



# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 51 number 1  
SPRING 2018 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

## ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Closing the Rural Broadband Gap; Smart Cities Challenge; New Policy for Nine-Month Primary Highways; Cutting the Ribbon at SARM's New Office; Monitoring Invasive Mussels; All Roads Lead to Market; Healthworks 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Mapping Your Infrastructure; Financial Management of Municipal Infrastructure



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## RURAL COUNCILLOR

# CONTENTS

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### VOLUME 51 number 1 SPRING 2018 ISSUE

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### INSIDE

- 4 Minister Marit's Message
- 5 Minister Harrison's Message
- 16 Resolving Issues Through Working Together
- 8 Closing the Rural Broadband Gap
- 12 Learning Benefits the Council Table
- 16 New Policy for Nine-Month Primary Highways
- 17 All Roads Lead to Market
- 18 Financial Management of Municipal Infrastructure
- 20 Help Monitor Invasive Mussels in Saskatchewan
- 22 Healthworks Celebrates 30 Years
- 23 Interdependence + Opportunities = Growth
- 24 Providing Expert Supports to Local Detachments

### REGULAR FEATURES

- 6 Ray Orb, SARM President  
Infrastructure and the Economy
- 9 Jay B. Meyer, SARM Executive Director  
Cutting the Ribbon at Our New Office
- 10 Kelsay Reimer, Acting Director, Policy & Research  
Smart Cities Challenge
- 11 Heather Kindermann,  
Community Planner/GIS Mapping Technologist  
Mapping Your Infrastructure
- 14 Terry Hoeving, Infrastructure Committee  
Advisor & MREP Manager  
Infrastructure in Rural Saskatchewan
- 21 SARM Q & A
- 26 Member News
- 30 Crime Stoppers

### OUR VISION

### OUR MISSION

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

SARM delivers timely, dependable programs and services to meet the needs of its  
members while influencing government policy and facilitating municipalities to work  
together to foster rural development and build strong, sustainable communities.



# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID MARIT**  
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**IT'S** an honour for me to serve as the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my friends and colleagues that have dedicated their time to municipal council.

Saskatchewan's population continues to grow; and it's no surprise, as this is a great place to live, work and raise a family. I'm proud to call Saskatchewan my home, and I know many of you are as well.

*Highway 361 will see more than 16 km of road converted to a primary weight super grid road; while Highway 318 will see 6 km of highway upgraded to an asphalt surface. These upgrades will provide a safer road than what currently exists and creates a nine-month primary weight corridor.*

This growth is good for our province and economy. That's why our government continues to make record investments in our province's highways and infrastructure, making travel safer for the citizens of the province as well as for the movement of goods.

We've made great strides in upgrading our major highways and increasing access to primary weights. Our government understands that more work needs to be done; which is why it's important that we look for new ways of doing things, especially when it comes to repairing our rural TMS highways.

This is why the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is working closely with municipal governments to improve highways through partnership agreements aimed at providing benefits to local traffic and the economy as a whole.

In December 2017, the Government of Saskatchewan and the Rural Municipality of Reciprocity entered a partnership to upgrade Highways 318 and 361. As part of the agreement, Highway 361 will see more than 16 km of road converted to a primary weight super grid road; while Highway 318 will see 6 km of highway upgraded to an asphalt surface. These upgrades will provide a safer road than what currently exists and creates a nine-month primary weight corridor. This agreement will benefit both the local and provincial economies by generating truck haul savings as well as improving the overall safety of the road.

We appreciate the relationships and strong partnerships we have developed with SARM and your members over the years. I look forward to working with you to build strong communities across Saskatchewan, and I'm excited to see what we will accomplish together.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, thank you for your work and dedication to improving the quality of life for our citizens by ensuring they have a safe and efficient transportation network, connecting the province more efficiently to the world.

I wish you all the very best in 2018.



SAMA began maintenance work for 2018 last year, and timely delivery of maintenance is a major priority for the Agency moving forward, followed closely by delivering on our commitment to increase overall property inspections.

SAMA is currently working with municipalities to resolve any remaining inquiries and appeals that have arisen from the 2017 Revaluation.

For more information visit our website at [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca).

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





# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE JEREMY HARRISON**  
 MINISTER OF EXPORT AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT  
 MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION AND CAREER TRAINING

**SMALL** businesses are the backbone of Saskatchewan's economy, and account for over 98.8 per cent of the more than 149,500 business enterprises that exist in the province, active in virtually every sector of the economy. Most importantly, over half are based outside of Regina and Saskatoon, dispersed across rural Saskatchewan. Small businesses are the lifeblood of many families and communities, and it is the foundation of our economic strength – and of our future.

Our agriculture sector is an excellent example. It comprised of 42,492 businesses in 2015; almost all of them – 42,476 – were small businesses. Innovation is at their core. In so many cases, a need or a challenge in a Saskatchewan farmer's field has led to an idea. That idea has led to a solution. Solutions have led to products and, ultimately, to new business growth and activity in our rural communities.

In the meantime, Saskatchewan has invested heavily in infrastructure to support the expansion of this increasingly diversified economy. This has meant improvements to roads, connectivity to rail, and intermodal container access to allow our businesses to reach their markets in a timely manner. For a province of exporters, creating stronger and faster links to existing markets – and continually seeking out new markets – is the bedrock of our future.

## SASKATCHEWAN

offers one of Canada's lowest corporate income tax rates for manufacturing and processing operations at 9.5 per cent.

To help encourage this, Saskatchewan offers one of Canada's lowest corporate income tax rates for manufacturing and processing operations at 9.5 per cent. We introduced the Saskatchewan Commercial Innovation Incentive in 2017, which can lower the corporate income tax rate to 6 per cent for corporations that commercialize their qualifying intellectual property in Saskatchewan, and soon we will offer a powerful new Agriculture Value Added New Growth Incentive to encourage additional investment.

We understand that the most effective way to help is to create the best possible environment in which to do business – and then get out of the way. Regulatory modernization is a practical and impactful method of achieving that goal. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to identifying and removing barriers to business and investment in the province; this is how we are striving to enable increased economic engagement and prosperity.

Today, Saskatchewan has never been in a better position to meet the challenges of market trends. Our economy is more diversified than ever. Our population is now the largest it has been in our province's history, and growing. Our resource potential is world-class and accessible to business. Innovation, based on Saskatchewan's natural strengths and advantages, will continue to be a priority.

We look to rural Saskatchewan for the inspiration and solutions that help set our economic pace. Rural Saskatchewan is where we are creating growth and prosperity at the community level – where it matters most.

We believe our future lies in a diversified and robust economy that supports commercialization and competitiveness. New ideas, innovation and adaptation will be the currency of that future. Rural Saskatchewan is where we will always find it.

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# INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ECONOMY

**BY RAY ORB**  
SARM PRESIDENT

**GREETINGS** to all reeves, councillors and administrators and to those who may be reading the *Rural Councillor* for the first time.

In December 2017, RBC forecast that Saskatchewan could lead the Canadian provinces in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, if all goes well, by 2.7% in both 2018 and 2019. According to RBC, agriculture will boost the provincial economy with some help from the oil and gas sector. RBC feels the rebound in the agriculture and mining sectors, along with investment spending, will help to accelerate the Saskatchewan GDP over the next two years. The RBC report goes on to state that potash did rebound in 2017 with stronger demand and due to some important contracts being signed with India and China.

As a rural municipal official and perhaps as a farmer, you may be taking this optimistic report with a grain of salt. Much of what happens in agriculture depends on the weather being co-operative, but as we all know, the saying "We never have lost a crop in January yet" reminds us that timely rains during the growing season can still pull us through. Nevertheless, the SARM board is cognizant of the current drought situation which is affecting most of the grain belt in southern Saskatchewan. We have been lobbying the provincial Ministry of Agriculture for better forage insurance and fire insurance on grassland and are still hopeful that Sask Crop Insurance will be offering ranchers and farmers a way to insure pasture land for fires in the 2018 program year.

If our provincial economy is truly to be a national leader, rural Saskatchewan desperately needs infrastructure improvements, especially since agriculture will continue to be a driving force in

the provincial economy.

The Municipal Roads for the Economy Program, or MREP, has been delivering provincial funding since 2009 when the province delivered \$40M and the federal government contributed \$7M through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. While we have seen several funding cuts and ended up with approximately \$14M in MREP last year, we are still hoping, at the very least, the province holds the line on the funding.

On the federal scene, we are still awaiting news on the Investing in Canada program and hoping the federal government funding commitment of no less than 50% towards the Rural Infrastructure fund is being relayed to the province and hoping the province will see fit to fund another one third of the cost of eligible projects, with rural municipalities contributing the rest.

SARM is also asking the province to define "rural communities" as those communities with less than 5,000 in population, which is much more realistic than the definition of "rural" under the original Building Canada fund criteria being populations of 100,000 and less.

If these factors are considered in the bi-lateral agreement that is signed by the fed/prov governments, and we certainly hope they are, it will bode well for rural municipalities that are facing ever increasing infrastructure deficits.

SARM would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate Premier-elect Scott Moe, and we hope that by the time this article is published we'll have met with him to fortify our support in helping the province oppose a federally imposed tax on carbon.

