

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 52 number 2

SUMMER 2019 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Exploring Saskatchewan's Backyard; SK's Booming Indigenous Tourism Industry; Addressing Canada's Canola Crisis; Recreation and Tourism – The Benefits are Endless; Recreation – A Regional Approach; Agriculture Grants for 2019-20; Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network; Tourism Awards of Excellence



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Killdeer Badlands, Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan

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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 GENE MAKOWSKY
MINISTER OF PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT



Photo ©Shutterstock.com

ON BEHALF of the Government of Saskatchewan, we are proud to support the many recreation and tourism associations who promote our province as a great place for residents and visitors to travel and explore.

From our beautiful provincial parks, sporting events, to music festivals and art shows, our province truly offers something for everyone. Events, activities and programs promote healthy lifestyles and contribute to the strong quality of life we enjoy in our province.

In May, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina welcomed Scotty, the most massive T.rex ever discovered. Not only is Scotty the most massive T. rex ever found, it is more massive than any specimen of meat eating dinosaur found to date. The T.rex dinosaur was appointed Saskatchewan's provincial fossil because Scotty was discovered right here in our home province. Scotty is now located in both Eastend and Regina and is a great attraction to our province for both residents and visitors.

Over the next few months, we are looking forward to hosting a number of exciting events in Saskatchewan. The Western Canada Summer Games will be held in Swift Current in August with 1,700 participating athletes. In October, Saskatoon will be the host city of the national Creative Cities Summit, which will attract art and culture enthusiasts from across the

country to help build vital infrastructure for these sectors. The Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic will be held in Regina at Mosaic Stadium in October where the Calgary Flames will take on the Winnipeg Jets.

From our beautiful provincial parks, sporting events, to music festivals and art shows, our province truly offers something for everyone.

In 2020, the Junos will be back in Saskatoon as we celebrate the best of the Canadian music scene in our beautiful province. We are proud to host events like this because of the power they have to bring people and communities together to celebrate and showcase, not only Canadian talent, but also all our province has to offer.

With each season, there are an endless number of activities, events and programs, both indoors and outdoors, to enjoy. The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport will continue to support recreation and tourism in our province as we aim to strengthen the opportunities that are offered to our residents and guests.



Addressing **CANADA'S CANOLA CRISIS**

BY RAY ORB
SARM PRESIDENT

BY THE TIME this article is published I'm hoping the issue of China rejecting shipments of canola seed from Canada has been resolved.

To put it in perspective, canola contributes \$26.7 billion to Canada's economy, making it one of the most important crops in the country.

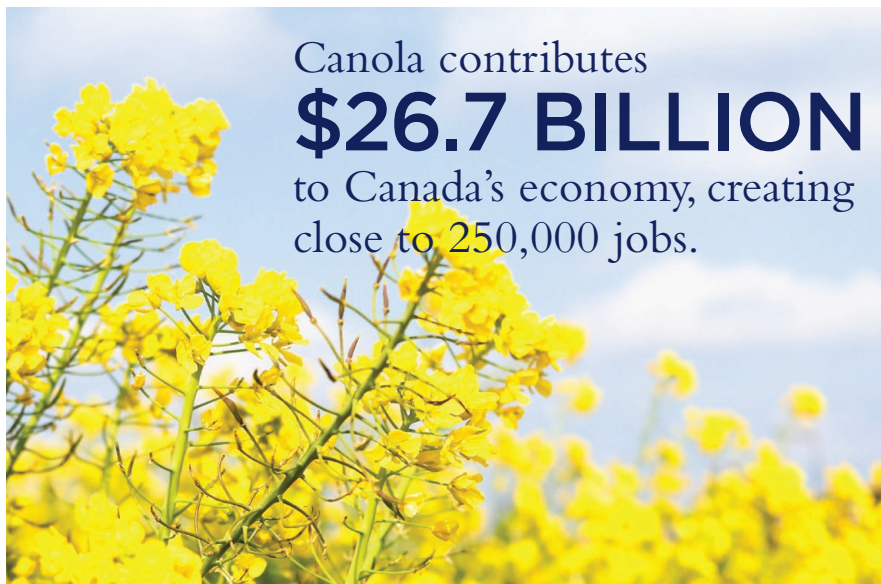
In 2018, Canada exported more than 18 million tonnes of canola seed and canola products with 40 per cent of that going to China. Canadian jobs created by canola number very close to 250,000 which is a substantial amount.

In 2017, Saskatchewan's 23,000 canola farmers produced 6.4 million tonnes of canola seed, 2.1 million tonnes of meal and 1.5 million tonnes of oil which contributed \$12.2 million to the Saskatchewan economy.

At the end of March, the SARM Executive met with federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and International Trade Diversification Minister Jim Carr in Saskatoon. We were the only group that inquired about a political resolve to the canola issue. We believe it was then, and likely still is, a political trade issue, not a quality of resource issue that China chose to use as an excuse to stop canola shipments from Canada.

Once again during the first week of April, this time in Ottawa, SARM met with Minister Bibeau and fortified our position that a quick resolve be initiated by our federal government. Once again we were reassured that everything was being done, including a request from Canada that CFIA officials be allowed to travel to China to prove (once again) that Canadian canola shipments were safe and free from contamination of foreign material.

Today (April 29) SARM issued a press release that initiated a letter writing campaign that rural Saskatchewan residents



could access to send a letter to Minister Ralph Goodale.

Copies were also to be sent to Ministers Bibeau, Carr and members of parliament to re-fortify our urgent request for government action.

With funding assistance from Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance, SARM issued a letter to the *Hills Times*, a local Ottawa paper that all members of parliament in Ottawa will be certain to read.

What Canada needs to do is to begin a diplomatic campaign, first of all to appoint a new Ambassador to China. Canada needs to ask the U.S. for help since the U.S. is partly to blame for the political unrest between Canada and China, partly because of Canada's detention of Huawei CEO Meng Wanzhou, at the request of the U.S. and partly because Canada/China relations had begun to deteriorate allegedly due to Prime Minister Trudeau's last visit to China.

There will need to be political intervention very soon if this one-sided trade

war is to stop. This may mean Canada requesting China to allow Foreign Affairs Minister Freeland, ministers Bibeau and Carr to be able to visit China to resolve the issue.

Today we heard that China was preparing a list of retaliatory goods, including Canadian peas, wheat and pork, which will cause further issues including price reduction for Saskatchewan producers.

The federal government has extended cash advance limits to canola farmers, which can only be considered as a short-term solution since the advance is only a loan and has to be paid back. AgriStability enrollment is a must for all Saskatchewan farmers because this safety net program may prove invaluable in this atmosphere of trade volatility.

Whatever the federal government does to resolve the trade issues with China will need to be addressed quickly and effectively. Canada will need to be firm with China as their regime seems to respect only those who are as direct as they are.



RECREATION AND TOURISM –

The benefits are endless

BY JAY MEYER
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photo © Shutterstock.com

MANY of our communities have ample opportunity to get outside, get moving and have fun. It is vital for people to live in environments that have amenities that allow for them to lead active, healthy lifestyles. Our province has many different options to assist with getting people moving and active.

Recreation brings with it many health and environmental benefits. Engaging in recreational activities will lower stress and increase physical health. It may even eliminate loneliness or conquer boredom. Recreational spaces provide opportunity for children and families to connect.

Check out any one of our province's provincial or regional parks. Not only will you broaden your horizon, but you will also increase your knowledge of our beautiful province. These parks provide all ages the opportunity to enjoy land preserved for recreational use in its natural beauty and creates a sense of public pride for us all. Go out and get as close to nature as you can; enjoy its' company.

Many of our municipalities provide fantastic views overlooking landscapes that include sandhills, forests, rivers and plains. While enjoying a walk, run or bike, you could very well come across wildlife that not many get the opportunity to encounter. A few of these wonderful creatures include elk, rabbit, deer, antelope, or moose.

We are so fortunate to be next door to these experiences; experiences many of us take for granted or feel we need to travel miles to enjoy rather than investing dollars to see what we have in our own backyards.

Many of us spend too much time indoors in the winter months. Let's all commit to more outdoor time in the summer months, even if that is as simple as enjoying the fresh air in your backyard with your friends and family while understanding that many envy what our province has in its own backyard.



SARM REFLECTIONS

BY ROD WIENS SARM DIRECTOR, DIVISION 6

FIRSTLY, I would like to thank the reeves and councillors from Division 6 for giving me the opportunity to serve as their representative on the SARM board for the past six years. It was truly an honour. My one regret was not being able to devote my all to the position because of the health issues that I have experienced.

During my time at SARM, I served with two presidents, four vice-presidents, two executive directors, one interim executive director and 13 board members. I attended board meetings in three different office locations during the six years. I was able to meet with provincial MLAs, cabinet members and two provincial premiers. I met many federal MPs and cabinet members and two prime ministers, and members of the senate. I also met with numerous council members and administrators from across the province. I didn't always agree with the people I met, but the common quality that each of them have is a dedication to their home community.

SARM is the voice of rural Saskatchewan, and it is a voice that needs to be heard.

I have also had the opportunity to work with and get to know the SARM staff. They are a hardworking, dedicated group who provide the SARM board and SARM members with many services and support.

