

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 53 number 2
Summer 2020 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Then & Now

This special edition is a compilation of *Rural Councillor* publications from its inception to the present day.

About the cover:

A road grader at work in the RM of Browning No. 34 in 1929.

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Views are those of the contributors and are not
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our vision

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

our mission

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



President's message

BY RAY ORB

SARM President

GREETINGS to everyone and welcome again to the *Rural Councillor* magazine. It seems fitting for me to provide a synopsis of my municipal career in this special edition which hopefully will be an interesting read.

I was first elected on RM council in the fall of 1985, which sometimes seems like eons ago, while at other times like just yesterday. I was always interested in municipal issues and always interested in farming, probably because my ancestors came from a small farming village in east-central Europe in 1902.

Although I grew up on a farm in the Markinch area, I was fortunate to have lived in a city for about seven years and to have lived in a small town which also is a farming community.

As time went by, I became more interested in municipal politics and was elected as a councillor and then as reeve of the Rural Municipality of Cupar, a position I still proudly hold. In 2004 I was elected as a director of SARM, vice-president in 2010 and president in 2014. Over those years I saw tremendous changes, not only at SARM, but in our province, and in particular, in the rural communities that are essentially the backbone of our provincial community.

I also came to see the inequities between rural and urban taxation and began to focus on the unfair education tax burden on agricultural producers. In 2004, the Boughen report was tabled in Saskatchewan, and the school division that I lived in had the highest education tax mill rate in the province, 23.88 mills. This was, without a doubt, causing tremendous hardship in the RMs in my area, especially in the RM of Cupar, and it was, in essence, a large impediment to economic development and left the financial security for many, if not all, RMs in the province at risk.

Previously, the current Administrator of the RM, Loretta Young, and myself

had given a presentation at an annual meeting of the Cupar School Division. The presentation was focused on the inequity on what urban ratepayers were paying in education tax on property, versus that which farmers were paying. The next step was to approach the SARM Board, and I fondly recall attending a SARM Board meeting at the Hamilton Street location with a delegation of other reeves from the surrounding area.

The first two people I met was Neal Hardy, who was then the SARM President, and Ken Engel, who was SARM's Executive Director.

The SARM Board was very interested in the topic, and in the end through a lengthy period of rallies and intense lobbying, convinced the Saskatchewan Party government to take action on the issue soon after the Saskatchewan Party formed government in 2007.

The rest is history as Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers save millions of dollars every year partly because we as RM councillors and reeves were relentless and would not give up until we saw a meaningful reduction of education taxes. The government of the day listened, took action and became champions of the issue and deserve a lot of credit, still to this day.

That particular issue stands out the most. But so do the years of drought, in particular 1988, BSE in 2003 and the flooding years of 2010 and 2011 are not easily forgotten either.

While SARM consistently lobbied for more funding for infrastructure, including roads and bridges, we also lobbied for agriculture including improvements to the grain handling system, better safety net programs to support agricultural producers, through the good years and the bad.

We also lobbied for better pest control programs, including rat control, beaver control and clubroot. We have

been pushing really hard to continue the registration for strychnine and have asked the PMRA to consider that there are no real effective alternatives.

Over the years as chair of the FCM Rural Forum, I've had the opportunity to work with the Federation of Canadian municipalities and to lobby for broadband connectivity for not only rural Saskatchewan but for rural Canada as a whole. Too much of our rural area in this province is underserved in high speed internet, and cellular service still needs improvement to coverage.

This lack of connectivity has really come to light during the current COVID-19 crisis, and SARM is eagerly awaiting meetings with SaskTel and other private service providers that are really keen on discussing business ventures that will allow rural residents to have better communications and access to faster download and upload speeds that are both consistent and reliable.

I have been very fortunate to be an integral part of the lobby for a better rural Saskatchewan and to be a part of the SARM Board of Directors. We have a very effective and diligent board and a very capable and hardworking staff that are very good at their jobs.

SARM has been in existence for 115 years, and it has seen many changes in government at the provincial and federal level. SARM has always endeavored to be non-partisan and to work with governments, as much as possible, rather than working against them.

SARM is recognized as a very effective and well-respected organization, and I believe that this requires tremendous energy and an ongoing strategy to make sure that our 296 rural municipalities are heard, and more importantly, listened to.

All the best and let's hope that things can get back to normal as soon as possible. Good health to everyone.

SARM's History in Saskatchewan

BEFORE THERE WAS A PROVINCE of Saskatchewan, there was municipal government in what would become the province of Saskatchewan. SARM was there when the ground was first broken, when the roads first connected us as a province.

In 1883, the federal government gave the legislative council of the North West Territories the authority to make laws respecting local government. By 1886, the towns of Regina and Moose Jaw, along with the rural municipalities of Indian Head and South Qu'Appelle, had been established. Those areas that did not form municipalities were organized as Local Improvement Districts (LID's) and Statute Labour and Fire (SLF) Districts. The purpose of these districts was to establish roads and protect against prairie fires.

When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905, the existing rural municipalities along with the LID's and SLF's formed the Saskatchewan Local Improvement Districts Association. The intent then, as it is today, was to ensure that the concerns of the people would be heard by senior levels of government.

In 1905, the provincial government established the Spencer Commission to develop a standard framework for local government organization in response to the increasing demands being placed upon local councils by the seemingly endless influx of settlers. By 1907, the Commission had held meetings throughout the province to consult on what responsibilities and authority local councils should have, how large rural municipalities should be, how many councillors were required in each rural municipality, and how often elections should be held. The report formed the basis for the first *Rural Municipality Act*. Since then, SARM and the provincial government have worked together on scores of issues related to the quality of life in rural Saskatchewan.

In 1911, due to the increasing number of rural municipalities, the organization changed its name to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).

Prior to 1914, SARM's Board of Directors was comprised of a president, a secretary - treasurer, up to three vice-presidents and ten to 12 directors. These individuals were elected at large during the annual meeting. The Constitution of the Association was amended in 1914, and member municipalities were divided into six divisions. A director was elected from each division and the number of vice-presidents was reduced to one.

In 1932, the Association was incorporated by an Act of the Provincial Legislature. *The Act of Incorporation* replaced the Constitution, established the objectives of the Association, and allowed for the making of bylaws to govern its operation.



Roads have been a municipal responsibility since the first Rural Municipality Act in 1908.

The Act was revised in 1987 and 1995 to empower the Association to engage in a wider range of services for its members.

From 1905 until 1931, Association general meetings were held at various locations across the province. Currently, the Association holds one general meeting in March of each year in either Regina or Saskatoon. Resolutions passed by the convention body become SARM policy and are dealt with by the board of directors.

The number of resolutions submitted to each convention increased over the years to the point where it was impossible to deal with them all and still have time to discuss other essential business. As a result, in 1985, the Association began holding annual Midterm Conventions in November. These conventions also alternate between Regina and Saskatoon.

To further ensure that the membership has ample opportunity to communicate with the board of directors, annual division meetings have been held in June of each year since 1935.

As the voice of rural Saskatchewan, we are committed to ensuring the voice of rural municipal government is heard. SARM has taken positions on fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political. We are concerned about all kinds of things, including special interests like municipal governance, environment, infrastructure and agriculture. We have a long, proud history. We started out as a grassroots association over one hundred years ago, and although we've grown over the last century, we are still grassroots. And, we look forward to the next one hundred years working in partnership with rural municipalities to better rural Saskatchewan.

Past Presidents of SARM



THE SARM BOARD OF DIRECTORS has seen 25 past presidents in its 115 years of existence, with President Ray Orb being our 26th. Although each president brings a unique perspective and different experience to the board table, they have all demonstrated a commitment to rural Saskatchewan in their respective terms as SARM president. Four of our past president's shared their perspective as part of this historical compilation edition of the *Rural Councillor*.

B.H. Kirwin 1989-1993

Bernard was born and raised in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan. After graduating high school, he was set to apply to join the RCMP but ended up working for the family business.

He married his wife, Zella, in 1956, and they had three children, two sons and one daughter. He acquired his first piece of land shortly after getting married and became a full-time farmer, which led to him joining the RM of Gull Lake Council in 1973. His career on council would span 26 years. After becoming a councillor, he was quickly appointed deputy reeve and then reeve three years later.

In 1982, Bernard joined SARM as the Division 3 director. During his term as Division 3 director and reeve of Gull Lake, he was appointed vice president of SARM in 1986, then elected president in 1989. He was a member of the Saskatchewan Beef Stabilization Board for four years and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities Board for five years. Bernard was awarded Life Membership of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, and he and his wife were on the receiving line for the Queen and Prince Philip during their visit in 1987.

S. Harrison 1994-2001

Sinc was born in 1944 in Moosomin. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1984, he was the recipient of a Nuffield Scholarship to study agriculture and local government in Australia and New Zealand.

His involvement in local government began in 1974 when he was elected to the Council of the RM of Moosomin. In 1976, he was elected reeve and served in that position until 2004, a total of 31 years of service.

In 1986, Sinc was elected to the SARM Board, and in 1994 he was elected president. He served in this position for eight years. No other person has served a longer term as SARM president.

Sinc and his wife, Gail, have five children, and at the time of Sinc's induction, 15 grandchildren.

Neal Hardy 2002-2006

Neal Herbert Hardy, born 1934, is a businessman and former political figure in Saskatchewan. He represented Kelsey-Tisdale from 1980 to 1991 in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan as a Progressive Conservative.

He was born in Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan and worked for the Canadian National Railway, as well as owning and operating several businesses. Hardy was elected to the provincial assembly in a 1980 by-election held after John Rissler Messer resigned his seat. He served in the provincial cabinet as Minister of the Environment and as Minister of Rural Development. Hardy was defeated by Andrew Renaud when he ran for re-election in 1991. He served on the Council for the RM of Hudson Bay and was president of SARM from 2002 to 2005. In 2009, he was named chairperson of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency Board of Directors.

David Marit 2007-2014

David Marit was elected MLA for Wood River on April 4, 2016.

On August 23, 2016, David was appointed Minister of Highways and Infrastructure and was later given the added responsibility of serving as Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and Priority Saskatchewan.

On August 15, 2018, David was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

David began serving on RM council in 1993, and in 1999 he was elected to the SARM Board as director in Division 2. He would go on to serve as SARM president from 2006-2014 until winning the nomination for the Saskatchewan Party.

He and his wife, Lois, have one son and a daughter with two granddaughters and one grandson.

Past President's message

BY BERNARD KIRWIN SARM Past-President



SARM'S BEGINNING pre-dated Saskatchewan becoming a province. SARM has long been regarded as a most dynamic force behind the growth and development of the province, and has had either a direct or indirect influence on almost all sectors of society.

SARM's successes over the years can be attributed to the continual collective efforts of reeves, councilors, administrators, and SARM Board members working in a calm, quiet, multicultural, nonpartisan manner with all stakeholders. By virtue of the era I was born, I have benefited by knowing many pioneers, homesteaders, veterans of two world wars, hosts of people – including my parents and grandparents – who lived and endured those war years, droughts, depressions, and into better times, and there is one thing I have noted: they all spoke favorably of how the RMs helped them through difficult times. Moreover, I have met immigrants of many nationalities who left or escaped from countries, who for the first time were thankful to live in a country with some form of local government, who for the first time were able to have a voice in their own well-being without the fear of reprobation.

Local government is the closest level of government to the people. The importance of local government can be seen across history and the globe – the existence of local government ensures the concerns of local people are heard and addressed. The foregoing certainly gave me an appreciation of local government, and was why I agreed when asked to let my name stand to fill a council vacancy. Three months after being elected by acclamation I was appointed deputy reeve and three years later elected reeve. Subsequently, I served as a SARM sub-unit director, director, vice president and president.

Having had the pleasure to work with three former SARM presidents, and the same excellent executive director and staff throughout, gave me the opportunity to access the inner working of the association as to how it would relate to the future. It happened that as vice president I was frequently called upon to assume some presidential duties when then president Ike Thiessen experienced

health issues during the last year of his presidency. The challenge facing the board was that SARM was heading into a major transition period. It was time to focus on the issues facing SARM:

- There was the retirement and pending retirement of long-term senior employees.
- The need to transition other employees into new rolls and duties.
- The need to recruit new qualified employees.
- The ever-increasing workload with, for example, the recently implemented SARM Self Insured Liability Plan.
- The absolute need to computerize SARM's operations.
- The association was outgrowing its office facility.

While the association was operating smoothly and efficiently and the actual function of the board remained unchanged, there was absolutely nothing recorded in place to guide the board through a transition period. I was always personally concerned that all the intricacy of running the association was in the minds of retiring long-term employees, particularly the executive director. Therefore, it was imperative to initiate a process to capture as much information from them as possible with the view to develop a policy, procedure, and any other information manual essential for the ongoing operations. Secondly, the executive committee drafted and put in place a board approved Disaster Plan that would facilitate a smooth uninterrupted transition for in office authority, duties, and new employees, or the sudden loss of any or all the executive members should it have become necessary. There was too much at stake to do otherwise.

Fortunately for SARM, Daryl Chambers, who was recently employed to take over the executive director roll was also one of the best computer minds around at that time, programed and facilitated the computerization of the entire SARM operation. As incoming president with a resourceful energetic board and staff, I sensed the need to shake off old cobwebs, stigmas, and any perceived adversarial overtones. With the ever increasing social and economic activity

in the RMs, rural was not as rural as it once was. It was time to open up to new ideas. My view was that SARM's effectiveness would be broadened and its profile enhanced through new and improved engagement with other associations like the RMAA, SUMA, SAMA, FSIN, SSTA, and PARKS to name a few, and to establish a direct and more comfortable non-partisan interaction with the provincial and federal governments. It was time to expose the resourcefulness of SARM, and its ability and willingness to take on new and important rolls.

The question was now asked what SARM achievements took place during my tenure as president. I felt the health, well-being, credibility and stability of the association were of paramount importance, so all of the foregoing issues were recognized, dealt with, changes implemented, and the desired results achieved. SARM provided the leadership in dealing with the TLE/Specific claims issue and for developing the Road Impact Methodology. SARM's recommendations on both issues were accepted by the federal government. SARM's requested appearance before the All Party Commons Commission dealing with agriculture issues, consultation with the Special Advisory Group to the then prime minister, were well received, and an indicator of the need for SARM to serve a greater role. Relief of most of the school tax on property and landowner compensation for wildlife depredation were two long outstanding issues that were resolved.

