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RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 51 number 2

SUMMER 2018 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Thanks for the Memories; Tourism & Travel; Funding Recreation and Culture in RM No. 501; 2018 Agriculture Grants; SARM's Travelling Board; Supporting Rural Infrastructure; RCMP Town Halls; Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legislation; SK Golf Courses; Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence



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RURAL COUNCILLOR

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Views from Grotto Gardens, Maple Creek, SK

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OUR VISION

OUR MISSION

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

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



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE GENE MAKOWSKY
MINISTER OF PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT

AFTER a long, snowy winter, it looks like spring has finally arrived. Our provincial parks are welcoming back campers as regional parks are putting the flags out on golf courses and getting facilities ready for summer.

\$110 MILLION

Saskatchewan's total investment in parks capital facilities and infrastructure since 2007, including more than \$11 million planned for 2018-19.

On April 9, citizens and tourists began reserving camping sites in provincial parks for the 2018 season. The demand is so strong that reservations for specific parks are staggered over ten business days. Our camping reservation launch is now well-established and provides the opportunity for many to efficiently make their plans for getting outdoors and enjoying our beautiful summers.

We know how important the camping experience is to many people – whether they have memories of camping and fishing from their youth or are excited to sleep in a tent for the first time in Saskatchewan's great outdoors. Connecting to and exploring the diverse natural environment in our province contributes to the cherished quality of life we have here. To encourage new campers, Sask Parks has a series of "Learn to Camp" programs and a newly equipped camping program called Camp Easy. These programs encourage families, new Canadians and younger audiences to visit our parks.

Government is making the investment needed to maintain infrastructure and improve service in our parks. With planned capital program expenditures of over \$11 million for 2018-19, total investment in parks capital facilities and infrastructure since 2007 will reach \$110 million. Upcoming projects include upgrading or replacing service centres, campsite electrical expansion and upgrades, water and wastewater system upgrades, new and enhanced boat launches and much more.

I am very pleased at the cooperation between the government, communities, non-profits and businesses with the goal

of increasing regional tourism and benefiting from the resulting economic boost.

Recreation in all forms contributes to our quality of life. From May 8-10, the Government of Saskatchewan along with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association co-hosted Gathering Strength: Framework for Recreation in Canada Forum 2018 in Regina.

This conference welcomed recreation professionals, educators, academics, leaders, planners and students from across the country to build partnerships and share knowledge. The conference also gave us the opportunity to showcase what our beautiful province has to offer. The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to be able to promote recreation as essential for everyone's wellbeing.





TOURISM & TRAVEL

BY RAY ORB
SARM PRESIDENT



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GREETINGS to council members and administrators:

A recent media poll asked respondents to answer whether current high fuel prices would affect their summer plans, 67% answered yes, 33% answered no. That poll was done when gas prices were around the \$1.20/liter mark. It'll be interesting to see how summer travel plans are affected if prices near the \$1.40 mark later this spring.

According to Gas Buddy and other analysts, that may very well happen, and if you think prices will be high, then they might actually be the highest around August and September.

There are several reasons why fuel prices may continue to be abnormally high this spring, the best way is to list them in point form:

1. Demand is very high, and a big part of that is due to the resurgence in the US economy.
2. Crude oil prices are the highest since 2014, at US \$68/barrel for West Texas Intermediate crude. For every dollar/barrel that West Texas Intermediate crude rises, Canadian gas prices increase 1.2 cents/liter.

3. Refining capacity in the US and Canada is pretty much maxed out, and a new rule in the United States now allows US refiners to sell refined product anywhere in the world, which is further pushing up demand. Several refineries are currently shut down for normal spring shutdown and will be producing summer fuel, which they say is more expensive than winter fuel.

4. Lack of Canadian pipeline capacity already exists, and if the dispute between Alberta and British Columbia over the Kinder Morgan isn't rectified soon, Kinder Morgan will cease activities on expanding the pipeline.

5. A CP rail strike will cause more bottlenecks in the delivery of crude oil, which will put further upward pressure on fuel prices. (While we certainly hope this doesn't happen, a strike may be inevitable). At the same time, we assume the federal government will pass back to work legislation.

Continued high fuel prices due to higher demand may be partially offset by new production of diesel fuel, which recently began flowing from the new Sturgeon refinery near Redwater, AB, which is north east of Edmonton.

The new refinery is expected to ramp up capacity later this summer.

SARM was fully supportive of Energy East which would have connected eastern Canadian refineries to western Canadian crude oil production and resulted in a win-win for all of Canada in the sense that the pipeline would have reduced Canada's reliance on imported off-shore oil.

The expansion of the Kinder Morgan pipeline is also supported by SARM as its completion would do the same. The chances of the Kinder Morgan project

completion are also in limbo due to threats of lawsuits on behalf of the British Columbia government which may reach the Supreme Court of Canada.

If all of this wasn't enough, the threat of a federally imposed tax on carbon seems to top it all. Recently, the Saskatchewan government mounted a court challenge against the federal government. Calling the imposed tax unconstitutional, in the respect that Saskatchewan already has a made-in-Saskatchewan plan based on science that actually reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Saskatchewan is being unfairly singled out of the provinces in Canada.

SARM has always supported the province in the fight against a tax on carbon. We believe it will severely hurt the provincial economy, specifically the agriculture industry and rural municipalities, who are high users of fossil fuels, such as diesel fuel and gasoline. We believe that municipalities are already doing their part to reduce GHGs and so are farmers through zero-till farming practices, storing an amount of carbon in the prairie soil equivalent to taking nearly all of the cars in Saskatchewan off the road.

All that aside, the weather is finally starting to moderate, and it appears we've gone from winter directly to summer. Saskatchewan offers a lot in the way of tourism, and whether you enjoy traveling around the province or enjoy fishing or boating, Saskatchewan holds a lot of excitement in the abundance of its lakes and rivers.

You might also enjoy the many hiking trails, and you might even come across the Trans Canada trail which is now connected to both Alberta and Manitoba.

Enjoy the summer, and I hope to see you at the division meetings in June.

Safe travels.



IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Saskatchewan's Golf Courses

BY JAY MEYER SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HAVING the opportunity to grow up in southeastern Saskatchewan and spending many years in southwestern Saskatchewan, I have not only lived in, but also visited, many communities. Primarily driven by volunteers, recreation and tourism were the pulse of many communities.

Whether it is a gathering in the summer months at the local museum for the annual homecoming days, or in the winter months at the local recreational complex for the winter festival, recreation and tourism provide significant injections to the social economy.

When the weather warms up and the snow starts to melt in our province, conversations change to sunny mornings, seeding, and of course, golf. Saskatchewan has more than 200 golf courses ranging from 9-hole, 18-hole and 27-hole courses with sand and grass

green facilities. Many of these courses could compete with the top courses in the country. These courses have great views, open skies, forests and grasslands. You may even see the odd deer, muskrat, beaver or bird habitat.

It is not hard to gain a passion for the game of golf. I did at a young age, when my parents bought me my first set of golf clubs and a membership to the local golf course. This initial interest in golf led to a summer job at the White Bear Lake Golf Course. Golf provides a number of life-lessons and opportunities, such as comradery with friends and understanding the importance of discipline, honesty, respect and patience. Your local courses are places for fundraisers that give back to our communities. Without these facilities to host such fundraisers, many may go by the wayside. In addition, many courses

offer youth programs to keep our kids active, build confidence and explore new interests.

Local courses are facing growing pressure with respect to maintaining recreation and tourism services in local communities. Support is fundamental for the sustainability of these courses. I encourage you to pick up a club and support your local golf and country club. Many are driven by volunteers and supported by your local municipality. Besides adding to the social capital of your community, local courses also provide summer employment for students. Not only do you not have to travel far to visit a Saskatchewan golf course, but many are right in your own backyard. As a golfer might say, they are “only a nine iron away.”



thanks for the MEMORIES

BY MIKE WIRGES RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 2

I FEEL extremely fortunate to live in a province that offers so much tourism and recreation. Saskatchewan contains more than 70 regional, 38 provincial and two national parks, not to mention the hundreds of other attractions within several of our communities. Several life-times worth of memories await.

