

# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 52 number 3

FALL 2019 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

# AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Environmentally Sound Intensive Livestock Development; Protecting Our Unique Nature Spaces; Tackling Pest Control Issues; Doubling the Gas Tax Fund; Passionate About Your Environment; SARRC and Cleanfarms Join Forces; Agricultural Drainage Partnerships; RMAA Convention Highlights



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Killdeer Badlands, Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan



# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

### SARM

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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 DAVE MARITT**  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

**AS WE** head into one of the busiest seasons in the agriculture industry, this issue's environmental theme is particularly fitting. As the stewards of our land, Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers are deeply involved in ensuring the sustainability of the province. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to supporting their efforts, and partnerships like the one we share with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities are essential.

Starting in 2018-19, our organizations came together to deliver the Pest Biosecurity Program. Funded through the federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), the program created a network of Plant Health Officers. These individuals help proactively identify, monitor, and control threats to plant biosecurity. Plant Health Officers have also been instrumental in completing the ministry's clubroot survey, which informs our understanding of the distribution of clubroot in Saskatchewan and supports the larger conversation about the importance of biosecurity and disease control.

In addition to environmental programming offered in partnership with SARM, CAP also provides opportunities for producers to improve sustainability on their own operations.

The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FR-WIP) provides rebates to develop secure and sustainable agricultural water sources, such as wells, dugouts, and pipelines. These improvements can help farms mitigate the impact of drought and improve public safety.

Other CAP programming offers support to producers for irrigation development and the implementation of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that enhance sustainability and resiliency. Our Assurance Systems Producer Rebate is designed to provide support for livestock producers making positive changes in their operations, with regards to biosecurity and animal welfare. For example, cattle producers working through VBP+ certification can access funds for the infrastructure required to certify their operation.

By taking advantage of these and other programs, producers can help ensure that their operations are contributing to the sustainability of the industry while improving their own efficiency. We encourage all Rural Councillor readers to explore how CAP can benefit their farms and agri-businesses at [www.saskatchewan.ca/CAP](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/CAP).

While the agriculture industry must always contend with challenges such as trade barriers and unpredictable weather, the sector is resilient. In 2018, Saskatchewan was one of Canada's



## \$13.4 BILLION

Saskatchewan's recorded agri-food sales in 2018

leading agri-food exporters, with sales of \$13.4 billion, and the province's value-added sector continues to grow. Agriculture is a key driver of Saskatchewan's diversified economy.

The agriculture industry has so many positive stories to tell when it comes to sustainability, and I want to thank the province's farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses for the work already underway. You are truly the stewards of our land, and I look forward to the future you are building.

By bringing together the voices of rural residents across Saskatchewan, SARM is an important link between the ministry and those we serve. Our continued partnership with organizations such as SARM will help us realize our full potential and build on our strengths and current successes.

I want to wish everyone a safe and successful harvest.

*Photo credit: Kat72 | Shutterstock.com*



# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE DUSTIN DUNCAN**  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

**I'M PLEASED TO PROVIDE** a message on the theme of our environment in Saskatchewan, for this edition of the SARM Rural Councillor.

Since the introduction of our provincial climate change strategy, *Prairie Resilience*, in December 2017, the Government of Saskatchewan has been implementing approaches to reduce emissions and build our resilience to climate change – something of interest to many municipalities throughout our province. Resilience is the ability to cope with, adapt to and recover from stress and change.

Saskatchewan now has a suite of regulations in place to address greenhouse gas emissions. *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (General and Electricity Producer) Regulations, The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations, and The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases (Standards and Compliance Regulations)* together form a regulatory suite that will drive emission reductions across Saskatchewan. The results will be a significant improvement on our greenhouse gas emissions profile: a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from electricity producers by 2030; a 40 to 45 per cent reduction in methane emissions from the upstream oil and gas sector by 2025; and a 10 per cent reduction in emissions intensity from large industrial emitters by 2030.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is only part of Saskatchewan's climate change approach. Other commitments throughout *Prairie Resilience* speak to the challenges that a changing climate will present to municipalities across Saskatchewan. These challenges are anticipated to occur regardless of our own provincial greenhouse gas emissions, so steps must be taken now to ensure resiliency is in place.

One such commitment is to encourage communities in Saskatchewan to develop appropriate plans and be prepared to respond to and recover from extreme weather events. The Water Security Agency is conducting research into municipal drought preparedness and planning, and is seeking to build educational capacity on agricultural water management practices that account for climate change.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Government Relations continues to deliver guidance on emergency planning to communities, including SaskAlert training that aids communities in response to imminent threats. The Ministry of Environment also helps communities prepare for the threat of wildfire through delivery of FireSmart programming and other wildfire mitigation work.

Another commitment in *Prairie Resilience* is to promote the upgrading of municipal waste and sewage management services to reduce, capture and use greenhouse gas emissions and biogas that would otherwise be released into the air. This commitment is supported by Saskatchewan's forthcoming solid waste management strategy.

At the 2018 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities convention, Premier Scott Moe made a commitment to establish a Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. This independent advisory committee would lead consultations with municipalities, industry, recycling and waste diversion organizations, and First Nations to inform recommendations for the provincial solid waste strategy.

In fall 2018, the advisory committee led six public consultations sessions across the province, receiving feedback from 65 individuals representing 42 municipalities and organizations. This work culminated in 10 recommendations that focused on priority areas including: enhanced education and awareness of issues and opportunities; increasing opportunities for waste diversion and regional collaboration; modernizing provincial rules and regulations; and encouraging innovation and market development for new technologies and solutions to reduce and/or add value to waste. The Ministry of Environment has reviewed these recommendations, and is currently working to finalize the solid waste management strategy for implementation in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Improvements made at local landfills may qualify as projects within a forthcoming provincial offset program. Saskatchewan's offset program will encourage and realize value for projects which reduce, capture, or sequester greenhouse gas emissions. Such projects could include methane capture at landfills, organic composting programs, or landfill waste-to-energy projects. The Ministry of Environment is currently developing the provincial offset program, and publication of the initial set of offset protocols is expected in 2020.

I am thankful and appreciative of the advisory committee members' time and expertise to review and assess opportunities and priorities to advance solid waste management in Saskatchewan, as well as to communities across Saskatchewan that have supported the implementation of *Prairie Resilience*. Through new and improved environmental policies and programs, we will together ensure that our environment is healthy and resilient, and that Saskatchewan's future continues to be bright.





# Tackling **PEST CONTROL** Issues in Saskatchewan

**BY RAY ORB**  
SARM PRESIDENT



**GREETINGS** to all; I hope your spring and summer have been good so far.

I'd really like to bring attention to one issue that is pertinent to all farmers (and rural municipalities). It's this year's severe infestation of Richardson's ground squirrels. This is partly a result of the dry conditions at the start of this year's crop season and partly due to ideal conditions that fostered an increase in last year's gopher population.

The federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), once again has been putting enormous pressure on SARM to remove the registration for Strychnine, which is the only chemical that can effectively control gophers (in Saskatchewan and Alberta). SARM has a long history of lobbying the PMRA to leave the registration in place and has cited many examples why the PMRA needs to do so.

SARM is concerned that if the registration is removed, there will be no effective control in place, which will make the gopher population unmanageable and will cause extreme crop losses to agricultural production in Saskatchewan every year.

SARM has been working closely with the provincial Ministry of Agriculture who has initiated another pilot project in the Maple Creek area to clearly dem-

onstrate that Strychnine is the safest and most effective means of controlling the Richardson's ground squirrel.

We are hopeful that the results from the study will show the efficacy of the chemical and that there are no secondary poisoning incidences such as the PMRA has cited as being one of the main reasons they want the registration pulled.

We'd like to offer our gratitude to the RM of Maple Creek council and their administrator for their co-operation and to Rich Wilkins and James Tansy from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture who initiated the study.

Please note the pictures were provided courtesy of the RM of Maple Creek to highlight the extreme devastation.

We are once again awaiting the results of a pilot project, but in the meantime are trying to ensure that all farmers have access to Strychnine at their RM office.

SARM believes that the PMRA needs to heed the results of the pilot project and agree with the province and SARM that the registration for Strychnine needs to stay in place and to allow farmers and ranchers to continue to be able to protect their crops and livestock, while continuing being good stewards of their land.