SARM is the voice of rural Saskatchewan, and it is a voice that needs to be heard. It is fine for a provincial or a federal government to brag about serving 90 per cent of the population with services like cell coverage or high speed internet. But who speaks for the 5 to 10 per cent that don't receive these services? SARM has to continue to be that voice for people who live in the margins. An example of this is our

support for STARS. We know how vulnerable we are in rural Saskatchewan when we experience critical injuries. We also know that a carbon tax is not going to change our driving habits when the distance to basic services like groceries and schools keeps increasing.

SARM needs to be the voice of rural Saskatchewan to all levels of government and to all parties. SARM needs to be the voice of rural Saskatchewan to the Liberals and the Conservatives, to the Sask party and the NDP. All of these groups need to understand what rural means and what are our needs and challenges.

I may have left the SARM board, but I still feel like I am part of SARM. I am still living in rural Saskatchewan. My expectation of SARM is that SARM is my voice, SARM represents me to the rest of the province and country. Continue in the good work you have been doing.

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DRIVE THIS WAY - Shoulder Splendour

BY WENDY GOWDA SARM EX-OFFICIO



IF YOU MEASURE DISTANCE

in hours, you could be from Saskatchewan. During my tenure as ex-officio SARM Board Member, the truly Saskatchewanian tradition I can attest to is the Saskatchewan grounding of all the board members. Distance is measured in hours – two most travelled being Larry at 3 ½ hours and Darwin over 4 hours to Regina for every meeting. I expect, like me, they both enjoy the Saskatchewan sky and landscape during their travels.

A road trip in Saskatchewan provides an array of beauty – the skies are vast, there are spectacular sunrises, sunsets, and amazing landscapes with rolling fields of wheat in the south to the boreal forest in the north.

The sunniest province, Saskatchewan brings a wealth of unexpected beauty and adventure for the outdoor enthusiast and nature lover on a year round basis. The boreal forests and literally thousands of lakes draw crowds during the summer, whether boating, fishing, camping or beaching, the natural beauty of the province's lakes make a relaxing vacation destination for locals and visitors alike.

Bountiful wildlife and fowl draws hunters from across North America during hunting season. Saskatchewan social traditions around food and culture serve up a wealth of community suppers in small communities. Hundreds of home-made meals are served up throughout the province.

Saskatchewan in the winter is host to hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails, and the natural beauty of

numerous cross country ski trails. Visitors can experience a dog sled excursion in the boreal forest, or take in the winter beauty from the luxury of a five star resort – Saskatchewan tourism is four seasons.

I am passing a challenge to each of you to venture to a new-to-you provincial area with a staycation in our province for an enjoyable and relaxing holiday this year – the possibilities are endless – besides the natural beauty of sky and landscape, Saskatchewan is rich in culture, art and history. Head out on a road trip, and remember to keep a close watch out the window on your journey – the splendour of the Saskatchewan countryside, sky and landscape will not disappoint you!

Photos provided by Wendy Gowda.

Saskatchewan brings a wealth of unexpected beauty and adventure for the outdoor enthusiast and nature lover year round.



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IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 15 — Last day to file crop reports

JUNE 30 — Last day for new SMHI applicants to apply for coverage

AUGUST 1 — Last day to apply for coverage with AMHL or PMHL



SMHI SASKATCHEWAN
MUNICIPAL HAIL
INSURANCE



NEW FUNDING, NEW PROGRAMS

Agriculture grants for 2019-20

BY LAUREL FELTN

SARM DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the Provincial Budget in April 2018, SARM was officially offered the opportunity to administer \$2.85 million/year in funding for an updated suite of agriculture programming called the Pest Biosecurity Program. It included 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.

We are happy to once again announce that these programs will continue into 2019-20 as follows:

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, 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 best to undertake their powers and responsibilities in accordance with Saskatchewan legislation respecting pest control and weed control, 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), survey and report on agricultural crop pests and prohibited/noxious weeds occurrences.

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

The program focus is on the humane removal of nuisance beaver 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).



This year all RMs that meet the eligibility criteria will be eligible to submit a claim. It continues to require that RMs use individuals with a valid fur trapping licence to remove nuisance beavers.

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, 2020.

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. 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, 2019.

Rebates based on a pro-rate formula and program deadline is October 31, 2019.

RAT CONTROL PROGRAM (CAP-RCP) - 50:50 COST SHARE FUNDING AND RAT CONTROL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO A MAXIMUM OF \$1.25 M

This 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 2019-20 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 two rat control technical advisors to assist with technical support.

Rebates based on a pro-rate formula for claims received and program deadline is December 31, 2019.



The most up-to-date information, program guidelines and claim forms for these pest biosecurity programs can be found on the SARM website at 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 as 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 2019.

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HAY SALVAGE

and ditch mowing



PRODUCERS can once again take advantage of free hay in Saskatchewan's provincial highway ditches.

Hay can be salvaged any time during the spring or summer months. Before and including 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. It is recommended that participants contact their local ministry office to provide contact information and limits on where they are salvaging hay to avoid disputes.

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. Bales must be removed by August 8; otherwise, they may be subject to removal and disposal by the ministry. After August 8, bales must be removed immediately following haying operations. The ministry may also remove and dispose of hay bales in locations deemed unsafe for drivers.

Ditch Mowing

The ministry is working on its annual early mowing program along high traffic volume 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.

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 and including 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 may be removed and disposed of at the ministry's discretion.



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BUDGET 2019:

A major boost for rural broadband

BY BILL KARSTEN FCM PRESIDENT

NOT BEING ABLE TO get online when you have work to do is enormously frustrating. For businesses in rural and remote communities, it can mean the difference between processing a payment and missing out on a big sale. Reliable, affordable Internet is something that all Canadians should be able to access, no matter where they live.

The good news is that FCM took this message to the federal government and Budget 2019 delivered. All told, this budget committed between \$5 and \$6 billion over the next 10 years to bring reliable, affordable Internet to some of the hardest-to-reach communities in Canada. This is the biggest-ever federal investment in Internet access for people in rural and remote communities. But this game-changer didn't happen overnight. It took years of policy work and coordinated advocacy by FCM with SARM and our member communities, like yours.

This is an example of what happens when we bring the united voice of local government directly to decision-makers. And, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on how we all made it happen.

In talking to our members from rural, remote and northern communities over the years, one issue always stood out. At FCM, we heard time and time again how the lack of a reliable Internet connection was preventing businesses and communities from growing. That's why we made this such a centrepiece of our advocacy efforts in Ottawa.

Over several years, FCM filed submissions to the CRTC and the House of Commons about the need for universal broadband.

Each November, when more than 100 FCM board members descended on Parliament Hill for our Advocacy Days, broadband was high on our agenda with

MPs from all parties, and our advocacy was driving real progress. The \$500 million Connect to Innovate program and the CRTC's \$750 million Broadband Fund were first steps toward bringing service to hard-to-reach areas. But we knew that would not be enough to close the rural broadband gap and ensure reliable Internet access for all Canadians. It was time to think bigger.

Reliable, affordable Internet is something that all Canadians should be able to access, no matter where they live. Budget 2019 committed between \$5 and \$6 billion over the next 10 years to bring this service to some of the hardest-to-reach communities in Canada.

In the fall of 2018, FCM launched a campaign calling for the federal government to invest in rural broadband on a scale never seen before in Canada. While our goal was always to ensure Internet access for the hardest-to-reach areas, we framed the campaign as a drive for "Internet for all," with the long-term goal of truly universal access for all Canadians. We wrote and pitched op-eds in newspapers across the country, including a piece by FCM rural forum chair Ray Orb that appeared in the *Western Producer*. We invested in social media ads, and our government relations team took our key asks to federal decision-makers, as well as opposition MPs.

We had some early signs that Ottawa was listening. On October 26, 2018, federal, provincial and territorial ministers for innovation and economic development agreed to develop a long-term

strategy to improve access to high-speed Internet. And in January 2019, when Bernadette Jordan was appointed the first-ever Minister for Rural Economic Development, she immediately named FCM as a key partner in achieving universal broadband. All of this built to the moment in March when Budget 2019 announced unprecedented funding that will bring Canada much closer to universal broadband for all.

The big takeaway here is that these achievements did not happen on their own. Municipal leaders worked incredibly hard to keep their communities' concerns on the federal agenda, and their work is paving the road to reliable Internet, economic growth and a better quality of life for all.

Going forward, FCM is ready to work with our federal partners to help bring high-speed Internet access to all Canadians, no matter where they live. After all, rural communities drive nearly one-third of Canada's economy. Our industries, from agriculture to manufacturing, are foundations for this country's success. If Canada is going to reach its full potential, every Canadian must have a fair opportunity to thrive – no matter where they live.

For many Canadians, federal politics can feel distant from everyday hopes and challenges, but it doesn't have to be that way. If Ottawa wants to bridge that gap, it makes sense to start welcoming Canada's local leaders to the decision-making table. For exactly the same reason, it's time to welcome every one of us to the digital table – with the same Internet access that most Canadians have come to expect.

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

SARM GOES ON THE ROAD

"Every July the SARM Board travels to a different division of the province to meet face to face with RMs in the area. This year they travel to Division 3 and spend time in Leader, SK. Below are some highlights of recreation and tourism in the area. The Board will be in Leader and area July 16-18."

- Jay Meyer

BY CHRISTINE BRODERICK CHAIR OF LEADER AND DISTRICT TOURISM BOARD

WITH the South Saskatchewan River to the north and the Great Sandhills to the south, there is no shortage of beautiful scenery in the Leader area. The local tourism board offers two summer tours that highlight the local sights and attractions, but if you can't make those dates, it is easy to enjoy the area on your own.