Saskatchewan is known both nationally and internationally for having some of the best vacation spots, which isn't hard to believe based on the number of out-of-province and out-of-country license plates we see while vacationing in our favourite local parks. That is no secret folks – Tourism Saskatchewan confirmed that over \$570 million was spent by non-resident visitors. However, it's not just our destination spots that make our province so popular with tourists, it's also our people. Many of our rural communities depend on tourism, and it isn't surprising that our local, national and international visitors keep coming back.

My spouse and I recall many nights huddling around the campfire at our favourite local park with our children. We would often gaze up at the vastness of space trying to determine if the lights in the sky were either shooting stars or satellites. While I can't remember every detail, I do recall the laughter at our kids' antics, some of the bad "dad jokes" and mom constantly "shushing" so not to wake the younger ones who were supposedly fast asleep.

The annual camping trip with our children is one of many joys I look forward to every year. Granted, there may have been a few incidents of arguing, a few tears caused by bike falls, hornet stings, fish hooks, playground incidents, etc., and I certainly can't forget about the odd child being "temporarily" lost. Despite the minor incidents, the good times certainly outweighed the bad and contributed to the endless memories we

will share and cherish throughout our lifetime.

Our camping adventures have evolved throughout the years. My wife and I purchased our first tent together. We took our children to as many local campgrounds as possible, including our own backyard. We made a habit of getting accustomed to camping life, and more importantly, getting our kids involved. The tent stayed with us as our family grew up to, and including, our fifth child. However, it soon occurred to me that squeezing seven people into a tent like sardines wasn't a viable long-term solution, especially as the kids grew faster than we could imagine.

In 2010, we moved up in the world by purchasing our first camping trailer. Moving from a 15 foot, 8-person tent to a 32 foot, 10-person trailer, appropriately named "the Beast," was the best camping decision we've made. I recall that on our first excursion, it was essential that I take advantage of every feature the trailer had to offer. However, my thoughts of bringing along the satellite dish were quickly quashed by my wife. She was right, we were camping and should be roughing it (really?). Kuddos to me for "sneaking

in" the X-box. After all, the kids had to be entertained, just in case it rained, and one can never be too safe!

In hindsight, packing was the easiest part. Driving a fully loaded trailer with a fully loaded truck barely able to pull the Beast, then trying to back into the campsite was a challenge I was not quite ready for. "I can reverse park anything-anywhere," I remember claiming. As it turned out, it was a very humbling but necessary experience. They say that a relationship is guaranteed to last if the couple can endure parking their first RV together. This. Is. So. True. Friendly tip – always book drive through, extra-large camping spots that don't involve using reverse gear or bruised egos. Your spouse (and your marriage) will thank you.

The stress slowly began to disappear once camp set-up was complete. Our thoughts then turned into spending some quality time together as a family without the distractions in life. Here we were, together as a family with nature attempting to form new memories and adventures. There was no shortage of activities. The countless hours of fishing, hiking, biking, swimming, horseback riding, golfing – not to mention the frequent stops at the

local ice cream shops – provided tons of entertainment. It was extremely difficult to determine where to begin, but as long as we were together, it didn't really matter what we chose to do.

Our family still manages to get out camping every year. My eldest has discovered a life of his own and was unable to join us this past year. Likewise, as my second oldest ventures off to university and working over the summer, they may also miss out on the annual camping trip. Now there are only four kids fighting for the best beds, as we pull the Beast from site to site. I predict that as our kids leave the nest and the years go on, our camping trips will be quieter. It will leave just my wife and I looking up at the endless sky and debating over whether it was a shooting star or a satellite passing overhead. I've heard it said that "The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been and the memories we've made along the way."

From a very satisfied customer, to our communities that continue to provide quality memories, I want to say "Thank You!"

It's the Law to Work Safely Around Natural Gas Pipelines

Whether you are a municipality, contractor, or landowner, planning general landscaping projects or major construction work such as road building, it is your responsibility to ensure you are not digging or encroaching on natural gas facilities.

Written permission from SaskEnergy may be required prior to proceeding with work.

Go to www.saskenergy.com/safety/planningyourproject for more information.



We deserve clean water.



Clean water

*As nature's water filters,
wetlands play a key role
in keeping our water clean.*

Protect wetlands.





New funding, new programs Agriculture Grants for 2018

BY LAUREL FELTN

SARM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

OVER the last five years, SARM was offered an opportunity to administer agriculture grant programs on behalf of the provincial and federal governments under the *Growing Forward 2* program. This funding program came to an end in March 2018, and it has been replaced by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program (CAP).

With the announcement of the Provincial Budget in April 2018, SARM was officially offered the opportunity to administer the same \$2.85 million/year in funding for an updated suite of agriculture programming called the Pest Biosecurity Program. It includes continued grants for the control of beavers, rats and invasive plants and adds the Plant Health Network (PHN) that will provide expertise and human resources to assist RMs with the management of clubroot as well as these other agriculture crop pests.

The Pest Biosecurity Program is made up of four programs:

PLANT HEALTH NETWORK (CAP-PHN) - \$715,000 - FULLY FUNDED THROUGH CAP

The purpose of the Plant Health Network (CAP-PHN) is to establish human resources in each of SARM's six divisions to provide direct support, education and training to RMs and their municipally appointed officers, as well as FNBs, on how best to manage the agricultural crop pests and prohibited and noxious weeds that all landowners are required to manage under *The Pest Control Act* and *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan.

Each SARM Division will employ a full-time plant health officer (PHO) who will develop, promote and implement best practices within their division to proactively identify, monitor and assist in the control of invasive/emerging threats to plant biosecurity in agriculture with the goal of developing more comprehensive and uniform control strategies across the province.

PHOs will focus on educating RMs and FNBs on how to best undertake their powers and responsibilities in accordance with Saskatchewan legislation respecting pest control and weed control. They will also provide education, training and support to appointed pest control officers (PCOs) and weed inspectors (WIs), and under the guidance of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA), surveying and reporting on agricultural crop pest and prohibited/noxious weed occurrences.

BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM (CAP-BCP) - 50:50 COST SHARE FUNDING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$450,000

The program's focus is on the humane removal of nuisance beavers in RMs and FNBs identified as those with the highest nuisance beaver populations at highest risk to agricultural development (*based on GF2-Beaver Control Program claims in the last two consecutive years*).

Program funding is evenly distributed among designation RMs and FNBs at the beginning of the program year, who will be notified via email or fax.



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. Thank you for your feedback on our service delivery.

Property reinspections are currently beginning or already underway in more than 25 RMs. SAMA is also in the process of automating the distribution of change of ownership data to municipalities, which will begin in June. Check your email for more information.

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.



The program will rebate:

- Up to \$15 per adult nuisance beaver removed by licensed trappers within the designated RMs and FNBs (based on a 50:50 cost-share of \$30 payment per tail);
 - Up to \$500 for pond leveler materials and installation (with verified invoices); and
 - Up to \$500 for beaver deceiver materials and installation (with verified invoices).
- Program deadline is February 15, 2019.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM (CAP-IPCP) - 50:50 COST SHARE FUNDING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$500,000

The program's focus is on early detection rapid response and is available to RMs, FNBs and other stakeholders defined in the program guidelines, and it will rebate:

- For all weeds designated as Prohibited Weeds under *The Weed Control Act*:
 - 50% of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides; and
 - 50% of the cost of application of those pre-approved eligible herbicides.
- For Noxious Weeds approved under the current program (absinthe, field bindweed, common burdock, bladder campion, ox-eye daisy, black henbane, hoary cress, hoary alyssum, leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, yellow toadflax, common tansy and wild parsnip):
 - Up to 50% of the cost of pre-approved eligible herbicides.
 - Weed management plans and weed inspector appointments are due July 2, 2018.
 - Rebates based on a pro-rate formula, and the program deadline is October 31, 2018.

RAT CONTROL PROGRAM (CAP-RCP) - 50:50 COST SHARE FUNDING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$900,000

The new rat control program builds on the success of PREP that came to a completion with the end of GF2 funding.

The new program will provide up to a 50:50 cost-share payment to RMs and FNBs that are active in their rat control efforts and who follow the minimum level of service determined by the 2018-19 CAP-RCP. The program is designed to assist RMs and FNBs by providing the following support:

- based on a pro-rate formula, rebates of up to 50% of approved expenses;
- contracted services of a PCO provincial coordinator and six (6) PCO supervisors; one located in each of SARM's six divisions, to advise and assist with technical support.
- Rebates based on a pro-rate formula for claims received.
- Program deadline is November 30, 2018.