Another issue that SARM feels is of the utmost importance is clubroot,

which is a soil borne disease that affects crops like canola and mustard. SARM has hired six independent agronomists, one in each SARM division to ensure that RM councils can prevent and control the spread of clubroot if it is found in the municipality.

The Ministry of Agriculture is doing more soil testing again, and hopefully will not find any more clubroot sites this year.

SARM feels that more education for ratepayers and RM councils is needed to ensure that producers understand that canola should not be seeded on the same field more than once every three years. If this disease is found in a field, the pathogen can remain active for decades which poses a real problem that cannot be overstated for farmers and the municipality, since clubroot was declared a pest under the *Pest Control Act*.

This Act gives municipalities the authority to undertake prevention and enforcement measures related to the spread and control of clubroot.

For more information on this, read the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Clubroot Management Plan and Clubroot of Canola.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe harvest.



# PASSIONATE about your environment

**BY JAY MEYER**  
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**ENVIRONMENT** can be defined as the surroundings or conditions in which a person operates. Getting out of your environment and experiencing others is important when it comes to learning and understanding one another. At SARM, we put a priority on making sure we travel the province, and while doing so, listen and learn from our members.

Our board and committee meetings found us in different divisions in recent years, as we are putting an emphasis on getting out of the “Big City” and meeting throughout the province. Having the opportunity to visit the majority of the province over the past five years in the role of Executive Director, I have found one thing to be very consistent, and that is the passion of the people around their environment.

During our travels, each and every member we have met has been very obliging in assisting and educating us as well as showing us the environment they live and work in. Whether that is in the RM of Meadow Lake where we had an opportunity to visit a pulp mill, the RM of Arlington visiting the beautiful Pine Cree Regional Park, the regional landfill in the RM of Maple Creek tour or in the RM of Corman Park where we toured the Fietsma Dairy Farm. These are opportunities not everyone gets, and for that, we are grateful. We really do appreciate the support our members provide us.

This past July, the SARM Board meeting took us to Leader where we had an opportunity to tour Checkerboard Hill, the Great Sandhills, the incinerator pilot project and the fire stricken areas from 2017. This opportunity could not have happened without Reeve Doug Smith from the RM of Deer Forks, Reeve Tim Geiger from the RM of Happyland and Mayor Craig Tondevoid from the Town of Leader. From the reeves guiding our crew, to the mayor behind the wheel, we

got to learn and see the area from the eyes of those deep-rooted in their environment. The most appreciated and clear aspect of this trip was the cooperation between the urban and rural municipalities – what a great atmosphere to be in for the week. You can learn lots in a boardroom, but not as much as outside of it, and that week provided a tremendous amount of education for our board and staff.

These board and committee fieldtrips are priceless, and we thank all our members and their staff in helping organize them and assisting in enlightening us on their environments. We have already started to discuss next year in Division 1, and I for one cannot wait as this is where I spent many days growing up. I clearly remember running in the trees at White Bear Lake, playing kick the can, and catching frogs in the summer as well as many hours at the rink in Weyburn and Carlyle, playing hockey in the winter. That is one environment and time I would love to return to.

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# INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

BY LARRY GRANT SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 3

**ONE** of the issues that SARM is working on is the issue of intensive livestock operations (ILO) in the province.

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture struck the Livestock Development Steering Committee (LDSC) to provide strategic direction and recommendations for initiatives necessary to enhance livestock development and improve the regulatory process. This committee is comprised of representation from the Ministry of Agriculture, SARM and several livestock industry groups. A terms of reference was developed and numerous meetings were held to identify ways to improve processes and identify solutions that allow for industry growth.

One of the major concerns that the committee expressed was that the lack of a predictable and consistent development process is having a negative effect on industry investments in the province. This concern led to many discussions on ways to change and improve the current framework on how ILOs are being managed at the municipal level.

To better assist the advancement of the ILO Steering Committee and to support SARM in its advocacy efforts, a survey was sent out on January 28<sup>th</sup> to collect information on the issues that RMs are facing when dealing with ILOs.

Planning is about managing land and resources and balancing the needs of people who live in the area with the needs of the environment. Municipalities are delegated the authority to choose how they'd like to see growth and development take place. Once a development sets up in a municipality, the day to day management rests with local governments, so RMs need to be comfortable that the appropriate reviews are made prior to making a decision and that the long-term effects won't be detrimental to their land, resources and members of their community.

SARM strongly believes that the current planning framework on how ILOs are managed at the municipal level should remain as is: that the primary responsibility for managing land use planning rests with local municipalities and that the option to list ILOs as a discretionary use in zoning bylaws remains.

An ongoing problem most RMs face is the ability to address the challenges to municipal infrastructure resulting from industry use. SARM would like to see RMs afforded use of different revenue streams to offset expenses related to the increased wages of local infrastructure assets by certain

ratepayers. I have had several RMs mention this as a major concern in their planning.

The livestock development committee needs to consider the added costs incurred by RMs as a result of intensive livestock operations. This needs to be addressed in order to garner support and growing acceptance of these kinds of development across rural Saskatchewan. The ILO committee must explore revenue generating tools that municipalities can use to offset increased costs associated with ILOs.

**Planning is about managing land and resources and balancing the needs of people who live in the area with the needs of the environment.**

In zoning bylaws, each district has a list of uses that are discretionary, which means that they require the approval of council. SARM directors have met with Minister Marit and Steven Bonk and emphasized that RMs need to retain the right to list ILOs as a discretionary use in their zoning bylaws and the ability to be able to direct all land use planning within their jurisdiction. RMs best understand local issues and need to balance the needs of development with the needs of their residents. There needs to be another way to increase growth of the livestock sectors (as outlined in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*) without reducing RMs ability to plan for their land use.

In order to address industry's concerns of consistency and transparency, we would encourage the ministry and the committee to continue to focus on improving educational opportunities, providing clarity and building awareness amongst all stakeholders.

I encourage all RMs to have an official community plan, to ensure zoning bylaws are updated and in place so that RMs can direct development in their jurisdiction, where it is most beneficial for them.





# THE WAY I SEE IT

BY NORM NORDGULEN SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 2

**I HOPE** you all have had some rain this summer. And as I write this my region has received over 12 inches since mid-June. I know not all have been that lucky but here's hoping you will be able to get by.

In this day and age of high input costs, it is more important than ever to do all you can to minimize losses; one of those ways is through crop insurance and support programs— programs that are highly under utilized according to the latest figures supplied by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp (SCIC). AgriStability enrolment as of July 19th was only 12,525 producers out of approximately 35,000. AgriInvest as of July 14th had 26,877 producers eligible for contributions although only 10,044 had done so yet.

**Producers need to have a written agreement** indicating that there is a custom grazing arrangement where they are paying for the feed and not to rent the land.

SCIC does however insure 75 per cent of eligible acres in the province on the crop side and a year by year increase in rainfall insurance on grass— this year is at an all time high of 2,189.869 acres along with another 460,000 acres in tame hay, greenfeed and weather-based corn coverage. It seems the cattle price insurance is also catching on with producers; this was a much-needed addition for the livestock sector, and with predation coverage at zero deductible, these programs put some stability and peace of mind in a valuable part of our province's economic picture.

The above figures would seem to point out the favourites are AgriInvest and crop insurance and the need to improve AgriStability before it can be widely accepted. Custom grazing arrangements are eligible under AgriStability but pasture land rent is not. For example, you wouldn't be eligible if renting land to graze your cattle for \$5000.00 per month but you would be eligible if you are paying \$2.00 per head, per day to graze your cattle. Go figure. Producers need to have a written agreement indicating that there is a custom grazing arrangement where they are paying for the feed and not to rent the land. These types of variations have always frustrated me. I think it is time we allow all expenses in the calculation— the same as your income tax form— to truly show the real picture of your year's performance. SARM has lobbied for years to go back to 85 per cent margin coverage. When this is done, I think only then will the producers of this province really take a good look at what could be the best safety net our producers deserve and have the government backing what our producers deserve as well.