Checkerboard Hill offers a breathtaking view of the river, as do the 8th and 9th holes of River Ridge Golf Course. Set just above the rolling valley, this course is made up of a front and back nine. Hiking, fishing and birdwatching are also popular riverside activities. Call ahead to book a tour of Estuary Hutterite Colony, and then take the ferry across the river to Sagebrush Studios, where local artists Dean and Fran Francis display high quality art in historic churches that they've moved onto their land.

South of Leader, you can stop at St. John's Church and School house. Go back in time as you sit in the one roomed school house and pop into the tiny replica of a Lutheran church. Just a bit farther down the road is Blumenfeld Church. Set in the beautiful countryside, this churchyard and grotto are interesting on their own, but you'll be amazed at the interior. Tours are available upon request.

East of Leader is the town of Sceptre which has turned the old school into an educational interpretive centre and museum. Learn about the Sandhills, local history, and wildlife as you wander through the classrooms and out buildings. This is a great starting point on your way to explore the Great Sandhills. Various murals are spread throughout the town of Sceptre, so be sure to take a drive through.



With 1,900 square kilometers of active dunes, these sandhills are a must see. For an easy hike, climb the dunes right near the parking lot. If you have a bit more time, head west from the boots to another larger set of dunes. As you stand in the middle of the sand, you'll think you've been transported out of Saskatchewan. Search for animal tracks and spot piles of bones and debris that the wind

has uncovered. The Great Sandhills are ever changing and worth multiple visits.

Scattered throughout the town of Leader itself, you will notice a variety of larger than life sculptures. These sculptures depict local wildlife and make a great photo opportunity or excuse to stretch your legs during your drive through town. Thanks to a local gentleman, you can also find a huge red chair to pose on.

Leader has hosted an annual Wild West Daze event for several years. Held on Father's day weekend, this event has something for everyone. From slow pitch, trade shows, food vendors, train rides, tractor pulls, kid's activities and live bands, people come from all over to enjoy themselves and meet up with new and old friends. Our new recreation director has been working hard to add new events to Wild West Daze and our Canada Day celebration. The new G3 Iceplex is host to many local events, and locals are counting the days until our swimming pool is open.

With tours, activities, sports, dance, fitness, clubs and more, there is always something going on in Leader and its surrounding areas. A huge part of our success and growth is thanks to volunteers and donations. Leader Tourism has recently joined forces with The Leader and District Chamber of Commerce and Cypress Hills Destination Area. We know that together is better, and we look forward to a future of fun, collaboration and growth.

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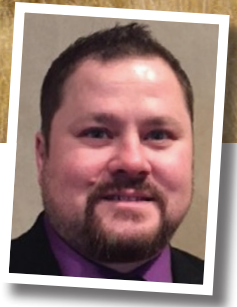
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EXPLORING Saskatchewan's own backyard

BY DORAN SCOTT RMAA DIRECTOR DIVISION 5



WHEN I WAS originally asked to contribute an article for the tourism issue of *Rural Councillor*, I was prepared to speak about the diversity of options available to us in Saskatchewan with all of our regional, provincial and even a national park. I was going to start off with a bit of the history of my own haunts, and the fun activities that one could participate in at those locations. It was then going to end with a clever anecdote about how my grandmother, who lived most of her life in the Radville area, would get claustrophobic whenever she came up to our cabin in the Waskesieu area. Apparently horizons are a thing that some people require for comfort.

That was until I came across an article on cbc.ca (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/saskatchewan-tourism-destinations-private-lands-access-1.5111757>) which spoke about visiting some of Saskatchewan's unofficial tourism destinations and some of the concerns accessing them.

Tourism doesn't have to entail packing up a car, driving hours to a destination, unpacking, having the quintessential "vacation," then returning home. Tourism can be as simple as exploring what may be in your own backyard over the course of an afternoon or just a day trip to one of the many attractions most regions of the province have to offer.

My family and I live in Saskatoon, and one of our favourite outings is to travel along the river stopping at various taverns along the way for a pint and a bite. Sometimes we stop at the farm-

ers market, sometimes the splash park, sometimes we sit and people watch. We could also take a tour on the paddleboat, a canoe tour of the South Saskatchewan river or one of the Doors Open tours that lets the public see things they usually don't get to see. All of these are ten minutes from my house and quite expected in Saskatchewan's largest city.

But these activities don't extend just to Saskatoon or only the cities. Members of my family used to farm near the Big Muddy Valley which provided a host of exploratory opportunities and a superb way to spend a day. They even had spirit circles located on their lands which the public would sometimes visit. Whether you wanted to drive to the creek and explore the valley or climb some of the buttes and take in the scenery, it was all attainable in the space of an afternoon.

Hiking not your style? Hook up the boat and head out to the Bradwell reservoir 20 minutes southeast of Saskatoon. It's a man-made reservoir built for the purpose of irrigation from Blackstrap lake and is stocked with fish. Some big ones too, or so I've been told. Maybe take a trip up near Prince Albert for Vintage Power Days to see how farming used to be done and stop at the Duck Lake Regional Interpretive Museum on your way. Perhaps you're just going to hop on the quad and do a little trail riding on the prairie or through the forest. The point is that there are many different ways to learn and enjoy the day in Saskatchewan with little money and effort and which require very little travel.

Many of these small touristy spots are not accessed by public roads nor do they exist on public lands.

It really is by the grace of the rural landowners that the public can enjoy many of the sights Saskatchewan has to offer. We cannot take it for granted that the public will continue to be allowed access to these areas if we don't take steps as a community to govern ourselves in their use. Most rural folks I know don't have an issue or concern with members of the public enjoying some recreation or a historical forage on their property as long as they show respect and consideration for the person who owns and the land they are traversing. This is especially true in this day and age with increased concerns about rural crime, pollution and biological cross-contamination.

We are all aware that the province has recently revised trespassing legislation to shift responsibility from the landowner to the person seeking entry. Obviously, this concerns those of us that seek these day-long adventures in other people's backyards. This is another reason that we must police ourselves and each other when enjoying what our province has to offer. If you see someone acting disrespectfully, remind them that they are probably a guest. Pick up that piece of litter that's blowing by in the wind. If you pass by the owner, say thank you. It never fails that we lose that which we didn't know we loved when we take it for granted. Take care of your backyard.

SASKATCHEWAN'S

Booming Indigenous tourism industry

Indigenous tourism in the country is substantially outpacing Canadian tourism activity overall. In 2017, Indigenous tourism in Canada brought in **\$1,742.6 million** in GDP, with Saskatchewan bringing in **\$116.7 million** in GDP.

ONLY FIVE KILOMETRES outside of Saskatoon lays the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Centre, amongst the historical Wanuskewin Heritage Park. From the centre, visitors can meander across the grassy plains and peer over the cliff into the lush Opimihaw Creek Valley below. From this picturesque vantage point, it's not hard to imagine this rich ecosystem as a magnet for peoples of the Northern Plains who, for over 6,000 years, came here to hunt bison, collect food and medicinal plants, and escape the frigid prairie wind!

The park is home to Canada's longest running archaeological dig, with the University of Saskatchewan conducting research in the area for the past 42 years. Seeking UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, Wanuskewin Heritage Park is currently undergoing a \$40 million renewal expanding their Interpretive Centre, and gallery spaces. The park is also bringing in a bison herd as a new outdoor experience. This is just one of many Indigenous experiences within Saskatchewan.

When traveling through the province, visitors may not immediately think they have the opportunity to experience Indigenous culture, or even where to start finding out how. As Indigenous tourism in Canada continues to grow at a remarkable rate, more and more people are seeking out Indigenous experiences as part of their vacation. According to research conducted by the Conference Board of Canada, one in three visitors to Canada want to take part in an Indigenous experience. The study also found Indigenous tourism in the country is substantially outpacing Canadian tourism activity overall. In 2017, Indigenous tourism in Canada brought in a total of \$1,742.6 million in GDP, with Saskatchewan making up 6.7 per cent of this, bringing in \$116.7 million in GDP.

To help link visitors to Indigenous experiences, the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) put together a Guide to Indigenous Tourism in Canada, highlighting various experiences across the country, separated by each province. Last year, a new website featuring itineraries and packages to help visitors map their own vacations to include an Indigenous experience was launched – www.indigenouscanada.travel.

For visitors traveling to Saskatchewan, as well as locals looking to take part in Indigenous experiences, there are 90 different experiences spread out across the province to choose from (making up five per cent of total Indigenous experiences offered within Canada). Saskatchewan's Indigenous culture is rich, with 175,020 Indigenous people living in the province. Beautiful parks, relaxing resorts and historical museums, are some of the experiences in the province that highlight Indigenous culture within the region. Its unique landscape, diverse land-based activities, and the uniqueness of First Nations and Métis culture, set this region apart from every other province in Canada.



Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Chief Poundmaker Museum, about a two-hour drive from Saskatoon, in Paynton is just one example of the experiences available for visitors. Anyone interested in getting a glimpse of what Saskatchewan was like in the 1800s, and to learn about the fascinating history with the Poundmaker Cree Nation. Here, visitors will learn the true story of the Cut Knife Hill Battlefield, learn about Chief Poundmaker – a peacemaker and protector of his people, and see the Big Bear Memorial.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, **one in three visitors** to Canada want to take part in an Indigenous experience.

