of impaired driving collisions are preventable. "There is no such thing as an accident when it comes to fatalities or injuries that are the result of an impaired driver," said Sgt. Case. "Someone made the decision to drive after drinking in every case of injury or death involving an impaired driver. It's as simple as that."

### What to do if you see a driver you think is impaired:

- pull over and call 911;
- state the location;
- report which direction the vehicle is travelling;
- describe the vehicle as best you can: colour, make, model and licence plate number;
- describe driving behaviours being exhibited; and
- provide a description of the driver if you can.

The more information you are able to provide when you call to report an impaired driver, the better. Some of the questions you may be asked include:

- location of the incident, including directions and/or landmarks if required;
- details of incident, including exact driving pattern details;
- vehicle description, mode of transportation and direction of travel;
- number of occupants in vehicle of interest;
- any details about the driver of the vehicle: name, approximate age, physical and/or clothing description;
- are drugs or alcohol potentially involved;
- complainant's relationship to the incident i.e. witness, victim;
- when did this occur? When did you see the vehicle/individual; and
- how much time has elapsed from the time the incident took place to the time it was reported?

Visit the RCMP's website to listen to a simulated scenario of someone reporting a suspected impaired driver at <http://www.rcmp.gc.ca/en/news/2017/2/rid-pull-call-911>  
Report impaired drivers (RID) is a road safety program that encourages the public to call 911 to report a suspected impaired driver. RID: Pull over – Call 911.

# rural councillor **MEMBER NEWS**



**RM OF ITUNA  
BON ACCORD NO. 259  
IN MEMORIAM  
BILL UCHACZ**

Bill Uchacz was born in February 1927, the 9<sup>th</sup> of 15 children born to Sam and Mary Uchacz. He attended school in Ituna, SK. In 1947, he went to Hamilton, ON to work for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. As his heart was still on the farm, he ended up moving back to the farm working with his parents until their retirement in 1953, after which he took over the family farm. In 1955, he married Rose Kaczmar, and they were blessed with one child, Laura.

Bill was very active in the community. He served as a councillor for Division 2 in the RM of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246 for four years. In 1978, he was elected reeve and served until 1993. He also served on the Ituna & District Pioneer Lodge, Ambulance, Fire Association, Ituna Rural Telephone, and Ituna Co-op boards, and he was a member of the Ituna Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight, parish choir, parish president and a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Council.

Bill's love of travel took him and his family throughout Canada, the US and Europe, including the Ukraine, where he met his relatives. He enjoyed getting together with family and friends, golfing, attending social events, spending time with his grandsons, Matthew and Michael, and harvest – his favorite time of the year.

Bill and Rose “retired” from farming when they moved to Ituna in 1989. Laura, and her husband, Terry, took over the farm. Farming was Bill's passion, and he continued to help until he turned 80 in 2007. In his later years, he became a caregiver to Rose who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, and eventually she became a resident of the Ituna Pioneer Lodge. Bill's own health, in the process of caring for her, started to decline, and he followed Rose, becoming a resident himself in 2010. Bill died peacefully on March 21, 2017 with his family by his side at the age of 90.

Bill leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Rose; daughter, Laura (Terry) Berezny, and grandsons, Matthew and Michael (Samantha) Berezny; brother Benny (Helen); sister Jennie Sali; and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



**RM OF COTE NO. 271  
IN MEMORIAM  
HERBERT HARPER**

Herbert (Herb) Frank Harper was born in Togo, SK, the second child to Herbert William and Catherine Mildred Harper (nee Butt). He attended Mylor School northeast of the family farm. He completed Grade 7, and at the age of 14 started helping his mom and dad on the family farm. In 1961, he married the love of his life Martha Strom. Together they raised five children: Edith, Karen Patricia, Norma and William. They were blessed with raising their own family and the opportunity to help raise their grandchildren, Caitlyn, Morgan and Brayden, after the passing of their daughter, Edith.

Grandchildren held a special place in Dad's heart, the next generation. Family was everything to our dad; his only wish was “that we'd all get along.”

Herb worked in a bush camp in Pine Falls, MB for five winters and drove a school bus before becoming a dedicated full-time farmer. In his spare time, he was on the Togo School Board, Togo Credit Union, RM of Cote councillor and reeve, Togo Farmers Curling Club, Eaglestone Lodge Board, and a member of the Elks Lodge.