Up until the recent rains a month ago or so, AgriRecovery was being kicked around. This is one program even our governments have never figured out and we came close to needing it. Some regions may still need it but guessing it likely won't happen now. Even our Ag Minister Marit has repeatedly said no more adhoc payments. But now is when this program should be ironed out so it is available for when producers need to access it.

These are but a few of my daily meanderings.... Whether you are in these programs or not, whether you got rain or not — remember you are not alone. Please talk to someone if you need to.

Here's hoping to see everyone at Midterm Convention.



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# DOUBLING

## The Gas Tax Fund builds better lives

BY BILL KARSTEN FCM PRESIDENT

**WEEKS** from a high-stakes federal election, we see the parties shaping their platforms around commitments to improve Canadians' quality of life. As they do, local governments in communities of all sizes are sending them a clear message: if you want to build better lives for Canadians, you'll need to empower their local leaders.

Among governments, municipalities are closest to people's daily challenges. In communities across Canada it's reeves, councillors, mayors and workers who are on the front lines, driving solutions that make peoples' lives better. That means supporting reliable Internet connections, building community centres, fostering local economic growth and protecting people from new weather extremes.

Rural communities are essential to Canada's economy and quality of life. You support vital industries – from agriculture to manufacturing to natural resources – and provide vital services that families and workers need to thrive. Your communities also face unique challenges that can't be solved with cookie-cutter approaches.

Rural municipal leaders are making the most of outdated tools. They support industry and entrepreneurs, provide key services and renew core infrastructure – all while driving nearly one-third of Canada's economy.

But nobody's building tomorrow's communities with property taxes alone. Recent federal investments in local communities are making a real difference, but to get more done for Canadians, we'll need to modernize how governments work together. That includes modernizing the municipal toolbox itself.

On July 23, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities called on all federal parties to commit to robust, permanent funding tools that empower local governments to

get more done. One key benchmark to meet or exceed: *double the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) transfer to municipalities and boost its annual growth rate to better reflect economic growth.*

It's been years since the Gas Tax Fund had anything to do with gas taxes. This is a straightforward annual transfer that empowers municipalities to renew local infrastructure. Last year, it flowed some \$2.2 billion to fund thousands of local projects to repair and renew everything from local roads and bridges to water, waste and community centres.

This is the core infrastructure that supports rural Saskatchewan's economy and quality of life (as well as the rest of Canada). With municipalities responsible for nearly 60 percent of it, the GTF is direct, reliable funding. That's important. When local leaders know what funds are coming, we can plan smart and long-term. When funds flow to us directly, it recognizes that we're best placed to identify local needs and cost-effective solutions.

For example, the Rural Municipality of Grandview No. 349 used the fund to install a preventative sewer line in order to protect 495,000 square meters of local land at risk of being washed away due to high water volumes. If the land had flooded, it would have jeopardized the community's best road access to critical health services.

Meanwhile rural communities like the RM of Douglas No. 436 are retrofitting municipal buildings to save on electricity costs, and others like the RM of Cornman Park No. 344 are resurfacing road networks to improve safety, lower maintenance costs and increase economic activity.

Still, the Gas Tax Fund's current challenge is its scale: nationally, it amounts to just two percent of municipal revenues.

The federal government itself just recognized this: Budget 2019 took the game-changing step of doubling this year's GTF transfer for one year, to move more projects forward for Canadians.

This next election should build on what's working, and all parties agree this tool is working. FCM engaged governments of various stripes to launch the GTF (2005), make it permanent (2011), and index it for 2 percent annual growth (2014). If doubling the GTF transfer makes sense for this year – as it so clearly does – then it makes sense for next year and beyond. Long-term predictability drives results, and boosting the fund's annual growth index will ensure it keeps pace with modern construction costs and economic growth.

Importantly, Canadians strongly agree. In a recent Abacus Data poll, a clear majority said that when it comes to assessing local needs and solutions, they trust their local leaders the most. And, a whopping 84 percent said the federal government should empower municipalities with permanent new funding tools to get the job done.

Canada's federal-municipal partnership has made tremendous progress in recent years. We have seen transformational expansions of transit, green, social and rural infrastructure. Growing the GTF is the next step – both complementary and vital. This is the most straightforward, cost-effective step the next federal government can take to build better lives. Communities in Saskatchewan and nationwide have projects ready to go, and we're ready to partner with the next federal government – with modern tools, and a modern partnership – to build better lives for Canadians.

*Bill Karsten is a councillor from Halifax Regional Municipality, NS, and President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.*



## Agricultural Safety



# RM's! are You interested in hosting a FARM SAFETY EDUCATION DAY in your SCHOOLS?

### WHAT IS A FARM SAFETY DISCOVERY DAYS?

**DISCOVERY DAYS** are a highly successful farm safety presentation delivered by representatives from the *Agricultural Health and Safety Network* who travel directly to schools throughout Saskatchewan.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The **DISCOVERY DAYS** are a **BENEFIT** to schools that operate within RM's that hold a membership with the *Agricultural Health and Safety Network*.

### WHICH GRADES CAN PARTICIPATE:

**DISCOVERY DAYS** are tailored for children in grades 4-6 who are immersed in agriculture at home or in their community.

### WHAT HAPPENS DURING A DISCOVERY DAY EVENT?

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# 2019 RMAA Convention Highlights

**A TOTAL OF** 318 administrators, spouses and visitors gathered at the Saskatoon Inn and Conference Centre for the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (RMAA).

The conference began with the annual RMAA Golf Tournament on Monday at the Moon Lake Golf and Country Club and the "Women on the Go" Tour to the Solar Gardens in the Avalon Shopping Centre. The golf event was sponsored by the 'Gang of Three' - Armtec, ATS Traffic and Finning Canada. Following a meal for the golfers and Women on the Go participants at the clubhouse, awards and prizes were presented.

That evening, convention registration was carried out by staff of the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association (SMHI). The evening concluded with a wine and cheese reception, ice breaker bingo and social evening sponsored by Enbridge and WSP Canada Inc.

At 9:00 am on Tuesday, the convention was opened. Wendy Gowda, RMAA President, called the convention to order. The singing of 'O Canada' was led by Glenda Giles, Administrator of the RM of Kindersley No. 290. The convention was officially opened by Lori McDonald, retired Rural Administrator, RM of Monet No. 257. Tuesday's early morning coffee was sponsored by the Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre.

At 9:15 am Rodney Schoettler, CEO of SMHI, spoke to the delegates about the 2018 hail season and changes for the 2019 year. He also introduced Jill Hewlett as the keynote presentation. Hewlett's address was entitled "Brain Fitness: Change your Brain, Change your Results." Once again, our friends at SMHI sponsored the keynote speaker, who was very well received by the delegates.

Following the keynote presentation, 18 new members were inducted into the association by President Gowda, Vice

President Guy Lagrandeur and Executive Director Janet Hollingshead

- Gordon Craig Baird, Blucher No. 343
- Courtney Beaulieu, Invergordon No. 430
- Jadon Carnduff, Browning No. 34
- Santana Dawson, Big Quill No. 308
- Miranda Debusschere, Brock No. 64
- Geraldine Fountain, Bjorkdale No. 426
- Jessica Green, Lake Johnston No. 102 and Sutton No. 103
- Tara Harris, McLeod No. 185
- Lynne Hewitt, Moose Mountain No. 63
- Cherie Hudon, Bjorkdale No. 426
- Loren Koller, Mankota No. 45 and Glen McPherson No. 46
- Leanne Mack, Garden River No. 490
- Shanese Mielke, Lake of the Rivers No. 72
- Cherie Opseth, Birch Hills No. 460
- Karen Paz, Miry Creek No. 229
- Jocelyne Toms-Delmaire, Antler No. 61
- Patricia Verville, Gravelbourg No. 104
- Karen Zaharia, Edenwold No. 158

Following the presentation to new members, four 25 year members were recognized, and each was presented with a pin denoting their long service to rural local government. Presentations were made by Gowda, Lagrandeur and Hollingshead:

- Ryan Domotor, RM of Mervin No. 499
- Kim McIvor, RM of Edenwold No. 158
- Peggy Tuscherer, RM of Key West No. 70
- Tracy Smith, RM of Hudson Bay No. 394

Convention was adjourned for lunch with the blessing by Lagrandeur followed by a family style meal. Lunch was sponsored by BHP.