The dedication and decorum in the workplace was exceptional. The board and employees plowed new ground, opened new doors, and set the stage for the future. The transition, the transitional review process, and the changes made and enacted proved to be a timely positive turning point for the association. It was rewarding to see how quickly the calls came for SARM's input and involvement in other issues. SARM became well respected for its resource base and for providing a broader perspective, refreshing new approach to dealing with issues which elevated SARM's profile and has served the association and the membership well as they move forward.



Past President's message

BY SINCLAIR HARRISON SARM Past-President

I WANT TO COMMEND SARM for taking this opportunity to look back over the last 50 plus years. In preparing for this article, I had the pleasure of reviewing past copies of the *Rural Councillor* that have been meticulously combined into hard cover books. A common theme throughout my review is the requirement for strong rural government, locally, provincially and federally.

I served on the SARM Board for 16 years, eight of those years as president (1994-2002). Thinking back over that time there were many changes and so many issues dealt with; however, the one that stands out the most was forced municipal amalgamation. Although SARM has never been opposed to change, we always want to make sure it's for the right reasons.

One of the changes that occurred during my time at SARM was to the structure. SARM is divided into six districts, and when I came on the board there was a director and four sub-unit directors for each of the districts. This particular structure served SARM well until 1994-95, at which time, it was decided to eliminate the sub-unit director positions and just rely on the directors to represent each district. The major catalyst for the change was modern technology, which led to the ease of communication and representation with less people.

The thought of amalgamation started with the Task Force on Municipal Government, led by Joe Garcia, who had been hired by the provincial government to bring forth a report on restructuring of municipal boundaries for Saskatchewan. This Task Force started in 1998 and gathered information through consultation meetings with SUMA and SARM. This eventually led to a report coming out from Garcia and the Task Force, which was suggesting that the best municipal structure within Saskatchewan would be a total of 12-18 municipalities. This report was the main topic of discussion at the 2000 SARM Convention, with no resolve at that time. Following the 2000 convention, the Garcia Task Force was taken to 16 regional meetings throughout Saskatchewan. I recall the first regional meeting that was held in Outlook, and when we drove into town we could not believe the turnout of rural ratepayers. I thought there must have been an auction sale or something of major interest within the area, but thankfully the huge turnout was for the meeting discussing restructuring of municipal boundaries in the province. SARM was front and center at all of the 16 meetings, and at the end of each meeting a vote was taken to determine the support of forced amalgamation. On average the outcome was 98% opposed, which gave the SARM

Board solid direction to continue our fight with the provincial government. After this round of meetings SARM held a one-day closed door information session at the Center of the Arts with attendance from 296 out of 297 RM's attending. I think this closed door convention had a huge impact on the decision making process of the provincial government.

Thinking back over that time there were many changes and so many issues dealt with; however, the one that stands out the most was forced municipal amalgamation. Although SARM has never been opposed to change, we always want to make sure it's for the right reasons.

On April 19, 2000 Premier Romanow called a special meeting of SUMA and SARM and the Garcia Task Force to attempt to come to some conclusion on this issue. After two hours of intense discussion with Premier Romanow, it was decided that any municipal amalgamation should be done on a voluntary basis. This was of immediate relief for all RM ratepayers within the province and has served Saskatchewan very well to the present day.

Taking a quick look to the present, there is once again talk of amalgamation. At the 2020 SUMA convention, the president proposed an amalgamation of SUMA and SARM with a name change to the The Municipal Association of Saskatchewan. It is my hope that all involved remember the importance of rural representation at all levels of government and understand the negative impact amalgamation will have on the rural issues for years to come.



Past President's message

BY NEAL HARDY SARM Past-President

LOOKING BACK on my time as vice president and president of SARM, the 10 years I spent on the SARM Board from 1996 to 2006. From 1996 to 2002 I worked with President Sinclair Harrison. Sinc was an excellent speaker, well educated, a farmer, a reeve and a person who spoke in a very direct way about issues. We were also fortunate to have Ken Engel as our CEO, who had the ability to keep everything in order.

In the mid 90's, the government of the day decided that amalgamation of rural and urban areas into large districts was their goal, where a large urban center would be the hub of a region. In doing this, one important part was being missed and that was the role that rural municipalities are the source of most of the industry in Saskatchewan. The RMs have a much different role than urban centers, which supply the retail service and parts that are needed.

The RMs supply the raw products such as oil, gas, potash, uranium, wood products, farming such as beef, pork, wheat, peas, beans, potatoes, fruit and much more. They are the sources of recreation sites, like regional, provincial, national parks, golf courses and hunting areas. They are also home to many thousands of lakes and rivers, hunting areas as well as supplying food for ducks, geese, deer and other wildlife.

RMs have the responsibility of providing access to these areas, from their tax base, at the same time making sure that our farmers and residents have access to their livelihood. This is the cheapest and most efficient way to manage rural Saskatchewan. Hands on, responsible decision making at the local level always works best.

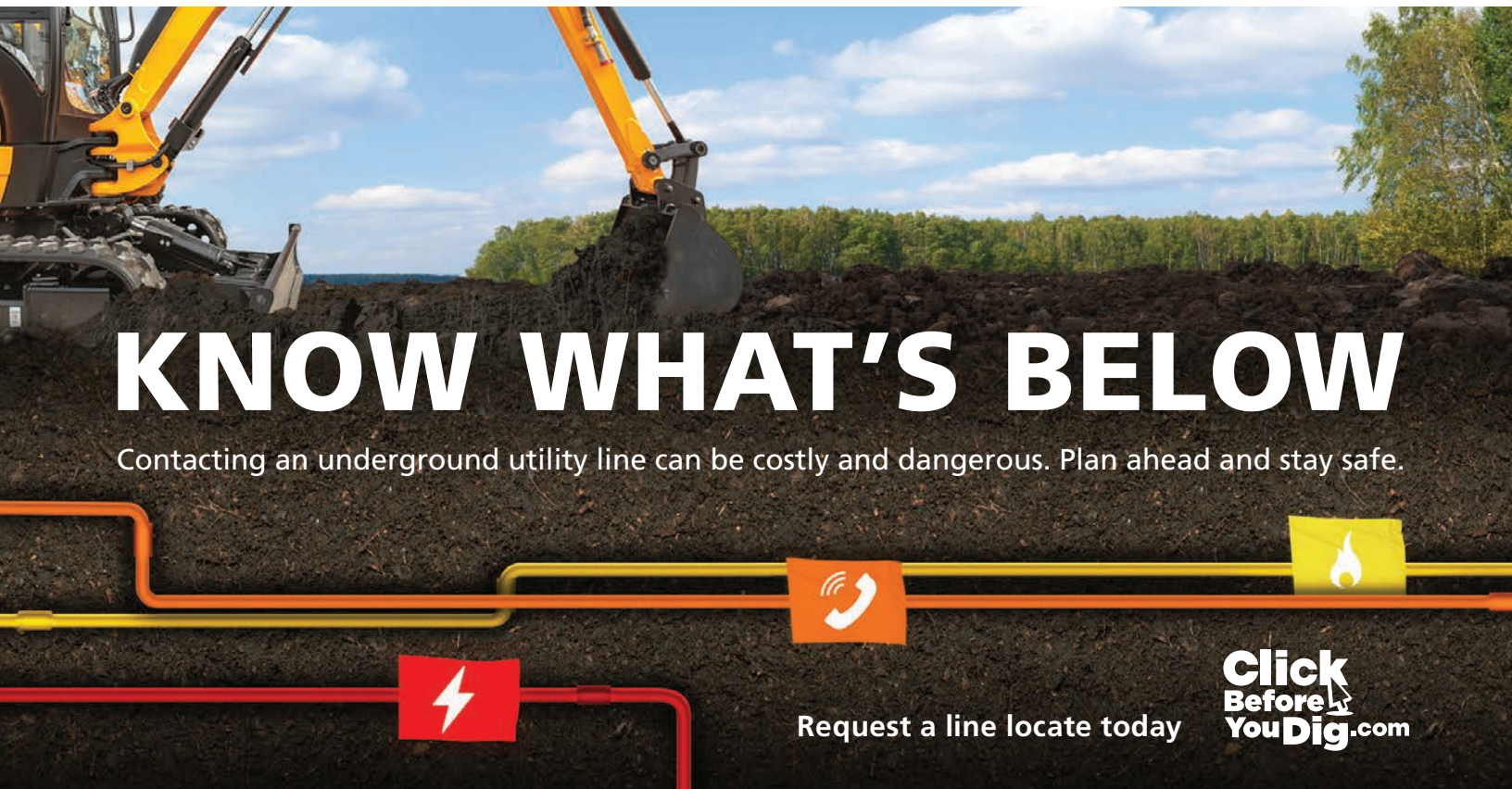
From 2002 to 2006 when I became president, I had the opportunity to work

with David Marit as vice president. Dave was a leader and a positive person who wanted to make Saskatchewan the place to be. We worked with the government of the day to help solve some of the issues facing local governments. The oil industry was having problems in the north west, and we worked with industries and RMs to find a solution. SARM came up with the idea of Clearing the Path, which allows RMs to have roads through their municipalities that are primary weight and to connect these roads to other RMs and our highway system. Most rural roads are secondary weight. We also worked with the provincial government to bring in the first step in reducing education tax on farmland.

Rural and urban municipalities have worked together for over 100 years in very successful ways, each providing the services needed by Saskatchewan folks.

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Past President's message

BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID MARIT SARM Past-President

HELLO EVERYONE, when I was asked to write this article about my time on SARM, I was excited and also hesitant about what to talk about.

When I was just elected onto the board and walked into the SARM boardroom for the very first time, I was in awe of the company around the table. Sinclair Harrison was President and Neal Hardy was Vice President, two individuals that I learned a lot from and have the greatest respect for. Those two gentlemen led us through that whole amalgamation issue in 2000. That's an issue that still seems to rear its head once in a while. I also met new board members that are still very good friends today, the likes of Jim Reiter, Keith Carleton, Doug Steele, Kevin Ritchie, Judy Hardwood, Carmen Sterling, and many more, along with a great staff team at SARM.

There were a lot of good things that happened while I was at SARM. I would like to talk about a few of them, but the absolute highlight for me was our 100 year celebration, both as an organization and as members. I got to travel to every corner of this province and take part in your 100 year celebration, what an honour and privilege that was for me. I could never thank you enough, as the members of SARM, for giving me the great honour to serve as your president from 2006-2014.

Another highlight would have been when we had a change in government as it was only a few years after the 2007 election that we finally saw the Education Property Tax on

farmland issue resolved. It was something our members had been demanding for years through resolutions, and to have a convention with no Education Tax resolution made for an event that was much more focused on municipal concerns.

There were many highlights for me as your SARM President... the best of all is gathering to meet so many of you and becoming good friends.

Obviously funding for RM's was always a huge issue for SARM, and to finally see dedicated funding for Revenue Sharing was a big win for SARM.

There were many highlights for me as your SARM President and these are just a few, but obviously the best of all is gathering to meet so many of you and becoming good friends. I hope I left SARM in just a bit better place than when I had the pleasure to lead you. In closing, I wish nothing but the best for your organization, and it truly was an honour and a privilege to serve as your president from 2006-2014. Thank you.

SARM PAST PRESIDENTS

S. C. Wilson – 1906-1907
James Smith – 1908-1911
George Thompson – 1912-1913
C. M. Hamilton – 1914-1920
Murdo Cameron – 1921
T. H. Moffet – 1922-1925
J. J. Lamb – 1926
G. H. Hummel – 1927-1933
J. R. Near – 1934-1936
J. Knox – 1937-1944
W. C. Woods – 1945-1946
A. J. Bater – 1947-1949
C. H. Fisher – 1950-1951

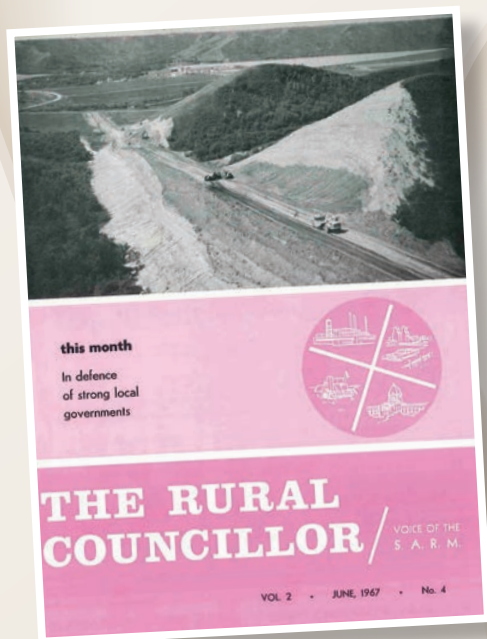
S. Duff Noble – 1952-1956
T. W. Garland – 1957-1959
J. C. Hamilton – 1960-1964
Everett Murphy – 1965-1973
C. S. Mitchell – 1974-1976
B. M. Anderson – 1977-1981
Charles A. Phelps – 1982-1985
Isaac Thiessen – 1986-1988
B. H. Kirwin – 1989-1993
S. Harrison – 1994-2001
Neal Hardy – 2002-2006
David Marit – 2007-2014
Ray Orb – 2015-Present



Returning prosperity pushed aside the makeshift transport of the 1930s, and the new Saskatchewan Government Insurance office decided that every registered automobile owner would receive insurance automatically with their licence plates. After WWII, the province's roadbuilders gave them roads to drive on; above is the construction of Highway 11 near Chamberlain.

RURAL COUNCILLOR – A look back over the years

Since 1966, **Rural Councillor** has been keeping SARM members and stakeholders up to date on all of the latest news, events and information crucial to the sustainable operation of rural municipalities in Saskatchewan. The below provides a quick look at some of the covers that have been published over the past 50 years.