Left to rejoice in his life but mourn his passing are his daughters: Karen (Edwin), Patricia, Norma (Brian), and son, William (Cherie); grandchildren: Kathleen (Chris), Amanda, Caitlyn, Morgan, Brayden, Jherico, Jax, and Kaylie; sisters: Elizabeth (Johnny), Valerie (Leo) and Gwen, brother, Alvin. Herb is predeceased by his wife, Martha, who passed away in April; daughter, Edith; parents, Herbert W. Sr. and Mildred Harper; older sister, Edith and infant baby Harper.



**RM OF BLUCHER NO. 343  
IN MEMORIAM  
ANTON BECK**

Anton Beck was born in South Allan, SK in August 1920 to Joseph and Philipina Beck, the third of four children. At the age of nine, Tony went to live with family friends and began learning about the ways of farm life.

When he was sixteen, he was hired by former Speaker of the House Charles Agar Sr. to work as a handyman and driver. At this time Tony began attending

night classes at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute to learn mechanics. This led him to join the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940 where he was drafted overseas to England, Wales and Northern Ireland to serve as an aero-engine mechanic for the 422 General Reconnaissance Squadron.

Upon arriving home after the war, he purchased two quarters of land in the Bradwell area from the Canadian Pacific Railway company and began farming until his retirement in 2006. It was here that he met his future wife, Brigitta Young, and they started a family that would eventually include twelve children, twenty grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Tony's political career began in 1973 when the councillor for Division 2 asked Tony to run for council as he was stepping down. Tony served twenty-three years as councillor for Division 2 from 1974-97. In 2013, Tony received the Community Service Award from the RM of Blucher in recognition of his many years of public service.

Tony passed away on July 20, 2016. His passing was marked by many, and his presence will be missed by many more.



**RM OF TECUMSEH NO. 65  
RETIREMENT  
ERNEST DEBUSSCHERE**

The RM of Tecumseh recognized Ernest Debusschere for his service as councillor of Division 1 from 1983 to 2016.

Ernest was presented with an engraved clock in appreciation of his 34 years of service to the municipality at an appreciation supper held in March 2017.

The RM of Tecumseh would like to thank Ernest for his knowledge and service. We wish you the best in your retirement.



**RM OF LAWTONIA NO. 135  
RETIREMENT  
BARRY LEISLE**

On behalf of the RM of Lawtonia, we would like to thank Barry Leisle for his years of service as councillor of Division 4 from 1988 to 2005 and as reeve from 2006 to Nov. 2016 and congratulate him on his retirement. On December 9, 2016 Barry was presented with a plaque and gift certificate at a supper held for him in Swift Current. Over the years, Barry has served on numerous boards and committees on behalf of the RM. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Barry for his many years of continued service and congratulate him on his retirement.

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**RM OF LAWTONIA NO. 135  
RETIREMENT  
ART THOMPSON**

On behalf of the RM of Lawtonia, we would like to thank Art Thompson for his years as administrator from August 1972 to April 2016 and congratulate him on his retirement. Art has been active in the community over the years being very involved in Remembrance Day Services, Elks' Lodge, Minor Hockey, secretary for various community boards, as well as helping to organize numerous community fundraisers over the years.

A celebration was held in April 2016, where Art was joined by family, co-workers, council and spouses, to pay tribute to him for his outstanding commitment to the RM. Art was presented by Reeve Barry Leisle with a plaque and a travel voucher. His long standing knowledge of municipal history, projects and events will be greatly missed. The RM of Lawtonia council and staff wish Art all of the best in his retirement.



*L-R: Shayne Stewart, councillor; Brad Carlson, councillor; Shawn Osborne, councillor; Larry Lockman, retiring employee; Darwin Johnsgaard, reeve; Ardell Tuntland, councillor/deputy reeve; and Garry Johnson, councillor.*

**RM OF SASKATCHEWAN  
LANDING NO. 167  
RETIREMENT  
LARRY LOCKMAN**

The RM of Saskatchewan Landing presented retiring employee Larry Lockman with a plaque and retirement gift at its February 13, 2017 council meeting.

The ratepayers, council and staff would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to Larry for his 21 years as a grader operator and his three years as a councillor before being employed by the RM. Thank you, Larry, for your commitment to your community. We wish you the best in your retirement.



**RM OF PLEASANT  
VALLEY NO. 288  
DAVID WALKER  
RETIREMENT**

The RM of Pleasant Valley No. 288 recognized Dave Walker for his 17 years of service as councillor of Division 1 from 1999 to 2016. During the 2017 Annual Spring Ratepayers Supper, Reeve Blake Jeffries (right) presented Dave with an art print, gold watch and Public Service Award. Dave's quiet demeanor, extensive problem solving skills, and advocacy to the Division 1 ratepayers and the RM as a whole will be greatly missed at the council table. We thank Dave for his 17 years of municipal service to the community, and we wish him and his family all the best in the future.