For guidelines, claim forms and more information on the programs under the Pest Biosecurity Program, visit SARM's website: www.sarm.ca under Administered Programs.

SARM is hopeful that this programming will provide the assistance RMs need to proactively manage these agricultural crop pests. Resolutions passed by SARM members continued to ask for more support. SARM will continue to work with the province to monitor the effectiveness of these programs as they are introduced in 2018.

For more information on SARM's programs and services, visit **www.sarm.ca**.



FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE: through SARM's travelling July board meeting

BY KELSAY REIMER

SARM ACTING DIRECTOR POLICY AND RESEARCH



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SASKATCHEWAN is home to 296 rural municipalities and a vast variety of things to see and learn. Nobody knows this better than SARM who takes their board meeting on the road every July to tour rural areas of the province. It allows SARM to meet with RM councils in the area, and it allows the board and staff to experience some of the challenges and opportunities that exist in rural Saskatchewan.

SARM organizes its members into six divisions: Division 1 - South East, Division 2 - South Central, Division 3 - South West, Division 4 - North East, Division 5 - North Central, and Division 6 - North West. Annually, SARM's Board hosts its July board meeting alternating across the divisions.

In the past, SARM has been to the Shaunavon area, toured Crescent Point Energy's oil loading facility at Dollard, the Honey Bee Manufacturing plant in Frontier, the Southwest Waste Management Authority site, and the Ranch House Meat Company.

The SARM Board has travelled to Prince Albert and met with council members from the RM of Prince Albert, RM of Buckland, RM of Pad-

dookwood, and the District of Lakeland and toured the RMs of PA, Buckland and District of Lakeland.

They have also been to Tisdale to meet with council members from local RMs and tour bridge projects and spent time in Hudson Bay touring the Weyerhaeuser oriented strand board plant.

The board has travelled to Estevan and toured flooding in the surrounding RMs and experienced an energy tour at the mine and power plant. They have been to the Moose Jaw region and toured a potato farm, the Palliser Regional Park, as well as the Riverhurst Ferry tour. SARM has seen Meadow Lake - toured the Meadow Lake OSB, the Co-op Fertilizer Plant, Alcott Crossing, and a waste management site.

SARM travelled to the northwest part of the province at the invitation of the Northwest Heavy Oil group of municipalities, which included a road tour of the heavy oil area of the province.

Last year was my first year as part of the travelling July board meeting, and we joined a group of RMs alongside the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association and the Water Security

Agency in the Yorkton region to tour drainage issues.

These are just a sampling of the places that SARM has visited as part of the travelling board meeting. Board members, as individual directors, also attend a variety of meetings, consultations and events across the province.

Taking the July board meeting on the road is a way for the board to meet with membership to see and discuss the opportunities and challenges in the provinces specific to each region of RMs. It gives SARM insight and perspective on the issues in rural Saskatchewan, so that when we meet with provincial and federal governments we have perspective and a collection of pictures and memories to recall and share.

From grasslands to forests, lakes to living skies, the rich tapestry of our province is a reflection of the diverse leaders across rural Saskatchewan. SARM will continue its journeys into rural Saskatchewan meeting with RMs to work in tandem to advance issues for our members.

Get recognized for going the extra mile in your municipality!

Award-winning municipalities will be celebrated at the SARM midterm convention in November 2018, and the SUMA convention in February 2019.

Nominations for the 12th Annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards close
Friday, September 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Why should we apply?

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

What types of projects receive awards?

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

Thank you to our returning title sponsor:

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Who can apply?

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

How can I apply?

- ✦ Nominations open **Wednesday, June 6, 2018.**
- ✦ Visit www.municipalawards.ca to get full details and a nomination form.
- ✦ Deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 7, 2018.**



DITCH MOWING AND HAY SALVAGE

KEY DATE:
July 8

PRODUCERS will be able to take advantage of free hay in Saskatchewan's provincial highway ditches.

Hay can be salvaged any time during the spring or summer months. Before July 8, landowners or lessees nearest/adjacent to the ditch have the first option to cut or bale material, but after that day anyone can cut and bale without permission from the property-owner, as long as no salvage operations have already begun.

Hay must be cut at a uniform height in ditches and bales must be placed at least eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. Farmers may salvage hay anytime during the spring or summer months. Landowners or lessees nearest/adjacent to the highway ditch have the first option to cut or bale this material unless the mowing contractor has begun salvage. Bales must be removed by Aug. 8 and hay bales will be removed in locations deemed dangerous for motorists.

The Government of Saskatchewan hires contractors to mow a four-metre-wide swath along the highway shoulders. Mowing may also be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

KEY DATES

- **JUNE 7 - JULY 15:** Mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut adjacent to the road. Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, along with portions of Highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. Some highway intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.
- **JULY 8:** Prior to this date, a landowner or lessee nearest to a highway ditch has the first option to cut or bale hay. After this date, anyone may cut and bale hay or grass in a highway ditch without getting the permission of the adjacent landowner.
- **JULY 15 - OCTOBER 15:** Contractors begin mowing the width of ditches along all four-lane highways. All other highways get a four-metre cut adjacent to the highway shoulder.
- **AUGUST 8:** All hay bales must be removed from ditches or they will be removed.

The hay salvage and mowing program provides:

- free hay to farmers
- a neat appearance
- improved visibility
- better control of brush and noxious weed growth
- adequate snow storage in ditches during the winter months

DITCH MOWING

The Ministry is working on its annual early mowing program along high traffic highways, which begins June 7 and will continue until July 15. Contractors cut a four-metre wide swath along shoulders adjacent to Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, along with portions of Highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. During this time, mowing may be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

Regular ditch mowing will occur along all four-lane highways between July 15 and the fall months. A four-metre-wide strip will be mowed adjacent to the other highways with additional mowing as required to ensure visibility and weed control. Progress is weather dependent.



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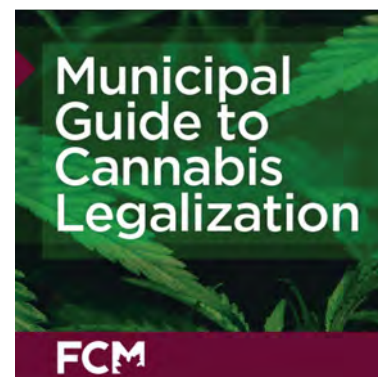
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NEW TOOL: Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization

BY JENNY GERBASI FCM PRESIDENT



PEOPLE in Saskatchewan are used to getting in their cars and driving to the grocery store, to work or to their children's schools. They spend a lot of time on the road, and they worry about whether drivers may be impaired, putting them in danger. With cannabis set to become legal in the summer of 2018, the issue of how communities can promote road safety and prevent irresponsible consumption is front-and-centre.

Enforcing rules around cannabis impaired driving is not strictly a municipal responsibility, but it speaks to some of the challenges that rural communities are about to face. With spread-out populations and small budgets, many small towns will have to make their tax dollars stretch even further in the coming months and years.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is working to ensure all municipalities, including rural communities, have the financial resources – as well as the tools and knowledge – to ensure cannabis legalization is implemented safely and sustainably.

Municipal governments are the first place people turn to when they have problems on their street. That's why the FCM, in partnership with provincial and territorial associations like SARM, produced the *Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization*. The guide helps describe the tremendous scope of work ahead for local governments and offers some direction on how to implement that work.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE FRONTLINES

Keeping people safe and well-served in a world of legalized cannabis will be a big job. There are bylaws to amend, processes to adapt and capacity to build in areas ranging from land use management to business licensing and regulating public consumption.

Take zoning and land use management, which the general public might not recognize applies to cannabis legalization. People are concerned about whether cannabis cultivation and retail facilities will pose dangers or cause odours and nuisances near their homes and communities. Tools like zoning regulations will help mitigate these potential conflicts.

Another example is retail facilities. These will influence the social and economic character of neighbourhoods, and residents have concerns about proximity to parks and schools. Municipalities can work with provinces and territories to influence where cannabis is sold.