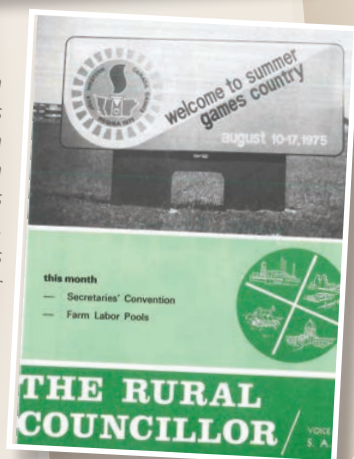


(Left): View of the problems municipalities faced in road construction: a grid road, the north approach to the Qu'Appelle Valley in the RM of Grayson No. 184, snapped by the municipal Road Assistance Authority. The size of the earthmover gives an idea of the earth fill's immensity. (Right): In March 1976, at the SARM Annual Convention, the Minister of Highways, the Honourable Jim Garner, announced that personalized license plates would now be available to farm trucks. He then presented the first set of personalized farm plates to SARM.

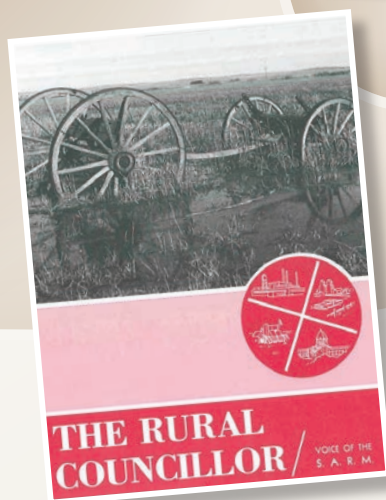


(Right): The Western Canada Summer Games were held in Regina on August 10-17, 1975, with several hundred athletes taking part in 23 sports.

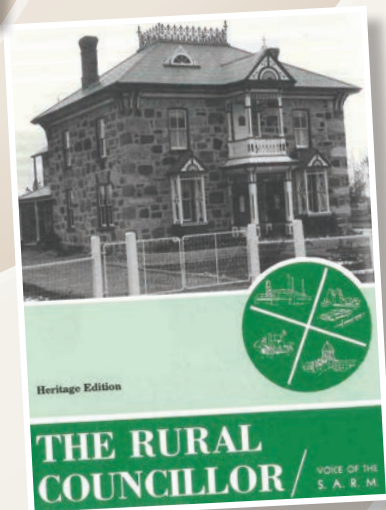
The Summer Games were essential that year as athletes prepared for the 1976 Summer Olympics Games in Montreal, QC.



(Right): Riverbreaks Golf Resort near Riverhurst, image courtesy of Tourism Saskatchewan/Douglas E. Walker.



(Left): An old-time wagon sits in an alkali slough south of Lemsford, SK. The photo was submitted by Roberta Windrum.

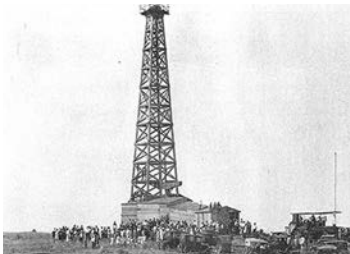


(Left): The Motherwell House near Abernethy, SK is a stone house that was built around 1900 by W.R. Motherwell, a pioneer farmer and community worker in the area. He served for many years as Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan and later as Minister of Agriculture for Canada. The Motherwell homestead is now operated by Parks Canada. The buildings have been restored and are open to the public during the summer months.

SARM FIRSTS AND FUN FACTS

1922

Resolution passed to lobby the provincial government to prohibit communities from switching to daylight savings time



The oil industry became important in SK in the 1920s. Here, the Simpson Oil Company is spudding in its first well in 1926.

1931

SARM Fidelity Bond Self Insurance plan started

1938-75

SARM office was located in the McCallum Hill Building, which was demolished in 1981

1961

Resolution passed directing SARM to urge the federal government to educate the public regarding emergency planning measures necessary for survival in a nuclear attack

1976

First picture of SARM Board of Directors wearing the brown jacket

1981

Annual convention location had to be moved on short notice due to a labour dispute at the regular venue

1912

First 3 day convention held in Regina (March 6-8)



1910 Legal Survey crew.

1931

Decided that the RMAA president and the SARM president would sit on each others boards as ex-officio members

1933

SARM Trading Department started selling caskets



There was much roadwork to be done after the war: an elevating grader in the RM of Key West No. 70 in 1949.

1948

Resolution was passed directing SARM to go on record of its opposition of the importation of margarine in Canada as it would hurt the dairy industry

1975

SARM started a disability benefits plan for farmers which was stopped in 1977 due to lack of participants

1978

First elected officials training



These farmers delivering grain in Gravelbourg in 1917 would have been amazed at farmers' incomes in the 1970s and their expenses.



Urged by municipalities, the PFRA began paying grants in lieu of municipal taxes for community pastures like this one in the RM of Kindersley No. 290.

Resolution made to make midterm convention a yearly occurrence



The Grid Road Committee recommended a reconstruction program for grids. The RM of South Qu'Appelle No. 157, which signed the first grid road agreement in 1956, owned this Champion D740 motor grader in 1981.



Mineral production jumped: a gas and oil line laid between Brock and Kindersley in 1951. In the 1990s, gas was taken to more rural communities by companies like TransGas.

1985

First midterm resolution shown in history book

1986

1983

SARM started producing calendars for members

1985

A resolution was passed directing SARM to switch convention locations between Regina and Saskatoon each year

1988

Smoking was banned from the convention hall



This concrete bridge was built near Oxbow in 1973.

1990

Risk management seminars were held throughout the province

1990

First time the SARM Board met with FSIN and Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. SARM was also invited by FSIN to attend their legislative assembly at the Beardy Reserve

1991

New SARM logo

1997

First internet home page



Rail lines were being built, not abandoned, when this team and crew were at work in 1910, but the roads they and others made are under strain today due to disappearing rail lines.

1999

SARM hired in house legal council

2000

First use of federal lobbyists

2001

Property Self Insurance Program started

2004

Clearing the Path started



The equipment has changed, but the responsibility for roads is still 90 per cent of municipal services.

2004

Special convention held in April to deal with the education tax issue. All delegates went to a rally at the legislature at the end of the convention

Remembering The 1960s



EDITORIALS

Assessments . . .

Urban, rural not comparable

At the 1966 sitting of the Saskatchewan Legislature the Hospital Revenue Tax Act was passed which provides that all real property not now contributing to the construction and maintenance of a hospital, either through a union hospital assessment or a grant, will be required to contribute to a provincial fund that is to be distributed to the hospitals in the areas where the tax is collected on the basis of utilization.

Everyone has the facilities of Saskatchewan hospitals at their disposal and it is only right that all should contribute to the construction and maintenance costs of these institutions. We have no disagreement with the intent of this legislation. In fact the impetus which encouraged the provincial government to make this move came about as a result of a resolution passed at the 1965 SARM convention.

We are concerned, however, that the financial impact of this tax will fall more heavily on rural ratepayers. This is not the fault of the hospital tax itself, but of the basis of assessment which places a taxable valuation on property.

Problems of equity

Rural land is taxed on its ability to produce wheat; urban residential property is taxed on a percentage of its market value, and businesses on a square foot of space used. There are problems of equity that arise when comparing farm land with other farm land, or one residence with another, or one business with another. But the greatest inequity shows up when we try to apply one basic mill rate to all three — as we do for hospitals and education.

Using the new hospital tax as an example we find that a rural population of 102,604 with an assessment of \$163,564,070 will pay \$328,347, or \$3.20 per capita. The urban population of 50,877 with an assessment of \$44,650,695 will pay \$89,247 or \$1.75 per capita.

There are some great differences when comparing various local government jurisdictions at two mills. The City of Weyburn, for example, would pay \$2.34 per capita; the Village of Yellow Grass would pay \$2.27 per capita; the Village of Halbrite \$1.45 per capita. By comparison the RM of Weyburn would pay \$5.93 per capita, and the

RM of Scott \$13.29 per capita. Regina would pay \$2.63 per capita, while the RM of Sherwood would pay \$15.60 per capita.

In almost every case the rural resident would pay more and is farther from the service. Urban residents would pay less, are close to the service and have the added benefit of the economical activity created by having the plants in their respective communities.

It is our contention that hospitals, like social aid and education, are social services which should be supported by all people in our society. There is little or no relationship between these services and property.

Having said this we realize that property will have to carry at least part of these burdens for some time to come and it therefore seems only logical that our assessment procedures be amended or that equalization factors be brought into play, so that a closer degree of equity can be realized when it is necessary to tax real property for these social services.

Lose an hour in the morning and you'll be looking for it the rest of the day.

It's only the man who has given up who has been defeated.

Nothing ever succeeded in business where enthusiasm was lacking.



These men met in Regina in April to discuss reorganization of the Western Union of Municipalities. Left to right are Lorne Wilkinson of Regina; C. L. Doane of Innisfail, Alta.; Everett Murphy of Estevan; A. T. Hainsworth of Deloraine, Man.; G. W. Moyer of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.; D. K. Ripley of Strathclair, Man., and Harold Gronnerud of Lewvan, Sask. (See story on Page 21)

Loan fund coming?

A municipal loan and development fund may become a reality in about two years, Premier W. Ross Thatcher told SARM delegates at their annual convention.

The provincial government has been considering the idea for some time of a "fund to use the provincial credit to lend money to local governments at the lowest possible interest rate," the premier said. However, in view of the current tight money situation and high interest rates, it was decided to postpone action.

"We feel that this proposal has much merit . . . If we are the government a year or so hence, we shall proceed to set up such a fund," Mr. Thatcher said.

Three RMs to join

Two rural municipalities and the major part of a third will form a new municipality at the beginning of 1970 as a result of a vote of electors on April 30. The RMs of Cory No. 344, Park No. 375 and all of Warman No. 374 except about 65 sections along its northern border will be amalgamated officially Jan. 1. The new RM is unnamed as yet.

The vote was more than two to one in favor of amalgamation—653 for, and 303 against. The count was: Cory—228 for, 125 against; Park—230 for, 54 against, and Warman 195 for, 124 against. The four-mile-wide strip on the north side of Warman will be annexed to Laird No. 404 and Rosthern No. 403.

Municipal Affairs Minister Clarence Estey said his department was pleased with the results of the plebiscite. Approval for amalgamation was given without any government interference, through the work of the SARM with the three councils involved, he said.

"I think that with the development of this area we will now have a stronger municipal unit, and the department will co-operate to the fullest extent in order to bring the amalgamation into effect smoothly."

While he approves of municipalities amalgamating, no pressure would be brought to bear on other areas in the province. The government should not try to impose a new map of municipal boundaries upon residents of this province, Mr. Estey said.

Combined assessment of the new RM will be \$7,500,000 (in round figures). At present Cory's is \$4,500,000, Park's \$1,500,000 and Warman's \$1,600,000. *

Congratulations

In the short time that I have been Minister of Municipal Affairs, I have enjoyed the close co-operation that I have received from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

The publication of a monthly journal of your own should prove to be very helpful and informative to all municipal officials.

It, therefore, gives me a great deal of pleasure at this time to offer my personal congratulations to the Association and its members on this occasion.

— J. CLIFFORD McISAAC, D.V.M.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.

1969

Annual convention was reduced from four days to three



The picture above shows a portion of the 183 official delegates and 151 visitors at the recent RMSTA convention in Regina. Below are the executives (left to right), J. R. Robins of Redvers, W. G. Kindrachuk of Wakaw, Everett Murphy of Estevan, H. W. Hammell of Lacadena, H. C. Sims of Leacross, E. Zubot of Carmichael, A. S. Matsalla of Buchanan, Gordon Walsh of Regina, RMSTA secretary; G. S. Drysdale of Rouleau, RMSTA president; A. Herman of Wilkie and W. L. Burbank of Moose Jaw. Top right President Drysdale is shown



giving his annual report, and bottom right is Cliff Rankin, director of the administrative services branch of the municipal affairs department.



"Office Specialty"
FURNITURE
for rural municipalities
through the
SARM
Reduced Prices — Patronage Dividends

For information and prices on more than 3,000 furniture items — Council Chairs, Boardroom Tables, Office Chairs, Stereo Chairs, Filing Equipment, write the
SARM
403 McCollum-Hill Bldg., Regina, Sask.

MUNICIPAL HAIL

Since the year 1917 The Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association has paid claims totalling about \$76,000,000. This is about 85 per cent of the hail taxes charged for insurance during this period. Reserves of the Association now total about \$10,000,000, and interest on the invested reserves covers the cost of administration, which is less than 10 per cent of hail taxes levied.

THIS IS SOUND INSURANCE FOR THE FARMER AT LOW RATES

Additional hail insurance can be obtained with the subsidiary company
ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL HAIL LIMITED
by applying to the Municipal Secretary and paying a cash premium

In favorable years part of the premiums are returned in patronage dividends. The dividend for 1967 was 15 per cent. Over the past 44 years more than seven per cent has been returned in patronage dividends.

THE SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Municipal Hail Building, 1965 Hamilton Street
SASKATCHEWAN

A name is chosen

It wasn't easy!

That was the opinion of the Executive when it came to choosing a name for the new SARM publication. The response to the request for suggestions was light, but the variety received in the office more than made up for it.

The contributions of two men were incorporated, the word Rural was interjected and the Executive came up with . . . you know what. Honors go to J. B. Jansen, Secretary-Treasurer of Grass Lake RM No. 381 for "The Councilor" and to Vernon Ross, Secretary-Treasurer of EM of Coalfields No. 4 for "Voice of the SARM." The two will receive appropriate recognition at the convention this year.

Mr. Jansen offered an alternative, "The Saskatchewan ARM." Other suggestions were "MARS," "S.A.R.M. Silhouette," "Saskatchewan Duster," "The SARM Adviser," "S.A.R.M. Brail," "The Prairie Courier," "Rural Echoes" and "Saskality."

Grain theft deterrent

Grainfetti, a new product which has coined a new word in the English language, may be the deterrent to grain rustling in Saskatchewan. It is being used effectively in an area west of Saskatoon to identify grain as the property of its producer, according to Attorney-General D. V. Heald.

"A system of positive grain identification . . . It is intended that farmers sprinkle their grain with this product as it is being loaded into granaries. We are told that it does not in any way detract from the value of a farmer's grain in the elevator," Mr. Heald said.

"We believe grainfetti will act as a deterrent to grain thefts, and it can be used in the prosecution of any person in whose possession stolen grain is found. We have also increased and intensified RCMP patrols in this area and believe this is achieving results."

Mr. Heald said grain rustling is also prevalent in the Nipawin-Tisdale districts and there have been some thefts in the last year in the Meadow Lake - Dorintosh area.