Following the lunch, delegates observed a moment of silence in remembrance of members who passed away during the past year. Delegates then heard from Mairin Loewen (Deputy Mayor of the City of Saskatoon); Ray Orb (President of SARM); Fraternal Delegates (Cynthia Vizutti, Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators Association; Colleen Sailor, Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association; and Jason Chorneyko, Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan) who brought greetings on behalf of their respective organizations. The reply was given by Lagrandeur.

Presentations were then made by the Rural Board of Examiners for certificate upgrades by administrators who had achieved their Class 'A' or Superior 'A' designation during the past year. The RMAA Board of Examiners was represented by Lagrandeur, Gowda and Board of Examiners Secretary, Jill Palichuk.

## CLASS 'A' CERTIFICATES:

- Daphne Brady, RM of Maryfield No. 91
- Nicole Collins, RM of Turtle River No. 469
- Krystal Johnston, RM of Langenburg No. 181
- Linda Klimm, RM of Wawken No. 93
- Kayla Krusky, RM of Saskatchewan Landing No. 167
- Angie Peak, RM of St. Peter No. 369
- Heather Wawro, RM of Wellington No. 97
- Wendy Becenko, RM of Calder No. 261
- Beverly Doerksen, RM of Moose Range No. 486
- Megan Istace, RM of Francis No. 127
- Sandra Krushelniski, RM of Lac Pelletier No. 107
- Jaimie Paranuik, RM of Elmsthorpe No. 100



At 2:00 pm on Tuesday afternoon, Hollingshead provided convention announcements as well as the Executive Director's Report.

Motion: Moved by RM No. 158; Seconded by RM No. 440

*"That the 2018 audited financial statement of the Association as prepared by Dudley & Company of Regina, Saskatchewan, be adopted as presented."* Carried.

Motion: Moved by RM No. 108; Seconded by RM No. 440

*"That Jay Meyer be appointed Returning Officer for the 2019 RMAA annual elections."* Carried.

Afternoon coffee was sponsored by TAXervice and Brandt Tractor Ltd.

At 2:15 pm, Gowda introduced the current Executive Board. She then made her formal address to the delegates. After her address, RMAA Board Members updated the delegates of the various committee work completed in the year since our last convention.

At 3:15 pm Ray Orb addressed the delegates. Jay Meyer addressed the delegates as well as other SARM staff members. This concluded the Tuesday session.

Wednesday began with early morning coffee sponsored by Burns & McDonnell. The delegates attended one of two seminars being held in the morning: Aimee Smith, Shelly Wessels and Tammy Duncan, representing Occupational Health and Safety, presented a seminar entitled "Workplace Safety"; and Marcy Johnson, Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Government Relations, presented a seminar entitled "Legislative Updates and Government Website How To's." Delegates then switched rooms to attend the second seminar.

In the morning, Lifetouch Photography took pictures of the membership for the 2020 Yearbook. The mid-morning coffee was sponsored by Janke Jellicoe LLP and wood environmental and infrastructure solutions. Lunch was sponsored by Resource Management International Inc. and ENGIE Canada Inc.

At 1:00 pm, Brad Blaisdell, of the Respect Group Inc., gave a presentation about Respect in the Workplace. Beginning at 2:00 pm, Mark Holfeld, COO of SMHI, gave an overview of the new SMHI website. Following that presentation, Ministry of Government Relations

– Finance employees gave a presentation about the SETS website.

Afternoon coffee was sponsored by Agromax Distributors.

Minister of Government Relations, Warren Kaeding, addressed the delegates. Following his address, the trade show booth prizes were drawn for and given to the winners. This concluded the Wednesday session.

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

Following the meal, the head table guests were introduced. Minister Warren Kaeding gave greetings, Dan Dufour gave greetings on behalf of the Lou Jacobs Family, and the Public Service Awards were presented to our retiring members. Gowda, Lagrandeur and Hollingshead presented awards to:

- Laurie DuBois, Mayfield No. 406, Maymont
- Murray Hanowski, McLeod No. 185 Neudorf
- Gwen Johnston, Cymri No. 36, Midale
- Robert Laing, Willowdale No. 153, Whitewood
- Ron Matsalla, Moose Mountain No. 63, Carlyle
- Trent Michelman, Rudy No. 284, Outlook
- Tim Schmidt, Three Lakes No. 400, Middle Lake
- Cal Shaw, Mount Hope No. 279, Semans
- Debra Shaw, Snipe Lake No. 259, Eston
- Michael Sherven, Mankota No. 45 & Glen McPherson No. 46, Mankota
- Gail Wolfe, Big Quill No. 308, Wynyard

During the evening, delegates also heard from Orb and Wayne Black, (President of SMHI). Schoettler and Black presented a number of awards to various administrators in recognition of successful sales of SMHI and AMHI hail insurance products during 2018.

The draw for three door prizes sponsored by SARM completed the evening.

Thursday morning began with early morning coffee sponsored by Altus Geomatics and Prairie Centre Credit Union. Director Michelle Buechler updated the delegates with the results of the North versus South Food Bank Challenge.

The Saskatoon Food Bank was the winner of the North versus South challenge, with 324 pounds of food from the North and 267 pounds of food from the South, with \$320.00 in monetary donations.

Eric Biehn, Viking Benefits Solutions, gave us an update regarding the Saskatchewan Municipal Retirees Association and their benefits available. This was followed by fellow administrator, Don McCallum, addressing the delegates about the Municipal PEER Network year in review. Morning coffee was sponsored by SaskPower and MPE Engineering; Krista Liggett then presented about the Heritage Conservation Branch regarding municipal heritage properties.

Delegates broke into their divisional meetings around 10:30 am. Elections were held in Divisions 2, 4 and 6.

Following the divisional meetings, President Gowda introduced the new RMAA Executive for 2019-2020:

- President, Wendy Gowda, LeRoy
- Vice-President, Guy Lagrandeur, Rouleau
- Immediate Past President, Tim Leurer, Kelvington
- Executive Director, Janet Hollingshead, Neillburg
- Division Directors:
  - Division 1, Sheila Keisig, Balcarres
  - Division 2, Mike Wirges, Moose Jaw
  - Division 3, Linda Boser, Swift Current
  - Division 4, Barry Hvidston, Canora
  - Division 5, R. Doran Scott, Bradwell
  - Division 6, Michelle Buechler, Paynton
- Director Ex-Officio, Ray Orb, Cupar

The Resolutions Committee, Linda Boser and Fern Lucas, noted that they had not received any resolutions.

The convention concluded with the Staycation prize draws for:

- Elkridge Package – Holly Odgers, RM of Coalfields No. 4
- Manitou Springs Package – Wilma Hrenyk, RM of Ituna Bon Accord No. 246
- Saskatoon Inn Hotel Stay – Shawna Bertram, RM of Lone Tree No. 18

The convention was adjourned at 11:30 am.







# ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

## Intensive Livestock Development

**BY ANDY JANSEN, P.Eng,**  
PROVINCIAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

*Developing an intensive livestock operation means taking a variety of needs into consideration, including municipal bylaws, provincial laws, permits such as an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit, land use restrictions, and water protection. While a producer may choose to start their planning process with any one of these areas, all play a significant role in whether or not their operation gains approval to move forward and is economically and environmentally viable.*

**THE ESTABLISHMENT** or expansion of an intensive livestock development doesn't just lead to benefits for its owner; the operation does everything from creating local jobs and contributing to the provincial GDP, to contributing to soil health and protecting our water resources. The key to realizing all of these economic and environmental benefits is proper planning.

Developing an intensive livestock operation means taking a variety of needs into consideration, including municipal bylaws, provincial laws, permits such as an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit, land use restrictions, and water protection. While a producer may choose to start their planning process with any one of these areas, all play a significant role in whether or not their operation gains approval to move forward and is economically and environmentally viable.