Another issue that falls under land use is a tricky one: home cultivation. The federal government has already had difficulty limiting the number of cannabis plants grown in people's homes for medical purposes. When residents are allowed to grow non-medical cannabis at home, local governments will have to decide when and how often to regulate and enforce related bylaws. Our guide offers policy and bylaw options for local communities to consider.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

One municipal tool that can help protect public health and safety is business regulation. For example, local governments can use business licensing to protect youth and restrict their access to cannabis, to deter illicit activities and to mitigate public nuisances. The challenge will be for municipalities to strike an effective balance between empowering legal cannabis businesses to operate and addressing legitimate community concerns.

When it comes to protecting people from inhaling second-hand cannabis smoke, Saskatchewan has signalled that it will ban cannabis consumption in most

public places. Existing bylaws regulating tobacco and alcohol consumption could offer a starting point for developing a strategy that reflects local priorities.

ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS

When we talk to our municipal members, the issue of enforcement is one that they keep coming back to. While the RCMP and local police forces are responsible for enforcing federal law on controlled substances, municipalities must develop bylaws to address community impacts. Bylaw services will need to work with local police to deal with issues arising from cannabis consumption and production – everything from odours to smoking near schools to nuisance complaints.

In designing new bylaws and tools, municipalities must carefully weigh how practical they will be to enforce, and how well they can align with the work of police services.

As you forge ahead locally, SARM and FCM will continue to advocate at the provincial and federal levels for deeper engagement with municipalities. Local governments also need new financial tools, and we're making progress on accessing a fair share of cannabis excise tax revenues. While local policing is largely outside the scope of this guide, its costs are inside the scope of many municipal budgets. Those costs, along with the new administrative costs you will face, need to be sustainable.

This work and the *Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization* are designed to help you do what you do best: protect and strengthen your communities as durably as possible.

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



SUPPORTING rural community infrastructure

BY TJ HARVEY MP FOR TOBIQUE-MACTAQUAC

INVESTMENT in rural community infrastructure is essential to the health and wellbeing of our residents. It plays a vital role in bringing us together and maintaining our strong communities.

Community recreation centres (parks, community complexes and multi-use facilities) act as community connectors and contribute largely to community development. They are a place used for a multitude of purposes: community celebrations, clubs to meet and volunteer activities to take place, to house public community meetings, to celebrate our local history, refuge in the event of community tragedy and a place that ultimately provides residents with a better quality of life. For these reasons and others, the opportunity of any new community infrastructure poses a significant and positive impact on our surrounding region as a whole.

INVESTMENT IN
rural community infrastructure is essential to the health and wellbeing of our residents. It plays a vital role in bringing us together and maintaining our strong communities.

Within Saskatchewan, although you have many municipalities each with their own identity, you also make up a regional area, which includes your neighbouring towns and villages, each having various types of social infrastructure – arenas, outdoor pools, tennis courts, dance studios, gymnastics facilities, tractor pull sites, parks, walking trails, curling facilities or indoor tracks to name a few. Not every municipality “has it all” nor do they need to. As a region, there are a great deal of activities to offer because of the recreational infrastructure in place and the plans to develop additional infrastructure to meet the needs of the population, interests of individuals, groups and the demographics of the area.

Through existing and proposed infrastructure there is opportunity to benefit, through tourism and bringing events and people to your area, drawing folks from surrounding communities, and generating activity for small businesses, restaurants, hotels and retail stores. It’s important to work hard to ensure people of all ages in surrounding communities are aware of the multitude of programs offered at community centres. It’s im-

portant to ensure that new spaces are affordable and accessible to the greater public and meet the need of the population in and around those areas. Parks and recreation programs provide places for health and well-being that are accessible by persons of all ages and abilities, including those with a disability and seniors. Ensuring we build visitable spaces in our communities to be beneficial for all.

When I think about growing up in a rural municipality, my memories of forming friendships and meeting others, building my social support network and getting involved in community initiatives or participating in a game or activity, are centred around the places those activities took place – community centres.

Recreation facilities impact a community in many beneficial ways and contribute to lifelong health and well-being of the residents, they help to reduce stress, reduce crime rates with youth, and provide a place for families to spend leisure time together. These days, when I drive my kids to their sports and activities, they are experiencing the same thing, they are building their social network, making friendships and maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle. The difference that I see between myself and my children is that, over time, our communities have collaborated and begun to share resources. We’ve adjusted our mindset slightly, and rather than participating in one activity at the same location each week, we use multiple facilities in our surrounding area. When it comes to recreation in rural areas, it’s important to note that facilities in a specific location are not just there to benefit the people of the community the facility is in, but people living in the greater community and outlying areas as well. I recognize the significance of this, and it contributes to the idea that by using facilities in our neighbouring communities and supporting them in their efforts to build new infrastructure, we grow as a region, become a stronger, larger community and stimulate the economy.

Our government knows that the rural infrastructure investment is vitally important to communities. I commend the dedicated volunteers involved in driving those agendas for all their hard work. Rural community infrastructure, whether it be a park, community centre or multiuse facility, is a core part of the fabric of community and any new social recreation infrastructure is good.

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species



zebra mussels

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT

Aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels and quagga mussels pose a serious threat to our waters and fish resources.

Whether returning home from out of province, coming to visit or moving between waters within the province make sure to:

CLEAN

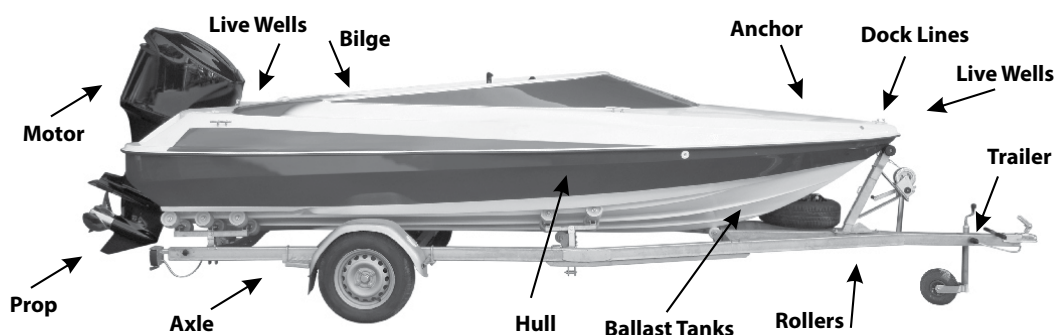
and inspect watercraft and gear. Remove all visible plants, animals and mud. Rinse using high pressure, hot tap water 50°C (120°F).

DRAIN

all onboard water from watercraft including the motor, livewell, bilge and bait buckets and leave plugs out during transport and storage.

DRY

your watercraft and all related gear for at least five days in the hot sun if rinsing is not available. Dispose of unwanted leeches, crayfish and worms in the trash and dump bait bucket water on land.



**To report suspect invasive species, please contact the nearest
Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP Line.**

saskatchewan.ca/environment | Call #5555 SaskTel Cell or 1-800-667-7561



CHECK US OUT THIS SUMMER:

Public libraries are for everyone!

BY JEAN MCKENDRY DIRECTOR, CHINOOK REGIONAL LIBRARY

RESIDENTS across Saskatchewan have equitable access to an integrated network of public library services which are paid for in part by the provincial Ministry of Education's Public Libraries and Literacy Office, or PLLO, as well as by the rural municipalities, cities, towns and villages. The Saskatchewan Integrated Library Services, or SILS, is the online network that seamlessly integrates all the regional and municipal libraries together.

Seven regional library systems serve the southern half of the province, including Chinook, Palliser and Southeast in the south, while the Wheatland, Lakeland, Parkland and Wapiti library regions are located in the middle of the province, and the northern half of the province has one big library region called Pahnkisiimon Nuyeh?áh, or PNLS for short. The major cities of Regina and Saskatoon have the largest municipal library systems, and this spring, after 68 years, the City of Prince Albert left the Wapiti Regional Library System to become the third municipal library system in Saskatchewan.

Public library services are available online as well as in person at 315 public library branches throughout the province. With a valid Saskatchewan library card and LIBBY, the new app for Saskatchewan libraries, people anywhere in Saskatchewan can download e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers from 125 countries around the world and in more than 60 languages, as well as place holds on print books, DVDs, video games and other materials and choose which public library branch they would like to pick up their requested items. In other words, it is as convenient now to use online public library and digital media services as it is to use traditional in-branch public library services.