Another experience showcased is for those looking for a relaxing vacation. M&N Resort, located on the stunning Waterhen lake, offers a tranquil getaway for families and fishing enthusiasts. Operating for more than 25 years, the resort has traditional log cabins, allowing you to rediscover life at a relaxed pace, and get back to your roots. Open all year round, cool off in the refreshing lake in the summer, and ice fish and snowmobile in the winter. For visitors traveling around Canada Day, the resort offers a front row view to the spectacular fireworks display.

These are only a few examples of the authentic, unique and diverse Indigenous activities Saskatchewan has to offer. Indigenous ancestors have been welcoming visitors to their traditional territories for millennia, with ceremony, song, dance, gifts and cuisine – and this has not changed. However, it is now up to new generations to share Indigenous culture, by offering inspiring and life-changing experiences. All you have to do, is visit.



NEW APPRECIATION for Saskatchewan's true

BY ZANE BUCHANAN 2019 SASKATCHEWANDERER

I'LL NEVER cease to find the novelty in the following sentence: "I'm Zane Buchanan, and I'm your 2019 Saskatchewaner." I've been actively immersing myself in this position for nearly four months now and the idea that THIS is my reality remains incomprehensible. I don't expect that this sense of shock will ever subside; at least not within the duration of my term.... So if you see me scaling Cypress Hills with a dumbfounded look on my face, don't fret – that will be my expression for 2019.

Now that we have been formally acquainted, I have a confession: although my roots are firmly planted here in the land of living skies, I did temporarily stray off the beaten path. Following my graduation from Greenall High School in Balgonie, I pursued studies and work experience in Vancouver

and Toronto, respectively. It was on that soul-searching mission that I acquired the technical tool-set necessary for this position. More importantly, I also gained a new appreciation for my home province and a fresh perspective to bring with me on my travels.

My time in other provinces gave me a first-hand view of the false stigma that surrounds Saskatchewan from an outside perspective. Perhaps the most irksome opinion that's been thrown at me time and time again is that as a province, we lack diversity. I applied with the objective that, were I granted this position, I would build my term on a platform of diversity. Now that the papers have been signed and the keys to the CAA Wanderer-Mobile are in my possession, I can't wait to bring said mandate to fruition. Although the natural land-



TION diversity

RER

scape of Saskatchewan is what fuels the Saskatchewaner's content, I hope to show the world a deeper understanding of our people as well.

Even given our record-breaking cold-snap this winter, I got to enjoy many outdoor winter activities. I went dogsledding not once, but twice. The first time, I was invited to Fort Qu'Appelle High School where they were hosting and facilitating a Cree workshop lead by Kâniyâsihk Culture Camps – a grassroots not-for-profit camp based out of Ministikwin Lake. Kevin Lewis, the creator of this



program, had traveled more than 600 km, along with three additional instructors and – get this – 28 sled-dogs! Among many other immersive Cree experiences, I was taught to operate a dog sled.

This skillset served me when, on a whim, former Saskatchewaner Andrew Hiltz asked me to join him at SunDog Adventures – a Sled Dog Camp in the wilderness neighborhood of Anglin Lake. Although I had a wonderful time doing laps around the track at Fort Qu'Appelle High School, it was an entirely different experience gliding through the boreal forest!

While in that neck of the woods, I was also given the opportunity to take in the Prince Albert Winter Festival – a seasonal staple for locals and tourists in the area. With 55 years under its belt, the event has established itself as the largest winter festival in Western Canada. In that day alone I tested my less-than-impressive strength in an arm wrestling competition, took a horse-driven sleigh ride, indulged in a fish fry, shopped in the local market and disregarded the recommended age of the Kid's Zone. I was even a short-lived

contender in the festival's annual King Trapper Competition where I put my survival instincts to the test (and immediately failed).

I even took in brand new experiences right in my home community. Sask Soul Fest is a daylong Regina-based Yoga and Meditation retreat which was launched this past Summer in Wascana Park. Following its inaugural season, the organizers decided that we shouldn't have to wait until summer for a little soul-cleansing. Enter: Sask Soul WINTER Fest! Scheduled right at the kick-off of the spring equinox, there's no better time to check-in with yourself and recharge for the upcoming seasons. As someone who has practiced yoga for some time – I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Every day I am reminded of my fortune to live in a place as great as Saskatchewan. I'm so blessed to be able to combine these experiences with my passion for writing and content creation. Even with the unbelievable travel itinerary I have under my belt, I know that the best is yet to come. I can't wait to share it with you!

RURAL TOURISM HIGHLIGHTED

at Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala

SASKATCHEWAN'S TOURISM SECTOR honoured businesses and individuals at the 30th annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala in Saskatoon on April 11. Thirty-six finalists and 12 award recipients were recognized, along with three Tourism Builders. Rural operations, individuals and events were well represented, including the following award recipients:



WHEATLAND EXPRESS, CUDWORTH/WAKAW

Rookie of the Year Award

Wheatland Express is central Saskatchewan's exclusive excursion and event passenger train that connects the communities of Cudworth and Wakaw. The not-for-profit company is aimed at generating tourism, economic and employment opportunities for local communities, and providing first-rate attractions and events to visitors from Saskatchewan and beyond. Wheatland Express provides a made-in-Saskatchewan experience and collaborates with local partners to showcase the province's culture, services and talents. Eight tours for approximately 800 guests were initially planned for the inaugural season, which was scheduled to end in September. Overwhelming ticket demand required additional scheduling, and by the end of 2018, 25 tours hosted nearly 4,000 guests. The expanded season included The Magical Winter Express, a new winter experience that brought more than 1,000 visitors to Wakaw over four days in December.

HARVEST EATERY, SHAUNAVON

Service Excellence Award

With its impressive reputation and award-winning chef, Harvest Eatery in Shaunavon has put rural Saskatchewan on the culinary map. Located in the heart of the southwest, this 45-seat, farm-to-table operation is the brainchild and creative collaboration of husband and wife duo, Chef Garrett

"Rusty" and Kristy Thienes. The eatery served its first meal on July 1, 2013. Since then, its tables have been full. With inspired and experiential dining in mind, the Thienes have developed a warm, welcoming atmosphere paired with a seasonal menu featuring gourmet comfort food to create a culture hotspot that brings the community and tourists together. The Thienes and the entire Harvest Eatery staff aim to create a memorable experience for customers by maintaining a high level of service during every interaction.



BRENDA PETERSON, PARKS CANADA,

GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Tourism Employee of the Year Award

Brenda Peterson is the Visitor Experience Lead for the East Block of Grasslands National Park, but she wears many other "hats" for the greater good of the park and the community. She plays an invaluable role as Interpretation Coordinator, Quality Visitor Experience trainer, Park Duty Officer and Fire Patrol in the East Block. Peterson leads by example, is highly motivated and always goes the extra mile. She works tirelessly to improve services in the park, evident through the positive feedback received, as well as the steady increase in visitor numbers and revenue year after year. She has been instrumental in nurturing partnerships with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Royal Astronomical Society, Wood Mountain Wagon Train, Wood Mountain Historical Society, local rural municipalities and operators.

KINDER SURPRISES ANTIQUES, DAVIDSON Gil Carduner Marketing Award

Kinder Surprises Antiques has transformed a 100-year-old hip-roofed barn, near Davidson, into an antiques wonderland. By harnessing the power of social media, owner Erin Kinder connects with customers, shares heart-warming stories and encourages people to embark on a road trip. The business welcomes visitors on Sunday afternoons from spring until fall. The company's marketing conveys the charm and feeling of living in rural Saskatchewan through compelling content, videos and photographs. In addition to highlighting the calm, stress-free pace of country life, messages promote "girl power." Advertising and posts are created with an 88 per cent female demographic in mind. Activities on Facebook and Instagram have successfully reached the desired audience. Sales have increased by 25 per cent annually since the business started in 2014.



WATROUS MANITOU MARKETING GROUP, WATROUS Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award

The Watrous Manitou Marketing Group, a partnership between the Town of Watrous and Resort Village of Manitou Beach, promotes tourism, economic and community development. With one full-time and one part-time employee and a seven-member volunteer Board of Directors, the group has worked tirelessly to revitalize the area into a major tourism destination in rural Saskatchewan. Initiatives undertaken by the group include developing a long-term community tourism plan, branding initiatives, support of education and training opportunities for local businesses, aggressive marketing plans, new product development initiatives and implementation of a destination marketing program for sustainable growth. This program has also helped to increase the area's marketing reach, secure a strong position within the Saskatchewan travel market, and create long-term financial stability for the destination area. As a result of the efforts of the Watrous Manitou Marketing Group, the region continues to experience an increase in visitation, with many businesses reporting record numbers of visitors year over year.



OVER THE HILL ORCHARDS AND WINERY, LUMSDEN Business of the Year Award

(Under 20 Full-time Employees)

During an orchard tour, wine tasting or supper series event, hear the story of how owners Dean and Sylvia Kreutzer made their labour of love come to fruition at Over the Hill Orchards and Winery, near Lumsden. Over the past 18 years, the family business has evolved from selling raw fruit to processed fruit products to wine and now specialty dinners that combine all of its products. With each progression in its business model, yield and profitability have increased. The Kreutzers have realized that what is of greatest value in their business is their "story" and their knowledge as cold climate fruit experts. Their customers want (and will pay for) a personal connection to their food and drink. Dean's "dry as Riesling" sense of humour and the involvement of their children in the business are also major assets and contributors to their success.