Requirements and bylaws vary by municipality. Ensuring clarity around related requirements and bylaws helps not only the producer requesting approval, but also the municipal council addressing questions and making decisions. Provincially, laws that a producer needs to consider include:

- *The Agricultural Operations Act;*
- *The Planning and Development Act, 2007;*

- *The Environmental Assessment Act;*
- *The Wildlife Act;*
- *The Water Security Agency Act and The Ground Water Regulations;*
- *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010;* and
- *The Heritage Property Act.*

*The Agricultural Operations Act* is the Act most people associate with intensive livestock operations. This Act has provisions specific to intensive livestock operations, requiring them to obtain approval of manure storage and management plans to ensure our water sources are protected. This involves identifying any risks and how they can be mitigated, including proximity of water resources, potential contamination sources, and potential pathways for contaminants. Each application must also contain geo-technical and hydrological (engineering) information which identifies any water resources and pathways. The application must also provide plans for how manure and animal mortalities will be managed.

During this approval process many of the other environmental legislation requirements are also coordinated. Applications submitted under the *Agricultural Operations Act* are referred to the local municipality for comment. A checklist to help producers take these regulations

into consideration, create a plan and mitigate any potential risks can be found by visiting [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca) and searching "livestock development checklist."

These environmental considerations may affect where a producer chooses to develop, but so may a variety of other factors. A site selection choice is often a compromise of competing or complementary requirements: including proximity to utilities, availability of water, proximity to markets, access to a quality road network, proximity to people, site environmental risks and the options available to mitigate the risks. The land available for purchase or currently owned will also play into the decision.

Producers, municipalities and provincial governments all have a role to play in helping to protect the environment and our water resources. Working together ensures the development of environmentally sound intensive livestock operations.

To learn more about the requirements for ILO development and environmental standards that must be considered, please contact Andy Jansen at 306-787-5465.

*Photo credit: Shutterstock.com*

# SASKATCHEWAN

## Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (SARRC) and Cleanfarms join forces

**THERE** was a time when used oil was spread on gravel roads to keep down dust and garbage was burnt or dumped in the “back-forty”.

While those days are almost non-existent, Canadians still produce more garbage per capita than any other country. Saskatchewan has the second highest waste disposal rate in Canada at 897 kilograms per person and the lowest rate of waste diversion from landfills at 13 percent. Much of this waste can be

diverted reducing potential environmental contamination and the accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in our atmosphere.

With landfill costs escalating across the province, especially in rural areas with low population and large haul distances, effective waste diversion through reduction, reuse and recycling becomes an important piece of community waste management. In some cases, manufacturers or producers provide programs for

the proper disposal of the products they put into the market at the end of their useful life. This model, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), forms the foundation of many product stewardship organizations in the province. The EPR model is strongly tied to the circular economy, where products are reused and remanufactured into new products.

Two organizations that work closely with RMs and the farming community are the Saskatchewan Association for

“ This purpose-built EcoCentre contains a 4500 litre tank for used oil and storage space for used filters, plastic containers (oil/antifreeze/DEF and antifreeze) ”







“ Grain bags destined for recycling markets. ”

Resource Recovery Corp (SARRC), who manages recycling of used oil, filters, antifreeze and plastic oil, antifreeze and diesel exhaust fluid containers, and Cleanfarms, who manages agricultural plastics and products including grain bags, empty pesticide and fertilizer containers and unwanted pesticides and old animal health medications.

Proper disposal of these products can be challenging. This is where SARRC and Cleanfarms can help. Both organizations share common goals: to protect the environment and farmland, promote proper end of life management for their products, and contribute to the circular economy. Each has a different approach and a unique collection system.

SARRC has established a network of 36 purpose-built EcoCentres in major

communities plus an additional 150 volunteer drop-off points province-wide providing free public drop off of small quantities of materials. For larger volumes, registered collectors will come to your business or farm for pick-up.

All materials recovered are reused and contribute to the circular economy. Used oil is reprocessed into re-refined lubricating oil, industrial burner fuel and other products. Used oil filters are crushed to retrieve the oil and then processed into structural metal shapes for the manufacturing of industrial and agricultural products. Used antifreeze is reprocessed back into reusable antifreeze.

Used plastic oil/antifreeze/DEF containers are almost entirely made of high density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic which, once washed and pelleted is re-

sold and used to manufacture industrial posts, railroad ties, plastic pipe and new containers. All SARRC program plastics are recycled in Canada. Plastic 20-litre pails can also be cleaned and re-used by farmers for a variety of applications.

Since 1996, over 361 million litres of used oil, 38 million used oil filters, 6.6 million kilograms of plastic (oil/antifreeze/DEF) and 1.1 million litres of antifreeze have been recovered, recycled and reused. None has gone to landfills.

Cleanfarms has recently started partnering with municipalities, and other interested parties, to make grain bag recycling accessible to farmers. With more than 30 collection sites available across the province, and strong support from farmers, this program is making tangible progress. In 2018 alone, approximately 1,200 tonnes of these single-use bags (approximately 9,000) were recycled into items like garbage bags, primarily in North America.

Cleanfarms also works with the Saskatchewan's ag-retailers (about 400) to help farmers manage their empty pesticide and fertilizer containers. After drop off, Cleanfarms arranges for the transportation and processing of all single use empty pesticide containers (all sizes) and small (23 L and under) fertilizer containers. The plastic from these containers is used in the production of new products such as drainage tile, all within North America.

Cleanfarms' goal is to ensure that all of the plastic collected is recycled. This requires careful preparation on the farm. Containers need to be fully drained and triple rinsed. Grain bags must be free from water and debris, tightly rolled and secured with twine.

Many other opportunities exist in Saskatchewan to help divert waste, including stewardship and recycling programs for electronics, tires, paint, beverage containers.

Our province is a beautiful place in which to live. SARM and its members are one key to the success of the SARRC and Cleanfarms programs. Working together, we can strengthen the provincial recycling networks in practical and innovative ways to keep Saskatchewan's environment healthy.

Please visit [www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com), and [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca) for more information.



# PROTECTING Our Unique Nature Spaces

**NATURE.** It's what makes Canada like no other place on Earth. Our country's spirit lives in our ancient forests, sparkling waters, soaring mountains and rolling grasslands. Our spaces are home to precious and endangered plants and animals, some found nowhere else on the planet. Nature is what defines Canada. That's why the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), along with our passionate donors, have spent more than 55 years protecting our unique natural spaces and the life they sustain.

As Canada's leading national, private land conservation organization, NCC protects our most important natural areas so that future generations will enjoy the same rich, natural world that we are privileged to enjoy today.

NCC's first project in Saskatchewan occurred in 1982 — a quarter-section of native grassland in the Qu'Appelle Coulee. NCC now conserves more than 150,000 acres (60,703 hectares) of the province's most ecologically significant land and water.

Partnership is at the heart of NCC's success. We work with individual donors, landowners, government and industry to achieve common conservation goals. We secure properties through donation, purchase and conservation easements and manage them for the long term.

Our science-based conservation planning process drives our work. Lands secured by NCC have been identified for their ecological value, based on this process. While we own many fee-simple properties, the vast majority of NCC-

conserved land in Saskatchewan has occurred through conservation easements. These voluntary agreements restrict the types of activities that are conducted on the land for the benefit of biodiversity. These agreements create a lifelong partnership between the landowner and NCC.

NCC works with landowners on managing invasive species, grazing management strategies, concerns over public access, the types of plants and animals on the property and the health of its grasslands and wetlands.

In Saskatchewan, most of NCC's properties are leased for grazing, as well-managed disturbance is important for grassland health and biodiversity. We value the land stewardship of generations of landowners and the partnerships developed with current landowners and neighbours who share our passion for conserving these ecologically valuable landscapes.

NCC's work is concentrated in priority areas, where healthy habitats for species at risk and natural wild spaces face the greatest threats. Grasslands are one of the rarest and most at-risk ecosystems in the world, and they are a critical part of Saskatchewan. They filter our water, help prevent flooding and droughts and sequester carbon. For thousands of years, grasslands have provided sustenance for humans and a livelihood for ranchers who help maintain biodiversity through sustainable grazing.

Grasslands and the wetlands they contain provide critical stopover sites

for migratory birds. They also provide habitat for waterfowl and imperiled species like ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, Sprague's pipit, swift fox and greater sage-grouse. The 2019 *State of Canada's Birds Report*, released on June 20, 2019, looks at the population trends of over 400 birds since 1970. The report indicates that bird species that depend on native grasslands have decreased by 87 per cent.

