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RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 51 number 3
Fall 2018 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
Publications Agreement #40062693

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Drainage Regulations: What It Means for RMs and Landowners; How RMs Support Saskatchewan's Diverse Agriculture Industry; Preventing Clubroot; Solid Waste Management Solutions; CAP Cost-Shared Programs; Improving Water Quality in Rural Saskatchewan; New Grain Bag Recycling Program; Make Your Burn a Safe One; Meet Your SARM Plant Health Officers



PROGRAMS

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) provides financial incentives for programs that preserve, protect and restore habitat on the land for waterfowl and wildlife. In addition these programs also provide other benefits for improvement of soil health, prevention of soil erosion, and flood and drought prevention.

Here is a list of our current DUC programs that are offered in our priority areas:

Conservation Easements (CE)

DUC signs a CE with the landowner who agrees to protect the natural value of the land (wetlands, native prairie, and tame grasslands) in perpetuity in exchange for financial compensation. Haying and grazing are allowed on the uplands while the wetlands are kept intact.

Purchase of Land

DUC purchases land for the purpose of restoring and protecting the habitat on the parcels. DUC pays fair market value for land and retains ownership of these lands in perpetuity. DUC also buys land as part of our Revolving Land Conservation Program (RLCP), where we purchase the land, restore any upland or wetland habitat on the parcels and then sell the land with a CE.

Long-term Lease

The long-term lease program (minimum 10 years) provides annual compensation to landowners based on current fair market value for land (cultivated and grassland). DUC pays for all restoration (grassland and wetlands) and manages the land for the period of the lease.

Rangeland Programs

- + DUC provides financial assistance to landowners for costs associated with constructing a new perimeter barbed wire fence (up to a maximum of \$5,000) in exchange for protecting the wetlands and upland habitat on the parcel.
- + DUC manages its lands through haying and grazing tenders, and we invite producers to use portions of our land in

exchange for a fee, then we invest those proceeds back into local conservation programs. Contact your local DUC office for more information on this program.

Forage Programs

DUC currently offers several types of forage programs including the following:

+ Crop Production Services (CPS) Forage Program

This program provides \$100 reimbursement for each 50lb bag of CPS Proven Seed purchased and seeded.

- + **Forage in Rotation Program** – DUC agronomists will work with you to implement a rotational forage program and provide financial compensation for those areas that are seeded.

- + **Marginal Areas Program** – DUC agronomists will work with you to find areas on your land that are growing poor crops due to excessive moisture or salinity, and work with you to seed those areas to forage. DUC will also provide financial compensation on those forage lands. The remaining cultivated acres remain farmed to maximize your crop yield and profit on the most viable cultivated acres of your field.

Wetland Restoration

If wetlands have been drained or altered on your land, we can help you restore them back to their natural levels. These projects are usually combined with other programs such as our CE, lease or forage programs.

Some conditions apply. Contact DUC for more information at 1-866-252-DUCK (3825) or du_regina@ducks.ca



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COVER PHOTO © Pictureguy | Shutterstock.com

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Publications Agreement #40062693

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

Published four times per year by:

Benchmark Public Relations

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Regina, SK S4P 2R9

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www.sarm.ca

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Return undelivered copies to:
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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 DAVID MARIT
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



Photo credit: Hebert Family

AGRICULTURE continues to be the foundation of Saskatchewan and an economic driver of the province. In 2017, Saskatchewan producers harvested a crop of approximately 35 million tonnes, the fifth consecutive year the provincial harvest has been more than 30 million tonnes. As the 2018 growing season comes to a close, the Saskatchewan agricultural sector has again shown its resilience.

The Ministry of Agriculture increased clubroot surveillance this summer by surveying approximately 1,800 fields. Fields were randomly selected, with one field located in each township in the highest clubroot risk regions. Should any clubroot-infested fields be found, the general location will be shared publically through a distribution map. Clubroot is a disease that is best managed when detected early. Producers are encouraged to scout their own fields for clubroot, extend crop rotations, use clubroot-resistant canola varieties when the risk of clubroot exists and take action to prevent the spread of the clubroot pathogen into new areas.

Offering programming that helps support and keep our agricultural sector sustainable continues to be an important mission for the Ministry of Agriculture. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), the provincial and federal government have invested \$388 million into strategic initiatives over the next five years. Information on programs, including how to apply, can be found at saskatchewan.ca/cap.

It is important to continuously evaluate the success of our programming and ensure that tools we offer meet the needs of producers. Work on the Business Risk Management Review will continue as CAP matures and the development

of the next framework gets underway. We are committed to engaging industry throughout this process.

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Agriculture are once again pleased to be partnering with SARM to offer enhanced pest control activities and improved pest monitoring and surveillance. In response to emerging pest issues and resolutions passed at SARM conventions, CAP will continue to provide funding for the Pest Biosecurity Program. This new program will be administered by SARM and is available to RMs and First Nations south of the Northern Administrative District. The program will provide resources and technical assistance to combat invasive plants, rats, clubroot, nuisance beavers and other pests designated under *The Pest Control Act* and *The Weed Control Act*. I would like to acknowledge and thank SARM for their leadership on these important pest control initiatives.

Opportunities for expansion and renewal are also present in the livestock sector. The Livestock Development Steering Committee was created to assist livestock producers and rural municipal stakeholders to identify ways to address challenges associated with sector growth. This includes providing recommendations on regulatory processes, educational opportunities, land use planning policy, farm practice protection, infrastructure, and taxation policy. SARM's involvement with the committee is critical for success, and I want to thank SARM for its involvement in this initiative, as well.

Thank you to all of our farmers, ranchers and agribusiness for your commitment to excellence. Agriculture in Saskatchewan has a bright future, and I am excited to see what it holds.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE DUSTIN DUNCAN
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

OVER the last number of years, we have seen many changes in our province. Some very positive, such as a growing population, a stronger and more vibrant agriculture and agri-food sector, and a more diversified economy. In that time, we've also recognized many opportunities for improvement in Saskatchewan.

One of these areas is addressing rural crime. After extensive consultation and recommendations by the Government Caucus Committee on Crime, in August 2017, our government announced the creation of the Protection and Response Team (PRT) to tackle increases in rural crime and dangerous driving behaviours in rural Saskatchewan.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS are now dispatched routinely on 911 calls if they can respond sooner to a rural crime issue, or if the RCMP need additional police assistance.

For the most part, this is not much of a shift from the work that conservation officers have done in the past. Conservation officers are now dispatched routinely on 911 calls if they can respond sooner to a rural crime issue, or if the RCMP need additional police assistance.

From April to mid-July of this year, conservation officers were dispatched 42 times to provide 911 assistance to the RCMP, while RCMP officers independently requested assistance from conservation officers 58 times. Conservation officers also documented 224 occurrences where they addressed rural crime and public safety issues independently as they went about their environmental duties. As of mid-July,

From April to mid-July of this year, conservation officers were dispatched 42 times to provide 911 assistance to the RCMP, while RCMP officers independently requested assistance from conservation officers 58 times.

conservation officers had issued 78 charges and 72 warnings (written and verbal).

We know that rural crime continues to be a primary concern in our communities. The PRT is working closely with the RCMP to help identify trends and problem areas, keep a vigilant eye out for criminal activity and take action when someone is found committing an offence.

Our government has been working to ensure that the appropriate level of coordination, policies and procedures are in place, and that all rural officers are trained and equipped to meet the needs of this expanded role. SGI has funded significant new equipment for the PRT initiative. Conservation officers' vehicles are now equipped with roadside screening for alcohol, while 38 of the patrol vehicles also have automated licence plate scanners and laptops.

The safety and security of the people of Saskatchewan is a priority for our government. We are proud of the work that's been done on the Protection and Response Team over the past year, and we are confident that it will be an effective long-term strategy for crime reduction in rural Saskatchewan.

APAS Representative elections take place on October 24, 2018

- Nominations for APAS Representatives close September 19, 2018 at 4:00 pm
- Pick up a nomination form from your RM office
- To be eligible to run, you must be at least 18 years old and a landowner or producer in your RM or the spouse or child of an active producer



For more information:
APAS.ca/rep-elections2018
info@apas.ca
306-789-7774



How RMs Support Saskatchewan's **DIVERSE AG INDUSTRY**

BY CARMEN STERLING
SARM VICE-PRESIDENT

EVERY year the SARM Board of Directors endeavours to hold their July board meeting outside of our offices in Regina. The Board members and staff not only conduct their regular monthly meeting but also look to meet with members and see the area. In Division 5 this year, Director Harwood, along with our policy staff, provided an excellent itinerary that included tours of recreation and historic areas, businesses and agricultural operations. For this article I am going to focus on the agriculture related highlights.

We kicked off our time in the Saskatoon area with a stop at Ag In Motion, and although I was unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting, I could tell from the comments of the others just how impressive the show was. Despite the hot day, I heard many great comments about not only the overall size of the show but also the diversity of exhibitors and unbelievable technology on display. We as producers, know these things as we live them every day, but sometimes hearing what people outside of the industry see and take away from those experiences helps to remind us just how far agriculture has come!

The second day provided us with the opportunity to tour a dairy and hear directly from the producer about the opportunities and challenges that led him to locate where he did. The technology at work in his operation was state of the art, from the efficiencies in the milking parlour, to the management of manure, and everything in between. As a grain producer, I have had limited opportunity to see a dairy operation up close, so this experience was certainly a highlight. They clearly demonstrated throughout their operation their commitment to animal welfare and its importance to

the bottom line of their operation. It was also great to hear firsthand from a dairy producer on issues of importance to them, whether it be local issues around expansion of their operation or national issues around supply management and trade. I definitely took away some valuable knowledge that will help as we continue to lobby for all aspects of agriculture.

Our last day in the area started with a tour of an “aging in place” facility, and although you may wonder what that has to do with agriculture, I hope to demonstrate why I included it as we continue. This interesting facility is one of a kind in Saskatchewan and Canada, to my knowledge anyway. The family that started this unique retirement facility farmed the land until they developed the facility. It was great to have the owner share their experience in developing the project along with pointing out areas previously used in the farming operation. The most interesting part of his discussions involved what he called an “Ag Tourism” component that not only helps to drive revenue, but most importantly, provides interaction for the residents of the community. Some of the amenities include an on-site greenhouse and an apple orchard for their on-site cidery. All these amenities and green spaces enhance the residents’ experience and improve overall quality of life. The owners indicated they feel their community appeals to retired farmers and individuals from a rural setting as it allows them to be in close proximity to a major center but to also live in a “rural” area with ties to agriculture. I know from experience how different it was for my father-in-law when he retired and moved to town. I really appreciate knowing that someone has taken the initiative to recognize that

and has looked to provide an option with the long-term benefits of staying in your home as long as possible.