Innovative programs and services are offered for people of all ages and abilities in public libraries throughout the province. For very young children, there are baby and toddler storytimes, and for older children, in some libraries in Saskatchewan, there are special times

when a very well behaved miniature donkey called Shimmer and a delightful little black-haired terrier dog come right into the library in Swift Current because they like to have stories read to them, especially by children who are learning to read!

Children's librarians like to perform seasonal puppet shows, and throughout the summer, the TD Summer Reading Club encourages children of all ages to read or be read to over the summer holidays. Research shows that the more children read over the summer, the better they do when they start school again in the fall. It's never too soon to learn to read or to become a better reader. Stock up on lots of children's summer reading materials at local libraries throughout the province, and when you are finished reading them, they can be returned at any library in the province.

For older children there are Maker-space activities at many public libraries, which includes LEGO robotics, Stop Motion Animation, Little Bits, K'NEX, Meccano and other assembly kits like Snap Circuits, as well as Sphero programmable robots, and digital musical instruments, 3-D printing and Arduino classes to introduce people of all ages to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Music, or STEAM for short.

For adults there are book clubs, craft sessions, card games, genealogy databases like Ancestry, and guest speakers who show documentary films they have created or give thought provoking talks on their award-winning, best-selling books. Public libraries also support Saskatchewan writers.

Many public libraries have regularly scheduled outreach services and deliver requested books to people who enjoy reading but reside in nursing homes. Outreach services also help people download e-books onto mobile devices. An e-reader device is perfect for someone who prefers reading large print but can't hold a heavy book.

Public libraries also provide library materials in non-print formats. People with

visual impairments can order library materials in e-braille or other preferred formats. There are easy-to-operate handheld wireless devices about the same size as a TV remote control called Victor Reader Stream (new generation) that supports various media formats, including DAISY books, MP3, MP4 and records voice and media with a built in microphone. These new devices cost \$420 CDN from <http://store.humanware.com/hca/> and are available in English and French as well as many European languages. Humanware is a Canadian company based in Drummondville, Quebec, and their toll free number is 1 888 723-7273. *Please note, this is not an endorsement by any library in Saskatchewan for Humanware products or services.*

Saskatchewan has a strong and vibrant integrated network of public libraries, and we are thankful for all the funding and support that we receive from the communities that we serve. Public libraries are inclusive and welcoming public spaces, and they are often described as the people's university, the living rooms of a community and the social hubs of a community. Public libraries add social value to a community's quality of life.

To learn more about public libraries in Saskatchewan, here are the individual websites of the regional libraries:

Chinook: <https://chinooklibrary.ca>

Lakeland: <https://lakelandlibrary.ca>

Pahnkisiimon Nuyeh?áh:
<https://pahkisiimon.ca>

Palliser: <https://palliserlibrary.ca>

Parkland: <https://parklandlibrary.ca>

Southeast: <https://southeastlibrary.ca>

Wapiti: <https://wapitilibrary.ca>

Wheatland: www.wheatland.sk.ca

Here are the individual websites of the municipal libraries in Saskatchewan:

Prince Albert: <http://www.jmcp.ca>

Regina: <https://reginalibrary.ca>

Saskatoon: <https://saskatoonlibrary.ca>



FUNDING RECREATION AND CULTURE

IN FRENCHMAN BUTTE No. 501

BY CLINT MCCONNELL SASKATCHEWAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association



FOUND in western Saskatchewan, the RM of Frenchman Butte No. 501 is geographically one of the largest municipalities in the province. The RM surrounds the communities of Paradise Hill and St. Walburg, covering a vast area on all sides of these communities. Traditionally, it is recognized as an agriculturally based municipality. Oil and gas have recently developed in the area at a rapid pace.

The RM also has a rich history. At the Frenchman Butte Museum, in the Hamlet of Frenchman Butte, you can see artifacts dating back to the 1885 North West Rebellion. The historical Carlton Trail cuts through the RM, extending from the southeast to the northwest corners. Ruts left by the large wheels of oxen-pulled two wheeled carts can still be seen northeast of Paradise Hill.

Along with its roots in history, agriculture and resource development, the RM values recreation and culture. Bonnie Mills Midgley became RM Reeve in 2010. According to Midgley, "The RM council recognizes that healthy, active residents not only experience a higher quality of life, but also they create communities that are inviting, vibrant places. Therefore, it is important for the municipality to invest in recreation and culture opportunities for the well-being of our residents."

To demonstrate its investment in recreation and culture, the RM created the Recreation and Culture Funding Program. In 2017, the RM allocated

\$120,000 to the program. Funding is divided into four categories: facility operations, historical signage, recreation, event hosting and capital upgrades. The program is reviewed each year by the RM council, and changes are made as needed.

The RM wants its residents to experience the benefits that come from access to safe, quality recreation facilities. However, the majority of the recreation facilities used by residents in this area are in the urban municipalities of Paradise Hill, St. Walburg and Turtleford. While the Town of Turtleford is not within the boundaries of the RM, residents from that corner of the RM use the facilities there as well. Wanting to realize the benefits of recreation, while recognizing the costs to operate facilities, the RM of Frenchman Butte divides \$65,000 of the money allocated to the Recreation and Culture Funding Program between the three urban municipalities. The urban municipalities then use this money to offset some of the utility costs needed for facility operations.

Funding for the other three categories are dispersed using an application process, and they are adjudicated according to criteria set by the RM. For example, in the historical signage category, the RM is going to mark seven landmarks with signage produced by a local company. MH Enterprises Ltd. works out of a shop in the municipality to produce stunning metal signs (see above). These signs will

mark local landmarks, including schools, a church, post office and the cemetery.

The event hosting grant also provides huge benefits to the area. In 2017, the RM contributed to Canada 150 celebrations in Paradise Hill and St. Walburg. In addition to the Canada 150 celebrations, a local gymnastics and dance club each received funding to host an event.

The capital upgrades allocation has benefited projects such as a new water well for Henderley Hall and washroom upgrades in the Frenchman Butte Museum. The RM has also been able to provide new equipment for the Perch Lake playground, which is nearly complete and will provide hours of excitement for the children in the Perch Lake development and surrounding area (see picture).

The RM also uses its allocation of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund to provide recreation and culture benefits to the area. The RM maintains memberships with the SPRA, SaskCulture and the Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation, allowing residents and organizations in the RM to access a wide range of programs, services and funding opportunities.

The creation of the Recreation and Culture Funding Program is a great example of how an RM council's leadership can enable rural residents to realize the benefits of recreation and culture. By investing in recreation and culture, the RM of Frenchman Butte is investing in its residents' quality of life and health.

Rural tourism operations highlighted at **SASKATCHEWAN TOURISM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE GALA**

SASKATCHEWAN'S tourism sector honoured businesses and individuals at the 29th annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala, which was celebrated in Regina on April 12 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Regina.

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

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



Ghostown Blues Bed & Breakfast, Maple Creek

Recipient of the Service Excellence Award, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Operating since 2011, Ghostown Blues Bed & Breakfast has earned accolades for its eclectic accommodations — a collection of historic structures that includes restored pioneer cabins, sheep wagons, vintage camper trucks and an array of buildings from the past. Each meticulously decorated unit provides a comfortable, unique “home away from home” for visitors.

Cabin expansion was undertaken in 2017 to better accommodate family visits. A website update, with an added online reservation system, enables travellers to determine the availability of their favourite cabin and reserve their choice.

Property enhancements included the construction of a fully functioning outdoor kitchen for guest use and catering to large groups, weddings and corporate retreats.

Taking customer feedback seriously, the property responds to every review and comment. Testimonials from satisfied guests speak to the efforts of owners and staff to provide exceptional hospitality and memorable guest experiences.



Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Saskatoon/Six loca- tions across Saskatchewan

Recipient of the Tourism Employer of the Year Award, sponsored by the Regina Airport Authority

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) operates six First Nations casinos in Saskatchewan. During its 22-year history, SIGA has maintained a standard of exceptional customer service and first-rate amenities. The entertainment company invests in its people and is committed to cultivating the talent of employees.