Wheat by pipeline?

During the years that wheat has been grown on the Prairies, many alternate methods of transporting it to markets have been discussed — all the way from pipelines, to submarines hauling through the winter months from Churchill by way of the North Pole to Russia or Siberia.

Transport Minister Jack Pickersgill has suggested to western grain producers that pipelines will eventually be used to move wheat from the west and urged the Canadian wheat pools to study the idea.

They have examined the scheme to see if such pipelines would be feasible. Findings so far indicate that no serious engineering problems would be involved, but that the cost of collecting and transporting grain over such a system would make the project uneconomical, for the present at least.

A young usher led a guest down the aisle. "Are you a friend of the bride or of the groom?"

"I'm a friend of both."

"I'm sorry madam," the young man replied. "I'm afraid you'll have to choose a side. I haven't any instruction on where to seat the neutrals."



Bob Latimer Jr. of Melfort holds the SARM cup presented to his band, judged the best all-around band from towns, villages and hamlets at the Moose Jaw Band Festival in May. Bandmaster of the winning band, the Melfort Kinsmen Band, is his father Bob Latimer. The 74-piece band took the cup away from the Rosetown Community Band which held it in 1965, 1963 and 1962.

1966

First edition of the Rural Councillor was published

Remembering The 1970s

Flood-control programs vital

Eight per cent of the total cultivated land in Saskatchewan is now assessed for flood control through conservation and development area authorities. Reviewing the activities of the conservation and development branch of the provincial Agriculture Department since its inception in 1949, its director, P. O. Moen, told delegates at the annual convention of the C & D Association in Humboldt that 3,691,000 acres are assessed and "this should remove any element of doubt as to the significance of the flood control program to the agricultural industry of this province."



The executive of the Conservation and Development Association for the current year (left to right): Cliff Haughian of Smokey Burn; Stan Hansen of Yellow Grass; Ross Wright of Milestone; Norris Iverson of Lajord, secretary-manager; Bob Ferguson of Edgeley, past president, and Dollard Hudon of Zanon Park, president.

There are now 84 C & D area authorities in Saskatchewan, 58 of them with active programs. In the last 20 years 15,610,000 cubic yards of earth have been moved; 1,330 miles of ditch have been dug, and 223 miles of road and 2,183 structures have been built.

Mr. Moen urged careful study of proposals for new projects during the present cash shortage and high interest rates on debentures. However, contractors' prices are generally low and it is also necessary for farmers to continually improve their efficiency, he said. Farmers cannot afford the added costs of working around potholes and low areas, taxes on non-producing areas, or losing crops through summer flooding or the uncertainty of being able to harvest hay crops required for livestock.

"What this really means," Mr. Moen said, "is that area authorities are placed in a position of having to study development proposals very carefully, weighing the pros and cons of proceeding with immediate construction and the implications of deferring their programs."

He warned that continued financial support from the federal ARDA program was uncertain and suggested that multi-purpose programs might receive more support in future.

"I think there is increasing public recognition of the value of recreation, wildlife and pollution control programs and a corresponding willingness to lend financial support to these programs," he said. "I think we must be increasingly alert to opportunities for incorporating other benefits into water development projects in the future."

He stressed the importance in these times of maintenance of completed projects and keeping their works operative at all times.

1978

Resolution passed directing SARM to explore the development of a legal department

Slow moving vehicles

As of July 1, 1973, it will be "the law" in Saskatchewan for all slow moving vehicles to be equipped with a slow moving vehicle warning sign.

A slow moving vehicle is defined as one which travels at 25 m.p.h. or less. The sign is to be mounted on the rear of the vehicle as near to the centre as practical, not lower than 36 inches or higher than 60 inches. The sign must be free of dirt and so affixed as to be plainly visible at all times and not obscured by any part of the vehicle.



The slow moving vehicle sign can be plainly seen on this farm tractor

The slow moving vehicle signs, along with mounting blades and mounting blade channels, can be obtained from local RM offices through the SARM.

Remember! As of July 1st, it will be "the law" to have these signs displayed on all slow moving vehicles.

Artificial insemination

The first artificial insemination unit for cattle was established at Waterloo, Ont., in 1941. By 1968, about a million first services were accomplished through artificial insemination units in Canada. This represented about 20 per cent of the total dairy and beef cow population in Canada. About 67 per cent of the total registrations in the pure dairy breeds in that year were A. I. progeny. Through A.I., one superior sire may be mated to over 10,000 females in one year.

Bees in Western Canada

Western honey producers do not overwinter their bee colonies. Each spring more than 250,000 packages are imported from the United States into the four western provinces. They contain two pounds of honey bees and a queen and build up to strong colonies by late June. They produce 70 per cent of the Canadian honey crop, amounting to 50 million pounds, and are then destroyed each fall. In eastern Canada and the southern British Columbia, bee colonies are kept over the winter.

Olson outlines new federal grain deal

The federal government is moving to cure the ills of the Canadian grain industry, Agriculture Minister H. A. (Bud) Olson told delegates attending the recent SARM convention.



Changes in policy and programs were proposed last fall and amended after consultation and discussion with all involved in grain production and marketing and are now ready for presentation to Parliament.

"We have taken the necessary time and trouble to develop the best possible set of proposals," Mr. Olson said. "Now we are prepared to act promptly and decisively to establish the world's most competitive, vigorous and efficient grains industry."

Changes were designed to remove the "unwarranted stimulus" to deliver wheat and put it back on a fully competitive basis with the other quota grains.

The new Canada Grain Act (in effect April 1)

has introduced a new grading system which will be phased into operation during the next two years. The new top grade of wheat—No. 1 Canada Western Red Spring Wheat—will include the old No. 1 Hard and Nos. 1 and 2 Northern.

"Within this new top grade, we will introduce protein guarantees for our customers on the basis of carlot testing at the point of shipping and at terminal elevators," Mr. Olson said. "This is a change we have been anxious to introduce in order to give better service to our customers, and it should enable us to improve our competitive position in world markets."

Four more grades will be introduced at the beginning of the 1972 crop year—No. 2 CW which will carry the features of No. 3 Northern and the best of No. 4, a new 3 CW with the qualities of the bulk No. 4 Northern, and two grades of feed wheat.

"The intent of all these changes is to significantly improve our competitive position in export markets, and by making these improvements, to enable Canada to sell more wheat and make more money for our wheat producers," Mr. Olson said.

A grain receipts stabilization program has been introduced to counter the "boom and bust" cycles which have plagued the grain industry throughout its history in the West. During boom years producers will set aside two per cent of their years' deliveries in a special fund, to which the federal government will contribute four per cent, with a maximum of \$300 paid in by a producer in any one crop year.

(Continued on Page 24)

EAT CANADIAN LAMB
10,000 COYOTES CAN'T BE WRONG

SAVE OUR SHEEP
TAKE A COYOTE TO LUNCH

The message on these bumper stickers, while intended to generate sheep production illustrates the awareness of the coyote problem in the West.

1976

For the best culvert connection in Saskatchewan call Fulco Metal Products Phone 545-6212 — COLLECT. We will process your order immediately and ship it prepaid to any destination in the province, serviced by common carrier.

Consult your local Redhead Equipment Territory Manager for information on selecting the ideal culvert sizes to meet all your requirements. Fulco Metal Products Ltd. is 100% Saskatchewan owned and operated.

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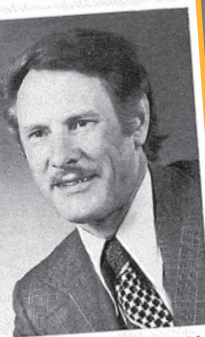
Telephone Buried Cable Program in Rural Saskatchewan

SASK TEL is about to start construction in its 1978 Buried Cable Program for the province. Some 6,000 miles of buried cable and wire are to be placed this year to bring better service to telephone subscribers in the rural areas.

SASK TEL started its buried telephone cable program in 1964 and approximately 33,000 miles of cable and wire have been installed to date. By the end of 1977 all SASK TEL long distance pole lines were replaced by either buried cables or radio facilities. This was a major milestone in improving telephone service to Saskatchewan. By the end of 1983 the vast majority of existing Rural Telephone Companies' pole lines are expected to be replaced by improved transmission characteristics which will bring quality telephone service to all subscribers. Because the lines are in buried cables instead of on poles the service will also be much more reliable in bad weather conditions, maintaining com storms and ice when they are most needed. To maintain links when they are most needed, to give further protection from man-made hazards, since 1971 the majority of our buried cables and since 1971 the majority of our buried cables rather than on road allowances. This prevents cables from being damaged by machinery during road construction and repair. It also allows for a greater separation distance between the buried telephone cables and parallel power lines. This prevents or reduces power line interference on the telephone transmission, giving the subscriber high quality telephone transmission without unnecessary hum or noise.

In the Rural Service Improvement Program, SASK TEL is also assuming responsibility for large numbers of existing Rural Telephone Company owned pole lines, where these companies so desire, buried cables can be placed. As a result, SASK TEL now owns many of the pole lines providing service to the rural areas in the province. This has an immediate effect on our Maintenance Staff, as it makes them responsible for the repair

by P. Van Vleet
Chief Engineer
SASK TEL



and maintenance of lines previously maintained by the Rural Telephone Company. Extra manpower is being added in various districts to handle this added workload, and new service centres are being built in a large number of communities to bring faster and better service to these areas.

This is a large undertaking. It requires the careful scheduling of many engineering and field activities, such as selecting the cable route, obtaining easements, detailed transmission design, coordinating placement with respect to power lines, drafting of plans, surveying and staking of the routes, ploughing and trenching, and finally connecting the completed cable, and the cable to the telephones to the cable and the cable to the switching equipment in the telephone exchange. It is a long list of activities which require not only full cooperation among the SASK TEL employees in the various departments, the Suppliers and the various Departments, but also very close coordination with the various Agencies, Government Departments and Rural Municipalities. It does not take much imagination to see that there are many opportunities for a slip-up in the cooperation or coordination of effort. With sophisticated scheduling methods and close personal attention we try to keep all activities going as smoothly as possible within and outside the telephone company involvement. Overall, our experience has been good, with most people cooperating and coordinating within the program framework.

All requests previously handled by the Rural Telephone Companies for moving, relocation or replacing pole lines to facilitate road construction are now addressed to SASK TEL. Because of the large number of pole lines involved throughout the province, and the large number of road projects

(Continued on page 18)



A SASK TEL customer service center at Central Butte.

Program announced

A community development and clean-up program for small communities has been announced by Culture and Youth Minister Ed Tchorezewski. The program will be administered by the Department of Culture and Youth.

Under the special program, local governing authorities or municipalities, local improvement districts, and the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District, will be eligible for employer subsidies of up to 50 per cent of the employee's salary to a maximum of \$150 a month.

In addition, the department will provide a subsidy of \$100 per month per employee for costs of materials used in the clean-up and improvement projects related to garbage disposal.

Mr. Tchorezewski noted that a number of local governing bodies have brought to the attention of the provincial government their support for a program which would promote environmental clean-up and development.

The objective of the project, which has been allotted more than \$1.05 million, is to enable local government to utilize young people during the summer months in a variety of activities such as the scavenging and disposal of waste materials near and around existing waste disposal grounds. This will be conducted in a manner consistent with a Department of Public Health regulation passed last year which requires that between 300 and 400 communities undertake such action.

The program will also encourage the clean-up and repair of graveyards and cemetery sites, as well as the improvement of the appearances of towns, villages and municipalities.

For activities related to the clean-up of waste disposal grounds, the local government will be eligible for a grant of \$100 per employee-month to offset the costs of materials directly related to the project.

Persons eligible to work under the program include students graduating from grade 12 in 1973, persons who are post-high school students between the ages of 16 and 25, and young people between the ages of 16 and 20 who were unemployed on or about Feb. 1, 1973.

Employers must apply to the Youth Employment Service office to be granted authorization by the director to hire eligible employees and to qualify for a reimbursement grant. A reimbursement grant will be made when a reimbursement grant form, certified by the employer and employees, is submitted to the Y.E.S. office in Regina.

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

How Big is "Big"

The first Western Farm Progress show was held in Regina in June and judging by the number of people who attended it was a success. For the most part the exhibitors were pleased with the show and the visitors were likewise pleased with what they saw.

Visitors could be pardoned if they were somewhat overwhelmed and bewildered by the array and size of machines being offered to farmers. All the major manufacturers offered at least one four wheel drive model of tractor and several of them offered two or three models. It is only natural that what one company offers the others must do also since the competition is extremely keen in the farm machinery business.

The question farmers and others have been asking for years is: How far will it go? Not too many years ago there were no four wheel drive tractors offered. Now there are several. "Big Roy", the eight wheel drive mammoth, drew much attention but we are told it is only a proto-type and is not yet likely to be in production in the near future. If the trend of the last two decades holds true it will only be a matter of a few years until "Big Roy" and his even bigger brothers are common in the farm tractor market place.

Of course, with the bigger tractors come bigger machines to pull behind them and with bigger units bigger farms are needed to pay for the large equipment. It is a vicious circle that has been going on since the first homesteader filed on a pre-emption. We don't know the final answer but everytime a farm expands it means there is one less family out there in rural Saskatchewan to support the community. The Saskatchewan government has enacted legislation which prohibits non-residents from owning more than 160 acres. The law says nothing about how much land a resident can own.

One of the disturbing things about the farm progress show was the lack of machinery suitable for the small to medium sized farmer. Granted some of the machines such as drills and discers come in multiple units and the farmer can buy as few or as many as he likes. For many of the others there was no indication that smaller sizes are available. As one observer put it, "Among all these giants a farmer would be ashamed to ask for a 16 foot cultivator for fear of being laughed at."

Food Plants Of The New World

Christopher Columbus sailed west looking for gold and spices. However, the most valuable commodities he and his fellow European explorers brought back from the New World were the plants and seeds of native American food plants.

The native people of the Americas produced some of the most important of all food plants, including such staple foods as maize, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava and many varieties of beans.

Maize, known in North America as corn, probably originated in the highlands of tropical Central America. It existed in a variety of forms and was cultivated widely in the New World by the time the Europeans arrived. In Europe it was planted extensively in areas too dry for rice and too wet for wheat. The most valuable characteristic of maize is its high yield per unit of land, which, on world average, is roughly double that of wheat.