TASTE OF MAPLE CREEK FESTIVAL, MAPLE CREEK

Community Event of the Year Award

Taste of Maple Creek Festival is a day-long community-wide festival held annually on the third Saturday in August. The event brings together a variety of community organizations to offer a "taste" of what the Old Cowtown of Maple Creek has to offer. During the event, Jasper Street in the Maple Creek Heritage District is overtaken by food tents. Local restaurants treat festival attendees to samples of their culinary best. Programming includes a classic car show and shine, artist showcase, photo exhibition, family activities, all-ages street concert and outdoor movie night. The event attracts travellers from across southern Saskatchewan and Alberta, and is popular with visitors to Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Taste of Maple Creek Festival dishes out a hearty helping of rural Saskatchewan hospitality.

Visit Industry.TourismSaskatchewan.com for a complete list of award recipients. For information on these tourism businesses and more, visit TourismSaskatchewan.com or call 1-877-237-2273 (toll-free).

OPTIMISM

Is in order regarding Zebra Mussels

BY LYNNE SAAS PARCS

NO ONE would question why the Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan (PARCS) speaks out about the need to protect our lakes from an infestation of zebra mussels – speaking for all the boaters whose boat hulls will be coated with the critters, for all the fisherpersons who will have to forego their favourite catches, and for the beach lovers who will be forever banished from their ruined beaches.

Zebra mussels should, however, be of equal concern for other Saskatchewan citizens, for the irrigators and the consumers of hydro-electric power whose costs will skyrocket, for the 50 per cent plus communities and rural water lines that draw their potable water from the Saskatchewan river system, for the potash plants, and for other commercial users of water. Zebra mussels clog pipes and require ongoing expensive maintenance to keep plants operating. A decade ago, Ontario reported that their zebra mussel infestations were costing the province from \$75 to \$91 million per year. In 2013, the Alberta government estimated that an infestation would cost that province about \$75 million annually.

The Ministry of Environment's newly appointed AIS Co-ordinator, Jeri Geiger, did great work in her first season (2018) with a lean staff of six employees, who inspected about 2,800 boats at two inspection stations. The Estevan station played an especially critical role in responding to referrals from Canada Border staff at the 11 border crossings along the US/Sask border.

PARCS advocated for three additional inspection stations and a dozen additional staff in 2019. The province replied with only one additional inspection station and three additional staff. In spite of these meagre resources, there are two reasons for keeping up our hopes for again stopping these mussels in 2019.

The first reason for optimism is that we have a new ally – it's the Federal Auditor! The recent report of the Federal Commissioner of Environment described how they had examined the activities of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canada Border Services in Manitoba and New Brunswick and found that they "did not effectively prevent the entry of the zebra mussel into Canada" from the 34 infected states in the US describes horror stories about the ineffectiveness of the procedures at many of the US border stations in other provinces. Fisheries and Oceans have acknowledged the need for better procedures and more staff, and they have promised to do better.

The system currently in use in Saskatchewan for intercepting mussels at the US border is very effective – largely because it involves a partnership of CBS staff and Sask Environment staff. It may well become the model for other provinces seeking to keep these mussels from entering Canada. It follows that infected boats that are kept out of other provinces will then not cross into Saskatchewan along our inter-provincial highways.

The second reason for optimism is the work of the citizens of the Lake Diefenbaker area (called LDTF – Lake Diefenbaker Task Force against zebra mussels) who made a strong start in 2018 towards protecting their lake from zebra mussels by:

- Setting up information signs at each community entrance and boat launch along with a system of Citizens on Alert to speak with owners of out-of-province boats;
- Raising money to purchase two decontamination stations to be set up on the lake;
- Collaborating with the provincial AIS Coordinator who trained the LDTF volunteer inspectors and advised

This community is a member of the Lake Diefenbaker Task Force against zebra mussels



We ask out-of-province visitors to phone:
1-306-831-5383 (LDTF)
BEFORE launching ALL watercraft

LDTF about public communications; and

- Distributing print information to every household (either by hand or bulk mail) and information sheets to boaters, plus recruiting their local Co-ops to hand out pamphlets at eight perimeter community service stations.

Two of the five infected boats that attempted to come into our province last summer were headed for Elbow Harbour. They were intercepted by LDTF and referred to the province for inspection and decontamination. Without LDTF, Lake Diefenbaker would have become irreversibly infected in 2018!

LDTF has beefed up their program for 2019 to include:

- Providing grants to four communities to hire special staff at the busiest launches;
- Printing 5,000 rack cards to hand out to boaters (with windshield stickers); and
- Setting up a zebra mussel hotline (see number on the sign above).

The LDTF program not only serves to protect Lake Diefenbaker; it also protects the downstream lakes like Buffalo Pound, Last Mountain and the Qu'Appelle Lakes – plus the communities on the South Sask River flowing north!

If you hear a naysayer claiming that it is impossible to stop the spread of mussels, that we should resist the temptation to waste dollars trying to keep them at bay, point out that we still stand a good chance of winning this battle!

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.

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



Case: On November 13th, 2018, Nipawin Conservation Officers received information regarding a moose that had been shot in the Harding Road Corridor Game Preserve, North of Love, Saskatchewan. The moose was shot on November 11th and a red snowmobile was observed in the area at the same time. Conservation Officers attended the scene and found the remains of a cow moose that had been harvested. Upon further investigation, it was observed that a White-tailed deer was also shot and taken from this area. A snowmobile and sleigh were used to retrieve the animals and they exited the Harding Road to the South. It was determined that both the moose and deer were shot within the 400 meter no hunting area of the road corridor game preserve. **The public's help is needed to solve this case.**

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NEW FACES

at SARM



KAREN MORRIS

Policy Coordinator

Karen grew up in Regina and has been on many adventures both near and far before happily returning to Saskatchewan to work at SARM. She obtained a B.A. in Law and Society from the University of Calgary, a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy, and has worked in Alberta, Ontario and most recently in Nunavut as a program analyst for the territorial government. Since starting at SARM in January, Karen has enjoyed getting to know her co-workers, the SARM Board of Directors and meeting reeves, councillors and administrators from around the province while attending her first annual convention in March.



LISA SHORDEE

Executive Assistant

Lisa grew up in the Qu'Appelle Valley in the town of Fort Qu'Appelle and moved to Regina eleven years ago. Her previous work experience includes nearly 12 years in the Financial Services industry in a variety of roles from customer service to management. Lisa joined the SARM family on March 25th and is excited for the opportunity to bring my personal skills and attributes over to this organization and looking forward to all the people she will meet!



DERRICK GAGNON

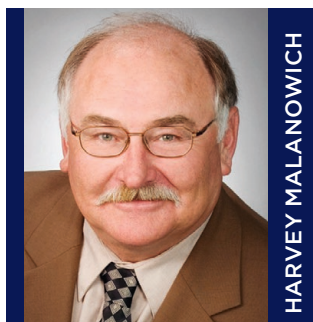
Policy Research Assistant (Summer Student)

Derrick is a fourth year Economic and Political Science major at the University of Regina. Derrick has been involved in the campus community since his first day walking into Riddell Centre doors. He has served three years on the University of Regina Senate and three years on the University of Regina Students' Union Board of Directors, two of which he served as the Vice-President Operations and Finance. When Derrick is not working full time or study for his degrees, he can be found at the Regina Flying Club, where is working to obtain his Private Pilot Licenses. It is his dream to achieve his Commercial Pilot Licenses so that he can become an airline pilot.

SARM Q&A

GETTING TO KNOW

SARM's board and staff



HARVEY MALANOWICH



HEATHER KINDERMANN

HARVEY

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- I am the Director for Division 4 and sit on the SARM Infrastructure and Development Committee, SARM Municipal Governance Committee and other external committees as a representative of SARM.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about being on the SARM Board?
- The people. I have the opportunity to meet so many people in this province and all across the country.
- Q** How long have you been an elected official?
- I was on the Canora School Board from '85 to '97, serving twelve years total, two years as chair. In 1997, I was elected Reeve for the RM of Sliding Hills No. 273. In 2006 I was elected to the SARM Board, so about 34 years as an elected official.

- Q** *What is your favourite thing about summer in Saskatchewan?*
- *Fishing and camping – I have a seasonal site on Good Spirit Lake.*

- Q** Where did you grow up?
- On a mixed farm southeast of Canora. We had pigs, chickens, hens, sheep, geese, cattle – everything!
- Q** If a tourist was to ask you what to do and where to go in Saskatchewan, what would you tell them?
- I'd tell them to go to Madge Lake or Good Spirit Lake to fish and camp.

HEATHER

- Q** What is your role at SARM?
- I am a Community Planner and Mapping Technologist. We create official community plans and zoning bylaws for rural municipalities as well as assist with a long list of planning and development related issues.

- Q** *If a tourist was to ask you what to do and where to go in Saskatchewan, what would you tell them?*
- *Saskatchewan has so much to offer! The Great Sand Hills and anywhere up near Prince Albert National Park I would recommend because they both show examples of the diverse landscapes that we have in Saskatchewan.*

- Q** What is your favourite thing about working at SARM?
- Getting a chance to travel to meet with councils all over the province is always very interesting. I get to see areas of the province I have never seen before.
- Q** How long have you been with SARM?
- Since May 2015.
- Q** Where did you grow up?
- I grew up in Regina but also spent most of spring, summer and fall helping out on the family farm near Assiniboia.
- Q** What is your favourite thing about summer in Saskatchewan?
- Just being outside and spending time on our family farm.