Over the past 25 years, Saskatchewan has lost more than 2 million acres (809,000 hectares) of native grassland, and now less than 20 per cent of native grassland remains in our province. You can help protect what's left of this important, working landscape — not only for nature, but for our own livelihoods, those of our ranching partners and our children and grandchildren.



With your support, we can make a difference in preserving Saskatchewan's natural landscapes and the species they sustain. For more information or to donate, visit [conservegrasslands.ca](http://conservegrasslands.ca), contact us at [saskatchewan@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:saskatchewan@natureconservancy.ca) or call us toll-free at 1-877-231-3552.





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Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp.



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– TAVANETZ FAMILY, DUC PROGRAM PARTNERS

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# TARGETED SECTOR SUPPORT INITIATIVE:

## Expressions of Interest accepted until September 30, Full Application Intake Late 2019

**MUNICIPALITIES** are reminded to submit their Expressions of Interest for the Targeted Sector Support Initiative by September 30, 2019 and encouraged to partner with other communities on proposed projects.

Targeted Sector Support (TSS) is a portion of Municipal Revenue Sharing (\$1.5 million for 2019-20) that will be used to encourage inter-community collaboration and good governance in all Saskatchewan municipalities. The funds will be used to support projects that advance the priority areas of inter-community collaboration and capacity development.

The priorities were selected by the TSS Steering Committee with representatives from the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities and the Ministry of Government Relations (GR).

The TSS Initiative will follow a two-stage process:

- Expression of Interest; and
- Application Intake.

The Expression of Interest is not an application for funding. Its purpose is to help to gather information about the current projects in Saskatchewan and to further develop the TSS Initiative. Expressions of Interest will be accepted from July 8, 2019 until September 30, 2019 at 5 p.m. CST. Expressions of Interest can be submitted by following the link below. If a paper copy is needed, please contact GR at the email address or phone number provided below.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by a municipal government established by or under provincial statute. Municipalities will be asked to list their partner communities when filling out the Expression of Interest.

A full, more detailed application intake is expected in late 2019. More information about this process and funding allocations will be provided then. At this time, no decision has been made on funding allocations. However, the TSS Initiative is not expected to provide 100 per cent funding to any single project.

More information on the TSS Initiative and how to submit an Expression of Interest is available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/funding-finances-and-asset-management/funding/targeted-sector-support-initiative>.

If you have questions, email the GR's Advisory Services and Municipal Relations branch at [GRTargetedSectorSupport@gov.sk.ca](mailto:GRTargetedSectorSupport@gov.sk.ca) or call 306-787-2680.



Timely delivery of maintenance was a major priority for the Agency in 2019, and SAMA delivered maintenance on time to 88% of our client municipalities.

SAMA is also planning on reinspecting 20 RMs in 2019, and will be conducting 20,200 industrial reinspections, which will be comprised primarily of oil and gas properties, and some railway and elevators.

The Agency also recently launched our MySAMA portal, which gives municipalities the convenience of submitting maintenance lists to SAMA online. To sign up for MySAMA, please contact your local SAMA office.

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).



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Case: On June 27, 2019, Melfort Conservation Officers received a report of some garbage that was illegally dumped two miles South of Pleasantdale on McPhail Road, approximately 250m West of Highway #6. The garbage is made up of household materials such as old bed box frames and mattresses as well as items from a renovation or demolition.



Visit **[www.sasktip.com](http://www.sasktip.com)** for all of the latest cases.

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# AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE: The Value of Partnerships

**SASKATCHEWAN** is blessed with some of the most abundant and productive agricultural lands on earth, a driver of our economy and a clear answer to feed a growing world population. Saskatchewan is also blessed with some of the most outstanding natural habitat, home to migrating birds, diverse plant and animal life and spectacular prairie vistas.

The Water Security Agency believes that steps we take together with the cooperation of producers, environmental groups, rural municipalities (RMs), communities, stakeholders and the general public, can protect the kind of Saskatchewan we want to leave our children and grandchildren. It is why the Water Security Agency has set an ambitious course to strengthen and enhance agricultural water management in our province.

Four years ago, the Water Security Agency released the Agriculture Water Management Strategy (the Strategy), with a goal to ensure all landowners with new and existing drainage works, and contemplating drainage works, apply for an approval. This new approach is empowering landowners to lead, manage

and maintain their drainage in a responsible manner while also taking the necessary steps to minimize the unintended impacts on water flows (i.e., flooding), infrastructure, water quality and habitat.

More landowners recognize the value of sustainable drainage for their land and farming operations. Saskatchewan producers had a record 1,507 quarter sections (241,120 acres) come into compliance in 2018-19, more than doubling 2017-18 numbers and a tenfold increase from 2014-15 when regulations were introduced. Furthermore, since launching the Strategy in 2015, approximately 380,000 acres have been approved.

This success has been led by various groups of landowners and stakeholders, including rural municipalities (RMs), who have come together to form large networks through joint applications, Conservation and Development Area Authorities (C&Ds) or Watershed Associations – helping them reach unified drainage solutions. This is important as most agricultural drainage in Saskatchewan is interconnected by many pieces of land until the water reaches a natural creek, river or lake.

The Vipond Creek Project, near the community of Glenavon, epitomizes the success achieved from landowners working together. Last spring, 47 landowners signed a joint application to co-ordinate water management in the area, including more than 17,000 acres (across 113 quarter sections). The Water Security Agency worked with several partners, including the RM of Chester, Chester Conservation & Development Area Authority, and the Upper Souris Watershed Association to advance the project in response to local landowner interest arising from the nearby Dry Lake Project approved in 2017.

The Vipond Creek Project includes 55 flow control structures to reduce downstream peak flows and flooding potential within the Moose Mountain Creek Watershed. Two major wetland restoration projects totaling more than 50 acres will also minimize downstream flooding, maximize water quality and increase wildlife habitat benefits. Additionally, some drainage channels will be vegetated to reduce erosion potential.





The Rural Municipality of Chester will also control and upgrade a major wetland project on Vipond Creek to ensure a strong measure of flow control to prevent future washouts of a critical municipal road.

Another drainage network achieved similar success near the Village of Atwater, in East Central Saskatchewan, where the Water Security Agency issued a large interconnected 12,000 acre drainage approval to 41 landowners, in collaboration with the RM of Fertile Belt, Canadian National Railway, and the Village of Atwater. As part of the approval, landowners are using erosion control measures to protect water quality into the Kaposvar Creek and Qu'Appelle River and flow controls, such as gated culverts, to reduce downstream flooding impacts.

Large scale projects like Atwater and Vipond Creek require the RMs to be involved because drainage projects typically involve road allowances administered by the R.M. When a project of this kind is being proposed, the RM should consider the impacts to the road network and public safety.

As landowners continue to adopt this new process, WSA is supported by various partners, including SARM. Over the past two years, SARM and seven other agricultural and environmental stakeholders have worked together to provide input and advice on the policies that will guide the success of this program. SARM and individual RMs also play a significant role in actively engaging landowners to assist them in coming together to successfully complete projects.

This partnered approach is showing us how hard work, communication and collaboration delivers value for producers and the environment; and enables responsible drainage that respects neighbouring properties and ensures the safe management of our water resources in Saskatchewan.

You can learn more about the Agriculture Water Management Strategy and drainage approval at [www.wsask.ca](http://www.wsask.ca). You can also contact your nearest WSA regional office by visiting [www.wsask.ca/About-WSA/Regional-Offices/](http://www.wsask.ca/About-WSA/Regional-Offices/).

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# EARLY DETECTION RAPID RESPONSE

BY BETTY JOHNSON SARM DIVISION 3 PLANT HEALTH OFFICER



**EARLY DETECTION** and Rapid Response (EDRR) is a key component of the SARM Pest Biosecurity Programs. EDRR is an environmentally and economically favourable approach to control, assess and prevent the spread of pests such as weeds, insect pests and plant diseases. Pest management is a major issue for most landowners and producers. Although prevention is the best course of action, this is not always possible. This makes Early Detection and Rapid Response an excellent “first line of defense” option for dealing with pest problems.