The new Premier's opposition to a

*A recent Conference Board of Canada study stated that a federally imposed carbon tax could adversely affect the Canadian economy by as much as \$3B and could even slightly devalue the Canadian dollar.*

carbon tax was voiced throughout the leadership campaign, and even during his acceptance speech, he again stated he would not be backing down to the federal government on the threat of a tax on carbon.

While the province has recently announced a "made in Saskatchewan Plan" for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (that SARM supports), federal Environment Minister McKenna has stated that "Saskatchewan's plan does not meet the federal government standard in that the province's target is only heavy industry and not economy wide." She went on to state that the federal government will be further assessing Saskatchewan's plan this year (2018). In a recent press release, the federal government stated that if provinces don't meet the federal requirements, the federal government could impose their own tax on carbon which would affect gasoline, diesel, heating fuel, natural gas and possibly electricity, and that the tax on carbon could go beyond the \$50/tonne.

Last September the Conference Board of Canada released a study that stated a federally imposed carbon tax could adversely affect the Canadian economy by as much as \$3B and could even slightly devalue the Canadian dol-





lar. Ottawa's plan to price carbon would begin sometime in 2018 with a levy of \$10/tonne and another \$10/tonne each year for the next four years. The Conference Board estimates that at \$50/tonne, the price of natural gas will rise by 20%. Manufacturing, paper, chemical and petroleum product makers are expected to be hardest hit. At a \$50/tonne levy, paper manufacturer costs are expected to rise by 30%, also according to the Conference Board. This begs the question, if Saskatchewan is poised to lead the other provinces in economic growth, why would the federal government want to impede that growth?

I think that question should be asked of the Prime Minister, Minister McKenna and Minister Goodale. Without a doubt a federally imposed tax on carbon here in Saskatchewan doesn't make any sense to us, so let's hope a suitable agreement is reached between Saskatchewan and the federal government.

Another issue that SARM is watching are the ongoing negotiations between Canada and the United States on NAFTA. While it is an extremely important issue, we are also watching the progress of the U.S. tax reform proposal which has been flagged by some as an even more important issue to watch. Canadian business associations are warning that tax changes in the U.S. could end up inflicting more damage on Canada's economy than the end of NAFTA.

This uncertainty comes on the heels of the U.S. announcement to slash corporate taxes. According to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce president Perrin Beatty, this should serve as a wake up call to encourage Canada to find ways to make Canadian businesses more attractive for both domestic and foreign investors.

Jack Mintz, a professor at the University of Calgary, thinks the Canadian

government should consider lowering the federal tax to be competitive with that of the U.S. He also thinks that Ottawa should back off on plans to limit the use of passive income by private corporations. (Incidentally something that SARM has lobbied the federal government to consider on behalf of Saskatchewan businesses, including farmers.) Mintz goes on to state that "It's time to put competitiveness on the front burner of public policy."

While these are all important emerging issues, let's hope that trade relationships between the U.S. and Canada improve in the days ahead, our provincial economy proves to be strong in 2018, and that the weather cooperates with agriculture producers throughout this year's growing season.

Hopefully we'll see you at the upcoming SARM annual convention in Regina, and here's hoping you have a great year!





# How do we close the rural **BROADBAND GAP?**

**BY JENNY GERBASI** FCM PRESIDENT

**RURAL**, remote and northern Canada helps fuel our national economy and define our national character, but longstanding gaps in infrastructure and services, including modern telecommunications services, continue to limit smaller communities' potential to grow and prosper.

Broadband Internet access has become fundamental to modern life, and it has the power to transform rural and northern Canada. Reliable broadband attracts and supports the businesses that drive local and regional economies, and it helps schools take advantage of cutting-edge tools. It means quick access to information and services and the ability to work from anywhere.

Unfortunately, too many smaller communities are without broadband coverage, while others remain underserved by insufficient bandwidth and network capacity to meet user demand. The rural broadband gap is real.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) acknowledges that many of Saskatchewan's small, rural communities are underserved. Many communities north of Prince Albert, east of Humboldt, or southwest of Swift Current are particularly struggling with a lack of broadband infrastructure that significantly limits both economic growth and the quality of life for residents.

With the support of our rural members and provincial-territorial associations like SARM, FCM is continuing to advocate for more federal leadership to develop the telecommunications infrastructure that is so critical to the social, cultural and economic life of Canada's communities.

FCM brings a municipal voice to federal consultations on telecommunications services, like spectrum allocation and new federal broadband funding programs. In 2016, we welcomed the announcement that the new federal broadband program, Connect to Innovate, would invest up to \$500 million to bring high-speed Internet service to rural and remote communities.

We also participated actively in the CRTC's consultation on the definition of basic telecommunications. This led the CRTC to establish a universal service objective: *"Canadians – in rural and remote areas as well as in urban centres – should have access to voice services and broadband Internet access services on fixed and mobile wireless networks."*

These are important steps forward and a testament to the strength of our united municipal voice in Ottawa. But there is still much work to be done to ensure universal access to affordable broadband services in communities of all sizes.

Last December FCM submitted recommendations to the CRTC on its proposed application-based funding mechanism for basic broadband access. Once again, we highlighted the need to prioritize access to underserved areas and to align funding with other federal, provincial and territorial programs.

In November 2017, FCM presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology during their study of broadband connectivity. We reinforced the need for long-term, predictable funding to expand broadband Internet access in rural, northern and remote communities, and for consultation with local governments in developing funding programs and strategies.

FCM also urged the federal government to consider affordability in developing broadband infrastructure to ensure access for all Canadians, whether they live in large cities or rural, northern and remote communities.

When an emergency strikes, rural and remote areas need reliable technological infrastructure to communicate with a growing network of agencies, volunteers and Indigenous partners in real time. That's why rural leaders and emergency management professionals have been working closely with FCM and the federal government to secure affordable and reliable access to next-generation communications networks. This includes the timely deployment of the new Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) that was first announced in the 2015 federal budget. This will provide local first responders with access to critical communications tools and will benefit communities of all sizes from coast to coast.

SARM and its member municipalities can help advance broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas by advocating for the alignment of provincial and federal broadband funding programs. Closing the broadband gap requires long-term, predictable funding and collaboration from all orders of government. And, if Canada gets this right, we'll be equipping communities of all sizes with more of the tools they need to build a bright economic future with an exceptional quality of life.

*Jenny Gerbasi is the Deputy Mayor of Winnipeg and the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the national voice of local government, with nearly 2,000 members representing 90 per cent of Canadians.*





Views from the grand opening of the new office at 2301 Windsor Park Road in Regina.

# CUTTING THE RIBBON

## at SARM's new office

**BY JAY MEYER** SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IT had been three years since the land was purchased that our Board of Directors, staff and members were able to cut the ribbon on a project that would not have been possible without every stakeholder working together.

Three years of hard work, dedication and belief that, if we work together, we could develop a home that we could all enjoy for many years to come. Not only is it a home that we can grow together in as an organization, but also one that we can call our own.

The importance of a well-designed office building cannot be overstated. Most employees spend more time at the office

than they do at their own homes, which is why finding the right space and design is important.

On December 7, 2017 we celebrated the new office by hosting the grand opening. It was an opportunity to toast all of our supporters. The development of the new office would not have been feasible without our members. This new office is not just the SARM Board of Directors and staff's office, this office is our members' office. As a board and staff, we are simply fortunate enough to occupy this beautiful space and a new, invigorated atmosphere to work in on our members' behalf.

*I would like to thank our members for their investment and trust in us with the development of our new SARM home.*



Many decisions were made along the way in the development of the new office such as location, layout and design. I would like to thank our members for their investment and trust in us with the development of our new SARM home. Without the staff's patience and assistance in the project and the board's trust in the management team during the entire construction process, this project would not have been possible, so thank you! I am truly grateful to be a part of such an important project that will go a long way towards sustaining the exceptional SARM organization.



# SMART CITIES CHALLENGE

**BY KELSAY REIMER**

SARM ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

**INFRASTRUCTURE** Canada wants innovative solutions to economic, environment and social problems and has initiated the Smart Cities Challenge to help solve some of the country's biggest challenges.

Throughout our province's history, Saskatchewan people have created an amazing variety of devices – from kitchen gadgets to agricultural equipment. When a problem is identified, Saskatchewan inventors have designed solutions. With roughly 3,200 inventions patented, it is clear that innovation is an important part of our province's history. So when Infrastructure Canada released its Smart Cities Challenge, it seemed to me that Saskatchewan should be well positioned to take advantage of this challenge to apply collaboration, innovation and technology to solve a problem and better the lives of residents in rural Saskatchewan.

The Smart Cities Challenge is a competition open to all municipalities, local or regional governments, and Indigenous communities across Canada. The aim is to empower communities across the country to address local issues their residents face through new partnerships, using a smart cities approach.

A smart cities approach means achieving meaningful outcomes for residents using data and connected technology.

It has the potential to improve every aspect of community life: how people move around, how they are empowered and included in society, how they live an active and healthy life, how they feel safe and secure, and/or how they earn a good living. Communities understand best the most pressing, critical issues they face, and the Smart Cities Challenge allows a community to identify its own solution.

The challenge provides an opportunity for communities, big or small, to address an issue that is relevant in their community or region. And, the opportunity is wide open. The challenge could be related to addressing crime rates to empowering seniors to live independently at home to implementing preventative measures to reducing flood damage to encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle and decreasing chronic disease. The possibilities are endless. It is up to each community to think big and be bold in their statement.