The bylaws and policies we enact can have a significant impact on agriculture and the many aspects of business, recreation and tourism growing within the agriculture industry. Rural municipalities really do have the ability to provide a positive, flexible environment to support agriculture and all its diverse opportunities!

Both these stops really reminded me of just how important agriculture and “ag-related” developments are to Saskatchewan and our economy. It also reminded me of the integral role we as rural municipalities play in contributing to the positive environment needed to support all aspects of agriculture from primary production to Ag-tourism. The bylaws and policies we enact can have a significant impact on agriculture and the many aspects of business, recreation and tourism growing within the agriculture industry. Rural municipalities really do have the ability to provide a positive, flexible environment to support agriculture and all its diverse opportunities! Embrace this opportunity as the rewards are significant!



LET'S JUST DANCE

BY JAY MEYER
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVER the past centuries we have been pitting two facets of our world against each other; the economy and the environment. People tend to ignore the fact that these two trouble makers have been sharing the same dance floor for years. Many believe these two should not even be on the same dance floor, never mind in the same dance hall. Still, we have not noticed that both have been sharing the same piece of hardwood, and at times, doing so hand in hand.

Why do we struggle with believing the environment and economy cannot make good dance partners?... We need to start promoting the unity of both... and stop judging which is more important.

Why do we struggle with believing the environment and economy cannot make good dance partners? Is it because we are too judgemental? Is one perceived to be uglier than the other, or make more money than the other, or even that one just seems to get in the way? We have been too busy trying to stir up drama between the environment and the economy to recognize that they have been having a strong relationship for years, just dancing away, minding their own business. These dance partners only stumble when we try to separate them by believing one is more important than the other.

The environment and economy are dancing in every region of our province. Examples are in the southwest region where you see grasslands, sandhills, valleys and forest dancing with pumpjacks, gas wells and pipelines and includes the Shaunavon Oil Formation. In the southeast region, you will see forests, rivers and lakes dancing with drilling rigs, coal operations and pipelines and one of the biggest oil reserves in the world, the Bakken Oil Formation.

Growing up with a sister who was a talented dancer that passed her skills onto youth for over a decade, I had an opportunity to see kids dance together, learn important skills, sometimes act out of place, and grow from their mistakes. I think both the environment and the economy have been doing the same thing for centuries, but none of us have been noticing as it is just easier to pit them against each other for political advantages. Instead, we must learn together, work together, and dance together and leave the judgement at the door of the dance hall. We need to start promoting the unity of both the environment and the economy and stop judging which is more important.



RURAL CHALLENGES are a national opportunity

BY VICKI-MAY HAMM FCM PRESIDENT



RURAL communities are essential to Canada's prosperity and to the Canadian experience. As a representative of a rural community, you know how people are drawn to the vast landscapes, small-town friendliness and quieter way of life that small communities can offer.

And in the age of online connectivity, rural Saskatchewan is becoming more and more desirable to business investment. The combination of affordable land and improving broadband connectivity means people can work from anywhere, and increasingly they are choosing to do so from rural communities for the quality of life.

From coast to coast to coast, rural communities are central to Canada's economic, social and environmental well-being. But with limited fiscal capacity, rural governments face important challenges providing the infrastructure that's needed to sustain local economies and ways of life.

That's what prompted the FCM to publish *Rural challenges, national opportunity: Shaping the future of rural Canada*. The report, released in May, argues that Canada's economic future depends on a thriving and connected rural Canada. It provides a snapshot of the current state of rural Canada and makes concrete policy proposals for the future.

In many provinces, rural communities are dominant economic players in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, tourism and natural resources.

But municipalities shoulder 60 per cent of Canada's public infrastructure, with access to just 8-10 cents of each tax dollar. They also deliver many public services and play growing roles in areas such as public safety and climate change adaptation. All of this fuels a fiscal squeeze that peaks in rural communities with lower ratepayer densities and continuing youth out-migration.

Local governments have a strong track record of delivering cost-effective solutions to local needs. What they do not have is flexibility to deal with financial and administrative bottlenecks. If we want to get new projects moving in rural Canada, we need to change that. Predictable funding allocated to municipalities (instead of application-based funding), streamlined administrative requirements, and fair cost-sharing across all levels of government are key.

With the right tools, rural governments are ready to build more livable and prosperous communities that can attract the talent they need to thrive well into the future.

Throughout the *Rural challenges, national opportunity* report, we profile rural communities that are showing leader-

FCM's RURAL FORUM was established in 2001 with a mandate to advocate for rural communities and provide municipal governments in rural areas with greater access to FCM. The Rural Forum, chaired by SARM's president Ray Orb, is made up of FCM member municipalities that are located in rural regions and urban communities with rural areas or a significant rural interest.

Since it was first established, the Rural Forum has worked with the federal government toward a long-term national plan to ensure rural priorities receive the sustained attention and resources needed to implement long-term strategies. The Forum meets quarterly to identify and discuss issues of national significance for rural Canada, including investments in rural infrastructure, rural economic development and enhancing broadband connectivity.



ship in shaping our country's future. These communities have remained resilient, adapting to challenges facing their communities that we're all too familiar with – aging populations, the closure of a major local employer or limited access to the communications infrastructure that we all need to remain competitive.

They have all put forward innovative projects and initiatives to tackle these challenges and continue to succeed in the 21st century. They also represent the diversity of FCM's rural membership, which includes towns, villages, counties and regional municipalities of various sizes across the country.

FCM is inviting the federal government to work with us to ensure that federal policies and programs respond to the specific needs of rural and remote communities.

Nation-building happens in communities of all sizes. With smart decisions from the federal government, we can kick-start a decade of growth and quality-of-life improvements in rural and remote communities.

That's why we're continuing to call on the federal government to partner with rural and remote local governments to develop a practical, accountable policy framework for rural Canada. This "rural lens" would be applied to new federal investments, programs and policies, reflecting the unique challenges and urgent priorities of rural communities.

By working with you and organizations like SARM to ensure that federal policies reflect rural priorities, we can scale-up local solutions and foster more prosperous rural communities in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

Vicki-May Hamm is the mayor of Magog, Quebec and the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.



Timely delivery of maintenance is a major priority for the Agency in 2018 and will continue to be our priority moving forward, followed closely by delivering on our commitment to radically increase overall property inspections.

SAMA is well on our way to meeting our major strategic objectives, including our Agency objective to review/inspect 100,000+ properties in 2018. As of August 10th, over 60,000 property reviews have been completed.

For more information visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

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



NEW GRAIN BAG Recycling Program

BY COURTNEY RIVIERE

SARM POLICY RESEARCH ASSISTANT (SUMMER STUDENT)

FOR the past several years, Saskatchewan conducted its agriculture recycling needs through the Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project. Beginning in 2011, Simply Agriculture Solutions ran the successful pilot project in the province, collecting more than 4,209 tonnes of recyclable materials up until the program's end in 2017. This pilot project was a catalyst for more environmentally conscious work practices in the agriculture sector, namely the new program for recycling grain bags. In July 2016, *The Agricultural Packaging Product Waste Stewardship Regulations*, came into effect which controls collection and recycling programs for grain bags.

Grain bags have played an important factor in plastics recycling due to the high number of one-time-use bags that are used annually by agriculture producers. In Saskatchewan, producers use approximately 20,000 grain bags each year. When these grain bags are burned, they not only emit toxic substances into the air, but they may also pollute the soil and affect water quality. Burning grain bags is illegal in Saskatchewan. Offenders can be fined up to \$1 million, and officials may require them to pay for the cleanup of the burn sites.

In 2017, the Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Program held a "Grain Bag Collection Week," where over 850 grain bags were gathered across the province. The Grain Bag Recycling Program, now run by Cleanfarms, has replaced the Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project which ended on December 31, 2017.

Cleanfarms is a company that focuses on the recycling needs and waste management of agriculture producers across Canada. The general manager of Cleanfarms, Barry Friesen, has said that "We're proud to support growers in this capacity and deliver a service that provides value to Saskatchewan farmers and their communities."

Farmers and rural municipalities in the province have been asking for a program to handle grain bags in a more environmentally friendly manner, as burning is illegal and many landfills do not accept grain bags due to their bulky nature.

Though this new program was born out of Simply Ag Solution's pilot program, it has also taken inspiration from other recycling programs in the province, such as those for rubber tires and electronics. These programs use environmental fees at the point of purchase; Cleanfarms' grain bag program will also introduce an Environmental Handling Fee (EHF), effective November 1, 2018. The EHF will be assessed based on weight at \$0.25 per kilogram.

Over the years, SARM members have passed several resolutions for a refundable deposit to be placed on grain bags at the time of purchase. Currently, the EHF is non-refundable and will not be refunded upon the deposit of a grain bag at a collection site.

With the introduction of the new Grain Bags Recycling Program, Saskatchewan is the first province in the country to have a regulated agriculture plastics recycling program. There are currently 21 grain bag collection sites situated across the province with a goal in growing this number to approximately 30 to 35 collection sites in total.

With the introduction of the new Grain Bags Recycling Program, Saskatchewan is the first province in the country to have a regulated agriculture plastics recycling program.

Adding more collection sites will ensure that the distance between sites is reasonable, bringing the province closer to the objective of not requiring agriculture producers to travel more than 70 kilometers to recycle their grain bags. Cleanfarms also plans to have grain bag rollers available to use for free at most collection sites by 2019.

Cleanfarms is recommending producers take three steps to ensure their grain bags are accepted for recycling at collection sites. First, make sure your grain bags are as clean as possible before taking them in to be recycled. In addition to removing any dirt or other similar materials before rolling the bag, Cleanfarms recommends that this be done throughout the rolling process as well. They also suggest shaking the bags to remove any other remaining debris that may be left behind.

The second step is to have the grain bags securely fastened with twine once they are rolled. Lastly, before taking the grain bags in to a collection site, call and notify the appropriate location that you will be returning the bags before bringing them in to be recycled.

While the only materials accepted by Cleanfarms for this new recycling program are grain bags and silage bags used to store grain so long as they have been tightly rolled and secured, Simply Agriculture is looking to continue the recycling of twine, net wrap, and silage plastic in the future, though this has yet to be implemented.

STAFF

changes,
moves and
updates

On August 13 we welcomed **SHELLEY KILBRIDE** back to her role as Director of Policy and Research.



August 15 we welcomed **DANA SCHMALZ** back to her position as Director of Community Planning Services



LIBBEY MORIN has moved into the Senior Policy Analyst role within the Policy and Research Department. Congratulations Libbey!



A new department, the Strategic Engagement and Communications Department will be implemented September 17 with **KELSAY REIMER** moving into the Director of Strategic Engagement and Communications role. Kelsay will oversee and guide the work of communications, conventions and other events.