In addition to established pest species, invasive species can also cause serious damage. This means that establishment can result in very rapid increases in populations. A proactive approach to managing invasive species and preventing their establishment includes EDRR. This strategy requires the cooperation and active participation of many members of the agriculture community including landowners. Early detection of introduced insect pests, diseases and noxious weeds followed by a well-integrated and rapid response, will increase the probability of containment or eradication of an invader. EDRR consists of five steps: 1) early detection, 2) identification, 3) assessment, 4) rapid response, and 5) monitoring and reassessment.

## Early Detection: Watch Out!

Regular field, ditches and waste area scouting is an important aspect when dealing with weeds, pests, and diseases. Early season scouting will help identify issues and provide more time to deal with invasions. Control costs can be reduced if a problem is caught early through regular scouting. When inspecting fields for pests, make sure to check in ditches and field edges, as these are common places for pests to be introduced. Many weeds, insect pests and diseases such as clubroot are manageable if detected early. Importantly, it is vital to be aware of the potential to spread problems while scouting or conducting inspections. Weed propagules (seeds and root pieces), disease



(spores, and infected soil and plant material), and insects can be unintentionally spread by workers and equipment. Some key points to consider for early detection are:

- Developing awareness regarding the potential for weed, pest or disease infestations in the community.
- Regular inspection of the potential pathways of the pest.
- Changes in temperature, wind and moisture are likely to have impacts on weed emergence, disease development and pest outbreaks. Know your field and environmental changes.
- Report any prohibited or noxious weed infestations, club-root findings, or regulated insect pests to your municipal offices or weed inspectors/pest control officers. Make use of provincial forecasting tools to know the potential pest issues, use iMapInvasives to record weeds and attend informative workshops to gain more knowledge about potential pest problems.







# 2020 Federal Budget Asks



**BROADBAND** infrastructure is an essential service needed to boost the economic and social well-being of rural communities. Rural Saskatchewan needs connectivity to remain competitive, contribute to the economy and ensure safe communities. Major investments are required to ensure all Canadians have even a basic level of service.

**ASK: Collaborate with each province and territory to maximize investments in rural broadband.**

**ASK: Invest at least \$400 million into dedicated rural broadband per year over 10 years.**

**ASK: Use both service reliability and service availability as a performance measurement.**



**CARBON TAX** will not support a thriving rural Saskatchewan. The agriculture industry is the backbone of the economy. We stand behind the science of carbon sequestration to support Canada's commitment to the Paris Accord.

**ASK: Agricultural producers should receive carbon credits retroactive to 2002 for their role in carbon sequestration.**



**INFRASTRUCTURE** including roads and bridges, is vital for the sustainability for our communities. Safe and reliable infrastructure is necessary to transport goods to market, support industry growth, and allow rural residents access to essential services. There is a need for increased investment from senior levels of government to maintain and build essential infrastructure projects.

**ASK: Establish a dedicated funding program for communities with populations under 5000, including a stream for road and bridge infrastructure.**

**ASK: retain the 60 per cent federal cost-share for projects by communities with populations under 5000.**

**ASK: Improve smaller communities' access to a wider range of funding opportunities under the Investing in Canada Plan through improvements like streamlined project applications and reporting requirements.**



**RURAL CRIME** in Saskatchewan is rising rapidly. Statistics Canada reported a crime rate of 36 per cent higher than in urban communities. There is a need for increased police presence and enforcement options in rural Saskatchewan. Police visibility is severely lacking in many rural areas.

**ASK: Increase funding to the RCMP Academy to recruit, hire and train more cadets.**

**ASK: provide adequate incentives to encourage reservists to fill temporary vacancies in rural Saskatchewan.**



**The Voice of Rural Saskatchewan**

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## Identification: The Importance of a Magnifying Glass

It is great to have a forensic mind when looking at a problem: accurate decisions require accurate identification. To diagnose a problem, the shreds of evidence are important. More evidence will help get a more accurate answer. For example, the discovery of damaged plants. Different insect pests have different modes of feeding and favour different parts of the plant (leaves, pods, stems, flowers or roots). The plant species, type of damage and tissue attacked can be important clues as to the identity of the pest. Visible symptoms for specific diseases can be highly characteristic and are also influenced by host plant and environmental conditions. Noting the pattern of spread and physical characteristics of leaf, stem, root and flower are important for identifying weeds. Consistent with early detection, recognizing weed seedlings will provide more time to plan control measures. If a sample of the insect pest or damage, diseased plant or weed is available, be sure to identify it properly or refer it to an expert for identification.

## Assessment: The Judgement Call

Any pest control decision should be economically and environmentally feasible. For established pests, diseases and weeds, knowing established scouting techniques and economic thresholds (also called action thresholds – the population/density level of the pest and/or damage that warrants control) are essential. Professional agronomists and provincial crop extension specialists can provide this information. For invasive pests, however, the economic threshold does not apply when eradication or preventing establishment is the goal.

## Rapid Response: It's Action Time

Prevention of new invasions before they can escalate to an unmanageable level is always more beneficial than control. However, when control is required, several methods are available for established pests. These include cultural, chemical or biological. Pest management is more effective when using more than one method in an integrated approach. This is the basis of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Methods should work in a complimentary manner. For example, herbicides



applied to weeds at sensitive stages of the biological control agent's lifecycle can reduce its efficacy. A knowledge of appropriate timing, rate (for chemical control), and weather conditions is essential for any control strategy. A knowledge of the effects of the overall plant (including weed) community is also important for the successful management of pests, diseases and weeds. For example, crop rotations or growing resistant varieties are suggested as part of a management plan for clubroot. As part of this plan the control of weeds in the *Brassicaceae* (shepherd's-purse, wild mustard, stinkweed etc.) is important because those weeds are also susceptible to the clubroot pathogen.



## Monitoring and Reassessment: Post-Response

Regular inspection of infested areas is necessary after control measures. Some weed seeds and pathogens can survive in soil for several years. Insects can move great distances. Recurring monitoring and accurate record keeping are essential to determining patterns in pest populations, and efficacy of control strategies. These efforts will also provide information on possible control and prevention strategies for future outbreaks.

Most importantly, the success of EDRR depends heavily on active collaboration of everyone in the community. For more information, contact your local division Plant Health Officer.



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# Q&A

## GETTING TO KNOW SARM's board and staff



JUDY HARWOOD



JENNIFER CHAMBERLIN

### JUDY

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- Director Division 5, North Central. I have had that role for almost six years.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about being on the SARM Board?
- The opportunity to meet so many different people from our province and across Canada. All with different positions and different stories, so interesting. Latest encounter a wonderful gentleman, Mel, who currently runs the bar in Leader, Saskatchewan at the young age of 93. Mel had amazing stories that entertained the entire Board.
- Q** How long have you been an elected municipal official?
- I was elected to Corman Park Council in 1994-2000, then went on District Planning for 12 years. I was elected reeve of Corman Park in October 2012.

- Q** *Where did you grow up?*
- *I grew up in Southern Ontario in the small town of Beeton Ontario just a short drive north of Toronto. For anyone who follows the NHL, it is also the hometown of Jim Rutherford, General Manager for the Pittsburgh Penguins. Jim and I were school mates.*

- Q** Do you have any hobbies you enjoy?
- I would have to say my hobbies are life in general. I enjoy my family, horses and dogs, and when I have time, golf.
- Q** If you didn't need to sleep, what would you do with all that extra time?
- Sleep is something I don't do well. I go to bed very late and my internal clock gets me up very early, so what is sleep?

### JENNIFER

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- As a senior community planner with SARM, I have the opportunity to work with municipalities on developing Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws and to address a variety of land use and planning matters.

- Q** *What is your favourite thing about working for SARM?*
- *I get to meet and work with so many dedicated people throughout the province, and I can explore Saskatchewan while doing it. There's nothing more rewarding than supporting people that have welcomed me and allowed me to learn about their community.*

- Q** How long have you worked at SARM?
- I've been with SARM for two years. I started by filling the maternity leave position for the Director of Community Planning Services and welcomed the opportunity to continue working for SARM.

- Q** Where did you grow up?
- I grew up in Regina.

- Q** What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?
- Skydiving, not only is it an adrenaline rush hanging on to the wing of a plane before you let go but you get to have a relaxing and beautiful view as you float down.