RECREATION – a Regional Approach



HEADING to a local campground for a relaxing weekend getaway? Planning an afternoon adventure to the spray park with your family in a neighboring community? Your recreation experiences aren't dictated by community or municipal boundaries; they are driven by YOU – your lifestyle, your family and your wellbeing.

CPL Recreation is a partnership that is thinking differently about these traditional boundaries – all with the people and their experience in mind. Since 2009, the Village of Paddockwood, the Village of Christopher Lake, the District of Lakeland No. 521 and the RM of Paddockwood No. 520 (known collectively as CPL Recreation) have been embracing a collaborative regional model to sport, culture and recreation delivery. To them, 'community' is not defined by municipal boundaries or postal codes, it is a belief in creating accessible sport, culture and recreation experiences within their region. It's about building engagement, with the understanding that cooperation between communities achieves more than competition.

With a volunteer board of directors, various community partners and a recreation director, sport, culture and recreation programs are brought to life within this region. The CPL Recreation Strategic Plan and their Partnership Agreement are a strong foundation that demonstrates a commitment to quality of life. Together, they have increased use of existing facilities, supported the development of new partnerships, enhanced communication among community groups, and as a result, more programs are being offered.

Over 73 per cent of people in Saskatchewan agree that access to recreation programs, facilities and services are a practical way to build a sense of community among different groups of people. It is partnerships like CPL Recreation that are dedicated to building an active and engaged community for people just like YOU.



Their journey to becoming one of the most effective regional models for the delivery of sport, culture and recreation didn't happen overnight. It started by employing a shared recreation director and establishing agreements for use of area facilities. Fast-forward to 2018 and CPL Recreation was recognized for their innovative and collaborative delivery model by being presented the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's (SPRA's) Award of Merit. Today, they continue to remain focused on community needs and relationship building within the area.

So what does this collaboration mean for residents, visitors and people like YOU? The diversity of experiences and opportunities can be greatly expanded if shared between communities. Offering more programs locally reduces the need to travel to larger communities. The availability of programs can also draw people to the area, enhancing local tourism. There are added benefits for communities and municipalities as well because this collaboration maximizes human and financial resources.

"Through partnerships, there is access to increased funding, volunteers and participants," said Cheryl Bauer-Hyde, Reeve for the District of Lakeland and CPL Recreation Board Chair. "A shared resources model has worked well within the regional library system in Saskatchewan for decades. Refining that model to fit the broader sport, culture and recreation area becomes a winning proposition for residents of and visitors to Saskatchewan."

SPRA is a nonprofit, Lottery-funded organization that provides leadership, support and services that contribute to recreation's impact on quality of life in Saskatchewan. In addition to offering programs, education and training, we are here to help!

Our consultants are situated across the province and can provide advice and resources in areas such as facilities, physical activity, parks and open spaces – or on big picture concepts like community engagement and access and inclusion. Visit sprask.ca or call our office at 1-800-563-2555 to find out more.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD

for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan



for economic development in the areas such as the oil industry, changes to federal legislation towards species at risk and cruelty to animals, and working with SUMA on the nuclear forum. Through his history of public involvement, Hardy has strived to make his hometown of Hudson Bay and the province of Saskatchewan a better place to live.

Neal Hardy (far right) receives the Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan from the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour, Tom Molloy.

DURING THE opening ceremonies of the 114th SARM Annual Convention in March Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour, Tom Molloy presented the Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan to Reeve Neal Hardy.

Neal Hardy is currently the Reeve of the RM of Hudson Bay No. 394, but he was also the very first reeve when the municipality was incorporated in May 1977. Throughout the last 42 years Hardy has been an active member, and he has served 30 years either as a council member or as reeve of the RM.

Hardy served as vice-president and president of SARM for a period of 10 years. During this time, the topic of forced amalgamation of municipalities and education property tax were major issues that Hardy was very passionate about. He was also involved in the Clearing the Path initiative that started to look at reducing barriers to economic development in rural Saskatchewan. This project led to the implementation of the Clearing the Path Primary Weight Corridor Network of 10,000 km of primary weight roads that link rural municipalities to primary highways in an effort to enhance economic development. Clearing the Path also led to the formation of the Municipal Capacity Development Program that was created to assist municipalities in the development of long-term municipal capacity.

Aside from Hardy's involvement at the municipal level, he also represented the Kelsey-Tisdale constituency as an MLA from 1980-91 and served in the provincial cabinet as Minister of Environment and the Minister of Rural Development. In 2009, Hardy was named chairperson of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency's Board of Directors. Throughout his career, Hardy has been part of many committees working for the people of rural Saskatchewan opening doors

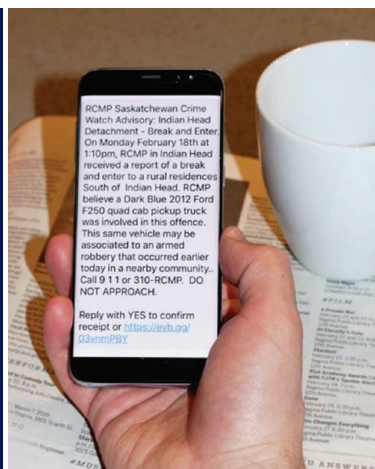


Timely delivery of maintenance continues to be a major priority for the Agency in 2019, followed closely by delivering on our commitment to radically increase overall property inspections.

Thank you for your continued funding support, which has allowed SAMA to sustain our operations and implement and maintain new technologies to attain this major objective.

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.



Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network NOW AVAILABLE

BY SASKATCHEWAN RCMP

By joining the network, you are directly assisting the RCMP by being the eyes and ears in your community. It is imperative that if you witness a crime in progress or have been a victim of a crime, that you call police to report it. Not only does this assist with the crime at hand, the information assists us in our crime analysis and in establishing crime trends. It also assists us in making decisions as to how and where to deploy resource.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, in partnership with the Ministry of Corrections and Policing, SARM, SUMA and the FSIN, we launched the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network in the southern part of the province.

On April 18, we announced that the network had expanded to include the remainder of the province. At that time, approximately 5,400 people had joined the network. Of those 5,400 people, many of them had signed up to receive notifications from RCMP Detachments in Central and Northern Saskatchewan. Considering this, and feedback we had received directly from our detachment commanders, we decided to make the program available province-wide.

Expanding the network means that people from all across Saskatchewan are now able to sign up to receive credible and timely crime prevention information directly from their local RCMP or any detachment areas they wish to receive notifications from.

With this information, citizens are in a better position to report tips and information to their local detachment.

This now wide-reaching network, coupled with our existing crime prevention programs and strategies, has created an environment where we are all able to contribute to community safety.

As of the end of April, over 7,800 people had signed up!

While the network has only been active for a short while, we are already starting to see its benefits.

On March 27, the Milestone Detachment received a report that an ATV was stolen from a local business. The detachment issued an advisory about the theft via the network.

A short time after the advisory was sent out, a local resident contacted police to report they had seen an ATV that matched the description of the stolen one. Because of the tip received, Milestone RCMP were able to investigate further. On March 30, an update was issued advising that the incident had been resolved – the call-in of this information led to the recovery of the ATV and charges against one suspect.

This is but one example of how the network is already proving to be a successful tool.

While the recovery of stolen property is important – the critical element in this example is how the police and the public worked together to solve a crime.

Whether you live in a rural area, a village, town or city, an indigenous community or elsewhere – you can benefit from being a member of the network.

We encourage everyone to sign up at www.saskcrimewatch.ca. It's free and only takes a few minutes. You are able to choose the manner in which you receive advisories – text message, phone call, email or through the Everbridge app.

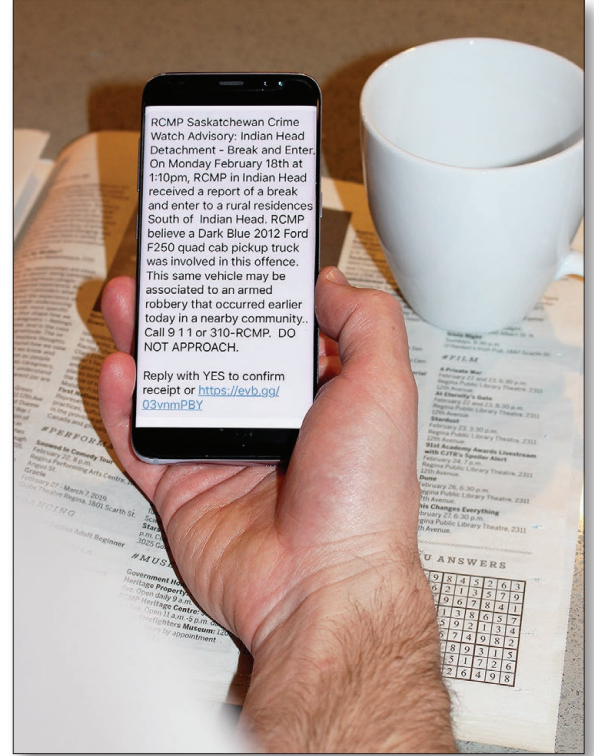
By joining the network, you are directly assisting the RCMP by being the eyes and ears in your community. It is imperative that if you witness a crime in progress or have been a victim of a crime, that you call police to report it. Not only does this assist with the crime at hand, the information assists us in our crime analysis and in establishing crime trends. It also assists us in making decisions as to how and where to deploy resource.

Just as we need engaged police officers, we also need engaged and involved citizens to contribute to community safety – this tool enables citizens to do that.