Through robust learning and professional development programs, health and wellness initiatives and opportunities for career advancement, SIGA builds

an engaged workforce and an enviable workplace culture. These qualities are highlighted in achievements, such as earning Great Place to Work[®] Canada certification. SIGA ranks in the Top 30 Saskatchewan companies recognized by *SaskBusiness Magazine*.

The company is proud to be one of the largest and most progressive employers in the province, with over 60 per cent of its nearly 1,800 employees identifying as First Nation. SIGA's vision is to deliver sustainable net income and employment opportunities to the 74 First Nation communities in Saskatchewan.



Ness Creek Music Festival, Big River

Recipient of the Marquee Event of the Year Award, sponsored by CTV

Since 1991, the Ness Creek Festival has been an annual showcase of great music in a beautiful northern setting. Today, it is one of Saskatchewan's signature summer events and attracts more than 3,500 attendees from across the province, Canada and beyond.

The four-day schedule features over 100 artistic and cultural performances and hands-on activities in 10 festival venues. Attendees appreciate the community-focused atmosphere and opportunities to enjoy talent, as well as gain deeper ecological awareness and understanding of the boreal forest.

Programming represents both the cutting-edge of new music and the bedrock of the festival's traditional roots.

Local, national and international acts range from bluegrass and folk to funk and almost everything in between.

Ness Creek Festival audiences have come to “expect the unexpected.” In 2017, the entertainment extended to a floating stage – the Stage of Aquarius – on nearby Nesslin Lake.



Historic Reesor Ranch, Maple Creek

Recipient of the Business of the Year Award (Under 20 Full-time Employees), sponsored by SIGA

Historic Reesor Ranch, located high in the Cypress Hills, has established a proud legacy during its 113-year history. It has been home to six generations of the Reesor family and has operated as a guest ranch and bed and breakfast since 1991.

In 2017, the Reesors took their dedication to preserving history to a new level, meeting the guidelines to become Saskatchewan's first working ranch to be designated a Provincial Heritage Property.

The business strikes a successful balance between managing growth and maintaining the integrity of the land, and it consistently delivers on the promise of an authentic, memorable visitor experience. The popular Ranch Hall Grill, guided ATV tours, enticing winter getaway packages and upcoming Wine in the West tours are examples of new services and offerings that enhance its appeal. Recent technical upgrades and the availability of online booking further demonstrate the commitment to guest satisfaction.

These award winners, along with many of the finalists honoured that evening, speak to the diverse range of tourism experiences that Saskatchewan offers.

Visit Industry.TourismSaskatchewan.com for the full list of award recipients.

For more information on all there is to see and do in the province, visit TourismSaskatchewan.com or call 1-877-237-2273 (toll-free).

SASKATCHEWAN'S
tourism sector honoured
businesses and individuals
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This year, nearly one-third
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For more information on
everything Saskatchewan
has to offer, visit

TourismSaskatchewan.com
or call 1-877-237-2273
(toll-free).

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- ✓ Production
- ✓ Accessibility
- ✓ Pasture
- ✓ Land Values
- ✓ Total Assets





2018 SASKATCHEWANDERER

Before you head out on your next epic adventure, make sure you fill up on some fine Saskatchewan cuisine! There's no shortage of amazing restaurants all over the province.

SASKATCHEWAN is 651,900 square kilometres of pure adventure. And lucky for me, I have the privilege of exploring it for the next year, and I highly encourage others to do the same. My name is Kevin Dunn, and I am the official travel blogger of Saskatchewan for 2018.

Now, five months into my journey, I can honestly say that Saskatchewan is the best place in Canada to live, work and play. The people that I have met are fantastic, and the experiences – well, I'd like to say they are once in a lifetime, but fortunately they don't have to be!

Take for example the CrokiCurl rink, located in the Broadway District of

Saskatoon. Combining the board game crokinole with Saskatchewan's official provincial sport, curling, this new ice game took the province by storm in the winter of 2018. I'm betting good money this game will be back again next winter. So when it makes its appearance, you better HURRY on down to the rink and take your shot at the hottest winter sport in town.

There are plenty of unique travel options when exploring the province. Why not hop on a motor-sled, dog-sled, or even on a Fat-Bike? Whichever way you choose, you are guaranteed to have fun and gain great friends along the way!

Before you head out on your next epic adventure, make sure you fill up on some fine Saskatchewan cuisine! There's no shortage of amazing restaurants all over the province. A couple of my favourite recent stops were to The Railhouse Restaurant in Shellbrook and Shanigan's Coffee & Dessert Bar in Prince Albert, yum!

Saskatchewan is full of adventure, just waiting for you to explore it. So what are you waiting for? Try something new, explore your own backyard and witness a side of Saskatchewan you haven't seen before!



Q&A

GETTING TO KNOW

SARM's board and staff



BILL HUBER



KELSAY REIMER

BILL

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- I am the Director for Division 1. I sit on two internal committees: the Agriculture Committee and the Infrastructure and Development Committee. I also sit on multiple sub-committees on behalf of SARM.
- Q** How long have you been an elected official?
- Since February of 2011.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- I grew up in the Lipton District and have lived here all my life.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about being on SARM's Board?
- My favorite thing about the SARM Board is the association with the other board members and the people I meet in the RMs in my division and municipal politics, provincial MLAs and federal MPs.

Q *What is your favourite thing about summer in Saskatchewan?*

- *It's a great place to live, the summers are usually warm and not too hot, with the right amount of rain the landscape is a beautiful green...and my crops are happy.*

- Q** If a tourist was to ask you what to do and where to go in Saskatchewan, what would you tell them?
- I would suggest two provincial parks that I like: Saskatchewan Landing (north of Swift Current) and Rowan's Ravine (on the west side of Long Lake).

KELSAY

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Acting Director of Policy and Research

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

- *My favourite thing working with SARM is the RMs - I love everything about rural Saskatchewan, and I am passionate about making a difference in our rural communities.*

- Q** How long have you been with SARM?
- Since June of last year.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- Where life makes sense aka Speedy Creek.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about summer in Saskatchewan?
- Thunderstorms - I love the way the lightening lights up the sky, the roar of thunder, and the sound of rain pounding down.
- Q** If a tourist was to ask you what to do and where to go in Saskatchewan, what would you tell them?
- My favourite summer spot is the Saskatchewan Landing - I spent every summer at the river growing up. I'd also tell them to go check out the Great Sandhills - amazing.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD

For Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan

BRUCE ELKE was born January 5, 1963 to Eva and Ervin Elke, and he is the second youngest of six children. He attended Jansen Elementary School and Lanigan High School and received a diploma in Agriculture from the U of S in 1984. He married his wife, Rhonda, in 1993, and they have three children: Jordan and his wife, Shelby, and their children, Kash and Blayke; Charlie and Dylan.

Bruce is very much a family man who puts his family first, and if you don't find him at home or on his farm, he is likely watching one of his kids or grandchildren play ball or hockey.

Bruce operates a third generation farm family, and the Elke family received the Century Family Farm designation in 2004. Bruce followed in his father's footsteps not only as an accomplished farmer but as the reeve of the RM of Prairie Rose from 1999–2016. He described his job as reeve as 'time-consuming, but also very rewarding in the opportunities it allows.'

Bruce has also worked with the Department of Agriculture as a soil conservation technician for District 43 and as Agri-Trend Agrology coach.

Bruce is well respected as a leader in the local area; never shying away from anything he believes in or enjoys. His community contributions almost seem endless – Jansen and District Kinsmen Club (30 years) and Jansen Community Land Project (20 years), which helped raise a significant portion of the \$250,000 for the Outdoor Recreation Facility in Jansen. Over and above these committees he has chaired numerous others such as: the Jansen and District Future Trust Fund, Skating Rink Board, the Sports Day Committee and Jansen Recreation Board, Jansen Zion Lutheran Church Council, Jansen Multi-Purpose Facility Committee, Jansen Lites up the Nite Committee, Jansen Homecoming 2017 Committee, and Jansen Outdoor Recreation Facility Committee, and he is a board member for PoundMaker Adventures.

He is willing to help any organization from the surrounding area when



asked. He was instrumental in helping the Lanigan Minor Hockey Association develop its constitution.