Our Senior Policy Analyst, **BEN CHURSINOFF** left SARM on July 6 for an opportunity to grow his career in Ottawa. We at SARM wish him all the best in his new chapter.



SARM

Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities



MUNICIPAL BRIDGE SERVICES

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

INTRODUCTION

IN Saskatchewan there are approximately 267 bridges that are restricted or closed on the Rural Municipal road network which has approximately 1,493 bridges. As more rural bridges reach the end of their design life, the number of restricted bridges will continue to grow. Deficient bridges significantly affect how well farmers and industry can move goods to market, which will increase the need to efficiently and economically repair or replace these bridges.

As more bridge work is required, RMs will have to engage bridge engineers more frequently. SARM's Municipal Bridge Services (MBS) has the knowledge and experience to meet the needs of RMs when working with their bridges. In 2010, SARM opened the MBS department when the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure closed the department that had been providing engineering services to RMs for decades.

Since the department opened, MBS has expanded its roles to align with SARM's strategic objectives:

1. To offer Programs and Services that support the work of member municipalities, and;
2. To provide Capacity (knowledge) Building.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MBS provides professional technical advice to SARM members, government, consultants, and contractors related to bridge and culvert issues. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- Bridge construction;
- Bridge inspections;
- Bridge repair procedures;
- Allowable vehicle weights;

- Culvert design flow requests;
- Culvert capacity estimates, and;
- Cost estimates.

Similar to Legal Services and Community Planning, SARM's goal for MBS is to provide long-term, sustainable services targeted to RM needs. As of May 1, 2018, MBS now charges for its time in providing these services. This change will ensure that MBS can continue to provide high quality and specialized professional engineering that supports the work of SARM's members.

The new bridges built using MBS are designed with a growing Saskatchewan farming community and industry in mind. The bridges are economically built, using competitively sourcing materials and labour. The bridges built using MBS provide the best value to the RM while minimizing the RM's risk.

In addition to MBS's consulting services, MBS administers the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) Bridge and Large Diameter Culvert Program that provides funding assistance to approved municipal bridge and culvert projects to repair or replace these structures. In addition to the funding assistance program, MREP funds the Municipal Bridge Inspection Program, which conducts bridge inspections on all RM bridges on a three-year cycle.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The second strategic objective that MBS provides is Capacity Building. While at SARM, MBS has expanded the knowledge available to RMs by:

- 2013: a study was commissioned and developed a report on what temporary and portable bridges were available for use in Saskatchewan;
- 2014: MBS posted the first video to SARM's YouTube channel providing

information on how to conduct a bridge inspection, and;

- 2016: a document detailing a design for a counter-weighted bridge delineator sign installation was created and sent to RMs.

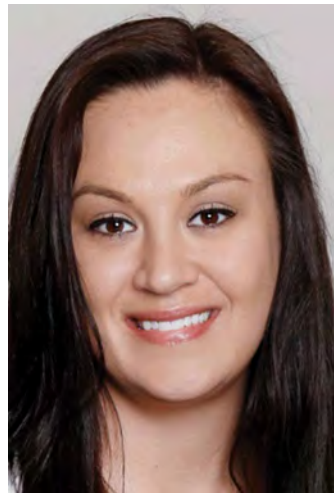
Moving forward as capacity builders, MBS is looking to add another tool to your RM's toolbox. As the discussions of bridges become more common around the Council table, the decision makers and maintenance personnel need to have a good understanding of the bridges they are responsible for. MBS has identified that RMs have limited information about their bridges and began developing the *Rural Municipal Timber Bridge Handbook*. The Handbook will include information regarding the components of typical timber bridges, typical timber deficiencies, and typical repair procedures. MBS' goal is to have the *Rural Municipal Bridge Handbook* available to all RMs by SARM's 2019 Annual Convention.

CONTACT MUNICIPAL BRIDGE SERVICES

MBS would be happy to provide assistance to RMs regarding their drainage infrastructure. For more information on the services that can be provided by MBS, please visit sarm.ca. Or you can contact MBS directly:

- Daniel Segal, P. Eng., Director of Municipal Bridge Services: phone 306-761-3746 or email dsegal@sarm.ca
- Alexander Udey, M.Sc., Engineer-in-Training, Municipal Bridge Project Manager: phone 306-761-3747 or email audey@sarm.ca

We look forward to hearing from your rural municipality.



MACAULAY'S TOP PRIORITIES heading into 2019

BY LAURA KURKIMAKI
AND JACKIE CHOQUETTE
HILL + KNOWLTON STRATEGISTS

ON JULY 18, 2018 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shuffled his cabinet ministers and made some big changes that signal trade diversification will be a key priority in the lead up to the October 2019 election. The Prime Minister promoted his former Natural Resources Minister, Jim Carr to International Trade Diversification and gave backbench MP Mary Ng the title of Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion. Both ministers were given amended titles to highlight their shared responsibility to help Canadian businesses diversify export markets away from the American market. The US market continues to be a tough situation to navigate for business and political experts because of President Donald Trump's punitive trade policies against key allies, like Canada and the European Union. Uncertainty in the United States has highlighted the urgent need for Canada to protect its economic interests through securing new markets for export.

Central to this trade diversification is agriculture. The federal government has promised to increase agricultural exports to \$75 billion by 2025. To achieve this, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay recognizes that he must position Canadian agricultural products to take advantage of lucrative and emerging markets like South Korea, Japan, China and India. Though free trade agreements with India and China remain a challenge because of the Trudeau government's demands on environment and other progressive social ideologies, Canada has been able to secure market access to Europe through CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) and recently in Asia-Pacific with the CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership). However,

to fully implement both deals, MacAulay must focus on helping farmers and agri-food businesses take advantage of this new access and rely less on American markets. In the year ahead, Minister MacAulay must remain focused on the implementation of CPTPP given the immense potential those emerging markets have for Canadian exporters.

The federal government has promised to increase agricultural exports to **\$75 billion by 2025.**

The importance of trade to the agriculture and agri-food sectors means that Minister MacAulay will also need to work hard on two burning issues in the coming year: resolve the ongoing pulse product tariffs and the lack of fumigation exemption with India and bring Italy onside to ratifying CETA. Italy has been threatening to walk away from CETA because they believe there are not enough protections in place to protect their speciality foods. Perhaps as a result, Italy has now banned Canadian durum wheat because of ongoing consumer concerns about a commonly used weed killer on the product. The Minister appears to be nowhere close to a solution to both the Indian and Italian situation and this would be a serious election issue if he fails to find a solution before the end of the year.

Another key file for the Minister will be the Temporary Foreign Worker program. Labour shortages in the agricultural sector have prompted Agriculture Canada to work more closely with Employment and Social Development Canada to develop a sustainable temporary foreign worker

program. This means that Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jean-Yves Duclos and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, Patty Hajdu are very active on this file. However, Minister MacAulay will ultimately need to be the champion for the agriculture sector and really take the lead in ensuring the program adequately addresses the need for temporary foreign workers on farms across the country. The government has been slow to develop a plan with clear milestones or details as to what the program will look like as businesses continue to struggle with labour shortages. If Canada's agricultural exports are to reach \$75 billion by 2025, Minister MacAulay will need to resolve the labour situation in the agricultural sector.

Minister MacAulay's overarching focus over the next year will be on trade, particularly the need to diversify market access and protect Canadian farmers from any NAFTA fallout. What isn't a top priority for the Minister is cannabis. Although cannabis will be treated as an agricultural product, the implementation of the cannabis regime will remain with the Minister of Justice, Minister of Health, Minister of Public Safety and the provinces. Cannabis producers will be able to access some agricultural funding through this designation, but few other supports or programs have been put in place.

Minister MacAulay realizes that his legacy as Agriculture Minister will be largely defined by his ability to increase agriculture exports, open access for Canadian farmers to new markets and resolve ongoing trade disputes (like the pulse issue). His job as Minister is to protect and expand the Canadian agricultural market and he will be judged on this front in the next election.

Highlights of the 2018 RMAA CONVENTION



BY JANET BLACK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RMAA

A TOTAL OF 290 administrators, spouses and visitors gathered at the Delta Regina Hotel for the 98th Annual Convention of the RMAA of Saskatchewan. The conference commenced with the annual RMAA Golf Tournament on Monday at the Royal Regina Golf Club and the “Women on the Go” Tour to Over the Hill Orchards and Last Mountain Distillery, along with some retail therapy. The golf event was sponsored by the ‘Gang of Three’ – Canada Culvert, Finning and ATS Traffic. Following a meal for the golfers at the clubhouse, the golf trophy was presented to the winners.

The capable staff of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHIA) once again carried out the convention registration. The evening included a wine and cheese reception and the Big Game Show sponsored by Enbridge and Synergy Credit Union – Maidstone.

Tuesday began with President Wendy Gowda of the RMAA of Saskatchewan calling the convention to order. Glenda Giles, Administrator of the RM of Kindersley No. 290, led the singing of ‘O Canada.’ Patrick Clavelle, retired Rural Administrator, RM of Viscount No. 341, gave the opening address. This was followed by SMHIA’s CEO Rodney Schoettler with his address, and the introduction of our keynote presentation, “Susan Stewart – You shine brightest when you lighten up!”

Following the keynote, twenty-five new members were inducted into the Association by President Gowda, Vice President Guy Lagrandeur and Executive-Director Janet Black:

- Melissa Desmarais Dieno, RM of Prairie Rose No. 309
- Denise Ward, RM of Milden No. 286
- Sindy Tait, RM of St. Louis No. 431
- Kristopher Jahnke, RM of Blaine Lake No. 434
- Randi Wood, RM of Colonsay No. 342
- Ferne Senft, Town of Southey
- Diane Jamieson, Town of Saltcoats
- Kelly Dodd, RM of King George No. 256
- Meghan Nickason, RM of Monet No. 257
- Brittany Knoll, RM of Kingsley No. 124
- Faye Campbell, RM of Chaplin No. 164
- Crystal Campbell, Village of Neudorf
- Shelley Rhodes, RM of Arlington No. 79
- Ashley Greenshields, RM of Mount Hope No. 279
- Holley Odgers, RM of Coalfields No. 4
- Diana Koenning, RM of Bayne No. 371
- Debra Parry, RM of Pleasantdale No. 398
- Melanie Dyck, RM of Canaan No. 225
- Christine Hoffman, RM of Maple Creek No. 111
- Nicole Neufeld, RM of Beaver River No. 622

- Rebecca Carr, RM of Turtle River No. 469
- Allison Roschker, RM of Frenchman Butte No. 501
- Tracy Luscombe, RM of Indian Head No. 156
- Karen Baynton, RM of Duck Lake No. 463
- Iva Elyce Serfas, RM of Snipe Lake No. 259

Following the introduction of new members, three administrators received their 25 Year Membership pins:

- Cal Shaw, RM of Mount Hope No. 279
- Joe Van Leuken, RM of Enfield No. 194
- Christine Dyck, RM of Lost River No. 313

The convention then adjourned for lunch sponsored by SaskPower & W.F Botkin Construction Ltd. The blessing was given by Vice-President Lagrandeur followed by the meal. After the meal, delegates heard from Michael Fougere (Mayor of Regina), Ray Orb (President of SARM), and the Honorable Warren Kaeding (Minister of Government Relations). The fraternal delegates were each introduced and given an opportunity to address the group; ARMAA delegate Tyler Lawrason, MMAA delegate Heather Ewasiuk, UMAAS delegate Jason Chorneyko and SASBO delegate Phil Benson.