As the provincial police service, we are dedicated to the safety and security of the public and our officers. We are committed to providing the most effective and efficient policing possible to help keep our communities safe.

Once again, thank you to our partners and thank you to the people of this great province for your commitment to ensuring a safer Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network



Sign up to receive crime watch notifications from your local RCMP Detachment / Inscrivez-vous pour recevoir les notifications liées à la surveillance de la criminalité de votre détachement de la GRC

To sign up visit: / Pour vous inscrire, visitez :
www.saskcrimewatch.ca

SUMA



SARM



Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Saskatchewan!

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE WEEDS:

We all have a role to play

BY KATEY MAKOHONIUK SARM DIVISION 1 PLANT HEALTH OFFICER



AFTER A LONG Saskatchewan winter, one of the best things we get to look forward to is a beautiful Saskatchewan summer! Of course, spring and summer have their own set of unique challenges on the prairies. One of those challenges for rural municipalities, land owners and renters is weed control.

The most important and economical aspect of weed control is to prevent the introduction of weeds in the first place. To do that, we must first consider how weeds can be introduced. Let's think about plant biology for a minute – how can weeds reproduce? Most often, it is through seeds, but sometimes plant parts such as creeping roots (also known as rhizomes) or even pieces of stems or leaves can reproduce, depending on the type of plant. The key to preventing the introduction of new weed species is to be mindful of the weeds you are trying to keep out, how those individual weeds reproduce, and how those weed seeds or plant parts can be brought onto your property. As mentioned in our last article, pest biosecurity plays a key role in protecting your investment, as well as protecting our agricultural economy.

You may be wondering where to start – first, be aware of the traffic on your farm. What ways could weeds be carried onto your property? Most commonly, equipment is to blame. Mowers, tillage implements, combines, swathers, industrial equipment, trucks, tractors and even recreational vehicles like ATVs can be responsible for the spread of weeds. When you purchase equipment or vehicles, or if you have a contractor coming on to your property to perform work, inspect the equipment for the presence of plant material (seeds, plant parts) and soil which may contain seeds or roots. Plan to give machinery a thorough washing, when needed, in a location where any foreign material can be properly disposed of afterward. Hay or crop residue is another main cause of the spread of

invasive plants, so when purchasing these products, use due diligence and do a bit of research. Are there undesirable plants growing in the area? Is the producer you are purchasing from actively controlling weeds on their property? Even if eaten by livestock, many species of weed seeds can survive the ruminant digestive tract and continue to grow when “planted.”

There are also a variety of other factors when it comes to the introduction of new weeds that can be difficult for us to control. Weeds can be transported by wind, water and even wildlife. In this case, we need to consider our next step which is the early detection of weed species. Identifying weeds is extremely important in this process because, if a weed is identified early, it can be eradicated quickly and more economically.

For example, Scentless Chamomile is not native to the Saskatchewan prairies. It was first recorded in our province in 1905 and was found then in just a few small spots. This weed is a prolific seed producer, spreading quickly from year to year. This weed was not eradicated in those early years, and it was recorded to rapidly move throughout the province, moving throughout several townships every few years. If only this weed would have been picked and burned in 1905, we may not even know about it now! Instead, it continues to be a serious problem on farms, pastures and RM rights-of-way throughout the province.

Rapid eradication is a key management strategy once a weed species has been found and identified, and it is much more economical than waiting until the infestation is more widespread. This also falls under provincial legislation in *The Weed Control Act and Regulations*.

The Weed Control Act states that:

“15(1) Every owner or occupant of land shall:

- (a) Under the supervision of the weed inspector, eradicate any

prohibited weeds located on the land;

- (b) Under the supervision of the weed inspector, eradicate any isolated infestations of noxious weeds located on the land;
- (c) Contain and control any established infestations of noxious weeds located on the land; and
- (d) Take measures to control any nuisance weeds located on the land.”

This means that we all have a role to play in weed control. *The Weed Control Act* also gives municipalities the authority to enforce the control of prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds. A full list of prohibited, noxious and nuisance weeds can be found at: www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=31361.

The eradication of small infestations is certainly the most economical start to weed control, but sometimes this is no longer an option. In that case, there is still hope! Control of weed infestations can be accomplished on a larger scale, but it needs to be done strategically by using an integrated approach (more than one method, considering plant life cycles, cultural control methods, timely herbicide application, biocontrol, etc.) and being persistent. Often this can take years to accomplish, depending on the severity of the infestation and type of weed(s), but in time, you will gain control.

Control of invasive weeds can seem like a daunting task, but it remains a key factor in protecting our local ecosystems, agriculture and economy. We all have a role to play, and with modern technology, research and resources, we can begin to win the war on weeds in Saskatchewan! If you have questions about weed management, *The Weed Control Act*, plant identification, or funding available to assist with weed control, contact your local division plant health officer.



2018-2019

SARM Student Scholarships

IN 1995, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (S.A.R.M.) auctioned off the first copy of their history book, *The Building of a Province: Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities*. This auction netted the sum of \$2,600, which the SARM Board of Directors contributed to the Centre for Agricultural Medicine. These funds initiated the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities 90th Anniversary \$1,000 Student Scholarship in Agricultural Safety and Rural Health.

The CCHSA's Founding Chairs Program maintains the scholarship. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Network expanded the program to offer two \$1,500 student scholarships.

On March 13, 2019, at the SARM Annual Convention in Saskatoon, the Network presented the 2018-2019 scholarships

of \$1,500 each to Grade 12 students **Collete Kernalleguen**, from the RM of Lake Lenore No. 399, and **Dallyn Bast**, from the RM of Eye Hill No. 382.

The students were awarded the scholarships based on their essay submission about either a) the importance of safety and health on our farm or b) safety and health hazards on our farm.

Thank you to the Agricultural Health and Safety Network Steering Committee for their evaluation feedback of the selected finalist's essays.

The 2019 Scholarship Application Guidelines are available on our website: aghealth.usask.ca. The deadline is **December 13, 2019** before midnight (CST) for essay submission by email to sueli.bizetto@usask.ca. If you have any questions, please call (306) 966-6644.

Scholarship Awardees



COLLETE KERNALLEGUEN

RM of Lake Lenore #399
St. Briex, SK

"By taking precautions and using simple techniques to teach safety everyone avoids injury and/or accidents from happening. Things like teaching kids to move to the side of the road if they hear or see machinery coming, making sure the equipment is maintained to keep the operator and everyone around safe and being aware of your surroundings. Practicing prevention is the easiest and best way to avoid injury or accidents."



DALLYN BAST

RM of Eye Hill #382
Macklin, SK

"On our farm, so many different situations can cause health issues, injury, and possibly death. Safety procedures should be followed as much as humanly possible. The farm is a dangerous place and putting safety first can be the ultimate life saver."

METHAMPHETAMINE

The methamphetamine consumed in Canada is largely produced here, in clandestine laboratories....The production of one pound of methamphetamine creates five or seven pounds of toxic waste, along with poisonous gas.

METHAMPHETAMINE is a synthetic drug, meaning that it is made from chemical ingredients rather than occurring naturally. The methamphetamine consumed in Canada is largely produced here, in clandestine laboratories. These labs are defined as any stationary or mobile location where a drug is manufactured. It might be a house, a car or a field.

Methamphetamine is “synthesized” by heating a variety of chemical ingredients together to obtain the final substance. Most clandestine labs “cook” up ingredients from cold medication, like ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, with other chemicals such as red phosphorus, hydrochloric acid, anhydrous ammonia and other household solvents. The production of one pound of methamphetamine creates five or seven pounds of toxic waste, along with poisonous gas.

Crystal meth is one street form of the drug, methamphetamine hydrochloride, which comes in clear, chunky crystals, which are inhaled or smoked. It is also called “ice,” “crystal,” “glass” and “tina.” “Crank” is a smelly, yellow form of “meth” that is usually snorted. Crank is often the cheapest form of the drug. “Lith” is short for the lithium taken from batteries in the manufacturing process. Lith comes in a paste form that is usually smoked. It is more expensive than crank but cheaper than the crystal form.

Meth and other amphetamines are known as stimulants because they stimulate the body’s central nervous system (CNS). Methamphetamine’s effects on the CNS are strong and, depending on the amount used, may be quite toxic.

An overdose of methamphetamine may result in a dangerously high body temperature (hyperthermia) and seizures. If the overdose stays uncreated, death may result.

With increasing use of the drug, there are strong indications that users suffer brain damage, including memory impairment and an increasing inability to grasp abstract thoughts. Those who do manage to recover from addiction and retain memory and the ability to function in society are usually subject to some memory gaps and extreme mood swings.

Methamphetamines are highly addictive with a high potential for abuse. A person who is dependent will continue to use despite the negative impact on his/her life.



Photo ©Shutterstock.com

With regular use, tolerance develops to the effects of meth, so that users have to take more and more of the drug to experience the same effects. If regular users stop taking meth, they may experience symptoms of withdrawal, which include strong cravings for the drug, irritability, a lack of energy, increased appetite, sleep problems and depression.

People who have quit using have experienced a period of time where nothing seems pleasurable. This period can last six to eight months for casual users and two to three years for regular users.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$2,000.00 for information which leads to an arrest or charge of person(s) responsible for this offence or any other serious crime.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is 100% anonymous and does not subscribe to call display nor are your calls traced or recorded. Web Tips are encrypted.