There are three prize levels for communities: one prize of up to \$50 million, two prizes of up to \$10 million, and one prize of up to \$5 million. The \$5 million dollar prize is dedicated to communities with a population of 30,000 or less.

Applicants should begin the Smart Cities Challenge process by engaging with residents about the most pressing

*"If you want something new, you have to stop doing something old."*

*- Peter F. Drucker*

issues their community faces. It is an opportunity to partner with neighbouring communities, stakeholders and industry to work together. The consultations will help applicants define their Challenge Statements. With their Challenge Statements established, applicants will develop the ideas and activities that will make up their preliminary Smart Cities Challenge proposal.

Applications are due April 24, 2018, and a jury will select finalists by Summer 2018. Each of the finalists will receive a \$250,000 grant to develop their final proposal, which will outline all design, planning and project management components of their plans. The final proposals are due in Winter 2019, with the winners selected by Spring 2019.

The challenge may seem daunting, overwhelming, or even slightly out of reach, but with vision and a little elbow grease I am confident rural Saskatchewan can take advantage of this opportunity.

## LEAD FROM WITHIN

Are you a school trustee, or a member of town or RM council, a regional planning committee or a regional college? If so, you need the confidence, knowledge and understanding on how to govern your organization.

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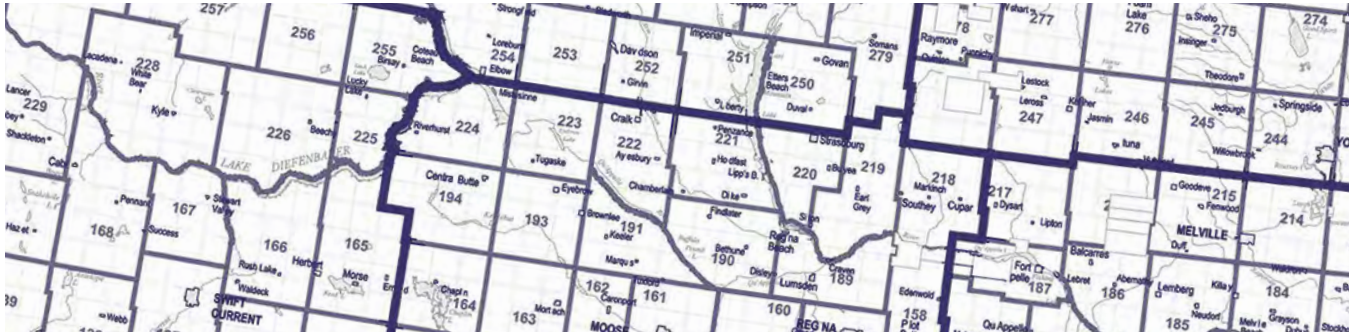




# The importance of mapping your municipality's INFRASTRUCTURE

**BY HEATHER KINDERMANN**

SARM COMMUNITY PLANNER/GIS MAPPING TECHNOLOGIST



## Mapping and Geospatial Technologies

The fall *Rural Councillor* planning article was an introduction to mapping and geospatial technologies. This article expands on the information on how mapping and geospatial technologies are a valuable tool for municipalities.

Growing and changing RMs need to know where and what they have for local infrastructure and services to identify where development can be serviced by existing infrastructure or where new infrastructure will need to be built. An efficient way to have an inventory of what type and where services exist is through maps. Maps provide a simple way to communicate large amounts of complex information.

## Why is Mapping Important?

### Informed Decision Making

Many municipalities already utilize maps when making decisions on development and planning. Considerations during the making of new subdivisions include, but are not limited to, road networks, road classes, and water and sewer services. Having a map that displays the capacity of services and

where roads, sewer, water, etc. exist will help a council make informed decisions on subdivisions and developments in a municipality.

### Attractive to Potential Developers

Municipalities who have clear development policies and who are able to inform potential developers up front of what infrastructure and services they have and what the developer will need to upgrade or construct creates an attractive development environment. Knowing in the initial conversations what will be expected of a developer to do business in a municipality allows them to make better business decisions and reduces the risk of the unknown.

Having detailed mapping of your infrastructure is a great tool for these initial conversations. A new development with an increase in vehicles may require a specific standard of road capable of accommodating the proposed volume of traffic. A new development may also require water and wastewater infrastructure. Knowing the location of existing road categories and services such as sewer and water lines can help a developer locate in proximity to existing services or identify the potential costs required to construct new infrastructure to service a proposed development.

## Other Considerations

Maps of current infrastructure can also assist with asset management as well as adapting the infrastructure to change. As an example, knowing where culverts are located and their sizes can help a municipality make decisions and plan for future drainage projects. Culverts and drainage networks may no longer be functioning as once intended due to changed drainage or an increase in water and speed of water flow that many RMs experienced over the last few years.

## The Different Forms of Mapping

As discussed in the last article, municipalities can take on mapping projects in many different forms. Some municipalities will be able to hire a private contractor to create the maps for them or even have a GIS platform to update maps on their own. Many RMs will have a physical base map of their municipality where infrastructure inventory can be drawn on as is needed. Whatever way works for your municipality, it is important to gather as much information on your current infrastructure as possible and keep your records updated. This will help council make informed decisions and be more prepared for potential developments.



# LEARNING

## benefits the council table

**BY SHEILA KEISIG**  
RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 1



*“Each day in your life,  
learn something new.”*

**THESE** are words I live by each day. Words, courtesy of my grandfather, who at the age of almost 98 years young, obviously has an immense wealth of knowledge! Words that he himself still lives by, finding something new to learn each day. When he says “learn something new,” it can be anything from a little-known fact or reading an article in a magazine. My Grandpa is so passionate about learning that he still snips out articles for us to read. I am not meaning to start your Master’s Degree or learn a new hobby immediately, but truly find a piece of knowledge that you can utilize to increase your potential in your livelihood, your home or around the council table.

Council members and administrators can sometimes get into a rut, where they have run out of the answers, hit a dull spot in the hum-drum of daily rural life or simply have become stale,

for lack of a better word. Peers and colleagues can do wonders to increase productivity around the office. Networking and sharing ideas is all part of learning; it might not be textbook material, but it is a learning tool nonetheless.

The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) provides various aspects of training for council members and administrators. The six program modules cover topics that are current and can be used in every day work life. The Municipal Leaders’ Roles and Responsibilities module provides an overview of municipal leadership for newly elected officials and is a great refresher for experienced members. Other modules include: Strategic and Financial Planning for Municipalities, Municipal Economic Development Fundamentals, Human Resources in the Municipal Workplace, Public Relations and



Communications for Municipalities, and Community and Land Use Planning. Any and all of these modules are key issues that RMs face each day. The courses and workshops are offered in locations around the province a few times throughout the year. With this program in place, the knowledge gained from learning relevant and current information is so important to governance at a local level.

South East College has also answered the need for training courses for current administrators and foremen. The Municipal Management Essentials program was developed to focus on fostering employee skills. The municipal world is constantly evolving, and employees must be adaptable in order to meet the needs of ratepayers and council. The program is divided into three streams: Administrative, Foreman and Safety. The courses cover aspects such as communication, accounting for non-accountants, problem solving, leadership and/or supervisory skills, just to name a few. These courses can also be taken by council members.

There are also opportunities to attend workshops held twice per year (hosted by

RMAA and UMAAS) that directly deal with an issue at hand. There have been election, assessment, wastewater and tax enforcement workshops. In partnership with Government Relations, the RMAA and UMAAS work closely to deliver an informative workshop that discusses current issues of the municipal world. Not only do these provide an opportunity for learning proper legislation and policies, but they're a chance to network with others and learn from them.

Certainly, we cannot forget the unlimited array of knowledge gained from SARM's conventions. The amount of planning that goes into these working conventions is under appreciated, yet so very useful. The workshops and presenters that SARM has secured over the last few years have been impressive. We have all taken something away from the mini-workshops, whether it be human resource related, procurement, or the up-and-coming asset management guidelines. Any of these workshops that SARM arranges allow local officials to gain knowledge and ask questions. We, the RMAA Executive, also provide similar workshops for administrators at

our annual conventions each May. We look for pressing issues to address and rely on SARM to assist in bringing this knowledge and learning opportunity to our members.

I can't stress enough how important networking is when it comes to working within local government. Talking to your neighboring RMs about challenges can sometimes open up a discussion on partnering to address the problem. Expanding your circle will expand your knowledge. We can learn from others' triumphs and challenges.

Next time you find yourself in a workshop that may or may not have any interest to you, always take one thing back to the council table with you. No matter what. I guarantee it will open up a new discussion that will offer up even more knowledge!

So, what did you learn today?

For more information on MLDP, contact Amy Roettger at 306.761.3732 or [mldp@sasktel.net](mailto:mldp@sasktel.net). For information on Southeast College, contact Jacquie Becker at 1.866.999.7372 or [jbecker@southeast-college.org](mailto:jbecker@southeast-college.org).



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Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

## in rural Saskatchewan

BY TERRY HOEVING SARM MREP MANAGER



**SARM** manages MREP funding. MREP funding is available to RMs through an application and ranking process to assist with the costs associated with maintaining and upgrading existing Clearing the Path (CTP) Corridors, Heavy Haul High Volume (HHHV) roads and repairing and/or replacing bridges and culverts.