The potato was cultivated in the Andean highlands long before the arrival of the Spanish. It was introduced into Europe soon after 1580 by the Spaniards but most Europeans looked upon the potato with fear and contempt. Its only importance was as a supposed aphrodisiac. Today, the potato is one of the most important food plants of the temperate zones.

Scientists at Agriculture Canada's Fredericton, N.B., Research Station, have returned to South America to find wild potato varieties as part of a program to broaden the genetic base of their breeding material.

The sweet potato, a native of tropical America, was first grown as early as 3,000 B.C. It is known to have been cultivated in New Zealand before the arrival of the Europeans, lending weight to the argument that prehistoric man did cross the Pacific Ocean. The sweet potato's resistance to drought and tolerance of poor soils make it an important secondary crop throughout the warmer lands of the world.

Next to the sweet potato, the most important of the tropical root crops is cassava, or manioc. A native of South America, cassava is best known in the temperate zones in the form of tapioca.

The common field, garden, or kidney bean was indigenous to the New World and probably domesticated by the Incas. The bean was used by the Indians of both South and North America. Cultivation of the American beans quickly spread to Europe, Africa and Asia following the discovery of the New World.

Other foods of New World origin cultivated before the time of Columbus were peanuts, squash, and cocoa.

New Russian Wild-Rye Grass Licensed

A new Russian wild-rye grass has been licensed by Agriculture Canada.

The new variety, Swift, was developed at Agriculture Canada's Swift Current, Sask., Research Station Dr. Thomas Lawrence. It has excellent establishment vigor and the ability to emerge when seeded as deep as two inches in the soil.

Studies of Russian wild-rye grass failures during the last 20 years have shown that 80 to 90 per cent were caused by sowing the seed more than an inch deep in the soil. The ability to emerge from seedings as deep as two inches is a major asset in the establishment of a Russian wild-rye grass crop. Greenhouse, laboratory and field tests have shown Swift to have greater establishment vigor than Sawki, Mayak and Cabree, the currently available varieties of Russian wild-rye grass. Six to eight times as many Swift seedlings emerge from seed planted two inches deep as emerge from seeds of other varieties planted at the same depth.

Swift has also consistently yielded more forage in its seedling year than any other variety. Swift is equal in forage yields to older varieties of Russian wild-rye grass. Developed from the variety Sawki and a strain from North Dakota, Swift has good potential for pasture seedling on the Canadian Prairies.

MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE FOR LAND OWNERS

New Applicants — Apply to your municipal secretary up to July 15 but before hail strikes

- Municipally rated — farmer controlled
- Lowest average rate of any insurer in the Province
- Premium charged as taxes
- Credit insurance at low rates with discount for early payment
- Advantages of 50% and over paid as 100%
- Additional discount in some communities for each successive year up to maximum of 5 years

For those who now carry Municipal Hail DO IT YOURSELF — FILE YOUR CROP REPORT with your municipal secretary-treasurer on or before

JUNE 15

Your choice of indemnity of \$6, \$12 or \$18 per acre

New This Year — Special Discount of 15% if you have insured for five consecutive years — proportionate discounts for two, three or four years.

Additional Municipal Hail Ltd. up to \$20 per acre — cash premium. Premiums divided in proportion to the year's municipal secretary.

THE SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Green spuds no good

Green or sunburned potatoes can cause digestive upsets or may be toxic if eaten in large quantities.

Not a berry

The saskatoon is usually referred to as a berry, but it is actually a pome like a pear or an apple.

FACT SHEET GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION



- Last year (1971-1972), Canada's grain handling and transportation system moved 1.02 billion bushels of grain for 171,726 grain permit book holders.
- The average driving distance from farm to country elevator was 7 miles.
- The total cost of handling, storing and transporting this grain within Canada is more than \$200 million a year.
- The gross farm cash receipts from all crops in the Prairie Provinces (1971) was \$1,109 million.
- The process of moving the grain involved 3,240 manager units and 4,567 country elevators at 1,672 elevator points.
- From 20-25,000 bushels and hoppers moved the grain over 19,300 miles of rail lines in Western Canada.
- Standard 40-foot boxcars average 2,000 bushels capacity. The new grain hopper cars have about a 3,000 bushel capacity.
- At times of peak movement, about 478 trains operated in a week to place empty cars in the country and take loaded cars to their destination.
- In addition to the country elevator, the total elevator system involved 33 terminal elevators, 23 process (mill) elevators, and 28 transfer elevators.
- Approximately 80% of grain from Thunder Bay to other ports on the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence System.
- In 1962, there were 5,226 country elevators with a storage capacity of 367,471,300 bushels. By 1972 there were 4,567 country elevators with a capacity of 377,798,560 bushels. This shows a reduction of 659 elevators, but an increase in storage capacity of 10,327,260 bushels.
- Most grain moves east through Thunder Bay, with Vancouver the second most important port in total landings. During 1971-72 25,719,000 bushels.

PRESENT CAPACITY OF THE TOTAL ELEVATOR SYSTEM

| | No. | Storage Capacity |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Country (Primary) | 4,567 (3,240 mgr. units) | 377,798,560 bushels |
| Terminal | 23 | 151,515,710 bushels |
| Transfer | 28 | 15,278,000 bushels |
| Other | 8 | 128,486,000 bushels |
| TOTAL—All licensed elevators | 4,626 | 673,078,260 bushels |



COUNTRY ELEVATORS—WHO OWNS THEM?

| Company | No. | Storage Capacity | Company | No. | Storage Capacity |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Alberta Wheat Pool | 897 | 79,345,000 bushels | Flourish Grain Co. Ltd. | 452 | 41,329,200 bushels |
| Manitoba Pool Elevators | 343 | 28,570,650 bushels | Saskatchewan Wheat Pool | 1,626 | 121,486,700 bushels |
| National Grain Ltd. | 286 | 22,483,350 bushels | United Grain Growers | 768 | 64,186,300 bushels |
| Parrish & Heimbecker | 56 | 7,117,500 bushels | Others | 46 | 4,283,200 bushels |
| Peterson & Son | 94 | 6,977,700 bushels | TOTAL | 4,567 | 377,798,560 bushels |

Remembering The 1980s

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PAGE



Automatic Signalization of Railway Crossings

by Planning & Research Branch
Saskatchewan Rural Development
April, 1983

During July, 1982 the Department of Rural Development provided a number of rural municipalities with a list of railway crossings which have a high cross-product (vehicles x trains) and, therefore, may be eligible for the installation of automatic signals.

To date, there have been approximately 18 applications for signals made by rural municipalities to the Canadian Transport Commission. The Transport Commission has carried out inspections and has approved the installation of signals at 12 locations. At several other locations the Transport Commission has recommended improvements such as signing and clearing of sight distance.

The Department of Rural Development encourages rural municipalities to review their railway crossings and determine if any improvements are required to make the crossing safer for the motorist.

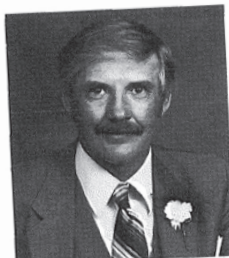
The following are general guidelines used by the Canadian Transport Commission regarding the installation of Railway Signals:

- Application should be made to C.T.C. by letter giving the reason for the request, number of vehicles using the crossing, location of the crossing and other pertinent information.

- A field inspection will be carried out by the C.T.C. in conjunction with the Railway Company and rural municipal officials.
- If automatic signals are considered to be warranted by the C.T.C., then the Railway Company will be requested to submit a cost estimate for installing and maintaining the signals.
- When estimates have been prepared the Railway Company and the municipality must give the final approval to the project as outlined, and agree to the funding formula.
- The cost of installation and maintenance of automatic signals is as follows: C.T.C. 80%, Railway Company — 7.5%, Municipality — 12.5% The Department of Rural Development will cost-share on the municipality's share. The annual maintenance cost is shared at 50-50 between the Railway Company and the municipality. Rural Development will share on the municipality's portion of the maintenance cost.
- The average cost of installing signals at a single track crossing is \$60,000 and \$95,000 for two or more tracks. Annual maintenance costs average \$4,000 per crossing.
- Upon the issuance of the Order to install the signals the Railway Company has twelve months in which to install the signals.★

How to Survive the 80's

by Thomas Skoretz



Thomas Skoretz of Lintlaw is councillor for division three of the R.M. of Hazel Dell No. 337 and is subunit director for S.A.R.M. subunit 4C.

The economists and politicians tell us that we are coming out of the depression and perhaps that is true for those that have taken off a good No. 1 or 2 grade of grain. They will survive. But I would like to direct my comments to those who lost most of their crop to hail or frost. For these people the recession could be just beginning. Consider their higher production costs, lower grain prices and possibly lower quotas.

There are four suggestions one could use to help get over difficult times. Firstly, remember tomorrow never was for the weak. It is never that bad that it can't get worse. Secondly, begin with yourself. You are farming because it is what you like to do. Don't let hard times interfere with your family life and fun with your children. Mr. Hardtimes is a good teacher. The experience could be useful later on. Thirdly, take a survival attitude. Cut corners where costs are highest and the risks the greatest. Don't spend next year's crop unless it is an emergency. Fourthly, pick your allies. They are your family, your bank manager, your Ag. Rep. and others. Your friendly cheerful attitude can do wonders.★

Grains and Oilseeds Facts

- * The Value of Grain and Oilseed Production in Canada. Including the Value of Grain Fed on Farm and Used on Farm for Seed. Was About \$6.7 Billion in the 1986-87 Crop Year. This Accounts for About 40 Per Cent of the Value of Total Farm Products in Most Years.
- * Grains and Oilseeds is an Important Source of Foreign Exchange Earnings, Exports of Grains, Oilseeds and Products Were Valued at \$4.9 Billion in 1986, or 58 Per Cent of the Value of All Agricultural Exports. Normally, Grains and Oilseeds Exports Account for 70 Per Cent of the Value of All Agricultural Exports.
- * 72 Per Cent of Canadian Feed Grains Are Used Domestically.
- * 77 Per Cent of Wheat Produced in Canada was Exported.
- * The USSR is the Largest Purchaser of Canadian Wheat. Followed by China and Japan.
- * 82 Per Cent of All Canadian Grain and Oilseed Production Originates in Western Canada.
- * 96 Per Cent of Canadian Wheat Production Originates in Western Canada.
- * Canada is Responsible for 23 Per Cent of World Wheat Exports.

Manual Responds to Municipal Computerization Concerns

Urban Affairs Minister Tim Embury and Rural Development Minister Louis Domotor recently presented municipal representatives with copies of a manual that answers many questions municipalities have about the selection and viability of computerized systems.

Computerization in Municipalities: Guidelines is a 100-page manual designed for small to medium-sized municipalities in the province. It outlines items to be considered in the decision to computerize; steps to be taken in the selection of a computer system; computerization contracting requirements; and procedures for implementation and operation of a computer system.

The manual was developed in response to concerns raised by municipal representatives about the lack of information available on municipal computerization.

"For some time, municipalities have raised concerns about the lack of material dealing specifically with municipal computerization," Embury said. "This manual will help guide local governments through the maze of options and data available on today's computer market."

Saskatchewan Urban Affairs provided funding and staff for the preparation of the manual in consultation with a technical steering committee. The committee consisted of representatives of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA); the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS); the Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (RMAAS); and the Departments of Urban Affairs and Rural Development.

At a brief ceremony at the Legislative Building, the presidents of SUMA, UMAAS, RMAAS and SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) were presented with personalized copies of the manual. A copy will also be sent to each municipal office in the province with additional copies available on request.

Embury said the province will be developing a second manual on applying computerized systems to specific municipal procedures such as water billing, assessment and land use records.★

Chemical Prices

Canada vs. U.S.

From time to time we hear farmers claiming how much better their counterparts in the United States have it than they do here in Canada. A claim is frequently made that weed and insect control chemicals are cheaper in the United States.

The Pesticide Price and Supply Committee, which is made up of representatives of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the National Farmers' Union, Agriculture Canada, The Department of Industry Trade and Commerce, the Agricultural Chemicals Association and the Ontario Feed Dealers' Association was formed at the same time the Canada-United States border was closed for importation of unregistered pesticides by individual farmers. The closing was prompted by concerns that personal importation made it impossible, under the terms of the Agriculture Canada's Pest Control Products Act, to ensure the safe and effective use of pesticides.

This committee has just released its latest report showing a comparison of Canadian and American prices for the more commonly used chemicals for weed control in cereal grains. This report shows a similar trend to that of earlier reports, namely that for the most part the Canadian farmer is paying no more and frequently less than his U.S. neighbor. You will note that under the heading "Trading Limits" in the table below there is a wide range of prices for most chemicals in both countries. It therefore follows that if you compare the lowest American price with the highest Canadian price the latter comes out looking bad. However if you compare the averages or the highest with the highest and the lowest with the lowest the Canadian price is quite favorable.

RETAIL TRADING PRICES

| | PRAIRIES | | U.S. | |
|---|----------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| | Average | Trading Limits | Average | Trading Limits |
| 2,4-D Amine 80 | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 12.11 | 11.90-12.33 | 16.36 | 15.09-17.62 |
| MCPA Amine 80 | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 13.87 | 13.16-14.58 | 21.04 | 19.96-22.10 |
| MCPA Ester 80 | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 16.10 | 15.07-17.14 | 26.23 | 23.27-29.20 |
| Triflan 4E | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 34.41 | 33.80-35.02 | 36.59 | 32.13-41.05 |
| Carbyne 1.2 | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 24.49 | 24.23-24.75 | 24.21 | 22.68-25.74 |
| Avadex BW | | | | |
| \$/gal-5 Imp gal pkg | 23.42 | 23.10-23.74 | 29.37 | 27.94-30.80 |
| N.B. Conversions where necessary to equivalent measure and Canadian dollars.★ | | | | |

A wise man changes his mind, a fool never.

Bushels For Books From Saskatchewan Farmers

Saskatchewan farmers will be asked to donate grain to the University of Regina library. Dr. Lloyd Barber, president of the University of Regina, announced the appeal at a news conference recently.

Garf Stevenson, president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, which is assisting the University of Regina with the innovative plan, *Bushels for Books*, said, "Saskatchewan farmers know the value of research and education, and the importance of facilities like the U of R in making continuing education and agricultural research possible. Improvements to the university library can mean better reference services to rural Saskatchewan libraries, and that is valuable to farm families."