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or you can submit a tip online at <https://www.p3tips.com/206> or www.saskcrimestoppers.com where you can also view other unsolved crimes.

rural councillor MEMBER NEWS



BARRY BANGSUND
RM OF LOMOND NO. 37
IN MEMORIAM

Barry Bangsund passed away peacefully on January 17, 2019. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 46 years, Jean. He will be lovingly remembered and missed by his children, Jayna and Anthony Hankins, Tyler Bangsund, Melissa and Darren Dyck; his cherished grandchildren, Kayl, Maysa, Kyley and Corbin; siblings, Gerry (Dave) Dobson, Fay (Dave) Buchanan and Cindy (Fred) Morrice; nieces and nephews, Justin (Andrea) Morrice, children, Brody and Brandon; Nathan (Jenn) Morrice, children, Kaitlyn, Kallie and Max; Deana Matheson, children, Taylor and Makayla; Aaron Dobson, child, Jackson; Ashley (Jen) Dobson, children, Dallyn and Cace; and Chantal Buchanan.

Barry was a very humble, hard-working man who loved spending time with his family. There was no other place he would rather be than on his farm with his cattle. He was a generous man who was proud of his community and supported numerous community functions, especially the local 4-H clubs. He served as Division 3 Councillor for the RM of Lomond for 28 years from 1991 until his passing. He also served on many boards and organizations in the community.

ROBERT BOZZARD
RM OF TECUMSEH NO. 65
IN MEMORIAM

Robert Bozzard of Stoughton, SK passed away suddenly at the age of 64 on December 26, 2018. Robert was an

honest hard-working man who touched the lives of many by making every effort to lend a hand when needed. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Jane, daughter, Brianna, and many family and friends.

On behalf of the RM of Tecumseh, we want to recognize Robert for his years of service as a valued public works employee from 2015-2018. He was a committed and dedicated employee that was a pleasure to work with and will be greatly missed by all at the RM.



HENRY GEORGE BAUCK
RM OF CHAPLIN NO. 164
IN MEMORIAM

Henry George Bauck was born on January 24, 1929 on his Grandpa and Grandma Bauck's farm north of Chaplin and passed away on December 26, 2018 at the age of 89 years.

He spent his life doing what he loved – farming with his family north of Val Jean, SK, working as a hail adjuster with SK Municipal Hail Insurance and serving many years as a councillor and reeve of the RM of Chaplin. He suffered the loss of his wife, Aileen, in 2003 and was given a second chance at love when he married Sylvia Ward on March 28, 2009.

He was predeceased by his wife, Aileen (Adrian) Bauck; grandson, Michael Gerbrandt; parents, Rueben and Ada Bauck; and brother-in-law, Ivan Marzolf. He will be missed by his wife, Sylvia (Ward) Bauck and her children: Wanda, Heather, Edith, Arthur and Garth, and their families; as well as his family: son, Rod (Debbie) Bauck; grandson, Rod (Jenn) Bauck and their boys Keaton and Beck-

ett; grandson, Larson Bauck and his boys Hudson and Brydon; daughter, Terrill (Clarence) Gerbrandt; granddaughter-in-law, Julie Gerbrandt and their children grandson, Dean (Julie) Gerbrandt and their children; Lacey (Matt) Owens and their children; son, Dwight (Joan) Bauck; grandson, Jeff (Selina) Bauck and their children; son, Mitch (Brenda) Bauck; sister, Helen Marzolf; as well as many cousins and friends.

Henry will be missed for so many reasons but more than anything, his sense of humour and his infectious chuckle.



WAYNE COZART
RM OF EYEBROW NO. 193
IN MEMORIAM

Wayne Cozart, aged 75 years of the Brownlee District, passed away on January 24, 2019. He was born on October 25, 1943 in Central Butte, SK. He was raised at the Lawson, SK family farm and was the youngest of eight children. He went to school in Lawson until grade 8 when his father passed away. In 1967 he married the love of his life Elaine, whom he was married to for 51 years. He started farming in Brownlee in 1968.

He had many jobs and commitments during his life besides farming, ranching, raising Percheron horses and being highly active in horse competitions. For 46 years he was also a school bus driver, was on the Moose Jaw Rodeo Board, the Central Butte Fair Board, 4-H Clubs (Marquis, Moose Jaw, Eyebrow), SK Draft & Driving Association, Pelican Lake Trail Ride, SSR, and he served as councillor for the RM of Eyebrow for 14 years.



ETHELBERT HECK
RM OF HAPPYLAND NO. 231
IN MEMORIAM

After a short illness, Ethelbert Heck passed away on December 19, 2019 in Leader. He was born on January 12, 1940 on the family farm near Liebenthal, SK. His parents were Leo and Margaret Heck, and he had one brother, Joseph.

Ethelbert met the love of his life, Eileen Sitter, and they married in 1970 in Leader. They resided on the family farm and raised their son, Daryle. Ethelbert enjoyed life on the farm and had many hobbies: fishing, hunting, flying, animals and making things. He also enjoyed smoking meats.

Ethelbert sat on many boards (school and hall). He belonged to the Leader Flying Club and served as a councillor

of Division 1 for the RM of Happyland from 2005-2009 where he served on many committees.

Ethelbert was predeceased by his parents, brother, sister-in-law, Maxine, and nephew, Mark. He will be remembered by his wife and son; nephews, Stuart and Miles and wife Shelly, children Ashley, Jesse, Mattea, Braelynne and Joseph; and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.



JOESPH RIES
RM OF HAPPYLAND NO. 231
IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Ries was born on August 12, 1941 in Prelate Hospital, the son of Gottlieb and Margaret Ries. He passed away on January 19, 2019 after a long battle with his health at the age of 76.

Joe lived on the family farm. He attended Richmond School until Grade

12 when he moved to Fox Valley to finish his Grade 12. Joe went to Medicine Hat to work for a chemical plant until the position of assistant administrator in the RM of Happyland No. 231 in Leader became available. In 1970, he became the administrator. He enjoyed a long and successful career retiring in 2002. He will always be remembered as the RM named a road after him.

In 1965, Joe married the love of his life Nina, and they raised their two children, Charles and Bobbi. The family enjoyed camping, fishing and socializing with family and friends. Joe also enjoyed golfing with his father-in-law, Edwin. Joe was a long-time member of the Leader Lions Club as well as a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus member.

Joe was predeceased by his mother and father, father-in-law Edwin Kiltau, sister-in-law Violet Ries, and nephew Robin Ries. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife; son Charles and wife Andrea Stepp; daughter Bobbi and her husband Gary Brehm; grandsons Ashton and Shay Brehm; brother Ralph; mother-in-law Sada Kiltau; and numerous sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

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ANDY GIRARD
RM OF RECIPROCITY NO. 32
RETIREMENT

On December 31, 2018, public works foreman Andy Girard retired after 41 years of service. A retirement party was held for Andy in appreciation for all his hard work and dedication. The ratepayers, council and staff of the RM of Reciprocity No. 32 wish to thank him for his many years of service and wish him a wonderful and relaxing retirement!

DOUGLAS TROWELL
RM OF TECUMSEH NO. 65
RETIREMENT

On behalf of the RM of Tecumseh, we want to recognize Douglas Trowell for his years of service as a public works employee from 2009-2018 and congratulate him on his retirement. Douglas Trowell was a valued employee of the RM and we would like to thank you, Douglas, for your commitment and dedication. We wish you the best in your retirement.



BRIAN SHORT
RM OF PENSE NO. 160
RETIREMENT

Brian Short began his service as councillor in Division 6 in January 1991 and retired in October 2018. Brian has made many influential and significant contributions as he has served on council and various committees.

A retirement celebration was held in his honour on October 27, 2018. Reeve

Tom Lemon presented Brian with a Public Service Award, an engraved watch and a framed aerial farmyard photograph to show appreciation for all of the time and effort he has put in while in office.

We thank Brian for his dedication to the RM over the past 28 years, and we wish him all the best in his retirement!



ARNOLD BALL
RM OF SARNIA NO. 221
RETIREMENT

On December 15, 2018 a retirement party was held where Arnold was presented with an engraved pocket watch and gift certificate. Arnold served as Division 2 councillor from November 2005 to October 2018. We are grateful for the knowledge he provided throughout his dedicated 13 years of service. We wish him all the best in the future.



FRANCIS DERY
RM OF KELVINGTON NO. 366
RETIREMENT

Retiring council member Francis Dery was presented with an engraved watch in appreciation of his service to the RM of Kelvington No. 366 as Division 6 councillor from 2007-2018.



CHARLES (BUSTER) BODNAR
RM OF MERVIN NO. 499
RETIREMENT

A special presentation was made honoring retiring councillor Charles (Buster) Bodnar at the annual RM Christmas Party held on December 15, 2018. Reeve Tom Brown presented Buster with a Public Service Award Certificate and an engraved clock. Buster served as councillor for Division 4 from 2002-2018.

The majority of the ratepayers Buster dealt with in Division 4 were within the hamlets located at both Turtle Lake and Bright Sand Lake which greatly increases in population during the summer months. During Buster's time on council, he was very involved and saw many changes take place around the lake communities.

The council, staff and ratepayers of the RM of Mervin would like to thank Buster for his years of dedicated service, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

MEMBER NEWS TIPS

- Don't include photos in Word documents. Send them as 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 the file is less than 100 kb, it may not print properly.*
- Check your cell phone camera resolution before taking photos. Ensure the camera's settings are set to High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Word count maximum: 250 words.

Please email questions or submissions to sarm@sarm.ca. Thank you; we love sharing your stories and achievements with our readers!



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