**RM OF MORRIS NO. 312  
RETIREMENT  
GORD DENGLER**

On December 10, 2016, the RM of Morris' Christmas party, Reeve Robert Penrose presented Gordon Dengler (left) with an engraved plaque. A surprise retirement party was held on November 24, 2016 where Gordon was also presented with a beautiful picture. Gordon served as councillor for Division 5 from 1986 to 2000 and as a Reeve from 2000

to 2016. Council, staff and ratepayers thank you for the 30 years you worked for the betterment of the municipality; we wish you all the best.



**RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5  
AWARD  
KELLY LAFRENTZ**

The RM of Estevan recognizes Reeve Kelly Lafrentz for his service. He served as Division 2 councillor starting in December 2007, then as reeve from November 2010 to October 2016. During this time, he made significant contributions to committees and boards, most notably the Rural's Bordering Urbans, City/RM Liaison, Southeast Health Committee, and St. Joseph's Hospital Committee. He was involved in the RM's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as many other activities. Kelly's experience and knowledge in the oil and business sector made him a great asset to the RM. He and his wife, Arlene, are patrons of the arts and great supporters of the Estevan community.

Deputy Reeve Lorne Jahn presented Kelly with a commemorative watch to give thanks for all his hard work and dedication. The RM of Estevan sincerely thanks Kelly for his time on council and the knowledge, dedication and experience that he brought. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



**RM OF MOOSE JAW NO. 161  
AWARD  
BRENT EVANS**

On behalf of the RM of Moose Jaw council, staff and ratepayers, we would like to thank Brent Evans for his many years of dedicated service as Division 3 councillor from 2010 to 2016. We are grateful for all his wisdom and knowledge he has contributed over the years.



**RM OF MOOSE JAW NO. 161  
AWARD  
KARYN MOSSING**

On behalf of the RM of Moose Jaw, we would like to thank Karyn Mossing for her years of service as Division 5 councillor from 2012 to 2016. Karyn has served on many boards and committees within the RM and its surrounding area. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Karyn for her dedication and for sharing her knowledge.



**RM OF ST. PETER NO. 369  
AWARD  
DANNY BREKER,  
ROGER HOFFMAN,  
VINCE MOELLENBECK &  
STUART PAPPENFUS**

The council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of St. Peter would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to retiring Reeve Danny Breker, Councillor Roger Hofmann, Councillor Vince Moellenbeck and Councillor Stuart Pappenfus.

Danny (far left) started on council in 1993, serving 13 years as Division 1 councillor before becoming reeve in

2006, a position he held for 10 years. In Danny's 23 years of RM service, he was involved in many boards and committees in the region and was very passionate and knowledgeable about the RM.

Roger (second from left) started on council in 1992; he served 24 years as Division 3 councillor. Vince Moellenbeck (far right) started on council in 2006, taking over Division 1 from Danny. Vince served 10 years on council. Stuart Pappenfus (absent from picture) started on council in 2014, serving two years on council. Roger, Vince and Stuart were also involved with many boards and committees.

Thank You Danny, Roger, Vince and Stuart for your many years of service and for your time and commitment to the RM. We wish you all the best in your retirement. Reeve Glenn Ehalt (second from the right) thanked them for their contribution and extended best wishes on behalf of the RM council and staff. In appreciation for 10 plus years of services, Danny, Roger and Vince were all presented with engraved gold watches, and for his two years of services Stuart was presented with an engraved plaque.



**RM OF HUMBOLDT NO. 370  
AWARD  
JORDAN BERGERMANN**

Reeve Jordan Bergermann retired from

the RM of Humboldt in October 2016 after ten years of service, and two previous years as Division 1 councillor.

The new Reeve Larry Ries presents Jordan with a retirement gift. The council, staff and ratepayers would like to thank Jordan for his many years of

**MEMBER NEWS TIPS**

dedicated service, and we wish him all the best in the future!

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](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca). Thank you for all of your submissions. We love sharing your stories and achievements with our readers!



**2016 SARM WIN HIGHLIGHT**

Amendments to the *Saskatchewan Farm Security Act* were made effective on January 4, 2016. These amendments tightened the rules around farmland ownership in Saskatchewan, banning institutional investors, such as pension funds, from buying farmland in the province.

For more SARM Wins: read the **2016 SARM WINS Report** at <https://sarm.ca/resources/wins-report>.



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