"I'm delighted by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool's support of the university," said Dr. Barber, "and I know the agricultural community is going to pitch in to help where possible. We provide much more than an academic education because of our research programs, as well as information and other services to the greater Saskatchewan community. The university library is an important resource here."

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator managers will assist farmers who wish to donate a portion of the proceeds from their grain deliveries to the University of Regina library. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool will administer the program and will forward funds collected to the university. Each donor will receive a certificate and a tax benefit, and his or her name will be inscribed on a bookplate in books purchased by the library under the plan. Each donor will also receive a Friends of the Library card, entitling them to full library services.

Bushels for Books was proposed to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool by university librarian Ernie Ingles as part of his program to expand library services. "We're already a leading information resource to rural areas here," he said, "and I hope this plan will help us to expand and improve this service."



Dr. Lloyd Barber (left), president of the University of Regina and Mr. Garf Stevenson, president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, launched an innovative appeal for library books in the *Bushels for Books* program at the University of Regina main library. U. of R. photo.

1985

A trade show was included as part of the annual convention

Redhead Equipment is ready

John Deere's new 855 tractor is geared to our age of technology, with an electronic "brain" that governs 24 tons of power. The brain is a microprocessor that makes optimum performance possible by instantly depressing the operating requirements and shifting the transmission low gear. This transmission control system makes possible improved fuel economy, less wear, and better performance. The tractor's other more advanced features than any tractor in its class. Double-shield drive components help ensure peak loading performance, and the same durability is found in the heavy-duty front-end loader. And the 855 is designed for easy maintenance. It can be serviced in one week. Call a Redhead dealer today and let him show you how sound fundamental design and innovative engineering can make a difference in your working operations.



1987

First "Bear Pit" held at annual convention

WHAT IS "W.I."?

by Barbara Pavelich

Mrs. Frank (Barbara) Pavelich of Kenaston grew up in the Craik district. She taught school at a number of locations in Saskatchewan before marrying and settling on a farm at Kenaston. She is the mother of three daughters and has always been active in community work. As well as being a long time worker in the Chatham Women's Institute she is a director for the south west division of the Saskatchewan Women's Institutes.

A long-distance telephone operator, on being asked for the number of a certain provincial Women's Institutes' office, replied, "That's the jail, isn't it?" Complying with the same request, other people have been known to search under the heading: 'Church Organizations'. And this in 1982, 85 years after Women's Institutes were founded! I first became a member of W.I. in 1937, when I was teaching school at Penzance, Saskatchewan. In those days we were known as Homemakers, this title being unique in Canada. In 1941 I was married, and moved to the Chatham School District, east of Kenaston. It was war time, and the Chatham women had organized a branch of the Saskatchewan Red Cross Society. I joined. We worked tirelessly at knitting, packing boxes for overseas, holding raffles, bingo parties, and dances. We even collected bottles and rags (not bones!) to add a bit more to the club's coffers. We travelled to club meetings by car, horse and buggy, covered cutter, snowmobile, and occasionally by tractor!

This dedication was not to be forsaken at war's end, and so the Chatham Homemakers' Club was formed, taking up the motto of all Homemakers: 'For Home and Country'. The aims and objectives were the same then as they are today:

- To develop an appreciation of the skills and arts of homemaking.
- To discover, stimulate, and train leaders.
- To make communities better places in which to live.
- To encourage good citizenship.
- To seek the welfare of other nations and work for peace.

In Saskatchewan, the name 'Homemakers' was retained until 1971, at which time the provincial convention delegates voted to change it to 'Women's Institutes'. It was argued that this would strengthen the lines of communication from branch to district, to provincial, to national, to international affiliates. The national body, of which Saskatchewan's own Emmie Oddie has been the president during the past triennium, is affectionately known as FWIC — Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Canadians can be proud to claim the birthplace of an organization that has constituent societies in all parts of the world. It is 125 years since the birth of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, who, with the help of Erland Lee, founded the very first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897. Mrs. Hoodless had lost an infant son from using unpasteurized milk, and this motivated her to start a campaign to help other women through education, to avoid similar tragedies. Within ten years there were 612 branches around the province of Ontario. The movement spread across Canada, to England,

and around the world, until today there are nine million members in over sixty countries. The world organization is fondly referred to as ACWW — Associated Country Women of the World. It aims at being non-sectarian, non-political, and non-racist. I ask you to recall with me, in imagination, some of the memorable things which might have happened, over the years, in any W.I. branch:

- building bird houses for the Bluebird Trail.
- serving lunches at farm auction sales.
- collecting sewing machines for native women in the north.
- sorting used clothing for other charitable organizations.
- rummage sales, bazaars, school picnics, bridal showers.
- courses in sewing, breadmaking, upholstery, defensive driving, singing, painting, public speaking.

The lists are endless.

You may ask, "What are the reasons for the success of Women's Institutes?" Perhaps it is that programs are adapted to the needs of women in the conditions under which they work. It may be that we think that the world is our responsibility. Is it that we like to be part of a circle of friendship? Whatever the answer, we are here to stay. We take up the challenges ahead, we invite women to join our ranks, and we ask everyone to share in our celebration of the founding of our great organization. ★



Upper photo: The Honorable Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture for Canada, made a presentation to Mrs. Emmie Oddie, of Regina, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, to mark the 85th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institutes in Canada, a women's movement that is now worldwide. Lower photo: Mrs. Oddie (left) meets with Mrs. Onyango, a Women's Institute visitor from Kenya.

Special Grazing Arrangements For 1986

Conditions for using Crown Land grazing leases have been relaxed to give livestock producers more access to pasture and hay, Premier Grant Devine announced recently.

"For 1986, leaseholders may make surplus feed or grazing available to other livestock owners. Normally, leaseholders must own all of the livestock grazed on the Crown Land and use all the hay to feed their own stock," Devine said.

"We're providing this opportunity because we recognize that pastures need time to recover from last year's drought and until this happens livestock owners will have difficulty finding adequate grazing hay."

Under these special arrangements the leaseholder and the livestock owner negotiate prices and conditions. Then the leaseholder requests authorization to sublet the land or to sell the hay. The request must be made in writing to the leaseholder's Saskatchewan Agriculture land representative and include the livestock owner's name, address and number of animals involved or quantity of hay to be sold.

"We provided this opportunity in 1984 and 1985 to alleviate poor grazing conditions. The situation is similar this year and warrants the same consideration," the premier said. ★

\$100 Per Acre Assistance For Irrigation Development

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister Lorne Hepworth recently announced that assistance of \$100 per acre will be available to farmers undertaking new irrigation development.

The money will be provided over a three-year period with \$60 per acre provided in year one upon completion of an irrigation system. In each of the next two years, \$20 per acre will be provided. Maximum assistance is \$50,000 per farm unit.

"I believe this level and method of funding will benefit farmers greatly, by acknowledging the high start-up cost of irrigating," Hepworth said.

"It also acknowledges that it can take a few years for farmers to become familiar with irrigation technology and to establish irrigated crops," he said.

"The program will support development of 26,000 irrigated acres in one year. Previous provincial irrigation programs resulted in only 34,116 acres being developed in the 10 years from 1973 to 1982," he said.

The provincial budget for irrigation has been increased to \$1.6 million from \$350,000. Details are available from the Family Farm Improvement Branch, 1318 Winnipeg St., Regina, S4P 3V7.

For further information, contact, Owen Moen, phone 565-6562. ★

MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE FOR LAND OWNERS

New Applicants — Apply to your municipal administrator up to July 15 but before hail strikes

- Rural Municipality organization
- Farmer owned
- Premium charged as taxes
- Credit insurance with discount for early tax payment
- Adjustments of 50% and over paid as 100%
- Indemnity — before June 15 — \$10, \$20, \$50 per acre
- Indemnity — After June 15 — only \$10 per acre

For those who now carry Municipal Hail Insurance REMEMBER FILE YOUR CROP REPORT with your municipal administrator on or before

JUNE 15

THE SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

FOR EXTRA COVERAGE, for landowners and tenants up to \$75,000 per acre, 10% or 25% deductible or full coverage Cash Premium, Patrons' Dividends in favorable years See your Municipal administrator Agent for

ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL HAIL LIMITED

THE SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

NO ONE CAN DO IT ALONE

Join the rest of Saskatchewan in a rat eradication program



A Full Complement Rat Control Products available from

S.A.R.M.

Warfarin — ready mix Water soluble warfarin Rozol Ratik

Order your spring requirements early to have them on hand when needed. Write or phone us

SARM Trading Department

2075 Hamilton Street Regina, Saskatchewan Phone us at 352-3377 (collect)

Remembering The 1990s

Government, SUMA and SARM Announce Agreement

BY SASKATCHEWAN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



Premier Roy Romanow

Premier Roy Romanow, Municipal Government Minister Carol Teichrob, Murray Westby, president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), and Sinclair Harrison, president of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), announced an agreement that will see the provincial and local governments work together to develop a plan that will ensure local governments are able to deliver quality public services well into the 21st century.

The announcement was made following the signing of a

As a result of the agreement, the provincial government has agreed to withdraw Bill No. 33, The Service Districts Act, from this session of the Legislature.

Memorandum of Understanding by the three parties.

"Our present municipal system has served us well for the past 90 years but is being challenged by conditions and pressures that need to be addressed," Romanow said. "I am pleased that we have agreed on the need for a co-operative action plan to meet these challenges, because the public expects local and provincial governments to co-operate in the reorganization of public services and government structures."

"Under the agreement, the three parties will develop a plan by December 1, 1996, to address the challenges facing the municipal sector and prepare for the next century," Teichrob said. "The plan will be released publicly and will include a schedule for implementation agreed to by all three parties."

"We share a common vision of strong municipalities and it is appropriate that we will be working together to ensure our citizens receive the quality public services they need and want," Westby said.

"I am pleased that we have been able to come to an agreement," Harrison said. "Individual municipalities have already taken a

number of practical steps to address these challenges and I look forward to building on Saskatchewan's tradition of self-reliance and co-operation to provide the services most effectively delivered and controlled at the local level."

In preparation of the plan, SUMA, SARM and the provincial government will:

- review the public service roles and responsibilities of municipalities for the 21st century;
- examine the current system of municipal structures and governance with an eye to greater efficiency and capacity for provisions of services in the future;
- review the costs and expenditure pattern of municipalities and develop strategies to sustain services;
- work to resolve outstanding financial issues, including the public health levy, the Social Assistance Plan levy, the 2 mill

hospital levy and the future of revenue sharing;

- review relevant urban-rural municipal legislation; and
- develop a project management plan that includes an opportunity for public input into development of the plan.

As a result of the agreement, the provincial government has agreed to withdraw Bill No. 33, *The Service Districts Act*, from this session of the Legislature.

The development of the action plan will be co-ordinated through the Municipal-Provincial Roundtable, chaired by the minister of Municipal Government, and will be supported by a working committee of officials with representation from the department of Municipal Government, SUMA and SARM.

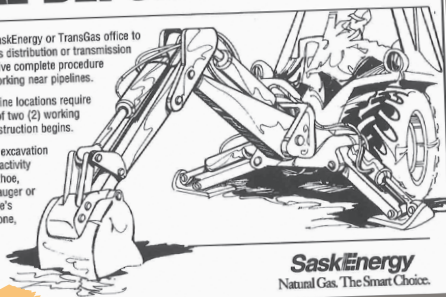
For more information, contact: Maureen Boyle, Municipal Government, Regina, Saskatchewan, phone: (306) 787-5959. ■

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

Call your local SaskEnergy or TransGas office to locate natural gas distribution or transmission lines. You'll receive complete procedure guidelines for working near pipelines.

All requests for line locations require advance notice of two (2) working days before construction begins.

This means any excavation or construction activity involving a backhoe, bulldozer, hole auger or pick. When there's digging to be done, calling always comes first!



Crime Stoppers

As the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Program deals mainly with people living in rural Saskatchewan, the board of directors for this program decided to assist the police, farm chemical dealers, and owners of farm chemicals.

During the month of May and June 1990 Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers will double awards on information involving farm chemical thefts which leads to court action, up to \$2,000.00. Your phone calls are not traced or recorded, and you do not have to give your name. You do not have to attend court. Give Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers a call today and you could earn a cash award of up to \$2,000.00. CALL 1-800-667-8477.

"Crime does not pay; but we do"
"Help Crime Stoppers to keep your area crime free"

FARM CHEMICAL THEFTS IN SASKATCHEWAN:
1987 - Farm Chemicals Stolen \$272,000.00 - 36 Break & Enters
1988 - Farm Chemicals Stolen \$344,000.00 - 40 Break & Enters
1989 - Farm Chemicals Stolen \$150,000.00 - 20 Break & Enters

1999

Resolution passed directing SARM to hire federal lobbyists

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Environment

It seems that just about everyone is talking about the environment. Let's hope it is not like Mark Twain's immortal quip about the weather. "Everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it."

Certainly we all should be concerned about the environment. Some of the practices which we have allowed to go on for years are disgraceful and must be curtailed if we are to have a healthy earth on which to live. These run through a long list of things and include the kind of food we eat, the way we heat our homes, how we get to work, the way in which we carry on our work, in fact just about everything that goes on in our everyday lives. The task of cleaning up our environment is so overwhelming and so all-encompassing that it will be very easy for us to give up and say "What's the use?" This we must guard against.

Global warming has captured many of the headlines in recent months. In this issue, on page 12, we have reprinted an article written by a Climatologist from Winnipeg, Dr. Timothy Ball. He tells us that, for Canadians, global warming due to the greenhouse effect is not all bad. In fact he says that without the greenhouse effect our average global temperature would be -20°C instead of the 15°C that it is. He makes several other observations about our weather which I am sure you will find interesting. Dr. Ball does not see global warming as a major problem for Canadians and on a world scale he considers soil erosion and toxicity of our water as greater problems.

There is one danger with this thesis. Some people may reason that if global warming is not of a major concern then it is alright to go on polluting the atmosphere. This of course is not true. If we continue to pollute the atmosphere for long enough then global warming will become serious. Atmospheric pollution is harmful in other ways by causing acid rain and destroying the air we breathe.