Bruce also has a passion for sports. As an avid sports person, he used his skills and knowledge to coach a variety of hockey teams locally and at the AA level in Humboldt. The players on his teams always looked up to him. He took his passion for hockey and became a referee as well as an instructor and supervisor for the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association Referee's Division. Whether it was as a coach or a referee, Bruce is very good at teaching moments. One parent told us, as a referee, Bruce ejected her Pee Wee aged son from a game for checking to the head. After the game, Bruce spoke to her son in the lobby, told him why he got the penalty and what he could do to avoid the same penalty in the future.

Over and above hockey, Bruce also played, coached and managed the Jansen Jacks baseball team, and he was instrumental in getting the Lanigan High School football team going again by obtaining funding and sponsorship.

Bruce was the chairperson for the Mid-Sask Municipal Alliance from its inception in 2011 until 2016, believing strongly in municipalities working together to increase development within the region. He also sat on the Quill Plains Economic Development Association and the Quill Plains Flood Impact Group. He is also an active member of the Saskatchewan Kinsmen Clubs and

held the position of Deputy Governor (1991–92) for Zone I and Telemiracle Rep for Zone I.

Bruce received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 2005, as well as the Queen's Jubilee Award and the Jansen and District Volunteer of the Year in 2012.

Bruce is one of those people who lives and breathes family and community. Bruce said it best in his family description in the Jansen History book, "Our community involvement has been rewarding and is a great way to give back to our community and make it better for our family and for all. It also makes you proud and very humbled at times.... For us, our greatest honour was in 2010 when the community helped us immensely by raising funds for our trip to Costa Rica and the Multiple Sclerosis Liberation treatment Rhonda received. Difficult times often show the true spirit and generosity of people, and for us we found out how special our community is and for that we are very proud to call it home."

Bruce is THAT guy! The one who everyone counts on; the one who is up at the crack of dawn and the last one to leave; the one who gets the job done; the one who just 'knows'; the one every community wants and we are lucky enough to have. For all of these reasons and more, we are nominating Bruce Elke for the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan.



RCMP DETACHMENTS

hold town hall meetings across Saskatchewan

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

FROM Cumberland House to Carn-duff, Pinehouse to Ponteix, Wynyard to Wollaston Lake; almost all of the 87 detachments that make up “F” Division in Saskatchewan have conducted town hall-style meetings – or in some cases, open house events – over the past few weeks.

Consulting with our communities has always been part of the RCMP’s yearly strategic planning process. This year, Saskatchewan RCMP Commanding Officer, Curtis Zablocki, encouraged detachments to hold town hall meetings in order to engage directly with the public around local policing priorities and public safety planning. Detachment Commanders and other senior members representing south, central and north districts had the opportunity to hear people’s concerns, answer their questions and discuss ways of making our communities safer.

Here is a sampling of some of the more frequent topics that were raised and how RCMP across the province responded:

On RCMP response times and visibility:

Saskatchewan’s relatively small population, spread out over such a large geographic area, makes for some significant policing challenges; particularly when it comes to visibility and response times.

In Wadena/Foam Lake detachment, Sgt. Burton Jones noted for his town hall audience, “I think honestly, people feel they are much safer when the police are around and when they see the police they know they’re close by and they know they’re making patrols.”

In response to such concerns, Saskatchewan RCMP conducted an internal, resource review that identified a number of regular member positions in administration and support that could be redeployed to the front lines. Five of those positions were re-directed to our Relief Unit, which is set-up to deploy quickly to locations that find themselves impacted by temporary staffing shortages.

We have also increased the size of our Reserve program. These are recently retired RCMP members who are able to step in as required to ease those same pressure points at detachments where they are experiencing staffing shortages.

Other initiatives are also helping to enhance police visibility, including our partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, the provincial government and SGI through the Provincial Protection and Response Team and our Combined Traffic Services Section.

On the provincial Gun Amnesty program that ended on April 28:

The intention of the gun amnesty program that took place in Saskatchewan March 29 to April 28, 2018 was to give members of the public a safe, voluntary way to dispose of unwanted firearms that they may have acquired, whether it be through inheritance or other means.

The RCMP acknowledges that legally-owned firearms used safely and responsibly, are a part of life in Saskatchewan, particularly in rural areas. It is when weapons end up in the hands of criminals that both public and officer safety is threatened. Perhaps they were bought and sold illegally, or were stolen at some point. Either way, we are seeing more firearms in the hands of people who should not have them. Therefore, getting any old, unwanted or inoperable firearms out of circulation can only make our communities safer.

On rural residents' rights to defend their property:

This question came up a number of times. RCMP Detachment Commanders reminded residents that the *Criminal Code* references "reasonable use of force" when it comes to defending property, which opens up an unlimited number of theoretical circumstances and variables. It is not our role to provide legal opinions, and these questions are best directed to lawyers and other legal experts.

People need to feel safe in their homes – we hear and understand these con-

cerns. This is why the RCMP is treating rural/property crime as a top priority and utilizing strategies that emphasize intelligence-led policing and targeted enforcement that allow us to zero in on those repeat, prolific offenders that are responsible for much of the crime.

On how residents can help prevent/reduce crime:

We all have a role to play in community safety. We need engaged, involved citizens contributing to community safety just as we need engaged, involved police officers. Rural Crime Watch is a great example of engagement from the community and what's possible when people come together with the common goal of reporting suspicious activity and reducing crime. We are currently working with well over 60 Saskatchewan communities that have expressed interest in setting-up Rural Crime Watch programs or reviving dormant ones.

Sgt. Terry Posnikoff from the Wynyard RCMP reminded his community how critical it is that residents report all crimes, no matter how small. While he understands that people may think a mi-

nor vandalism is too small to report, he pointed out that if it doesn't get reported, it doesn't show up in crime statistics.

"Our analysts can't take a look at it. They can't appropriate resources to the areas that perhaps would need it," said Posnikoff. "Reporting crime certainly helps the RCMP and the province appropriate resources where they are truly needed."

Building relationships with those we serve is a key part of what we do. Everyone has a role to play in building stronger, safer communities. That is why the RCMP intends to continue holding public consultations and work in collaboration with our communities.

Residents can expect to see follow-up meetings towards the end of this year, or early in 2019. Detachments look forward to updating their communities at that time on the progress they have made, and once again, listen to local concerns. The Saskatchewan RCMP encourages all residents to attend their next local event. Meetings will be publicized in advance, and anyone looking for information on where and when a specific town hall will be held is invited to contact their local detachment.

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 THIS CRIME SHOULD CALL 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 WWW.SASKATCHEWAN.CA/TIP.



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Case:

On April 15th, 2018, Outlook Conservation Officers patrolling in the Dinsmore area located numerous game fish that had been dumped and left to waste. The fish were located in the north ditch along Highway #44, approximately 2.5 miles east of the town of Dinsmore, Saskatchewan. The majority of the fish were whole, but two walleye had been filleted. There were 14 walleye, 3 rainbow trout, 2 burbot and 1 yellow perch discarded. Officers collected some evidence at the scene.

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

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rural councillor **MEMBER NEWS**



CLIFFORD LABATTE
RM OF SURPRISE
VALLEY NO. 9
IN MEMORIAM

Clifford LaBatte was born January 11, 1931, and he passed away September 19, 2017, at the age of 86. He married Beverly Gray in 1956. They raised four children in the Minton-Gladmar area and divorced in 1985. He was a hotel owner, farmer and trucked for Sybouts Sodium Sulfate Mine. He had many hobbies such as fastball, coaching, cards, umpiring, curling and dancing. He was a great story teller.

Clifford had an active interest in local government. He served as the Mayor of the Village of Minton from 1974-78. He also served as Councillor Division No. 1 for the RM of Surprise Valley No. 9 from 1961-67 and as reeve from 1979-96. He also represented the municipalities on the Radville Hospital Board for 20 years.

Clifford moved to Weyburn with his loving partner, Lila Lanz, in 1995. He attended the Lutheran Church in Weyburn and belonged to the Elks Club, Masons, Shriners and Scottish Rites. He was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Mary Ann; brother, Richard; son-in-law, Doug, and his ex-wife, Beverly. He is survived by Lila, and his and her children, Sharon (Dale) Didrick, Blaine (Brenda Lemieux) LaBatte, Lorraine (Ken) Cross, Kevin LaBatte and Donald (Rosalie) Lanz, Cathy (Hartley) Tessier and Karen (Paul) Kuffner; 15 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Rose; and nephews, nieces and cousins.