Presentations were then made by the Rural Board of Examiners for certificate upgrades to administrators who had achieved their Class ‘A’ or Superior ‘A’ designation during the past year. The RMAA Board of Examiners was represented by Vice-President Lagrandeur, President Gowda and Board of Examiners Secretary, Janet Black:

CLASS ‘A’ CERTIFICATES:

- Rachel Deobald, RM of Mountain View No. 318
- Monica Kovach, RM of Cambria No. 6
- Darcie Cooper, RM of Lumsden No. 189
- Lisa Peterson, RM of Preeceville No. 334
- Melissa Roberts, RM of Antler No. 61
- Sheri-lynn Simpson, RM of Excel No. 71
- Shonda Toner, RM of Grandview No. 349

At 2:00 pm on Tuesday, Black provided convention announcements as well as the Executive-Director’s Report.

Motion: Moved by RM #442; Seconded by RM #440
“That the 2017 audited financial statement of the Association as prepared by Dudley & Company of Regina, Saskatchewan, be adopted as presented.” Carried.

Motion: Moved by RM #108; Seconded by RM #440
“That Jay Meyer (and in his absence Laurel Feltin) be appointed Returning Officer for the 2018 RMAA annual elections.” Carried.

At 2:10 pm, President Gowda introduced the current Executive Board. Gowda then made her formal address to the delegates. This was followed by the RMAA Executive Committee reports to update the members of their activities in the past year.

At 3:15 pm President Orb addressed the delegates. Jay Meyer, Executive-Director of SARM, addressed the delegates as well as staff members: Laurel Feltin, Director of Programs & Operations; Jodi Hughes, Benefits Administrator; and Annette Ellert, Programs Manager.

This concluded the Tuesday session.

The Wednesday session commenced at 9:00 am with three seminars being held from 9:00 to 10:15 am: *Congratulations, You're An Administrator! Now What?* by Municipal Advisors; *Asset Management Strategies* by NAMS Canada and AM Saskatchewan; and *Understanding & Presenting Financial Statements* by the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. At 10:30 am the *Asset Management Strategies* and *Understanding & Presenting Financial Statements* were repeated with the addition of *Are you ready to apply for your "A" Certificate* by the Rural Board of Examiners.

The convention recessed for lunch sponsored by Maxim Chemical International and WSP Canada Inc.

At 1:00 pm Government Relations staff gave a number of updates on legislation and the new PEER Network. This was followed by a presentation by Diane Ford, Chairperson of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board, and Roman Matviichuk, Financial Analyst for the Local Government Committee.

At 2:00 pm Returning Officer Jay Meyer announced that the time for receiving nominations for President of the RMAA for the year 2018-19 had closed. One nomination had been received: Wendy Gowda of LeRoy. Returning Officer Meyer declared Gowda President of the RMAA of Saskatchewan.

At 3:15 pm the Honorable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations, addressed the delegates. Following the Minister's presentation, the trade show booth prizes were drawn and given to the winners.

On Wednesday evening, the convention banquet was held. This evening was sponsored by the SMHIA.

Following the meal, the head table guests were introduced. Minister Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations, and Dan Dufour, grandson of the late Lou Jacobs, provided greetings to the delegates and special guests.

Public Service Awards were presented to our retiring members. President Gowda, Vice President Lagrandeur and Executive-Director Black presented awards to:

- Patrick Clavelle, Viscount No. 341, Viscount
- Richard Colborn, Moose Range No. 486, Carrot River
- Grant Doupe, Good Lake No. 274, Canora
- Laurel Dyck, Coulee No. 136, Swift Current
- Tim Forer, Elmsthorpe No. 100, Avonlea
- Judy Kanak, Lakeside No. 338, Quill Lake
- Tim Lozinsky, Happyland No. 231, Leader & Deer Forks No. 232, Burstall
- Lori McDonald, Monet No. 257, Elrose
- Melody Nieman, Milden No. 286, Milden
- Joan Popoff, Good Lake No. 274, Canora

- Grace Potter, Estevan No. 5, Estevan
- Deborah Prosper, Colonsay No. 342, Colonsay
- Keith Schulze, Osborne No. 310, Lanigan
- Jan Stern, Miry Creek No. 229, Abbey
- Lorelei Theaker, Indian Head No. 156, Indian Head
- Donna Westerhaug, Cana No. 214, Melville

President Gowda, Vice President Lagrandeur and Executive-Director Black presented Retired Executive Board Member Darren Elder with a RMAA plaque thanking him for his service to the RMAA.

During the evening, delegates also heard from SARM President Orb and Wayne Black, President of SMHIA. SMHIA's CEO Schoettler and President Black presented a number of awards to various administrators in recognition of successful sales of SMHI and AMHI hail insurance products during 2017.

The draw for three door prizes sponsored by SARM was completed, and then the delegates were entertained by hypnotist Corrie J. The entertainment was sponsored by SMHIA.

Thursday morning began with Returning Officer Meyer calling for Vice-President nominations during a 15 minute period. At 9:00 am Michelle Buechler, Chairperson of the RMAA Humanitarian Services Committee, introduced the Regina Food Bank as the charity of choice as well as the Saskatchewan Multiple Sclerosis Society. Following the humanitarian presentation, Meyer announced that only one nomination was received for RMAA Vice-President. Guy Lagrandeur of Rouleau was declared Vice-President for the RMAA for 2018-19.

Delegates then received a presentation from Eric Biehn from Viking Benefit Solutions about the Saskatchewan Municipal Retiree Association. Followed by a presentation by Anna Robinson, Ministry of Government Relations, on more in depth information about the Municipal PEER Network.

At 10:30 am delegates broke into their respective divisional meetings. Elections were held in Divisions 1, 3 and 5. Following the meetings, President Gowda introduced the new 2018-19 Executive of the RMAA:

- President: Wendy Gowda, LeRoy
- Vice-President: Guy Lagrandeur, Rouleau
- Immediate Past President: Tim Leurser, Kelvington
- Executive-Director: Janet Black, Neilburg
- Division Directors:
 - Division 1: Sheila Keisig, Balcarres
 - Division 2: Mike Wirges, Moose Jaw
 - Division 3: Linda Boser, Swift Current
 - Division 4: Fern Lucas, Tisdale
 - Division 5: R. Doran Scott, Blucher
 - Division 6: Michelle Buechler, Paynton
- Director Ex-Officio: Ray Orb, Cupar

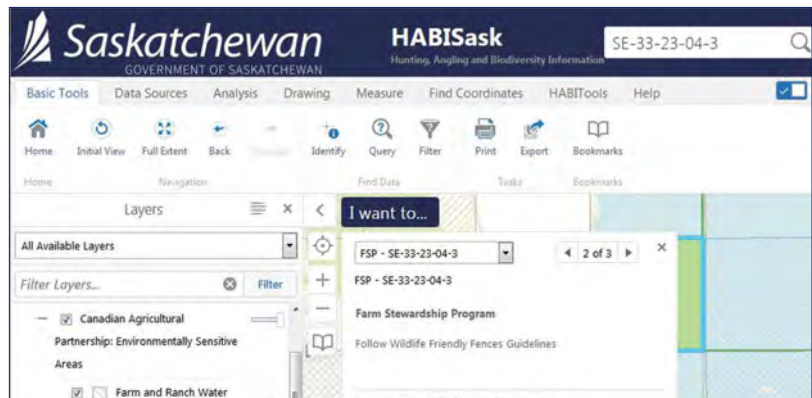
The Resolutions Committee stated they had received no resolutions. The convention concluded with the Staycation Prize draws. Lynn Fischer won the draw for a one night stay with golf at Elk Ridge Resort, Kayla Presky won the Manitou Springs Package, and L. Ryan Domotar won the Saskatoon Inn Hotel stay. The convention adjourned around 11:30 am.

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CAP COST-SHARED PROGRAMS for environmental sustainability initiatives

BY ERIKA BACHMANN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND BEATRIZ PRIETO DIAZ MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



L: Pronghorn cross under a non-wildlife friendly fence. R: HABI Saskatchewan's online mapping tool helps producers identify special considerations on their land.

ENVIRONMENTAL sustainability is one of the pillars of the new suite of agricultural programming in Saskatchewan. This past April, the Ministry of Agriculture launched new programming through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). Replacing *Growing Forward 2* programming, CAP offers many of the same familiar programs that were well utilized by the agricultural community, including the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) and the Farm Stewardship Program (FSP). Although many producer-favourite programs have been carried over from *Growing Forward 2*, there are a number of notable changes.

One of these changes is the delivery of FRWIP, a program that supports the development of secure and sustainable water supplies for agricultural purposes, such as dugouts. Instead of seeking pre-approval for a dugout, well or pipeline project, producers self-assess their eligibility and apply for a direct rebate if they meet the criteria, reducing processing times. Part of the eligibility check is determining the environmental impacts of a dugout, pipeline or well location and obtaining any required regulatory permits or approvals. Producers are asked to complete the Rebate Eligibility Checklist at saskatchewan.ca/cap.

An important part of the eligibility checklist is to assess if your project is on environmentally sensitive land. For

example, if your project is on land where there is a species at risk, like sage grouse, it may require additional considerations or modifications. It does not mean the project is disqualified. In many instances, the project, such as a dugout, can move forward by relocating the project to a location that continues to protect a species at risk. Environmentally sensitive areas for FRWIP include Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA) lands, Crown Conservation Easements, highly sensitive habitats and areas where the federal government has additional requirements. In many instances where there are environmental concerns, authorization will be required by either or both the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. Applicants who move forward with their project before ensuring eligibility will not receive rebate funding.

FSP provides advice and funding for producers to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) that enhance on-farm environmental sustainability and resiliency. FSP now offers 10 BMPs, many of which will be familiar to producers. Riparian Grazing Management, Native Rangeland Grazing Management and Invasive Plant Biocontrol and Targeted Grazing – a new BMP – may require special environmental considerations, depending upon location. For example, areas in proximity to breeding sites for species at risk, wildlife corridors, WHPA or Crown Conservation

Easements may require wildlife-friendly fencing. Fencing can be funded through the Riparian Grazing Management or Native Rangeland Grazing Management BMPs.