MREP also provides incremental funding to approximately 6,660.90 kms of CTP Primary Weight Corridors. CTP Primary Weight Corridors contribute to enabling industry to effectively move their goods through the province and in some cases, keep heavy traffic off of the Provincial System, such as the Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) roads that are at the end of

their service life. The CTP map is updated regularly and available on SARM's website at: <https://sarm.ca/resources/maps>.

With the assistance of MREP, RMs can move forward in a timely manner with larger construction projects and innovative maintenance practices in response to the rapid development within the province.

RMs must publicly tender all construction projects as per the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

MREP's financial assistance is based on the estimate submitted by a qualified engineer.

The public tender process must also be fair and transparent to all bidders.



## Rural Municipal Road Map (RMRM) aka Grid Road Map

An extensive review and update was recently conducted on the former Grid Road Map, now known as the Rural Municipal Road Map. The review and update was conducted in consultation with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure to validate the communities and routes on the municipal road system. Copies of the RMRM are available for purchase through SARM.

### Got Gravel

SARM initiated the Got Gravel project in August 2015 to study the current state of aggregate resources in Saskatchewan and to develop strategies for RM sustainable gravel resource management. The elements of this report consist of a historical review of aggregate management and use, determining the current state of gravel in Saskatchewan, identifying legislation and policy which may limit an RMs ability to access affordable gravel resources, identifying best management practices which may be adopted into current gravel management programs to ensure efficient use of the resource, and

development of recommendations to steer towards long-term gravel reserves for RMs.

Gravel is an important non-renewable resource necessary for infrastructure construction and maintenance. Saskatchewan RMs are responsible for the construction and maintenance of approximately 162,000 kms of road. Average annual gravel requirements of RMs are 20,356 cubic yards. Approximately 90 percent of the gravel used in Saskatchewan is for the purpose of road construction and maintenance. Costs associated with maintaining, upgrading and building new roads comprise the largest part of an RM's budget. This road network is important infrastructure contributing to the economy and providing benefits to all of Saskatchewan's residents.

In September 2017, SARM contracted a consulting firm in partnership with an engineering firm to develop a municipal aggregate resource manual. To date the consulting firm has met with SARM's Planning, Engineering, and Legal teams to get input. Meetings have been conducted with external groups, including highways, government relations, agricul-

*Gravel is an important non-renewable resource necessary for infrastructure construction and maintenance. Saskatchewan RMs are responsible for the construction and maintenance of approximately 162,000 kms of road. Average annual gravel requirements of RMs are 20,356 cubic yards. Approximately 90 percent of the gravel used in Saskatchewan is for the purpose of road construction and maintenance.*

ture and private companies. RMs have also been surveyed and a discussion on gravel with a cross section of RMs (about 23 people present) was facilitated at the November 2017 Midterm Convention. The project is on target for and should be ready to present at the SARM Annual 2018 Convention to be held in Regina in March 2018.

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# all roads lead to **MARKET**

## **AGRICULTURE** and Saskatchewan roadway connections



**BY CRAIG SLATER** MARTIN CHARLTON COMMUNICATIONS

**TERRY** Fulmer knows that old gravel road better than the back of his hand.

The wheels on his 1977 pickup have travelled that 40-kilometre stretch from his farm in southwestern Saskatchewan to his favourite grain terminal more than he can count.

“That’s just one of the dozens of backroads I’ve used... and I can tell you in detail, right down to the colour of the stones on the shoulder of the road, about each road or highway in the south,” Fulmer insisted.

One would be a fool to doubt the now-82-year-old retired grain farmer. Those roads he referred to were his livelihood, his path to business success. He could paint a detailed picture of how each road had its certain bumps, grooves or soft shoulders.

“I have few loves in this world, but I would have to admit that the highways in this province are one of them,” he said. “We rely on those roads, regardless which one and regardless what kind of shape they’re in, to get our products to where they need to be.”

Fulmer credited his near 40-year farming success to Saskatchewan roads.

The unique relationship between Saskatchewan agriculture and its highways and infrastructure network has been a constant for nearly 100 years. Technological breakthroughs have changed the way both go about their business, though the underlying premise is the same – roads and highways support the agriculture industry in getting products to market.

Rural municipalities rely heavily on the highway system for services like health care and education. And, it has long been said that rural communities are the backbone to life in Saskatchewan.

“It’s a collaboration between a number of ministries,” noted Jonathan Greuel, Executive Director of policy in the Ministry of Agriculture. “When we’re talking about growth of business and competitiveness of our industry and

manufacturers and our processors, we’re involved with the Ministries of Highways, the Economy and Government Relations, too.

“There’s a lot of co-ordination and collaboration needed there,” he said. “Highways also works closely with tourism and health care. It’s a critical piece of infrastructure, it’s costly and there has to be that co-ordination across all of those ministries.”

While highways and rail lines are expensive and crucial pieces of infrastructure, agriculture has long been one of Saskatchewan’s most valuable assets.

Saskatchewan employs approximately 26,000 people who deal specifically with canola, according to *The Economic Impact of Canola on the Canadian Economy*.

Across the country, canola generates \$26.7 billion in economic benefits a year. Saskatchewan is the leader at \$12 billion. About 92,000 jobs and \$3.9 billion in wages can now be traced back to the canola grown, processed and handled in Saskatchewan, according to this report.

And, with close to 90 per cent of what we grow in Canada exported to international markets, there is a sustained expectation that products like canola, grain and lentils – all goods popular in Saskatchewan – will arrive at ports and be delivered in a timely fashion.

“The timeliness in getting exports to market is absolutely critical,” Greuel said, pointing to the backlog in Saskatchewan grain on the rail lines from a few years ago. “Exporters have made sales, have made commitments and they weren’t able to get that product to the coast. That failure to deliver on those expectations really hurt Canada’s reputation in international markets.

“These companies are like everyone else. They’re working on inventories and need the product in place.”

Saskatchewan is home to 510 grain elevators, not including seed cleaning and

feed mill facilities. For at least 20 years, Fulmer hauled his grain to a nearby terminal where he watched it transition into a rail car and head west, likely to Vancouver.

The province’s grain industry, with production starting at the farm level, is funneled from municipal roads to provincial highway networks to those elevators in various rural locations. Roads to these terminals require due care and attention to ensure an efficient route for heavy trucks hauling product to market.

“The only way to get our product to international buyers is by rail,” Greuel said. “We do have a lot of product that travels by truck into the U.S., but our grain handling and transportation system is designed to funnel that grain into the elevators and into the rail line as quickly as possible.”

It’s also the cheapest way, too.

Rural municipalities rely more on a solid network of roads and highways to shuttle their residents between Point A and Point B.

Whether it’s getting children to schools or patients to an appointment with a doctor, reliable roadways connecting towns and villages are vital to everyday life in rural Saskatchewan.

“When you live in the city like Regina, you come to expect that the major roads to drive every day are going to be in good working order, in good condition,” Fulmer explained. “And, if they aren’t, then there’s usually a little chaos with detours and that sort of thing.

“Well, imagine there only being one road in and out to get you where you needed to go, and your annual salary (as a farmer) is riding on that one road being drivable. That’s how much the rural folk need these good roads and highways. It’s vital... and I think (the government and the road builders) have done a good job in keeping everyone connected with roads.”

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

## of Municipal Infrastructure in a Changing World

### THE CRITICAL ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**THE** services provided by infrastructure assets owned by the various levels of government (i.e., roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, airports, etc.) are critical to providing the quality of life citizens enjoy and the productivity and competitiveness of local, regional, provincial and national economies. While the importance of infrastructure is generally recognized by citizens and the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government, providing and maintaining public infrastructure comes with many significant challenges.

### THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING CHALLENGE

One of these challenges is that there has been a very significant shift in the ownership and funding of infrastructure between the three levels of government without a corresponding shift in financial capacity. To illustrate, in the 1950's the federal government owned in the order of 44% of all public infrastructure, provincial governments 34%, and municipal governments 22%. Today, the federal government owns in the order of 12% of public infrastructure, provincial governments 36%, and municipal governments 52%. In short, there has been very significant "downloading" of infrastructure to municipal governments.

The real challenge comes from the fact that municipalities collect only in the order of 8% of every tax dollar. In our existing tax structure, the federal and provincial governments collect more than 90% of all taxes paid by Canadians. Senior levels of government benefit from sales, income and corporate taxes, which are responsive to economic growth. Local governments are increasingly dependent on property taxes, a regressive funding tool that is the least responsive to growth.

While transfer payments from the federal government to provincial governments increased throughout the 2000's, a corresponding increase in transfer payments from provincial governments to municipal governments has failed to materialize in a comparable manner.

The shift in responsibility, without a corresponding shift in the financial capacity, has created a structural imbalance between municipal governments and federal and provincial governments.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE BUILDING CANADA PLAN

Recognizing that a new approach to federal participation in funding for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure was needed, the federal government began to re-enter funding support for municipal infrastructure in the early 2000's with the introduction of the Building Canada Plan.

The 2007 Building Canada Plan divided funding between transfer payments and projects that were deemed of national significance. Municipalities across Canada received \$17.6 billion in predictable revenue over the course of seven years (2007-2014) derived from the Federal Gas Tax and GST rebates.