GEORGE HAYES
RM OF VAL MARIE NO. 17
IN MEMORIAM

George Hayes, age 87 of Val Marie, SK, passed away on March 9, 2018. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 58 years, Annette, children Laurie, Patrick (Trudy), Neil (Rhonda), Karen (Lee) Devine, Shelley (Eduardo) Salgado, and Ryan (Twila); 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

George was born in Des Moines, Iowa on April 16, 1932. He grew up in the Butte District before moving to the Val Marie flat in 1941 where he continued to farm and ranch.

George served as Councillor with the Local Improvement District #923 and the RM of Val Marie No. 17 for over 25 years. He was on the Community Pasture Committee as well as the School and Credit Union boards, and he was involved in minor and senior hockey, managing the Senior Mustangs for many years. He will be deeply missed.



FRED PEAKMAN
RM OF VAL MARIE NO. 17
IN MEMORIAM

Fred Peakman was born in Bracken, SK on July 8, 1936, and passed away on March 10, 2018, at the age of 81 years.

He grew up living on the family farm near Bracken in the summers and Regina in the winters. In 1954, he made the family farm his home. He served as Councillor for Division 4 for the RM of Val Marie from 1971-84, was a representative of the Border Union Hospital, the Southwest Nursing home and was on the Bracken School Board for a number of years.

Fred is lovingly remembered by his wife of 53 years, Donna; his sons, Ken (Roberta) and Rick (Mandy); grandchildren, Kirk (Kehra), Tanner, Jaceil, Drew and Ty; and two great grandchildren, Talon and Lochlan.

Fred came from very humble beginnings and worked hard his whole life to provide a good life for his family. He will be missed by all who knew him.



DEAN MORTENSEN
RM OF WEBB NO. 138
IN MEMORIAM

Harold Dean Mortensen of Swift Current passed away on October 23, 2017, at the age of 84.

Dean was born on February 27, 1933 to Claritt and Mary Mortensen in Gull Lake, SK. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and farming, and he was a proud community member. He and his wife, Lorraine, raised their four boys on the farm near Antelope Lake, which they still have today. He served on the council of the RM of Webb from 1982-87.



MURRAY BENJAMIN
RM OF WEBB NO. 138
IN MEMORIAM

Murray James Benjamin, age 66, of Gull Lake, SK, passed away November 28, 2017. He was born in Gull Lake on May 26, 1951 to Ralph and Effie. He is survived by his wife, Carole; his three sons, Travis (Carla), children Josh, Eric and Kale; Jeff (Shannon), children Hunter, Kyla and Landin; and Lance; his two sisters, Ruth and Irene (Les); brothers-in-law, Rick (Janet), George (Janine) and Mark (Darla); and numerous nieces, nephews, great-niece and great-nephews. He was a member of the Kinsmen, Webb Elks, Curling Club, Antelope Lake Regional Park Board, and he served on the council of the RM of Webb from 1992-2017. He enjoyed hunting, baseball, football, golfing, curling, crib and hockey.



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 years.

Jerry was a good man, a cattle man, a counselor, a card player, a fisherman, a man of humour, patience and fun. Family meant everything to him. He was a prankster; no one was immune to his practical jokes. He will be missed.

Jerry 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 during that time. He leaves behind his wife, Nancy; children, Jenna (Alex), Co-

lin (Tawny), and Andrea (Scott); mother, Bella; sisters, Brenda and Carolyn; nephews, Michael, Darren, Matt (Kristy, Alli, and Cohen), Mason, Maddox; niece, Sydney; father-in-law, Bob; sister-in-law, Sandi; and his extended family.



HOWARD BALON
RM OF WILLOWDALE NO. 153
IN MEMORIAM

Howard Balon, age 91, passed away April 9, 2018 in Regina. He attended the University of Saskatchewan studying agriculture before marrying Muriel in 1951. They moved to the Whitewood area in 1959, and established a family farm and many years of community service.

Howard served as Councillor for the RM of Willowdale for 12 years. He also served with Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Whitewood School Board, Board of the

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Moosomin Air Cadets and Whitewood School Band Association. He was a founding member of the Whitewood Credit Union, and he worked with the housing corporation in Esterhazy. He was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus for over 67 years, and he was granted Sir Knight designation in 2017 for his dedicated years of service.

ORVAL BROWNLEE
RM OF MOOSE JAW NO. 161
IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth "Orval" Brownlee of Moose Jaw, SK passed away January 21, 2018. He was born in Moose Jaw in 1946. He met his wife, Joanne, while attending Central Collegiate. After graduation he followed her to Nanaimo, where they were married in 1967. A management position with Overwaitea Foods took him and his young family to Creston, Cranbrook, Golden, 100 Mile House and Summerland. The family moved to Moose Jaw in 1976 where he returned to farming and continued his grocery career at Economart until 1992. He served as Councillor for the RM of Moose Jaw for 20 years (1994-2014), and he was a devoted Shriner.



WILLIAM (BILL) SAWATZKY
RM OF PLEASANT
VALLEY NO. 288
IN MEMORIAM

William Sawatzky passed away in Rosetown, SK on January 19, 2018. He was born August 22, 1933 to Peter and Katharina of Herschel, SK.

He married Ruby Mae Klassen in 1955, and they farmed near Herschel and raised three children. Bill sang in the choir and served as Sunday School Superintendent, as well as on positions with the Rosetown Hospital Board and the RM of Pleasant Valley No. 288 as Division 5 Councillor from 1977-92.

Bill and Ruby travelled extensively which included being representatives for the Canadian Food Grains Bank to India. After Ruby's passing, Bill married Mary Froese of Saskatoon, SK. He will be remembered by his family and friends.



RAYMOND WILFING
RM OF MEADOW LAKE NO. 588
IN MEMORIAM

Raymond John Wilfing was born in 1945 to Alois and Germaine. He received his degree in Bachelor of Science in Mechanized Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. There he met his wife, Sharon Elliott. He then began teaching adult education and later mechanics at the SIAST Campus in Meadow Lake.

Ray and Sharon took over the farm and proudly raised their three boys. Ray was an avid reader. When technology changed, he was ready to embrace it. He was instrumental in establishing and building the Meadow Lake Seed Cleaning Coop. He often built his farm buildings and seed cleaning equipment, retrofitted and modified farm equipment, and he even built his own home and helped build his cottage.

In the early 80's he was approached by the Saskatchewan Canola Growers' Association to help advance canola in the province. This led to 18 years of industry promotion and the introduction of a checkoff system for research and market development that has built markets for an annual canola crop of less than 1 million acres to over 20 million acres in Canada today. Ray also served two terms as reeve for the RM. He will be deeply missed.



RICHARD NAGEL
RM OF SUTTON NO. 103
RETIREMENT

On January 19, 2018, retiring Reeve Richard Nagel was honoured for serving as Councillor for Division 6 from 1992-2002 and Reeve from 2003-2017. He served on numerous boards and

committees, including the South Central Municipal Association and the Furrows & Faith Retirement Co-operative; he will continue to serve as the RM's APAS representative following his retirement.

In appreciation of his 25 years of service, Richard was presented with an engraved watch and shadowbox. His wife, Thelma, was presented with framed glass wheat. The RM wishes Richard hours of enjoyment working in his woodshop and on his vehicle restoration projects.



THEODORE KOESTER
RM OF SNIPE LAKE NO. 259
RETIREMENT

The RM of Snipe Lake thanks retired Reeve Theodore (Ted) Koester for his years of service. Ted served as Councillor of Division 3 from 1981-92 and as reeve from 1993-2016. A retirement party was held on December 3, 2016, where he was thanked for the wisdom and knowledge he contributed over the past 35 years. We wish him all the best in his retirement.



LLOYD CROSS
RM OF EAGLE CREEK NO. 376
RETIREMENT

Administrator Lloyd Cross started with the RM of Eagle Creek on May 1, 1986. After serving as administrator for 32 years, he retired on April 30, 2018. At his final council meeting, Reeve Wendy Davis presented him with a glass plaque and gold watch thanking him for his service and commitment to the RM.



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