To help determine if their land has special considerations for sensitive habitat or species, producers can access the Ministry of Environment's online mapping tool, HABI Saskatchewan. The HABI Saskatchewan tool can be found on saskatchewan.ca after searching for "HABI Saskatchewan." After entering in the legal land description of the proposed project (e.g. SE-33-23-04-3), the tool will zoom into the land selected. The tool will identify if there are special considerations for projects, for example, the need to use wildlife-friendly fencing on pronghorn crossing routes. Ministry of Agriculture agri-environmental specialists and agri-environmental technicians are available to support producers to modify their projects to meet producer needs while also protecting sensitive habitat or species.

With over 30 programs available under CAP, federal-provincial cost-shared funding is available to enhance many strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture. Details on all programs can be found online at saskatchewan.ca/cap. For more information on programs, or for technical support with any applications, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Center toll free at 1-866-457-2377.



DRAINAGE REGULATION: What it means for RMs and Landowners

BY CHAD GLASCOCK PROJECT MANAGER,
AGRICULTURE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, WATER SECURITY AGENCY

DRAINAGE has been a key part of settling Saskatchewan for generations. It has made land available for communities, roads, crops and resource development. However, poorly designed projects can negatively impact neighbouring properties, wildlife habitat and roads, as well as cause increase downstream flooding and poor water quality.

Drainage regulation has occurred in the province for more than a century, but the enforcement was not effective. Beginning in 2010, a series of wet years resulted in hundreds of complaints, costing landowners, RMs and taxpayers a lot of money and often taking years to resolve. This resulted in the need for a new system and a new strategy.

Following an extensive consultation process, the Water Security Agency (WSA) began implementing the Agriculture Water Management Strategy in 2015. This approach requires all drainage works, new and existing, to be approved. This new strategy moves Saskatchewan

toward responsible drainage and ensures impacts are reduced, and landowners can operate and manage their drainage works for the term of the approval (approvals are registered on title and stay with the land for the approval term).

WSA recognizes this is the first major change in drainage regulations in three and half decades, making it a major paradigm shift for many producers. However, there is evidence that landowners are quickly responding.

A record 693 quarter sections of land were brought into compliance in the 2017-18 fiscal year, representing an increase of more than 110 per cent from the previous year and close to a four-fold increase from 2014-15 (preceding the implementation of the Agricultural Water Management Strategy).

These numbers show more producers are motivated by the increased value of their investments in their land. Approved drainage projects on agricultural land can improve the efficiency of farming

operations by eliminating obstacles and allowing landowners to gain earlier access to their field.

WSA knows continued education and work to improve the time and speed of its drainage processes are needed. But this positive approach has set the stage for thousands of quarters to come into compliance in future years.

Although individual landowner projects will continue to support this cause, the effort will be spearheaded by groups of producers forming larger priority networks, such as Conservation and Development Area Authorities (C & Ds) or Watershed Associations, to reach integrated drainage solutions together. Hundreds of landowners are now working together to create responsible drainage networks that respect individual properties and ensure the safe management of our water resources in Saskatchewan, creating lasting benefits for Saskatchewan producers, our downstream neighbours, and future generations. *cont'd pg. 20*



We'll help you stand out.

Meet Arlen. He's a real chip off the old block; he took over his family's stair and railing business, Canadian Oakworks Ltd, in 2014. Over the years the business has changed with the trends, and with a little help from us they've evolved how they attract customers too. Now his business info's on our Mysask411 app, and we've raised his online search results through Google+. Yep, we take care of the online stuff, so Arlen doesn't have to put down his tools.

This year, a major success story was in the Lang West Conservation and Development Area. Farmers in the region, southeast of Regina, formed the C & D in 2012 after major flooding in 2011 and came up with an innovative, environmentally responsible approach to channel runoff into the Moose Jaw River. In March 2018, a single approval was granted covering 30 quarters of agricultural land, lessening the risk of floods and protecting certain wetlands, while also managing wildlife habitat impacts.

WSA continues to work with a number of producers and stakeholders throughout the province, including RMs, Watershed Stewardship Groups, Watershed Associations, and Conservation and Development Area Authorities to help achieve greater compliance in all areas of Saskatchewan.

What does the Agriculture Water Management Strategy mean for RMs?

RMs play an important role with drainage projects. When drainage works are located within RM controlled lands, the

RM is responsible for those works, including any associated approval requirements or liability.

RMs are responsible for the road network and administer the lands where roads are located on the rural landscape and, as a result, often interact with drainage works. When road networks meet natural bodies of water and water courses, such as streams, the road network should not impede the flow or impact water levels. Private drainage may impact or cross the lands administered for the road network. RMs may be obligated to consider granting land control and applying any necessary conditions for drainage projects.

With drainage approvals, an RM does not have to apply for an approval for construction of ditches, provided the ditches are not moving water from private drains. For example, if a road is being built up and the dirt is coming from a deepened ditch, the RM does not need a drainage approval for that work, unless the ditch is going to carry water contributed by a private ditch (although, an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit

may still be required). However, if an RM modifies a culvert or roadway in such a way as to alter the spill elevation of a wetland or divert the natural flow of water then a drainage approval or Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit may be required.

RMs may also be asked to provide land control for organized drainage works associated with C and Ds or Watershed Associations.

You can learn more about the Agriculture Water Management Strategy and the role of RMs at www.wsask.ca. You can also contact your nearest WSA regional office.

Since the strategy was first announced, RMs have been cooperative and supportive partners in this process – not only by working with landowners, but also in educating the public about the new drainage regulatory process. Moving forward, RMs will continue to be vital in helping to ensure that, someday, all drainage projects are approved.

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Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp.

THIS FALL, Make Your Burn a Safe One

AN ESCAPED FIRE can be dangerous, and expensive, for the person who started it. That's the message Rocky Purves, a senior fire manager with the Ministry of Environment, wants everyone planning to burn this fall to take to heart.

"Fire has been an important tool for land managers in Saskatchewan, especially farmers, for many, many years," Purves said. "But people need to understand that they are responsible for what happens if they light a fire and it gets away on them, including firefighting costs and property damage."

Before you burn, it's important to let the appropriate authorities know about your plans so that Ministry of Environment or municipal firefighters don't respond needlessly. From April 1 to October 31 each year, you need a burn notification number if your burn site is in or within 4.5 kilometres of the provincial forest, or in park land. You can get your free number by calling your local Ministry of Environment Forest Protection Area office. Besides the notification number, you'll also get great advice.

"When you call, our staff can provide important information to help you have a safe and successful burn, including current fire danger, expected weather, other fire activity in the area and if there are any provincial fire bans," Purves said. "After contacting us, your next call should be to the Ministry of Government Relations' Controlled Burn Line at 1-866-404-4911. Even if you're outside the burn notification area, they need to know about your planned burn, so that

911 operators don't send firefighters if you don't need them."

Preparation is the key to making sure your burn stays under control. Consider creating a fuel break around your burn area. The type of fuel break will depend on your specific project, but in general, the bigger the burn area, the wider your fuel break should be, at least 10 metres for a larger burn. In addition, have basic firefighting tools ready to go, like rakes and shovels, and a source of water, so you can take quick action if needed. Also, consider ways to minimize the potential impact of smoke on roads or neighbours who may have health issues.

Before you burn, make sure the conditions are right. Don't start your fire if the current or expected wind speed is more than 10 kilometres per hour, and remember to account for possible wind gusts that can make your fire difficult to control. Watch the forecast for thunderstorms and cold fronts, which often come with strong, gusty winds that can shift suddenly. Keep an eye on the temperature and relative humidity, and plan to burn another day if the temperature creeps into the high 20s or higher. Choose your time of day wisely. The best times to burn are early to mid-morning, late afternoon or early evening, when winds tend to be lighter and the humidity rises as the day cools off.

In his almost four decades in wildfire management, Purves has collected too many stories of people with good intentions failing to take precautions or underestimating the conditions and paying the price. And, the price can be

very steep, with costs to suppress a large wildfire running into the millions of dollars.

"I remember one person who was just trying to burn off a little grass to clean up around their property," Purves recalled. "The landowner thought the fire was under control, but the wind helped spread it through the dry grass more quickly than expected. Just that fast, it was into the surrounding vegetation – trees and shrubs – and had moved onto the neighbouring property."

In this particular case, the local fire department got there in time to prevent the fire from damaging the property owner's or the neighbour's homes, and the Ministry of Environment's water bombers were able to keep the fire from spreading into the adjacent forest. The landowner was on the hook for fire suppression costs, which wound up being tens of thousands of dollars. Still, it could have been much worse, as Purves knows all too well.

"These folks were lucky, but unfortunately, that isn't always the case. A little preparation can make a huge difference. Notify the appropriate authorities of your planned burn. Check the conditions and burn only when they are right. And, if the conditions aren't ideal, please burn another day."

For more information on safe burning, phone numbers for Forest Protection Area offices, and the latest information on wildfire activity and hazards, visit saskatchewan.ca/fire.

Photo credit: Shutterstock.com

Independent committee to provide recommendations
**FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS**



The new **Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee** will provide a comprehensive focus on measures to reduce and divert waste, enhancing landfill management and raising public awareness. This will give the province a strategic action plan to address the unique challenges posed by solid waste management.

THE Government of Saskatchewan has established the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, making good on its commitment at the 2018 SARM Convention to establish an independent committee to lead consultations with municipalities, industry, recycling organizations and First Nations on a provincial solid waste management strategy and landfill regulation.

The new Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee will provide a comprehensive focus on measures to reduce and divert waste, enhancing landfill management and raising public awareness. This will give the province a strategic action plan to address the unique challenges posed by solid waste management.

In spring 2017, Ministry of Environment officials led public engagement activities across the province to better understand what issues Saskatchewan residents, municipalities, industry leaders, recycling organizations and First Nations feel should be addressed through a provincial solid waste management strategy.

The role of the committee will be to consult on the content of a provincial solid waste management strategy and potential changes to the *Municipal Refuse Management Regulations*, taking into consideration the work that has already been done to date by the ministry.

The advisory committee will also be engaging industry, recycling organizations and First Nations to understand the unique challenges and opportunities they experience.

Information collected during these activities will be used to develop recommendations for the Minister of Environment to help guide finalization of the strategy and reduce red tape in landfill regulation.