### 2014 NEW BUILDING CANADA FUND

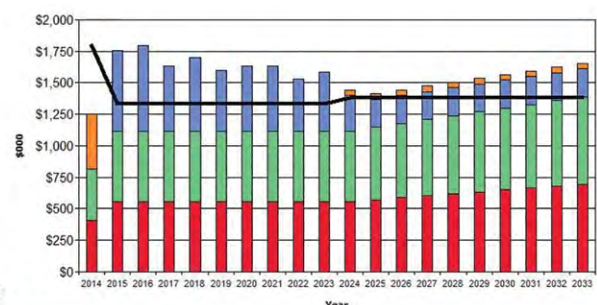
The federal government has continued to recognize the need for, and the benefits associated with, continued and increased investments in infrastructure with the 2014 New Building Canada Fund which designated \$10 billion for the period 2014 to April 1, 2018. The 2014 New Building Canada Fund focuses on supporting projects that enhance economic growth, job creation and productivity, and under this program, Saskatchewan was eligible for up to \$250 million in base funding plus \$186 million based on population for a total of \$436 million.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE MUNICIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (MAMP)

Recognizing the complexity of the challenges that municipalities face related to competing priorities and limited budgets when making infrastructure related decisions, the federal government initiated a new Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) in May 2017. This five-year \$50 million program is funded by Infrastructure Canada and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and it is designed

FIGURE 1.

#### Sample Operating and Capital Expenditures





to help municipalities make informed infrastructure decisions based on sound asset management practices.

### INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

Decisions related to operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing and upgrading infrastructure assets are among the most complex and challenging decisions that have to be made at the municipal level.

Infrastructure Asset Management processes that are consistent with International Standards (i.e. ISO 55000) provide a credible way to quantify and effectively communicate to all stakeholders, including all levels of government, the costs to maintain, operate, repair, rehabilitate and upgrade infrastructure owned by a municipality. As illustrated in the Figure below, Asset Management Plans that are consistent with ISO 55000, provide the “Big Picture” in easy to interpret graphs, and charts.

In short, embracing the “Asset Management Planning Process” can significantly help Canadian municipali-

ties make informed infrastructure decisions based on sound asset management practices by taking a “whole of life cycle” approach and delivering a basic “value for money” business case, so that the municipality can deliver the services that residents need and want, at a cost that they can afford.

### ASSET MANAGEMENT AWARENESS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Asset Management Saskatchewan (AM-SK), working together with SUMA and SARM, applied in June 2017 under the MAMP for funding and received \$155,000 to develop and deliver Asset Management Awareness and Training materials for Saskatchewan municipal elected officials and staff. This Awareness and Training initiative involves three components: a short video (8 minutes), one-hour webinars, and one-day workshops. You can view the 8-minute video and register for the webinars and workshops on the AM-SK website: [www.assetmanagementsk.ca](http://www.assetmanagementsk.ca).

## Webinars Schedule:

March 8, March 22, April 9, and April 23.

### Workshop Schedule and Locations:

- North Battleford, March 26
- Shellbrook, March 27
- Melfort, March 28
- Kindersley, April 5
- Swift Current, April 6
- Moose Jaw, April 12
- Balgonie, April 13
- Weyburn, April 19
- Moosomin, April 20
- Osler, April 25
- Humboldt, April, 26
- Wynyard, April 27

The webinars are one-hour long and free. The workshops are a full day and have a \$30 fee to cover two coffee breaks plus lunch.

For more information, visit AM-SK's website: [www.assetmanagementsk.ca](http://www.assetmanagementsk.ca) or email [info@assetmanagementsk.ca](mailto:info@assetmanagementsk.ca).

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# YOU CAN HELP

## *monitor for invasive mussels in Saskatchewan*

**MONITORING** is an important tool in the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS), including the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into Saskatchewan.

Invasive mussels pose a serious threat to our lakes and waterways and have been discovered in Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and 34 states, including Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota. These species can be impossible to eliminate if they become established in a waterbody, and they have the potential to severely impact aquatic habitats, fisheries, valuable recreational resources and water-related infrastructure.

Recently, the Government of Saskatchewan concluded its 2017 monitoring program and confirmed no findings of invasive mussels in the 90 waterbodies sampled throughout the province.

This was accomplished with help from other ministries, corporations, non-government organizations (NGOs) and public participation. Monitoring is done by one of three ways in the province.

The ministry's Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch, along with SaskPower, monitor for the larvae (veligers) of invasive mussels twice during the open water season when temperatures reach 12°C. More than 60 waters were sampled in 2017.

Another method is using environmental DNA to test for the presence of zebra mussels. This process, developed in partnership with the ministry, is a University of Saskatchewan-led surveillance program that sampled 33 waterbodies in 2017. In addition, ferries on the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers are checked for invasive mussels.

The main monitoring tool is the Saskatchewan Adult Invasive Mussel Monitoring (AIMM) Program, which relies heavily on partner and stakeholder participation.

"Monitoring for adult invasive mussels, including zebra and quagga mussels, is extremely important for early detection in the province," explained Ron Hlasny, an aquatic research specialist with the Ministry of Environment. "We all need



*(Above) mussels on a dock leg. (Right) zebra mussels decontaminated from a sailboat at Elbow Harbrow, SK.*

to do our part to stop the spread of these invasive mussels. AIMM is an easy to use, cost-effective monitoring program that is a valuable tool in the fight against these invasive species."

By establishing new partnerships with municipalities, community organizations, business groups, NGOs and even local residents, the province can greatly expand this early detection program.

"Knowing that there are no invasive mussels within a waterbody is just as important as notifying the TIP program if adult invasive mussels were found in a waterbody," Hlasny stated. "This provides us with better information of where and how to respond should a positive finding occur."

Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, SaskWater and a number of watershed groups and other volunteers participate in the AIMM Program.

This program includes three types of monitoring. The first is to look for invasive mussels attached to human-built structures such as docks, buoys, water intake pipes or anchors.

The second type of monitoring is a shoreline survey which would examine driftwood, rocks and other natural shoreline features for invasive mussels.

The final method is the use of AIS substrate samplers. These simple-to-make devices are placed in the water in June and checked monthly to see if invasive mussels are present.

A new reporting form has been developed to provide an easy-to-use tool that the public, NGOs and other agencies can use to record their monitoring efforts in Saskatchewan waterbodies.

The ministry is encouraging residents, cottage owners and municipalities to participate in the 2018 AIMM Program.

To learn how to participate in the AIMM Program, visit [biodiversity.sk.ca/invasives.htm](http://biodiversity.sk.ca/invasives.htm) or contact the Ministry of Environment at 1-800-567-4224 or via email at [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca).

In 2017, conservation officers completed 1,212 watercraft inspections and provided invasive species information to 872 watercraft owners who entered Saskatchewan from the United States. Of those 2,084 watercraft, 307 received a detailed inspection and 119 required decontamination. The ministry also purchased four decontamination trailers to bring its complement to six decontamination units for the province.

Information on aquatic invasive species can also be found in the *Saskatchewan Anglers' Guide* and at [saskatchewan.ca/fishing](http://saskatchewan.ca/fishing).



# SARM Q&A

## GETTING TO KNOW *SARM's board and staff*



LAUREL FELTON



CARMEN STERLING

### LAUREL

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Director of Programs and Operations
- Q** How long have you been with SARM?
- I started at SARM in April 2004 as a Policy Analyst, have changed roles over the years and now its been 12 fulfilling years.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- I grew up in Moose Jaw and now I live just outside Regina in Emerald Park in the RM of Edenwold.
- Q** Family?
- I have two children, Jillian age 11 and Jordan age 8. I also have a three-year old pup named Binou who is basically like a third child. My husband, Bryan, works for ISC and helps manage their IT security infrastructure and is our family's own "IT Guy" and fixes everything technology related.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about working at SARM?
- Helping RM administrators and councils find answers to questions or finding just that right person who can help them.

**Q** *If you were stranded on an island and could only bring three items with you what would they be?*

- Peanut butter, deck of cards, two-way radio with the number for the nearest Coast Guard.

- Q** If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (dead or alive) who would it be and why?
- I would love to have dinner with Jimmy Fallon from the *Tonight Show*. I absolutely love his sense of humor and I am sure he would have some very cool stories to share about all the famous people he has met over the years and in his time on *Saturday Night Live*.

### CARMEN

- Q** What is your role with SARM?
- Vice-President

**Q** *If you could have dinner with anyone in the world (dead or alive) who would it be and why?*

- My grandparents, both sets.... They passed away before I was smart enough to know all the things I was going to want to talk to them about as I grew up.

- Q** How long have you been a municipal elected official?
- 15 years
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- Born and raised in Division 1 - Esterhazy, Spy Hill, Rocanville and Moosomin
- Q** Family?
- Husband: Darren
  - Daughters: Shastidy, 23, Recreation Coordinator at Wascana Rehab in Regina; and Brooke, 19, Nursing Student in Medicine Hat and farmer in the summer.
- Q** What do you think about when you drive in for board meetings?
- What don't I think about!.... That is when I'm not singing Car Karaoke.... LOL

- Q** If you were stranded on an island and could only bring three things with you what would they be?
- Music, Budha's Blend tea and a good book.... I'm assuming I would have the survival skills to start a fire to boil the water and find food!