In last month's column we were in error. We referred to one of the resolutions at the 1990 convention as calling for 'English only'. It of course did not. It stated, "That in Canada, all people be treated as Canadians, with one law for all and one culture, Canadian." Our apology for this misrepresentation. *

S.A.R.M. Logo Contest

The S.A.R.M. will be holding a logo contest for the 90th Anniversary Pin for the 90th Annual Convention in March, 1995 at Saskatoon. Please submit your logo design to Patty Smith at the S.A.R.M. office in Regina at 2075 Hamilton Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2E1.

Entries will be accepted until October 15th, 1994. The winning design will be announced at the Mid-Term Convention in November, 1994.

Assistance For Rural Roads Announced

Premier Roy Romanow announced assistance plans for municipalities experiencing road damage due to flooding and excessive spring precipitation.

Romanow made the announcement following a tour of the flood damaged area.

Romanow said there is extensive road damage in the eastern part of the province. Approximately 50 municipalities have damaged roads caused by flooding or heavy snowfall and spring rain. The immediate need is to repair roads to a serviceable condition.

"The government will assist municipalities to restore their road networks," Romanow said. "A special grant program has been set up and is being offered through Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation."

"Municipalities can access the road assistance by contacting their Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation district office which, along with the local council, will conduct a damage assessment once weather permits."

"We do not know the exact road repair costs at this time. We cannot precisely determine the long-term effect of the flooding because there is still frost in the ground, run-off continues, and some areas are still receiving high levels of precipitation. At this time we are projecting costs to be between \$5 and \$6 million, but it will likely take until some time in June before it is dry enough to get a more accurate cost estimate."

Municipalities can access the road assistance by contacting their Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation district office which, along with the local council, will conduct a damage assessment once weather permits.

Saskatchewan Municipal Government has also advised municipalities they can reallocate their remaining 1995-96 road construction and regravelling budgets to address current problems. This allows municipalities the freedom to determine their own priorities based on their immediate needs.

"As I've seen today, municipalities are working hard and doing an excellent job of managing the current situation," Romanow said. "Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation is working closely with the municipalities by providing technical support and having equipment and operators available to respond to the worst situations."

For more information, contact: Mike Woods, Director of Communications, Highways and Transportation, Regina - Phone: 787-4804.

Legislation Creates Saskatchewan Communications Network

Communications Minister Gary Lane recently introduced legislation to create the Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN), an advanced information and education broadcast service.

SCN will use fibre optic cable and satellites to distribute programming over three inter-related networks through existing SaskTel services. A new public broadcast network, carried on the existing cable television system, will be able to provide 178,000 provincial households with a range of alternate programming tailored to Saskatchewan's needs.

The service will also operate a "narrowcast" network, using up to 100 SCN centres in communities across the province. In addition, a computer network will be established to allow urban and rural residents to access further information.

"SCN will provide Saskatchewan residents with a wide range of learning opportunities," Lane said. "The schedule will feature programs for children both at home and at school. Adult series will cover a broad spectrum, from how-to programs to credit courses to general-interest documentaries."

The network will distribute programs offered by extension departments at the universities in Regina and Saskatoon, and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. Agricultural programming will also be featured.

"A highlight of SCN will be its ability to distribute to rural communities programming which is currently available only in urban centres," Lane said. "This will ensure that rural people have the tools to play an active role in the development of the province."

Lane added that Saskatchewan's technology industries will be able to use SCN to demonstrate their expertise, along with the province's film and television writers and producers.

The development of SCN began four years ago after public hearings revealed strong public interest in the concept, Lane added. The new network, which will be officially "switched on" later this year, is assisted by an \$18 million contribution from the federal Department of Industry, Science and Technology.

In the initial start-up phase, the Saskatchewan government committed \$4.5 million. In 1990/91, the government continues to support SCN's development with an additional \$3 million in funding.



Members of the Farm Trek to Ottawa (November 1991) met with European Commissioner (centre). President Kirwan is pictured third from the left.

New Funding Provided To Regional Economic Development Authorities

Economic Development Minister Dwain Lingenfelter unveiled details of new government financial assistance to the province's Regional Economic Development Authorities (REDAs).

"The funding, first announced in the 1995-96 provincial budget, represents the second phase of the REDA initiative," Lingenfelter said. "Assistance will be on a 50 per cent, cost-shared basis to a maximum of \$60,000 per REDA per year."

"REDAs provide regional umbrella structures under which municipal governments, businesses, co-operatives, development organizations and communities can co-ordinate and pool their organizational..."

REDAs provide regional umbrella structures under which municipal governments, businesses, co-operatives, development organizations and communities can co-ordinate and pool their organizational, professional, and financial resources to encourage new jobs and new investment.

The new operational funding will help REDAs hire professional economic development officers, establish permanent offices, and deliver specific economic development services to their regions.

"This phase two funding provides stability to these grassroots organizations in their formative years as they consolidate their membership structures and operations, undertake fund-raising activities, and offer critical economic development services."

The REDA initiative was launched in June, 1993, as a key component of the Partnership for Renewal Economic strategy. Ten REDAs have formed since then and another 15 are expected to be established in 1995.

The first phase of the REDA initiative provided cost-shared assistance to each REDA of up to \$25,000 for start-up activities. This start-up funding has been extended for another year.

Existing REDAs offer their member organizations and communities such diverse services as business retention programs, entrepreneurial training and marketing and promotion.

"REDAs have been successful in mobilizing groups with common interests to work together to address economic challenges, to explore economic opportunities and to streamline provision of services," Lingenfelter said. "They have built on the province's traditions of co-operation and self-help, traditions that will serve REDAs well in the years ahead."

For more information, contact: Terry Crowe, Economic Development, Regina - Phone: 787-2753.



- technical services
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1996

Health and dental plan established for SARM employees and councils

RCMP - First Nations Community Policing Agreement Signed

A tripartite framework policing agreement covering 64 First Nations communities in Saskatchewan was signed today by federal Solicitor General Doug Lewis, Saskatchewan Justice Minister Bob Mitchell and Chief Roland Crowe of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN).

The framework agreement will enable individual reserves to negotiate Community Tripartite Agreements with the provincial and federal governments for RCMP-First Nations Community Policing Service. These agreements will enhance opportunities for First Nation communities to set policing priorities and will enhance RCMP accountability and services to these communities.

"The government of Canada is committed to working with the First Nations and the province of Saskatchewan to build strong, professional and culturally sensitive policing services for Indian communities," Lewis said. "This agreement is a major step toward achieving that goal."

The RCMP-First Nations Community Policing Service currently has 39 First Nations police officers serving 64 First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. Community

Tripartite Agreements will facilitate an increase in the number of First Nations police officers serving First Nations communities.

"Saskatchewan was the birthplace of RCMP-First Nations Community Policing Service in 1974," Mitchell said. "We are proud to be involved in this latest initiative to enhance First Nations involvement in policing in the years ahead."

Saskatchewan's five-year framework agreement is the first to be concluded in Canada involving the RCMP under the 1991 First Nations Policing Policy.

"The FSIN is very pleased to see this agreement become reality," Crowe said. "The commitment of the federal and Saskatchewan governments is essential as we strive to have policing services which effectively meet the needs of our communities."

The federal and provincial government financial contributions toward Community Tripartite Agreements negotiated under the framework agreement will be split as follows: 52 per cent federal and 48 per cent provincial.

For more information, contact:

Wendy Ward, Cabinet Press Office
Government of Saskatchewan, Regina
Phone: (306)787-9361

OR

Ron Ferri, Ministry of the Solicitor General
Government of Canada, Ottawa
Phone: (613)991-5573

Remembering The 2000s



Fighting the Status Quo

By Ken Engel
SARM Executive Director

The education tax on rural property issue continues to heat up. Our "Call to Action" Convention on April 22 was a huge success. Our members packed the Centre of the Arts in Regina and, after several hours of concentrated debate, came out of the day with decisions on how they planned to keep this issue in front of government until it is resolved.

In Saskatchewan, we are in the difficult position where property tax is carrying 60% of education costs, with the province picking up the balance. Taxing property to pay for a service like education has never been fair and has never been considered as fair by any studies that have looked into the system. The question of "Why then has the problem not been fixed years ago?" has only one answer: the province controls the amount of funding flowing from provincial coffers to our school boards. With many demands on provincial dollars, they allocate funds as they see appropriate. Unlike health costs and interest on debt, education costs have a built in relief valve for the province - local taxation. School Boards have the job of educating our children

and if the money coming from the province is not sufficient, they have no choice other than to raise the funds through property tax.

I believe that it is becoming increasingly clear to the province that property tax payers are reaching the end of their patience. They heard the anxiety and anger expressed at the "Call to Action" Convention and the gathering at the Legislature that day. They are aware that rural Saskatchewan is not going to let this issue be ignored. They know that many of our elected officials are prepared to risk defying the law in order to get their point

across. They know we will be in their face with increasing pressure until the issue is resolved.

This is a situation where the old adage "No pain - No gain" rings true. If we want to continue to send a strong message to government that the education tax issue can no longer be ignored, delayed, or salved with rhetoric and broken promises, then our choice is clear: stand together on the discount and penalty proposals, get as many signatures on the petitions as humanly possible, and plan to attend the rally at the Legislature in Regina on June 10. ■

FAIR EDUCATION TAX ON PROPERTY!

RALLY AT THE LEGISLATURE

June 10, 2004 - 11:30 AM

on the steps of the
Legislative Building in Regina

Sign the petition and join the
"Call to Action" to reduce the levels
of Education Tax on Rural Properties.



For further information, please call 1-800-667-3604 or (306) 757-3577.



SARM delegates gather at the steps of the Legislative Building on April 22, 2004.



Inside the Rotunda, SARM delegates wait for answers.

2003

SARM started to develop, print and distribute the provincial grid road maps



By Mike Morris
SARM Manager of Legal Services

June/July 2007 / rural councillor

Recent Amendments To The Municipalities

On May 17, 2007 a number of amendments to *The Municipalities Act* came into force, which deals with the liability of municipalities and others for whom municipalities are in law responsible. The purpose of this article is to provide a summary of those changes.

Perhaps the most significant change is that to subsection 340(1) of the Act. It previously provided a fairly limited defense to claims for damage occasioned by flooding. If the evidence showed that the flooding occurred because of something that a municipality either did or failed to do, then liability would be imposed unless it could be shown that the flooding was caused by an extraordinary natural event. Typically such claims were based on allegations that the municipality had either failed to make provision for the drainage of surface water or, having done so, failed to make adequate provision. The difficulty with this was that even if the culverts or other drainage facilities that had been installed met generally accepted standards for such roads, the municipality could still be found liable.

The new provision in effect eliminates such claims. Now, in order to succeed in a claim against a municipality for damage occasioned by flooding, a claimant will have to prove negligence. Thus, if the municipality can show that whatever drainage facilities it has put in place meet generally accepted standards for that class of road, then it will probably avoid liability.

This provision will also be of relevance to claims for damage caused by sewer back ups or the breaking of water lines. Now a municipality will be able to avoid liability for such claims if it can prove that it exercised reasonable care.

Another change of interest is the addition of subsection 343(1.1) of the Act. This subsection provides that "a street, road or other public place is to be considered in a reasonable state of repair if those who use the street, road or other public place can, exercising ordinary care, do so with safety." This reflects the test that the courts currently use to determine whether or not a municipality has met its statutory duty of repair in relation to its roads. The reason for the amendment was to preclude any watering down of this test as has happened in recent years in other jurisdictions.

Changes were also made to subsection 345(a) of the Act. This subsection provided that "a municipality is not liable for damage caused by the presence, absence or type of any wall, fence, guardrail, railing or barrier." To this list the legislature has added curbs, pavement markings and traffic control devices. It will be interesting to see how broadly the courts interpret this provision, particularly the reference to "traffic control devices." This could be interpreted very narrowly to include only things such as traffic lights and regulatory signs. Whether it will also be found to include warning signs will have a significant bearing on municipal liability as a significant portion of the claims we deal

with include an allegation of motorists of some road h

Finally amendments were made to the *Municipalities Act*. The amendments provide that the members of a council or committee or other body including public utility boards must be met for the immunity to be acting in good faith. So, acting in the exercise of a regulation or must have been the Act or the regulations. It cannot be sued. Note this is also provides that if any such person is doing work as volunteer or otherwise, the results from something that the course of his or her duties. As was noted at the outset on May 17, 2007. ■

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UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

2003

First case of BSE was confirmed in Canada

Municipal Forum Established

The new Municipal Forum was established, on May 6th, with the signing of a Letter of Understanding. Partners in the forum are SARM, SUMA and the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs. The Municipal Forum, which replaces the former Municipal Provincial Roundtable, is a planning and decision-making forum on matters of importance to Saskatchewan municipalities. Meetings will take place at least quarterly and more often by mutual agreement. Some of the issues discussed at the first meeting included education tax on property, the Clearing the Path economic development initiative, the proposed consolidated municipal act and the federal "new deal" infrastructure funding for municipalities. ■



SUMA President Don Schlosser, Honourable Len Taylor, and President Hardy

HELP US SHUT DOWN CRIME!

The cost of crime to an individual and on society is high. Whether it is break-ins, car theft, armed robberies or assaults, we all have to pay. Insurance premiums, replacement costs and personal losses all continue to grow, along with the emotional stress of being the victim of a crime. Your anonymous call to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers can help shut down crime! It's simple, safe, and an arrest can earn you a cash award.



If you have information about any crime, call Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or *TIPS on your SaskTel Mobility Cellular. Your Anonymity is Guaranteed!

Amendments to the Act

that the municipality failed to warn hazard.

are made to sections 354 to 357 of the provide a measure of immunity for both and employees of a municipality. In ad- and to the members and employees edies established by the municipality, ards. There are two conditions that nity to apply. Firstly, the person must econdly, the person must have been power conferred by the Act or the been carrying out a duty imposed by If these conditions are met, then they protection also applies even to those nterests, including firefighters. The Act person is sued the municipality shall any such action and any judgment course, this will only apply if the loss of the individual did or failed to do in es for the municipality.

these amendments came into force

Saskatchewan outfitters can provide you with one of the most exciting adventures you ever thought possible. Since the province is well-known for its abundant wildlife, it only makes sense that we would have expert guides with personal service. The Saskatchewan Outfitters Association's 650 members are licensed by the provincial licensing body and adhere to an industry Code of Ethics, which ensures your visit will be enjoyable, and rewarding. They provide facilities, equipment and guiding services for fresh water fishing, migratory and upland bird hunting, and big game hunting.