Chaired by Richard Porter from Warman, the advisory committee includes Dan Cugnet from Weyburn, Rennie Harper from Nipawin, Randall Johnson out of Shellbrook, Gordon Barnhart from SUMA and Ray Orb from SARM. The advisory committee membership brings a broad and diverse background and understanding of solid waste management issues and solutions to the table.

The advisory committee replaces the Landfill Advisory Team, which was composed of urban and rural municipality members.

With the development of a provincial strategy for solid waste management, government felt that the scope of the Landfill Advisory Team needed to be expanded to include matters related to waste reduction and diversion.

Starting in the fall, the new advisory committee will hold formal engagement with targeted urban and rural municipalities that have experienced the challenges and opportunities associated with solid waste management. The advisory committee will also be engaging industry, recycling organizations and First Nations to understand the unique challenges and opportunities they experience.



Other stakeholders and municipalities will have an opportunity to provide feedback through an online survey and written submissions or can contact the committee (rholtzman@mc-nair.ca) for consideration if they are interested in participating in the engagement sessions. The advisory committee will provide updates on the consultation schedule in the near future.

Information from the consultation sessions will assist the advisory committee in making final recommendations to the Minister of Environment regarding options to reduce red tape in municipal landfill rules and regulation, as well as implement innovative actions for solid waste diversion, reduction and landfilling across Saskatchewan.

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Improving water quality in **RURAL SASKATCHEWAN**

BY DR. HANS PETERSON



SOME say the tap water in rural Saskatchewan is perfectly fine. Indeed, one government official termed a bitter tasting water in one town as “delicious”. Well, you do not need to drive far in that town to pick up a 19 L bottle of water that has been treated to a higher standard. Comments like “Oh, I would not drink our town’s tap water!” abound. Sometimes, the water not only tastes bad, it smells horrible! Another government official refused to comment on the quality of the tap water in a different town, a town which he represented. An independent source said that this town has a typical rural Saskatchewan taste to its water that he would describe as “atrocious.”

So here we are, in one of the richest jurisdictions on Earth, with possibly the most prosperous bottled water industry in Canada! What is happening?

In pre-historic times, Saskatchewan was covered by an inland sea. Eventually the inland sea gave way to our current ecosystem. Unfortunately, the seawater became today’s ground water. And, we have a lot of it. The Hatfield aquifer is enormous, it is up to 30 kilometres wide, and 50 metres deep. Given the marine history of these aquifers, we have some of the most challenging ground water sources anywhere in the world. The federal government conducted a study to test these ground water sources. One of the most common findings of this study was that the water was “untreatable.”

This is the label the Department of Indian Affairs put on Yellow Quill’s ground water several years ago. An additional problem at Yellow Quill was that their surface water was tainted by the Town of Kelvington’s sewage lagoon effluent. This was clearly an “impossible” water treatment challenge.

I was asked to conduct and review a number of pilot studies at Yellow Quill that showed that commonly used technologies simply failed to treat Yellow Quill’s “untreatable water”. While I assessed and discounted these traditional, but limited, treatment methods, the consulting engineering company sent out two of their specialists with some 50 years of conventional treatment experience between them to show me how to make those technologies work. Within a few weeks those specialists went back home admitting total failure. The Yellow Quill raw water was proving to be “untreatable.”

At this point, I ended up spending a lot of time on the phone with engineers and scientists across the globe. The water to be treated had 8.5 mg/L of iron, 0.25 mg/L of manganese, as well as 0.017 mg/L of arsenic, 11 mg/L of dissolved organics, and 4.7 mg/L of ammonium. The raw water smelled bad, which also meant there were reduced gases in it. If you are a water treatment person you would likely by now have exclaimed

“Oh no!” many times. Normally, problems do not exist alone, but usually one raw water source does not contain every problem imaginable. At Yellow Quill, every problem imaginable was present. I later found out that Yellow Quill was not an exception in terms of having such poor quality water.

I tried adding more chemicals, I tried ultraviolet radiation, I tried ozone, and I tried mixtures of hydrogen peroxide and low wavelength UV (the United States Environmental Protection Agency uses this combination to destroy toxic organic compounds). The result of most of those treatments was water looking like a thick brown paint. I started to realize that the more chemicals and oxidation strategies I tried, the worse the water became. Maybe one cannot treat bad quality water which is loaded with chemicals with more chemicals? It is fascinating (and shameful) that various organizations, governing bodies and companies, are still trying to do this in Saskatchewan.

So, what is the solution? How do we treat this awful water without chemicals? If we do not know what the problem is, we have two problems. However, here in front of me I had found the problem,

adding more chemicals to water that is already full of chemicals is fundamentally wrong. I have since learned that it cannot be done. However, I have also learned that there is a much better way to treat water and that is to get help from Mother Nature and let beneficial bacteria do the job!

After a lot of initial testing, biological treatment showed some promise. The senior engineer at Yellow Quill and I saw the beginnings of a new treatment process. We started to think about what we might call it. We adopted an unusual working name, “The Albatross.” It is not widely known that an albatross is said to be able to sleep and fly at the same time. It tied in nicely with our goal to develop a process that would be easy to operate and produce great water with little attention.

After 20 months of trial and error, and a lot of hard work, a treatment process was developed for Yellow Quill that could treat its “untreatable” water. The process was given a new name, the Integrated Biological and Reverse Osmosis Membrane (IBROM) treatment process. Yellow Quill adopted the IBROM and, in 2004, Yellow Quill’s nine-year boil

water advisory was finally lifted. In 2005, the head operator at Yellow Quill and I traveled to the United Nations headquarters in New York to give a presentation about the IBROM process. That spring the Indigenous Environmental Network had selected the IBROM process as the most positive water development in indigenous communities globally.

The IBROM treats poor quality raw water in such a way that the distributed water not only meets Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, but all international standards, regulations, and guidelines as well. When you treat bad water, you need better treatment! By the end of this year there will be 23 IBROM plants successfully operating in Western Canada. One tribal council in Saskatchewan will have IBROM water treatment plants in seven (all) of its communities.

IBROM plants are now treating seven million litres of water per day, and municipalities are starting to embrace the process with plants in both Saskatchewan and Alberta.

For details, visit www.safewater.org or www.safedrinkingwaterteam.org.

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Q&A

GETTING TO KNOW

SARM's board and staff



NORM NORDGULEN



LIBBEY MORIN

NORM

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- I am the Director representing Division 2; although at SARM, we represent the whole and not just the issues in our respective divisions. Internally, I sit on our Ag and Environment Committees as well as several external committees.

Q *What is your favourite thing about being on SARM's Board?*

- *Definitely the people I meet and those I work with in the SARM family - province wide. Working for the province as a whole with common goals that reach beyond my own area; hearing, listening and learning the different issues as we go. I always believed just asking for things or requesting changes isn't enough - I've always tried to come with viable solutions as well.*

- Q** How long have you been an elected municipal official?
- I was elected to council in 2006 for RM No.72 Lake of Rivers and have been Reeve for six years now.

- Q** Where did you grow up?
- I was born, raised and schooled in Assiniboia, but I grew up on a tractor and on the back of a horse.

- Q** Tell us about your farming operation?
- I started farming and ranching in 1977 with nothing but a Farmstart loan for 50 cows (that was a great program). Eventually I owned, leased and rented 36 quarters and ran 140 cows. I have now downsized to 10 quarters owned in semi-retirement. The farm has been in my family since 1907, and I'm hoping someone will continue it on another 110 years.

- Q** Do you have any hobbies you enjoy?
- Number one is spending time with my grandchildren, teaching them their history as I was taught it by my grandmother. I enjoy buying and restoring the mid 80 to recent vintage luxury and sport cars as well as farm machinery. Even my old hoe drills got a paint job in the past. I guess I enjoy coffee row as I have two different crowds. One in their late 80 early 90s and one more working age just to keep up on opinions and views in the area.

LIBBEY

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Senior Policy Analyst. I work on behalf of SARM members to research municipal and ag issues, recommend policy action, and evaluate government policies and programs.

- Q** How long have you worked at SARM?
- Since October of 2015.

- Q** Where did you grow up?
- Born and raised in north-west Regina, where I continue to reside.

- Q** If you didn't need to sleep, what would you do with all that extra time?
- Travel to all of Canada's National Parks and learn a new language.

- Q** What is your most favourite place you have travelled and why?
- Taiwan - it has everything! The metropolitan area of Taipei was something to experience, but what I really loved was my time spent in rural Taiwan with its beautiful landscape of mountains, forests and ocean.

Q *What is your favourite thing about working for SARM?*

- *Working with municipalities! I've been fortunate enough to work with municipalities since 2012. I enjoy working the individuals who step up to serve their community as the closest level of government to the people.*



Meet your
PLANT HEALTH OFFICERS

L-R Katey Makohoniuk (Division 1), Joanne Kwasnicki (Division 2), Betty Johnson (Division 3), Lynne Roszell (Division 4), Chelsea Baraniecki (Division 5), Colleen Fennig (Division 6)

Katey Makohoniuk, CCA
 Division 1 PHO

Katey is the Plant Health Officer for Division 1. Before taking this role, she worked in the ag industry since 2009 and as an agronomist since 2014 with Cargill and Prairie Soil Services. Katey obtained her Diploma from Olds College in Agricultural Production and Management and has since earned her Certified Crop Advisor designation. Katey and her husband are grain farmers as well – looking forward to harvesting their 8th crop this year. Since they began farming, they have grown their acres to just under 1,200. She enjoys all things outdoors, especially gardening, canoeing and volunteering with the Civilian Air Search and Rescue Association. She looks forward to serving Saskatchewan’s RMs in this role and is excited to be working with the other PHOs. You can contact Katey at 306-594-7683 or katey.makohoniuk@gmail.com.

Joanne Kwasnicki, AAg
 Division 2 PHO

Joanne is the Plant Health Officer for Division 2. Before taking on this role, Joanne was a lead hand horticulturist at Wascana Centre in Regina for four years. After realizing she was more interested in the

weeds than the ornamentals her crews were planting, she decided to focus on invasive plants. She is an articling agrologist and has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and Ecology. While obtaining her degree, she spent several months working on an organic permaculture farm in the rainforests of Panama and worked as a Research Assistant at Crop Production Services. She lives in Regina and spends her free time camping and playing sports. You can contact Joanne at 306-541-8437 or joanne.kwasnicki@gmail.com.

Betty Johnson
 Division 3 PHO

Betty is the Division 3 Plant Health Officer. She worked as a weed inspector in Grande Prairie Alberta and as a research assistant in British Columbia. She holds Bachelors of Technology in Landscape Environmental Horticulture from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from India. She is interested in solving agriculture related issues such as invasive plants, pests and diseases. She currently lives in Swift Current. As part of the Plant Health Network program, Betty is looking forward to working with RMs and the Ministry

of Agriculture to reach common goals. You can contact her at 306-315-3925 or bettyjohnson0025@gmail.com.