# JOIN NOW

and be part of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



**THE** Agricultural Health and Safety Network is 30 years old and stronger than ever. Be part of the Network now!

## Discover Network Membership

RMs enroll their active farm families in the Network, which immediately provides them with educational materials delivered to their door. Member RMs are provided with a library of Network DVDs to loan to their farm families to use. These include *Sleepless in Saskatchewan*, *Low Stress Cattle Handling*, and *Breathe Easy – Respiratory Safety*.

Member RMs are also entitled to receive workshops and health clinics upon request. Your RM can choose from a *Hearing Conservation Screening Clinic* or a *Respiratory Health Clinic* this year, while our workshop topics include:

- Stress and Agriculture;

- Aging Farmers;
- Making Sleep Work for You;
- Caring for the Caregiver; and
- The Farm Safety Plan.

You may also be interested in hosting an Agricultural Health and Safety Network Discovery Day in either your community or local school.

## Our Steering Committee

A provincial Steering Committee consisting of a RM representative from each SARM division and one representative from the Ministry of Agriculture directs Network programming for Saskatchewan farm families. They inform us of current issues of importance to producers and rural residents and inform our understanding of agricultural realities and what are reasonable and practical health and safety strategies for farm families across the province.

Several of our Steering Committee members are new this year. They are as follows:

- Division #1: Ken Aldous, RM of Willowdale No. 153
- Division #2: Robert Lax, RM of Pense No. 160
- Division #3: Floyd Thunstrom, RM of Coateau No. 25
- Division #4: Brenda Zemluk, RM of Elfros No. 307
- Division #5: Walter Kabaroff, RM of Blaine Lake No. 434
- Division #6: Bonnie Mills-Midgley, RM of Frenchman Butte No. 501
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture: Andre Bonneau.

If you are interested in booking a service or learning more about becoming a member of the Network, phone either (306) 966-6647 or (306) 966-6644.



invites SARM Delegates to  
be our guests at the  
**Registration Reception**



### SARM Convention

Evraz Place, Queensbury Convention Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan  
Tuesday, March 13, 2018  
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.





# Interdependence + Opportunities = GROWTH

BY VERONA THIBAUT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEDA



**INTERDEPENDENCE** is the basis of the Intersections for Growth Conference, to be held May 2-3, 2018 in Saskatoon.

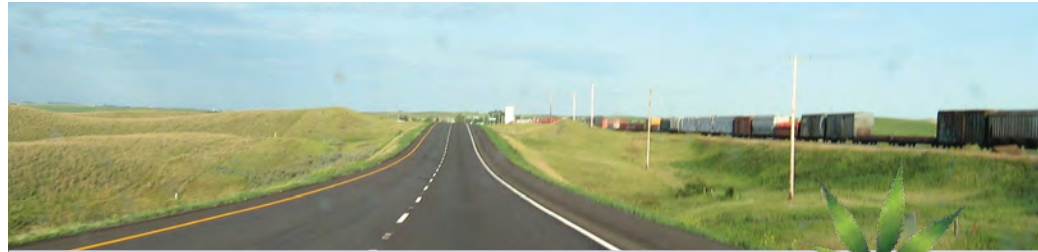
Co-hosted by the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association (SEDA) and the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN), the 2018 conference is an example of the interdependence existing within our rural, urban and First Nation communities. This subtle relationship supports the ongoing economy and policies at a local, regional and provincial level.

In a world of rapid change and innovation, we must be open to new and better ways of accomplishing our goals. During the May forum, we are presenting a number of opportunities (as well as challenges) facing rural communities today. We aim to inspire community leaders to be early adopters, capitalizing on the trends and opportunities ahead of the curve in order to maintain healthy vibrant municipalities and regions.

Some opportunities come with inherent challenges. The legalization of cannabis is an example and will be addressed by Adam Orens, founding partner of the Denver-based Marijuana Policy Group (MPG) LLC. MPG are the leaders in marijuana economics, finance and policy, and they are internationally recognized for their role in shaping regulated medical and recreational cannabis markets.

Adam will discuss how to mitigate community challenges and leverage business opportunities in Saskatchewan. Session time is being allocated for audience interaction on this important topic. Dr. John Vidmar of NGK Biologix will lead a second session on the sustainable production of cannabis as well as value added opportunities.

Gaps in rural and remote transportation is another action opportunity for communities. Elan Buan of Schollie Research will profile potential options for communities and/or businesses to fill the gap in inter-community trans-



in•ter•sec•tor | in,tersektor | noun

1. a space where government, business, and non-profit sectors share expertise, resources, and authority to address problems that cannot be solved by one sector alone.

portation. Dr. Barry Prentice of the I. H. Asper School of Business will discuss the potential for airships (no, it's not science fiction) in northern and remote Saskatchewan and the plans underway for a northern Canadian fleet.

Does the essential nature of who we are determine our future? A mini-workshop facilitated by Kristin Catherwood of Heritage Saskatchewan will show us how to harness our constantly evolving 'living heritage' to engage local residents and businesses in a vision and action plan for their future. Kristin's workshop supports the growing orientation to 'place making' on the prairies. Our culture is reflected in our public spaces, businesses and institutions. The growth in business improvement districts across the province supports this renewed attention. Presenters from the City of Prince Albert, Yorkton Business Improvement District and the City of Saskatoon will profile current initiatives, including outdoor visual art, integration of Indigenous culture and the mitigation of railway thoroughfares.

This year we invite delegates to bring their problems and challenges as we host our first ever 'community hackathon.' This highly interactive session will match problems from the audience with potential solutions from Saskatchewan tech entrepreneurs!

Over 25 sessions will be featured during the two-day event preceded by a preconference workshop on Disaster

Resilience and Recovery. Sadly, no community is immune to natural or manmade disasters. Emergency Planning must include preparing for the potential impacts of disruption on the local and regional economy. Without an economic recovery strategy, a disaster incident has the potential to cause a micro-recession, which could negatively affect your area for years.

Preparing for disruptions and planning for recovery can make a significant difference in offsetting detrimental side effects of an already unfortunate situation. This critical one-day workshop will be led by Dale Wheeldon of EDCD Consulting. Dale most recently led the economic response and recovery efforts in British Columbia during and following the 2017 wildfires.

Today, economic development recognizes that economic, environmental and social well-being are interdependent. It is a collaborative process between all levels of government, non-government organizations and local citizens that builds up the economic and social capacity of an area to preserve its' quality of life and ensure a sustainable future.

We invite you to join us in Saskatoon on May 2-3, 2018 as we work together to mitigate challenges and take advantage of our opportunities. View the full conference program and scheduled presenters at [www.intersectionsforgrowth.com](http://www.intersectionsforgrowth.com).

## Providing expert supports to **LOCAL DETACHMENTS**



**CANADIANS** are familiar with the RCMP Red Serge and the bison head crest. Your local RCMP detachment is staffed with a range of dedicated policing professionals – from a detachment commander, corporals and constables to detachment service assistants and beyond.

But what happens when a missing person investigation involves waterways? Or a critical incident requires specially trained members, like those on the RCMP Emergency Response Team or Major Crime Unit? We have RCMP experts who are ready to provide support to your local detachment members to keep you and your community safe.

In October 2017, when wildfires ravaged parts of south western Saskatchewan, 32 members of the RCMP's Tactical Troop supplemented local detachment strength and worked longer hours and extra shifts to ensure evacuated communities had police presence with 24/7 coverage.

We take the safety and security of Saskatchewan's residents very seriously – this includes ensuring we have trained

experts ready to deploy when required. Whether you live in a rural area, small town, hamlet or municipality is irrelevant – they are ready to deploy to assist.

### So who are these specialized supports?

Sometimes these experts are part of a dedicated full-time unit, strategically located and ready to deploy to all areas of the province. This includes members with special skillsets investigating child exploitation and abuse online, suspicious deaths, historical missing persons, the illegal trade of synthetic opioids and other drugs, securing Canada's borders and terrorist criminal activity. Other times the expertise is in addition to someone's regular duties and members respond as and when their unit is called upon for service. These skills may be required when conducting searches in remote, treed areas or bodies of water, ensuring community safety during large events or providing advanced medical care to members in serious policing environments. These units may also be a combination of both – having one or more full-time dedicated members

while the remaining roles are filled by members trained and serving throughout Saskatchewan.

### Being ready to respond...

In 2017, our Divisional Operational Communications Center answered more than 260,000 calls for police assistance. These calls ranged from 911 misdials or false alarms to serious incidents regarding personal safety. As required, these specialized supports may have provided assistance.

### Major Crime Unit

The Major Crime Unit is responsible for investigating new and historical homicides, attempted murders and suspicious deaths, missing persons and other serious matters that occur throughout Saskatchewan. They are consulted during sudden death investigations, work on previous year's open files and prepare for court proceedings when charges are laid. The two units are based in Regina and Saskatoon, and together they investigated 22 homicides in 2017.



### Police Dog Services

The responsibilities of police service dogs include locating lost persons, tracking criminals, searching for narcotics, explosives, human remains, crime scene evidence and lost property, hostage situations and police/community relations. Police Dog Services teams are located in Prince Albert, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Swift Current and Regina, and last year they attended 1,019 calls for service across the province.