- Q** If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be?
- Growing up as a female hockey player who's family is from Shaunavon, I always looked up to and admired Hailey Wickenheiser. It turns out my husband also rooted for her growing up after being in a number of hockey camps together. It would be great to meet her again to congratulate her on her induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame and reminisce about my grandma, who Hailey fondly referred to as her Shaunavon grandma.



# rural councillor **MEMBER NEWS**



**IVAN CONDIE**  
**RM OF PINTO CREEK NO. 75**  
**IN MEMORIAM**

Ivan Archibald Condie of Mankota, SK, passed away May 20, 2019 at age 87. He was born on the family farm south of Kincaid to Nesbitt and Gertie Condie, the eldest child of four, on April 4, 1932.

Ivan grew up on the farm, and it soon became his passion. He started farming alongside his father at the age of 16; he loved the farm life. Except for a brief stint in the winter of 1949, when he went to work with his Uncle Will in BC, the farm was where he loved to be.

Ivan met Vivian Olson, who was a schoolteacher at Bona Place School, before he went to work in BC and continued the courtship when he returned in the spring. They were married on December 29, 1952. Together Ivan and Vivian were blessed with three children, Carol, Wayne and Loren. Ivan and Vivian purchased the Bert Crozier farm in 1963 and continued to farm until Vivian's passing in the fall of 1990.

Ivan worked as a mechanic at Frostad's Garage in the winter for several years. He farmed alongside his brother, Malcolm throughout the years, until his sons, Wayne and Loren, could also join in. Ivan remarried in the summer of 1993, to Gertrude Wight of Wawota, SK and retired from the family farm. Ivan and Gertie moved to Wawota where he soon became very busy mowing grass around town, helping his neighbours with their yards, and keeping the ball diamonds and the local cemeteries trimmed up. He moved back to live at the Prairie View Health Center at Mankota after a serious fall and was as a resident there for several years.

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**Redhead** EQUIPMENT

Ivan was predeceased by his parents; first wife Vivian; brother Malcolm; son Wayne; and stepson Doug Wight. He is survived by his children Carol (Bob) Peters of Eaton, grandsons Christopher (Brittany) and Connor; daughter-in-law Debbie Condie of Regina, grandson Drew, great grandchildren Jackson, Oscar and Zaphia, granddaughter Karen (Bart Boersma), great grandson Evert, granddaughter Shannon (Kelvin Wan), great grandchildren Camilla and Kai, granddaughter Amber; son Loren (Sharon) of Kincaid, grandchildren Michael, Wyatt, Matthew and Sierra; sisters Shirley McLeod of Swift Current, Joyce (LeRoy) Lovely of Chemainus, BC; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Ivan is also survived by his second wife Gertrude; her daughter-in-law Sherry, granddaughters Brittany Wight, Rianne Watson; and stepson David Wight.

Ivan's greatest joy was his family and all the generations that followed. He took great pride in his farm and worked hard every day to put food on the table. He loved helping his neighbours and being looked upon as being a man of his word.

Ivan was on many boards, Meyronne Credit Union, Kincaid Housing, RM of Pinto Creek and the Kincaid School Board. He also drove a school bus for many years and did maintenance for the Ferland Telephone Company.



**JOHN CHARLES GASCHLER  
RM OF MOOSE CREEK NO. 33  
IN MEMORIAM**

John Gaschler Jr. passed away unexpectedly on Monday, May 20, 2019 at the age of 60 years at the Galloway Health Centre, Oxbow, SK.

John is survived by his loving wife, Beth; three children: son, Chris (Holly) and family Nicholas, Aaron and Parker; daughter, Trisha (Trevor) Ottenbreit and family Violet and Nathan; daughter, Dawn (Shane) Callaghan and family Declan and Harper; brother, George (Lillian

McLellan); mother and father-in-law, Pastor Virgil and Ethelda Anderson; sister-in-law, Kari (Ron) Mitchell; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

John was predeceased by his parents, John and Marguerite; sisters, Mary Ann Blaser and Katherine Leib; and brother-in-law, Lyle Blaser.

John was councillor in Division 1 from 2004 to 2008.



**FREDERICK LORNE HILL  
RM OF WALPOLE NO. 92  
IN MEMORIAM**

Fred passed away at the Regina General Hospital on May 31, 2019 at the age of 69 years with his family at his side. Fred was born at Maryfield, SK on December 15, 1949. He was raised on the family farm at Mair, SK and eventually took over the farm as his chosen career.

Fred was a man with a big heart and incredible sense of pride and dignity who worked hard at any job he undertook. If a helping hand was needed, he was one of the first to offer his assistance. The door was always open at Fred's for anyone who visited or wanted a good old argument.

Fred's greatest love was his family, especially his grandchildren and was a huge fan of any of the sports they participated in. Fred enjoyed playing and watching curling, fishing and hunting.

Fred sat as a member of Maryfield Villa Board for several years and as a Councillor for 12 years for the RM of Walpole No. 92.

Fred was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Margaret (Dunn); brother Douglas; niece Alysa Hill and brother-in-law Bill Haussecker. Fred is survived by his common-law wife, Darlene; son Sheldon (Kim); daughter Kerri (Todd), Skylynn, Kirklan, Levi, Harley and Everlee; stepsons Scott (Shawna) Fynnleigh, Rorry and Maaclan; Stephen (Kimberly

Hailey, Jayda and Kempton; Kris, Hunter, Shaelan and Logan; Curtis (Chelsea) Poppy and Crosson; sisters Christina Haussecker (Larry); Jackline Rutledge (Butch); brothers Robert (Freda); David (Nora); Gerald (Brenda) and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.



**MAURICE BARTZEN  
RM OF MAPLE BUSH NO. 224  
RETIREMENT**

Maurice Bartzen, Reeve for the RM of Maple Bush No. 224, retired December 31, 2018. Maurice attended the December 1991 regular meeting of council as a ratepayer and was sworn in as councillor for Division 6 at the January 1992 regular meeting of council. After just one year of service, Maurice was appointed Deputy Reeve. He served our municipality for 26 years; 18 years as councillor for Division 6, 17 years as deputy reeve and eight years as reeve. Maurice's vast knowledge of our municipality's history and decisions will be hard to replace. Maurice always had our municipality's best interest at heart and took his position very seriously. This became apparent in his attendance at council meetings; Maurice only missed nine meetings in 26 years, and he had 19 years of perfect attendance!

Maurice was very attentive to the municipal budget and kept on top of all issues within the municipality. While talking to current or previous councillors and/or employees, the following attributes were used to describe Maurice: honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, authoritative, dedication and commitment. All qualities we personally strive for but are a real asset as an elected official.

During Maurice's early years, council purchased a Cat grader for \$111,000, a Schulte mower for \$13,400 and 2.05 km of road was constructed for \$22,950. Prices are a bit different today!



The RM of Maple Bush No. 224 wishes to thank Maurice Bartzen for all his years of commitment and dedication and to wish him all the best in his retirement!



**BLAINE STROPKO**  
**RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5**  
**RETIREMENT**

On December 31, 2018 Public Works Foreman Blaine Stropko retired after 35 years of service. Blaine was presented with a parting gift at the annual Christmas party in appreciation of his many years of hard work. The ratepayers, council and staff of the RM of Estevan

No. 5 would like to thank Blaine for his many years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement!

**DOUG BLUE**  
**RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5**  
**RETIREMENT**

Doug retired as Division 4 Councillor in October of 2018. We are grateful for Doug's knowledge and dedication he provided in his eight years of service. Doug was presented with an engraved watch as a token of appreciation for his commitment to the RM and the various committees on which he served.

We would like to wish Doug all the best in his retirement!

**MEMBER NEWS TIPS**

Here are some tips to help you prepare your Member News submissions:

- Do not include photos in Word documents. Send them as separate high resolution JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files.
- Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of websites.
- Photos should be 300 dpi resolution. *Tip:* check the file size. If it's less than 100 kb, it may not print properly.
- Check your cell phone camera resolution before taking photos. Ensure the camera's settings are at High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Max. length for write-ups is 250 words.

Email questions or Member News items to [sarm@sarm.ca](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca). Thank you for all of your submissions. We love sharing your stories and achievements with our readers!

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