Lynne Roszell, PAg
 Division 4 PHO

Lynne is the Plant Health Officer for Division 4. Before taking on this role, she worked as the manager of the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association and in the financial industry. She has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the U of S, and is a Professional Agrologist with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists. Lynne has a keen interest in invasive weed management, which is what led her to want to become a PHO. Working from her home office near Kipabiskau Lake, Lynne is looking forward to working with RMs, SARM and Ministry of Agriculture as part of the Plant Health Network. You can contact Lynne at 306-852-8328 or lynneroszell@gmail.com.

Chelsea Baraniecki
 Division 5 PHO

Chelsea is the Division 5 Plant Health Officer. She graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Agriculture, with a major in Environmental Sciences and a certificate in Sustainability. In university,

she worked with agriculture companies such as Monsanto Canada and Bayer Crop-Science. After graduating, she worked as a research technician with Monsanto Canada and a barley agronomist with Cargill-Prairie Malt. Chelsea grew up and currently lives in Saskatoon. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening and traveling. She can be reached at 306-380-4526 or chelsea.baraniecki@gmail.com.

Colleen Fennig, PAg
 Division 6 PHO

Colleen is the Division 6 Plant Health Officer. After graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science, she worked as an agri-environmental technician for a watershed stewardship group for six years and then as their general manager for three years. During that time, she earned a Professional Agrologist designation. She grew up on a mixed farm in the North Battleford area. Her passions include homesteading, water and riparian health protection, rangeland health, and invasive weeds. Currently, she works from her home in the RM of Viscount. She can be reached at 306-946-9895 or colleen.fennig@gmail.com.

PREVENTING CLUBROOT IN SASKATCHEWAN

BY CHELSEA BARANIECKI PLANT HEALTH OFFICER, SARM DIVISION 5

SASKATCHEWAN is on the brink of having a real issue with the devastating plant disease, clubroot. Clubroot is a soil-borne disease caused by a fungus-like protist called *Plasmodiophora brassicae* that can infect agricultural crops grown in Saskatchewan such as canola, mustard, camelina and other brassicas. Clubroot can also infect vegetables, including arugula, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip; and weed species such as shepherd's purse, stinkweed, wild mustard and flaxweed.

Whenever soil where the clubroot pathogen is present, the plants can become infected. Swollen or club-like galls appear on the roots of the infected plants, leading to a reduced ability to absorb water and nutrients. This causes wilting, stunting, yellowing, premature ripening, shriveling of seeds, and premature plant death in the above-ground plant.

However, a plant can be infected without demonstrating above ground symptoms. As a result, it is important to examine the roots of plants when monitoring for clubroot. At the end of the season, the infected roots start to disintegrate, the galls break open releasing resting spores back into the soil to infect future host plants.

Clubroot is a soil-borne disease, meaning that the pathogen resting spores are present in and can be transferred via soil movement. In just one gram of soil, there can be up to 100,000 spores, which is enough to cause a clubroot infection and visible symptoms.

Typically, a clubroot infection can cause up to a 50 per cent yield loss. However, if pathogen levels are high, the host plant is susceptible and the environment favours clubroot infection, yield losses can be as high as 100 per cent.

The key to clubroot management is to keep pathogen levels low to minimize the size of the clubroot galls and cor-

responding yield loss. The pathogen is long lived and cannot be eradicated once present; therefore, clubroot can only be prevented and managed.

Limiting soil movement is a key tool to preventing clubroot spread. Implementing procedures to remove soil from equipment, including knocking off soil, washing and sanitizing equipment between fields, as well as developing a separate field exit point as far as possible from the field entrance will reduce the risk of spreading clubroot to other locations.

Visiting fields on foot instead of by truck or quad will also help limit soil movement. When entering by foot, boot covers or rubber boots that can be sanitized in a two per cent sodium hypochlorite solution (the active agreement of bleach) should be used. It is also imperative to notify custom operators or service providers of any biosecurity actions utilized to make certain no soil is moved in from other locations. Posting signs at field entrances stating biosecurity measures occur on site may help stop soil movement onto fields by unwanted persons.

Once the pathogen is present, management practices can be used to limit, reduce or keep pathogen levels low. These include growing canola and other brassicas in a minimum of a three-year crop rotation, growing clubroot resistant varieties and managing susceptible weeds.

It is also important to scout for clubroot in plant matter and take soil samples for DNA analysis, as the earlier clubroot is discovered the more effectively the disease can be managed.

An extensive clubroot survey will be led by the Ministry of Agriculture with the support from SaskCanola and the SARM this summer to further understand the distribution of clubroot in Saskatchewan.

The clubroot management agreement must include a minimum three-year crop rotation between brassicas, use of only clubroot resistant varieties, and the control of canola volunteers and susceptible weeds, management measures that prevent the spread of clubroot, such as cleaning off equipment and vehicles, restricting vehicle entry unless clean and the creation of a separate exit must be undertaken as part of this management plan, soil conservation practices to reduce soil movement, including direct seeding and zero-tillage will also be included in the plan. Biosecurity actions such as the notification of occupants and easement holders that have access to land where clubroot has been found is also necessary. If clubroot is present on the land, this information must be revealed before it can be sold or rented. Finally, the clubroot management plan requires the signatures of the producer/landowner and the pest control officer to become a formal agreement.

Taking a proactive approach to clubroot management and prevention may help to reduce the spread of this crop disease in Saskatchewan. If clubroot is not managed properly, the pathogen can greatly reduce the productivity of the field, leading to reduced yields of brassica crops and income losses for producers.

It is important to follow best management practices and biosecurity procedures, as well as create a clubroot management plan that will limit soil movement and minimize pathogen population levels before clubroot becomes problematic in the province.

The Plant Health Officers are available to act as pest control officers for the purposes of clubroot management and to provide assistance to RMs, producers and landowners. For more information, contact your local Division Plant Health Officer.

The power of **EXERCISE, SLEEP AND GOOD NUTRITION** for your mental health

THE AGRICULTURAL Health and Safety Network (The Network) takes a holistic approach to mental and physical health, and the safety of producers. These interconnected themes form the basis of the Network's 20-year Farm Stress Initiative. This ongoing venture continues to provide tools for producers to use themselves and with their family and workers.

EXERCISE

Farmers and ranchers work hard, especially during peak seasons. It is easy to think that the body is sufficiently exercised during the work day when your job is physical. Unfortunately, most farm work is ergonomically incorrect and can lead to repetitive strain injuries.

Physical fitness not only keeps your body fit and helps to prevent injury, but it fights stress in two ways. First, a physically fit body is better able to withstand the effects of stress, and second, exercise has a calming effect. Repetitions can even produce a meditative mental state. Exercise that raises your heart rate for at least 20 minutes releases endorphins that reduce depression and stress. Consider a brisk walk or bike ride at least three times a week.

SLEEP

Sleep can be a challenge during busy seasons, but planning your sleep periods can help us get the best sleep possible when we have the chance.

5 Easy Sleep Tips

- Practice a bedtime routine (it's not just for kids!)
- The darker the room, the better
- Eat lightly in the evening
- Avoid nicotine, caffeine and alcohol
- Have a 20 minute nap during the day

NUTRITION

A well balanced diet is rich in vegetables, fruits and whole grains, dairy, and lean meat (or a meat alternative). Limit your intake of salt, sugar, saturated and trans fats. Fruits and vegetables should take up half your plate. Frozen fruits and vegetables are healthy alternatives when fresh produce is unavailable, cost ineffective, or out of season.

Many of us are so chronically dehydrated we don't even know it. Stay hydrated by drinking water throughout the day. Keep a water bottle with you during your work day. A few simple changes can make a big difference, but not everything has to change immediately to make an improvement.



A lifestyle that includes regular exercise, healthy meals and adequate sleep provides energy and endurance to handle what may come your way. However, the instant it becomes too much to bear, share it with a trusted friend or a professional. There is no advantage to bottling it up until it becomes critical or life threatening. Everyone goes through stressful times at some point and needs help.

Sign up for the Network's 10 Day Stress Challenge. It begins with a farm stress inventory to put your stress into perspective, and it challenges you to make simple changes in your life such as planning relaxation. The next one starts soon.

Sign up here for free by emailing bonita.hus@usask.ca.

For more health and safety resources, videos and presentations check out our website at agsafety.usask.ca.



Rural Crime in Saskatchewan...

AND WHAT YOU CAN DO



THE DAYS of leaving the house unlocked and the keys in the vehicles are over in our rural communities. Those residing on farms and acreages are expressing worry and fear over whether or not they will become victims.

Rural crime is more prevalent in the western provinces than any other provinces. When it comes to rural property crimes, Saskatchewan has the highest number across the country with Alberta, Manitoba and then B.C following. In all four western provinces, the rural crime rates are higher in the northern areas of the provinces.

Here is a list of things you can do to keep yourselves and your property safer:

Doors and Locks:

- Make sure external doors in your home or vacation cottage have dead bolt locks and any outbuildings are solid wood or metal and have padlocks that are always locked.
- Use long screws to install deadbolts on doors (approximately 4 inches) and screw them into the door frame.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door in case someone tries to pry it open.

- Insert screws in the upper track going into the fixed frame to prevent anyone from lifting the door from its track.
- Secure double hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash and part way through the outside sash.
- Secure basement windows with a wooden dowel in the track to jam the window in case someone tries to pry it open or install an anti-slide device, side bolt or key lock.

Outside:

- Consider getting a dog or dogs. They make wonderful companions and can sleep outside if you give them heated doghouses and access to food and fresh water. A dog barking – especially a big dog – is sometimes all a thief needs to be deterred. Make sure you do your best to train your dog not to accept treats until you tell them they can. This will ensure that strangers can't tempt your dog with a few pieces of meat.
- Keep your house, driveway, barns and other buildings well-lit.

- Use motion detecting spotlights to make intruders bolt immediately.
- Prune back shrubbery that may hide an intruder.
- Build good fences and keep them in good repair.
- Secure all access roads with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented into the ground; make them visible with bright flags or streamers, reflective material or tape.
- Post “No Trespassing” or “No Hunting” signs to demonstrate you are on the alert.