### Forensic Identification Section (FIS)

Twenty-three FIS members process crime scenes based out of seven ready-to-deploy from locations: North Battleford, Prince Albert, Tisdale, Saskatoon, Yorkton, Regina and Swift Current. FIS assisted with crime scene and exhibit examination in more than 1,500 files in 2017, travelling more than 2,400 hours to locations across the province.

### Emergency Response, Underwater Recovery Team and Search and Rescue

The Emergency Response Team attended 44 calls for service in 2017, and the Underwater Recovery Team attended 18 dive operations to assist with

missing persons and evidence searches. The RCMP Search and Rescue team was deployed in 15 search and rescue incidents.

### Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU)

Many years ago, explosives may have been used at rural sites for tree stump removal or rock blasting. RCMP EDU attended 15 calls for assistance in relation to explosives finds and safe disposal in 2017. This doesn't include the 15 calls related to the disposal of ammunition seized during investigations or surrendered locally to detachments. EDU also assists detachments when a local bomb threat is received, providing a threat and risk assessment and assisting the investigative process.

### Civilian Experts – Crime Analysts

In addition to specially trained members, we have civilian experts in areas such as crime analysis, who gather intelligence and analyze data to identify and track trends and patterns, potentially leading to the identification of suspects.

In 2016, multiple thefts in rural Saskatchewan were linked to other incidents by our experienced analysts. Together

with Melville Detachment, they established a timeline of the potentially linked crimes and created a geographic profile to establish where the suspect was operating out of. Ultimately, they connected the suspect to a total of 33 other crimes which involved 19 thefts and/or break and enters, and over \$500,000 worth of stolen property was recovered.

### So what does this mean for me and my community?

These supports, among others, are available to assist at no additional cost to communities in Saskatchewan policed under an RCMP agreement. You may not always see or know when these experts are assisting detachments, but this article should provide some insight into the full scope of policing provided to the citizens of Saskatchewan by the RCMP.

Activating these support units likely means a serious incident has or is occurring, and these units frequently work in concert with local detachments. Police work is filled with responses to emergency situations, and we are prepared to deploy when these teams are needed most in order to keep Saskatchewan safe.

# YOU CAN HELP AND RECEIVE CASH REWARDS

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



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### Case:

On Friday, November 10th, 2017, Loon Lake Conservation Officers received a call on the TIP line of a Bald Eagle that had been shot 1.5 miles north of St. Walburg, Saskatchewan, on TWP Road 542. Conservation Officers investigated the scene and determined the eagle was shot on November 9th or 10th, 2017.

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

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

# rural councillor MEMBER NEWS



**RM OF ARLINGTON NO. 79  
CLIFF GILBERT  
IN MEMORIAM**

Cliff Gilbert, age 66 years, of Eastend died on November 4, 2017 at Eastend Wolf Willow Health Centre.

He was born at Eastend in 1951. He grew up at Southfork and attended Technical School in Moose Jaw to become a journeyman carpenter. He married Liane Nielsen in 1975, and they lived in Medicine Hat, AB for a couple of years before farming and ranching in Eastend.

He served as Councillor for Division 3 for the RM of Arlington from 1989-92 and from 2003-2009. He enjoyed being part of Duck's Unlimited. He also worked as a Pest Control Officer and Weed Inspector for surrounding RMs and was an adjuster for Municipal Hail Insurance. He loved the outdoors. His greatest joy was his family, and he took great pride in his four grandsons.



**RM OF FILLMORE NO. 96  
VICTOR JOHN RAY ELIAS  
IN MEMORIAM**

Victor John Ray "Mick" Elias was born in the Creelman District in 1940. He was the youngest of nine children born to Magnus and Margaret Elias. In 1966, he married Donna Kerr, and they raised three daughters. In 1957, Mick started farming in the Creelman District in the summer and spent winters at Alpine, California. In 1970, he and Donna de-

cided to get into the cattle business. They purchased purebred horned Herefords, and they have built up their herd since.

In January 1999 Mick became the Councillor for Division I, and he continued to serve his constituents until the fall of 2012. Mick was quite a character; he truly enjoyed his time on council, especially meeting new people at various conventions over the years.

On March 12, 2017, Mick passed away at the age of 76. He will be missed by all who knew him.



**RM OF PIAPOT NO. 111  
KEITH CASEY  
IN MEMORIAM**

Keith Henry Casey of Tompkins passed away in Maple Creek on June 26, 2017, at the age of 89 years. He leaves to cherish his memory one son Doug (Lisa) Casey; four grandchildren, Diana Dimmock, Laurel Dimmock (Bodhi Kimber), Matt Casey and Erin Casey; two great grandkids, Ryder and Tierney, and many nieces and nephews.

Keith was born in Tompkins and raised on the family farm where he spent his entire life. He married Marion Allan on July 8, 1952 and together they continued to farm and raise their family. He served as Councilor for the RM of Piapot for 18 years. He enjoyed square dancing, team roping and travelling.

**RM OF PIAPOT NO. 111  
KENNETH KLEIN  
IN MEMORIAM**

Kenneth Leroy Klein was born on Feb. 5, 1938 in Maple Creek. He was the youngest child of Jacob and Salma Klein. He had six sisters and four brothers. He lived on the farm during his early years. His father passed away in 1947 when

Ken was only nine years old. Salma remained on the farm until 1952 when she moved to Piapot with the two youngest children.



In 1963, Ken married Marie Goldie, and they raised a family of three children – Mavis, Calvin and Karen. In 1975 Ken and his family moved to Flaxcomb where Ken worked for a farmer named Gorden Jamieson. In 1976 Ken and the kids moved back to Piapot where he took a job at the RM of Piapot where he would work for the next 40 years.



**RM OF COULEE NO. 136  
ALEC GADER  
IN MEMORIAM**

Alexander Feisal Gader age 78 of Swift Current, and formerly of McMahon, passed away on November 2, 2017 at the Cypress Regional Hospital.

He was born on June 30, 1939 in McMahon. He married Lila Juma in 1961, and he was a farmer for over 50 years. He was involved with many boards and clubs, including the Telephone Board, Wheat Pool Committee, McMahon Co-op Board, the McMahon Ball Club, coaching the Wymark girls ball team, Chairman of McMahon Rail Retention Committee, Swift Current Hospital Board, Rural Crime Watch, 911 Large Board Member, Swift Current Curling Club Executive, Swift Current Health District Board and Councillor of the RM of Coulee from 1989-2004.



He worked with MLA, Reg Gross on different programs and helped him campaign in several elections. He trained with the Canadian Army as Militiaman in Rescue Operations. He enjoyed curling, fastball, golfing, fishing, snowmobiling and especially flying.



**RM OF BIG STICK NO. 141  
JERRY JAMES FREY  
IN MEMORIAM**

Jerry James Frey was born April 26, 1960 and passed away on September 28, 2017 in Maple Creek at the age of 57. He was a good, fair, kind man, a cattleman, counselor, card player, fisherman, and a man of humour, patience and fun. Family meant everything to him. He will be missed by many. He got involved with the surrounding communities which included being a Councillor for the RM of Big Stick since 2003, he was also appointed deputy reeve and served on many committees in that time.



**RM OF CHAPLIN NO. 164  
MICHAEL GERBRANDT  
IN MEMORIAM**

Michael John Henry Gerbrandt, aged 42 years of Moose Jaw, passed away in the San Javier Marina Hospital in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in February 2017.

He was born in 1974 in Herbert to Clarence and Terrill (Bauck) Gerbrandt.

Michael pursued his passion as a full-time farmer with his brother Dean as his partner. Together they farmed with their parents and continued to build their fourth generation family farm.

Although he had many successes and passions in his life, his family was the centre of his world. He was a confirmed member of the Chaplin Lutheran Church and was an active volunteer and member on several boards and clubs.

He served on the council of the RM of Chaplin from 2009-2017. He was

also a member of SARM, the Sask Party, Palliser Regional Park Board, Moose Jaw Kinsmen Club and other related committees. He was an avid hunter and loved to fish, ride snowmobiles, watch Roughrider games, play hockey and spend time with his buddies.

He will be forever remembered for his quick wit, pranks and sense of humour. He continuously lit up a room with his stories and brought happiness to everyone in his company.



**RM OF CLAYTON NO. 333  
OTTO (JACK) NICHOLAS  
JACQUEMART  
IN MEMORIAM**

Jack Jacquemart of Norquay passed away on September 13, 2017 at the age of 79. Jack was born December 16, 1937 on a farm near Meath Park to Otto and Mary (Inglehart). When Jack was seven years

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**Redhead** EQUIPMENT

**70  
YEARS**  
EST. 1948

old, the family moved to a farm northwest of Norquay. Before his marriage in 1963 to Marlene Heskin, Jack worked at a mine in Snow Lake, MB. Together, they raised their family of four children on a farm northwest of Norquay.

In the early years, Jack also worked in the bush and as a carpenter. With Marlene, he ran a mixed farming operation for a few years, then proceeded with strictly grain farming. Over the years, Jack also farmed with his son, Darin, and grandson, Andrew.

In 2015, Jack and Marlene retired to Norquay. He still made trips to the farm to cut grass, pick stones and help with harvest. He spent hours playing and coaching baseball, softball and hockey, as well as fishing, camping and curling.

For 18 years, he was a Councillor of Division 2 in the RM of Clayton. He volunteered on many committees, spending 13 years on the Norquay Co-op Board and serving on boards such as the Rural Development Corporation, Agriculture Development and Diversification, Alfalfa, Hospital and Lodge. He was also a Norquay Legion member. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.



**RM OF PREECEVILLE NO. 334  
NESTER TODOSICHUK  
IN MEMORIAM**

Nester Todosichuk of Endeavour District passed away on August 10, 2017. He was born in 1942 to Nellie and Metro.

In his younger years, he worked as a welder in a potash mine near Saskatoon. He moved to the farm near Endeavour in 1978. He served as a RM councillor from 1982-89 and 1995-2006. In the 1960's, he received his auctioneering license and became an accomplished auctioneer. He enjoyed being an auctioneer and being able to meet new people.

**RM OF BAYNE NO. 371  
LONNIE SOWA  
IN MEMORIAM**

It is with broken hearts that the family of Lonnie Sowa of Bruno announces his passing on August 23, 2017. He was 54

years old. He was born to Harry and Sonia (nee Yaginiski) in 1963 in Canora. He grew up on the family farm near Hyas. After high school, he held various jobs, including the SK Wheat Pool, where he worked for 10 years. He then attended the University of Regina, where he received a diploma in Local Government Authority. He began his office training at the RM of Foam Lake before accepting the administrator position at the RM of Bayne, where he served for 25 years.

Lonnie had many hobbies: camping, fishing and hunting were among the most popular. What he will be most remembered for is his passion for football, especially the SK Roughriders. He will be remembered by his wife of 21 years.



**RM OF EYE HILL NO. 382  
NORBERT LEIBEL  
IN MEMORIAM**

Norbert passed away on November 30, 2017 in Olds, AB at the age of 84. He

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**Redhead** EQUIPMENT

**70 YEARS**  
EST. 1948



was born on October 24, 1933 to Valentine and Anastasia Leibel of Denzil, SK. He was the eldest of 14 children.

After graduating from high school, he obtained his Teaching Certificate in Saskatoon. His first teaching position was at Gramlich School in St. Donatus, where he met, Elizabeth Brosinsky (Elsie); they were married on August 8, 1958.

He held various teaching positions until 1966, when they moved to the Leibel family farm at Denzil and raised their seven daughters. He was active in the community: curling, umping baseball, 4-H Club, Parish Council, School Board, Recreation Board, Knights of Columbus, and the Meridian Community Futures Board. He also served as Councillor for the RM of Eye Hill for 29 years. He sat on various boards on behalf of the RM, even after he left his position on council.

Norbert loved when the family all got together. He will be remembered for his low booming speaking and singing voice, gruff loveable nature and great big hugs!

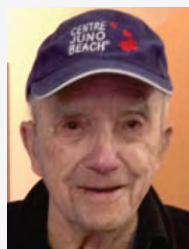


**RM OF MERVIN NO. 499  
ALLAN MACNAB  
IN MEMORIAM**

Allan Glen Macnab passed away in the Riverside Health Complex, Turtleford, on October 18, 2016 at the age of 84.

He was born in December 1931 to Gordon and Catherine Macnab, on the family farm east of Mervin, the youngest in a family of 11. He married Louise Morin in 1955, and they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015. Allan and Louise have six children, 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Allan led a full life of varied interests and hobbies. He loved farm life and enjoyed retirement. He served as Division 1 Councillor for the RM of Mervin from 1978-88. He was an enthusiastic sportsperson, and he loved watching his children and grandchildren play sports. He and Louise were both avid golfers. He enjoyed traveling, collecting antiques and woodworking. Most of all, he loved having his family and friends nearby.



**RM OF MERVIN NO. 499  
JACK MCMURPHY  
IN MEMORIAM**

Jack McMurphy passed away on November 12, 2017 at the Riverside Nursing Home in Turtleford, six weeks before his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was born in December 1919 at the homestead near Turtleford to Dugald and Olive Journey McMurphy.

Jack quit school at 14 to help his Dad farm. Doug was also a funeral director, and Jack helped with funerals until Doug sold out to Ripley and McCaw in 1948. In 1941, Jack joined the army; he trained in Canada for six months before shipping out to England. There he met Evelyn Curtis; they married in 1944 and had one child. They divorced after the war as she couldn't leave her family behind.

Jack returned to Canada to farm. He married Bernice Stewart in 1949. Along came Maxine, Margaret and Stewart. Bernice lost her battle with cancer in 1968. Jack then met and married Betty Mowery Nichol, and they had one daughter, Shelley. Betty brought three children with her from an earlier marriage: George, David and Laurie. Betty lost her battle with cancer in 1999.

To supplement his income, he worked as an auctioneer clerk, shipped livestock for the Pool, helped deliver coal around Turtleford, threshed, milked cows, custom hauled cattle, bartended, and took care of the local skating and curling rinks. While semi-retired, he took on guard duty with the Turtleford RCMP.

Jack served on several boards and belonged to organizations, such as the Co-op Board (over 30 years), Credit Union, Agricultural Society, TADRA, Councillor of the RM of Mervin from 1982-90, Library Board, Rural Telephone Board, Wheat Pool, secretary/treasurer for the curling rink (15 years) and The Royal Canadian Legion.

Jack led a busy and rewarding life. He enjoyed traveling and visiting with family. He never lost his sense of humour, his kindness, his appreciation of life and his mischief making.



**RM OF REDBURN NO. 130  
PETE WESTGARD  
RETIREMENT**

On December 1, 2017, grader operator Pete Westgard retired from his position after 29 years of service. At the annual Christmas party held on December 15, Reeve Ronald Hughes presented Pete with a plaque and a gift certificate. The council, administration and outside employees wish Pete a fun-filled, relaxing, great retirement, and we thank him for his 29 years of service to the RM. He will be truly missed.



**RM OF MERVIN NO. 499  
ALEX MCDONALD  
RETIREMENT**

A special presentation was made honoring retiring Councillor Alex McDonald on September 1, 2017.

Councillor Georgina Pilling presented Alex with a Public Service Award Certificate and an engraved clock on behalf of the council, staff and ratepayers. Alex served as Councillor for Division 4 from 1988-89 for the RM of Mervin, and following the amalgamation with the RM of Greenfield in 1990, he served as Councillor for Division 3 until October 2016 for the newly amalgamated RM of Mervin. He also served as Deputy Reeve from June to December 1990, 1991-92, 1999, and 2009-2016. We would like to thank Alex for his years of dedicated service and commitment to the ratepayers and congratulate him on his retirement.

# Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers

## MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER

**SASKATCHEWAN** Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization that combines the efforts of the public, media and police to assist in solving crimes in our communities. Founded in 1987, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is run by an all-volunteer Board of Directors who work with the RCMP to provide anonymous tips of criminal activity in Saskatchewan's RMs, cities, towns, villages and Indigenous communities.

Our first priority is the safety of our tipsters through ensuring anonymity; the second is promoting and operating the phone and online system required to collect as much detailed information as possible through anonymous means; the third is ensuring all information is quickly forwarded to law enforcement officials to assist in their investigations; and, finally, we coordinate payment for tips that result in an arrest or charge.

In exchange for tips, we pay out cash rewards of up to \$2,000 when an arrest or charge has been confirmed. The promotion and operation of Crime Stoppers would not be possible without the contributions from you, SUMA, SARM, and individual and corporate sponsors.

### Highlights from 2017

With your financial assistance and targeted promotion, calls were up 11% and tips up 7%. More importantly, the number of charges, arrests and cases cleared more than doubled from 2016.

Your contributions and Crime Stoppers is proving, through real results, to be part of the solution to solving crime in our communities.

Urban and rural crime was prominent in 2017 news headlines. Our team has increased collaboration with Rural Crime Watch, attended various community meetings, trade shows and pow-wows to increase awareness. We ensure the Crime Stoppers' anonymous tip system is promoted and leveraged as one of many tools to assist in arresting and charging those committing the crimes.

While our strategy focusses on spreading program awareness and education to all corners of the province, we also use crime statistics and web analytics for targeted initiatives based on the locations and types of crimes that are most prevalent. We are working to ensure the public knows that no tip is too small, and they can be assured that our system can handle more tips. Quality of tips is important, but sometimes one seemingly small observation of something out of the ordinary can be the missing piece required to solve a crime.

### Please continue to Support and Promote Crime Stoppers

We could not have done it without your help! Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is grateful for the support we receive from funding, media and community partners. It is through your support that

## Results in 2017

**Calls Received**  
8,968

**Tips Received**  
1,634

**Charges Laid**  
161

**Cases Cleared**  
95

**Arrests Made**  
47

**In Property Recovered**  
\$70,332

**In Drugs Seized**  
\$16,800

we are able to make this province safer... one anonymous tip, one arrest and one charge at a time.

Submit a tip: 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS); Text "TIP206" to CRIMES; or visit [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com).

For more information, call RCMP Police Co-ordinator Sgt. Rob Cozine at 639-625-3027.



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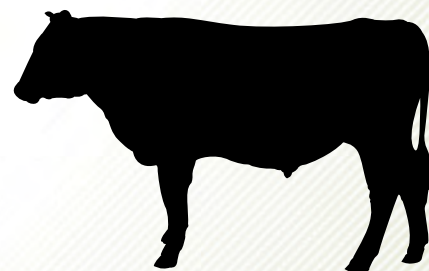




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