Equipment:

- Make Crime Prevention Week an annual reminder to do security inspections on your property.
- Engrave tools, guns and machinery with a permanent ID number like a drivers’ license number. An electric engraver should be available free of charge from your local RCMP detachment.
- Keep a record of items you have marked and their serial numbers in a safe place.
- Store and lock equipment, farm machinery and recreational vehicles in a barn or garage whether you are at home or away.
- Store firearms and ammunition separately, ensuring both are locked appropriately. Firearms and ammunition must be stored in accordance with the *Firearms Act* and regulations.
- Always lock your trucks and other vehicles when they are not in use – never leave the keys in the vehicles, even if they are hidden.
- Don’t leave tools in the open back of a pickup truck or in an unsecured truck bed toolbox.
- If machines must be left out for long periods of time, disable them by removing the rotor, distributor or battery.
- Don’t leave major equipment in a field overnight or in remote areas away from home; lock them in a barn or shed or park them where they can be obviously seen from your home or a neighbor’s home.
- Immediately report to law enforcement any missing chemicals, equipment, fuel, medicines or fertilizers.

Livestock:

- Tattoo, micro-chip or brand all livestock. Ear tags or neck chains can be removed.
- Mark young stock soon after birth and take regular counts of all livestock.

Crops:

- Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations.
- Consider marking grain, hay or other crops with non-toxic confetti imprinted with your special code number to be removed by storage or processing facilities.
- Keep storage areas neat and well organized so that any theft will be noticed right away.

- Check employee references before they start work. Inform them of all your crime prevention measures and ensure they adhere to all of them.

In The Community:

- Get to know your neighbors. If there are farm shops or gathering places for the locals in town, go there and make yourself known. It is often word of mouth that gets people aware of suspicious activity in the area.
- When you or your neighbors are away, rely on each other to check up on each other’s properties. Have them drive by daily to check the mail and have a look around. Return the favor.
- Scan through the police reports in the local papers to see if there are hot spots for crime at the moment.
- Join or create a rural crime watch in your area.

When You are Away:

- Whether you are just leaving for a short time or you are packing up a seasonal cottage, the suggestions hold the same. You should try to make the property appear occupied at all times.
- Use motion activated lights indoors and outdoors. Install timers on televisions, radios and indoor lights.
- Try to keep some kind of vehicle – any kind – in front of your property at all times. It indicates that there may be people around.

General Tips

- Report suspicious wood cutting, trespassing and property damage to local law enforcement.
- Safeguard all valuable property by engraving or marking it with your drivers’ license number. Take photos and save them on a CD or memory stick. Take this with you if you are going to be away.
- Keep a list of all valuables, credit cards and serial numbers in a fire-proof safe if possible. Smaller valuables should be in the safe as well.
- Check the credentials of all door-to-door salespersons or trades persons by contacting their respective professional associations. Be very careful who you allow onto your property. It’s not paranoia, it’s due diligence.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is now working with new TIP software with a downloadable app for smartphones making it easier for anyone to submit an anonymous tip anytime, anywhere: <https://www.p3tips.com/index.htm>.

We also have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Saskatchewan-Crime-Stoppers-188878375151704/>) that we post crimes on to engage the public to help solve crime. We have included a ‘Contact Us’ button on the page which leads you directly to secure tip software to submit a tip.

As always our website is www.saskcrimestoppers.com where you can submit an anonymous tip, view unsolved crimes, missing and wanted persons.

rural councillor MEMBER NEWS

RONNIE GERALD SEBULSKY RM OF INSINGER NO. 275 IN MEMORIAM

Ronnie was born on January 21, 1950 in Foam Lake, SK to Peter and Victoria (Korpatnisky). He grew up on the family farm near Sheho. A shy, quiet youngster he attended Fosti School until grade 8, then high school in Foam Lake graduating in 1968. He was fortunate to have many friends and cousins in Sheho, with whom he grew up with.

After high school, Ronnie worked for a couple of years and drove school bus for about six years. He became an orderly at University Hospital in Saskatoon, then worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross in Jamaica in 1974.

Upon his return to Canada, he worked in Vibank, SK as a bank manager for the Credit Union. He moved back to Sheho when his father passed away in 1978, to help on the farm.

In 1985, he started as a Village Clerk in Sheho, he took a two-year U of R course in Local Government Administration, then worked for the Village of Theodore for 13 years. From there he moved to the RM of Insinger for six years and finally the Village of Sheho for nine years until his retirement in 2015 at the age of 65.

Even in his retirement he was still driving a mail truck a few days a week. At one point he also opened Rock 'N Rony's Drive-In. He operated the drive-in, with a little help, until it became too much to work two jobs and had to close the drive-in.



JOHN WILLIAM "BILL" RITCHIE RM OF BRITANNIA NO. 502 IN MEMORIAM

John William "Bill" Ritchie passed away in Lloydminster, AB on June 17, 2018 at the age of 90 years.

Bill is loved and remembered by his three daughters: Brenda (Reid) Findlay, Karen (John) Shane, Sharen (Rod) Scammell; eight grandchildren: Kirsten (Aron) Halter, Kent Findlay, Matthew (Alyssa) Scammell, Michael Scammell, Cory Scammell, Ritchie Shane, Carson Shane and Dylan Shane; five great grandchildren: Brayden and Kody Halter; Brooklyn, Briella and Brody Scammell; and all of his nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his wife, Alice, and sister, Katherine (Kitty) Halls.

Bill served as Division Councillor from 1974-83 for the RM of Britannia No. 502.



WADE FOX & RON MATSALLA RM OF MOOSE MOUNTAIN NO. 63 RETIREMENT

Deputy Reeve Jack Wilson of the RM of Moose Mountain No. 63 says the RM not only has big shoes left to fill, "but a few pairs."



Wilson is referring to the retirements of administrator Ron Matsalla of Carlyle and grader operator Wade Fox of Manor – who between them, have a combined 57 years of experience on the job, with Matsalla's public service career totaling 34½ years and Fox's totaling 22½ years.

Both men were honoured at a celebration supper on June 15 at the Carlyle Memorial Hall, with family and friends, as well as Reeves, councillors and constituents in attendance.

Wilson summed up each man's career, adding: "It is with mixed feelings that we are here to say, 'Happy Retirement' to two long-serving and dedicated employees.

"Wade Fox started in May 1996 as our mower man, but soon took over the grader in November 1996. One would say that grader operators are a breed of their own. Wade has been with us for 22 years. If one is to analyze his career, Wade has been through four Reeves and 22 councillors in total.

"Ron Matsalla started on January 16, 1984 and worked under Rita Gauthier. Ron worked 34 ½ years as the RM administrator.

"When Ron started, there were no computers. Ledgers were all hand-written, and to make copies of things, one would have to crank them out on a Gestetner, whereas today, he has a computer and a push-button copier.

"Throughout his career, Ron has helped manage seven grader operators and three maintenance men. He has

Have a news item to share?

- Please send photos as separate JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files (not included in a Word document).
- Maximum 250 words.
- Email them to sarm@sarm.ca

worked under five reeves and 38 councillors.

“As I was looking over the history of the RM, it was incorporated in 1912. Ron came close to serving with the RM for around one-third of that time, which is a great accomplishment.”

Former Reeve Arnold Lawrence was also one of the evening's speakers: “Wade did an excellent job, and I never heard one complaint, which is a record in itself.

“I worked with Ron for five years as a councillor and 15 years as Reeve. At one point, he was ready to hand in his resignation because he wanted to be home with his friends and his dad. I told him that his friends were here in Carlyle - where he curled, played hockey, worked in the community and more. So, he decided to stay. But the surprising part is he's got his resignation in again!”

“And, you're not talking me out of it this time!” replied Matsalla to laughter from the crowd.

Wilson summed up the event with: “We are all grateful to Wade and Ron for your dedication to the RM. We want to wish you both the best retirement.”



LAUREL DYCK RM OF COULEE NO. 136 RETIREMENT

On January 12, 2018, administrator Laurel Dyck retired after more than 19 years of service in municipal government. Laurel worked with the RM of Swift Current No. 137 from November 1998 to June 2009. From there she decided to go east to her own office at the RM of Coulee No. 136 and shared her knowledge, experience and quick smile with council, staff and ratepayers until her retirement.

At the annual Christmas Supper on December 15, 2017, Deputy Reeve, Neil Gunther presented Laurel with a prepaid Visa card in appreciation of her time. As well, on May 3, 2018 the RMAA Division 3 administrators, both past and

present, wished Laurel a fun-filled and relaxing retirement during a supper at Swift Current's Boston Pizza.

Coulee council, staff and ratepayers sincerely thank Laurel for all of her dedication, wisdom and patience. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors - she will be truly missed!



DONNA WESTERHAUG RM OF CANA NO. 214 RETIREMENT

The RM of Cana would like to recognize Donna Westerhaug for her years of service as an administrator and congratulate her on her retirement. Donna began her career as an administrator many moons ago and contributed 27 excellent years to the field, retiring at the end of 2017. The council, staff and ratepayers

Whatever it takes to PLOW THE WAY.

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would like to thank Donna for sharing her knowledge and experience, and we wish her all the best in the future.



**PATRICK CLAVELLE
RM OF VISCOUNT NO. 341
RETIREMENT**

Patrick Clavelle officially retired from the RM of Viscount on June 30, 2017 after 35 years of service with the municipality. He began his municipal career in 1982 as a trainee and became the administrator in 1983. On June 23, at their annual barbeque, the council presented him with a custom designed fire-pit and a Benelli shotgun. The council, ratepayers and staff thank Patrick for his dedicated service to the RM. We wish him a wonderful retirement filled with fun, happiness and the odd laugh!



**ALAN GARNER
RM OF COLONSAY NO. 342
RETIREMENT**

At the Ratepayers AGM, Alan Garner was honored for serving as councillor of Division 1 from 2007 to 2018. He served on numerous boards and committees and could often be seen inspecting the roads in his division. Since his retirement, it is with humor we notice this has been a hard habit to break.

Al and his wife, Bev, have sold the family farm with plans to move to Saskatoon, freeing up lots of time for travel. In appreciation for his years of service, Reeve Gerald Yausie presented Al with a clock. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



**DEBORAH PROSPER
RM OF COLONSAY NO. 342
RETIREMENT**

Deborah Prosper received her "C" certificate and became the administrator for the RM of Colonsay in 2000. She later received her "A" certificate in 2002. From 2008 to 2016 she was the joint administrator for the Town and RM of Colonsay. She trained both present administrators for the town and RM to take over her duties. In June 2017, she retired to focus on the family farm, with plans to spend more time with her husband, Karl, their seven children, 21 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In appreciation for her years of service, Reeve Gerald Yausie presented Deborah with a Jason Bantle print. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

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Case:

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, Outlook Conservation Officers responded to a possible case of deliberate poisoning, approximately 12 miles south of Lucky Lake, SK. A Bald Eagle and 3 coyotes were all found dead, in the same quarter section, at NE-24-21-9-W3. Officers conducted an investigation and collected samples from the Bald Eagle and coyotes. The samples were submitted to a laboratory and upon analysis, it was determined that the level of pesticide in all of the animals was too high to have occurred naturally, and they had been intentionally poisoned.

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

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