The Saskatchewan Outfitters Association has been around since 1967 and has helped the tourism industry become a major economic generator within the province. Outfitting contributes between \$150 and \$200 million and over 4000 jobs to the province with many businesses benefiting such as hotels, car rental agencies and restaurants. The outfitting industry, in turn, spends around \$5 million annually promoting Saskatchewan outside of the province. This draws money that would normally be spent out of province into Saskatchewan, and that is a benefit to all residents. Saskatchewan has a world class reputation outside of Canada and is considered a prime destination for sport fishing with approximately 12,000 clients, white tail deer and black bear hunting and migratory birds such as quail, pheasant, 3500 clients in 2003.

Many of the associated guides grew up in Saskatchewan and have been hunting or fishing on the land for many years. With all the outfitters in the province, each one has to do something special to ensure their guests come back year after year. Whether its just a fun fishing trip of catch and release, or the big hunt of the year you are after, you won't have to look far to find it, it's right in our own back yard.

The planning of your trip is almost effortless with an outfitter's help and, with the World Wide Web, it seems your options are endless. By visiting The Saskatchewan Outfitters Association web site (www.soa.ca), you will find the adventure you are craving. You can plan and book the trip online, and get all of those questions you have answered. Because a lot of the outfitting vacationers who come to Saskatchewan are from the United States, the web page even has flight schedules available. With the association's cooperation with other tourism based organizations, we are all working together to better our province and make it as inviting to others as it is to us, who already have Saskatchewan in our hearts.

Hunting and fishing are growing sports in both popularity and demand, and we want Saskatchewan to be at the top of people's minds when they think of chasing the game or catching the prize fish. This industry benefits everyone in the province whether or not you are a fisher or hunter. While the visitors are out wandering the bush or prairie landscape, it will give them all a sense of why Saskatchewan is the "Land of the Living Skies". ■

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The Claybank Brick Plant

Nestled at the foot of the Dirt Hills, the Claybank Brick Plant is a little bit of Saskatchewan's history, now designated as a National Historic Site in the RM of Elmhurst No. 100. This site, whose renewal is being actively planned by the community of Claybank, volunteers and heritage staff, offers insight into late 19th century industrialism. Just as it was in 1914, tours of the plant take you through a labour intensive operation of the past.



A Kiln at the plant, photo courtesy of Mike Morris

plant in Saskatchewan

The Claybank Brick Plant continued to be in operation until 1989, when corporate downsizing resulted in its closing. Designated as a National Historic Site in 1994, the site is an example of a successful Saskatchewan-based small industry that was in operation for 75 continuous years. There was some modernization of the plant, but it still

demonstrates brick manufacturing technology of the 19th century.

Tours include the main plant area, bunkhouse, offices, brick sheds and kilns. Operations of the plant are explained thoroughly to their visitors. For more information, please contact the Claybank Brick Plant Historical Society at (306) 868-4774.



Jane Morris enjoying her tour of the plant, photo courtesy of Mike Morris

ruralcouncillor / june/july 2007



By Tyler Lynch
SARM Policy Analyst

Biofuels and the ecoABC Initiative

The federal government has recently announced a new program intended to encourage producer investment in the renewable fuels industry.

On April 23, Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food, announced the launch of the ecoAgriculture Biofuels Capital Initiative (ecoABC). The program is the extension and details of the \$200 million Capital Assistance Formation Program, announced in December 2006.

The ecoABC initiative is the government's attempt to increase renewable fuel capacity in producer-owned facilities. The program will run for four years, ending March 31, 2011.

The program is fairly complex, but essentially, facilities with at least 5 per cent producer ownership can apply for program funding to assist in construction or expansion of biofuels facilities. That money (a maximum of \$25 million per plant) would be paid back over seven years, starting three years after the plant begins producing at capacity. However, if profitability falls below \$0.20 per litre in any given year, no payment is required.

This program will benefit some facilities within the province; however, SARM has several key concerns with the program.

First, this program does not directly assist producers to invest in biofuels facilities. The program is incentive based and producers must raise their own capital to invest in facilities. SARM has maintained that over the past few years, due to countless disasters and depressed conditions, producers have used much of their farm equity just to stay afloat.

Second, this program does not provide bridge financing for construction

of facilities. Payment from the ecoABC fund will not flow to plants until construction is complete and they begin production. Therefore, this program does not provide direct assistance to the actual construction process. Producer facilities will still have to raise their own capital for all construction costs, and once production has commenced, they will receive funds, which can then be used to pay down previous debts.

The 5 per cent producer ownership eligibility requirement is insignificant. While we recognize the incentive for increased producer ownership, the minimum requirement could allow bigger companies to take advantage of the funds available.

With only \$200 million currently allotted to the program, the ecoABC initiative could potentially fund only eight projects nation-wide at the maximum cap amount. There is also a maximum amount for this initial year of \$50 million per province. If that cap is reached in four provinces, the program funding will be expired.

There is also concern with the location of the facilities and products used. There are no geographic incentives, nor are there incentives to use Canadian products. Therefore, an ethanol plant could import U.S. corn for production and be located in large city, resulting in little benefit for rural economies, and still receive funding.

Although we have some serious concerns with the program, there has been fairly significant interest shown in the program thus far. The program will potentially benefit facilities that are currently in the construction phases and those that have financing in place.

SARM has maintained the position that there is great promise in the bio-

fuels industry in Saskatchewan and that facilities need to be located in rural communities, have producer participation, and use Canadian feedstock. As the major wheat and canola producing province, it makes sense that facilities be located in Saskatchewan in rural areas where the source is readily available.

SARM has put forward a proposal for the government to help producers invest in biofuels facilities. The program would work similar to the Advance Payments Program. In this program:

- the government would provide guaranteed loans to individual producers for investment in biofuels facilities;
 - the loans would have a cap per producer;
 - the loan money would be used for a producer to buy shares in a producer-owned biofuels facility;
 - the producer would lock in his fuel-source grain at a defined price for the facility for a set amount of years, to guarantee feedstock for the facility;
 - through selling his grain to the facility, the producer would use the return money to pay back the government loan over time;
 - the producer would also receive dividends on the profits made from the biofuels facility, which could be used to pay back the loan; and
 - the cost to the government would be a minimal interest charge.
- SARM will be discussing this proposal and our policies on biofuels and other agriculture issues at the upcoming June Division meeting.

For more information on the ecoABC Initiative, visit Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's website, www.agr.gc.ca. @

RURAL COUNCILLOR | Summer 2020

RC

23



Resolutions through the years

By Laurel Feltin SARM Director of Programs and Operations

SARM MEMBERS have been debating and passing resolutions since 1905 that have not only directed the work of the association but also shaped rural Saskatchewan and the policies of our province and our country. I have been at SARM for 16 years and have seen hundreds of resolutions debated on our convention floor. Throughout those years, I would like to share some debates that I still remember vividly today and how small improvements to our resolution process have only made it even more effective.

I started at SARM in 2004, and it remains a year I will never forget. Numerous education property tax relief resolutions inundated our convention debate, and that year resulted in SARM organizing its “Day of Action.” This effort led to a rally with petitions and gatherings in front of the legislature followed by a series of emergency meetings across the province. The results were fruitful as we saw the provincial government address this issue in the years to come, and it was thanks to these coordinated efforts and SARM’s collective voice.

SARM members have been debating and passing resolutions since 1905 that have not only directed the work of the association but also shaped rural Saskatchewan and the policies of our province and our country.

Also engrained in my memory are the many resolutions regarding the continued existence of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) that monopolized our conventions starting in 2005-2006. This debate divided the SARM membership as very close votes resulted in resolutions both carried and lost by very slim margins; both for and against the end of the CWB. It ended in SARM members passing a resolution to remove SARM from the debate as a result of the very evident divide in what our members wanted.

And, lastly, were the resolutions regarding members being for or against maintaining daylight savings time. Who would have thought that moving the clock forward in the spring and back in the fall would draw so much attention? Many resolutions came to the floor to debate the question; should Saskatchewan change too? Positions for and against included allowing more time for farm chores in the early morning hours versus allowing more time for barbeques in the evenings. This



SARM Annual Convention 2004

debate was always sure to draw media attention where many SARM members often appeared on the evening news sharing their thoughts on this hot topic.

Those are just a few that really stick in my memory, but over the years many of SARM’s resolutions brought debate on key issues to the attention of not only the province but our country too. Positive changes, including funding through revenue sharing, education property tax relief, revamping of agriculture programs, funding for pest control, emergency registration of strychnine, flood and drought control assistance, the creation of an improved *Municipalities Act* and so many more.

I have seen some very positive changes in our resolution processes and the quality of the resolutions we debate together. SARM has always prided itself on ensuring its resolutions are truly from its grassroots, which is something I have always promoted with pride. Since 1905 that has not changed, and I am certain it will continue into the future.



Day of Action 2004

SARM has always prided itself on ensuring its resolutions are truly from its grassroots, which is something I have always promoted with pride. Since 1905 that has not changed, and I am certain it will continue into the future.

From 1905 onward, the number of resolutions submitted to SARM increased over the years to the point where it was impossible to deal with them all at one convention. This resulted in the addition of a Midterm Convention to allow ample time to debate and vote on the growing number of resolutions; the first one being held in November 1985 which continue today.

In the 2000's, SARM implemented the use of a timer to still allow debate on resolutions, but in order to ensure multiple perspectives were heard each speaker had two minutes to make their case at the microphone. This improvement ensured more voices were heard on each issue and helped guide speakers to prepare for no more than two minutes, making their points more direct and meaningful.

Another critical change to our resolution process was the addition of electronic voting in 2016. Prior to electronic voting members would vote on resolutions by holding up their voting cards. I recall organizing a team of people to manually count hands raised over the years to determine if a resolution carried or failed. Manual counts and multiple close resolutions

at one convention would result in unpredictable downtime and the loss of precious minutes of our already tightly packed convention agenda.

To add a little comic relief to our resolution sessions, our electronic voting provider offered to select a related music clip for each resolution. There is nothing I love more than hearing a famous Johnny Cash tune over the speakers when a resolution on wildfires comes to the floor. Looking around the room I see delegates mouthing the words to the song or tapping their toes along with the beat; big smiles as many try to "name that tune" as they ponder how to vote.

And, fast forward to today where we are once again seeing our resolutions process evolve. At the November 2019 Annual Convention, a resolution passed to strike a formal Resolutions Committee made up of SARM delegates from each of our six Divisions. They are tasked with taking an even closer look at our resolutions process to see if there are other ways we can improve it for the years to come. This committee is just getting started, but I look forward to what a committee made up of delegates that attend and watch resolutions unfold will suggest; it can only lead to an even better process.

Without our grass roots resolution process at SARM feeling the pulse of rural Saskatchewan would not be an easy task for the SARM Board. The tweaks SARM has made to its resolution process through the years has ensured not only fruitful debate but one that is recognized and respected by senior levels of government as, "The Voice of Rural Saskatchewan." That is something to be proud of! Successful debates on education property tax, the CWB and daylight savings time demonstrates how effective well scripted and debated resolutions can be to drive changes that benefit not only rural Saskatchewan but our province and country.



RMAA of Saskatchewan 100 Years Strong

By Wendy Gowda
Past-President, RMAA

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS in 1914, with SARM providing time at the SARM convention for secretary-treasurers to discuss matters concerning their work, and continuing until 1921 when the secretary treasurers formed an associated committee under the bylaws of SARM, the RMAA has weathered 100 years.

A set of rules were established in 1921 with RMAA's focus remaining on these objectives today, working in conjunction with SARM in all matters of public interest, protecting the interests of the council and public by insisting on a proper educational standard for all its members and a high degree of honor and efficiency; mutually assisting each other in standardizing the work, methods and forms used in solving questions arising from the administration of the Acts; securing a recognized standing of the profession and to provide means by examination for admission to the Association; recognizing the importance and responsibility of the municipal secretary's work and to protect the members of the Association carrying out their duties in accordance with the law and the dictates of honor and integrity; securing for members adequate compensation for services rendered and satisfactory working conditions; and finally to watching legislation relating to municipal work and to suggest to the executive of SARM, from time to time, such amendments that may be deemed advisable.

During the 1930's, municipal offices administered government assistance (relief) for many families to survive. In the rural areas, direct relief provided meager allowances for food, clothing, fuel (coal) and other items necessary to survive, including in some years seed, feed and supplies for machinery repairs. Those requiring assistance made applications at the municipal office, and after approval, relief orders were compiled on the basis of family composition and issued to the applicant. The secretary-treasurer recorded all of the transactions because the recipients signed an undertaking that they would repay the amounts received. The expression that "prosperity is just around the corner" was perhaps the spirit of optimism that gave hope to surviving the hardship.

Of all the individuals who have contributed to the building of the Association to that we enjoy today, one individual, the late Lou Jacobs, deserves special recognition. Jacobs began attending executive committee meetings in 1923, until his retirement in 1960. Through his position with the Ministry, Jacobs addressed the delegates at every convention, conveying important information vital to the work in municipal offices.

At all times he provided firm and positive advice to secretary-treasurers, he was instrumental in developing a course of studies and providing for certification, and he spent much time in assisting with the development of the superannuation plan. Jacobs was honored by the Association in 1973 when an award was initiated in his name to recognize outstanding service in municipal government as well as to the community – the "Lou Jacobs Award". Since 1973, a member of the Lou Jacobs family has honored the RMAA by attending the Annual RMAA Convention and participating in the presentation of this prestigious award. The planned 100th Convention was cancelled due to COVID-19 in 2020; however, Rodney Schoettler, SMHI's Chief Executive Officer, was announced as the recipient of the award for 2020, and he will be bestowed public recognition at a time when this celebration can be safely marked.

The RMAA has survived the test of time, contributing to the betterment of Saskatchewan rural communities and its administrators over the past 100 years.

The RMAA has survived the test of time, contributing to the betterment of Saskatchewan rural communities and its administrators over the past 100 years. Support and development of education requirements, certification, salary compensation and professional development continues to be a focus in 2020 for the executive of the RMAA in addition to numerous standing committees. The RMAA executive maintains important roles in reviewing legislation, participating as a member of the Municipal Employees' Pension Commission, as well as a committee with the University of Regina, LGA program and mutually benefits with SARM through the ex-officio status of both the SARM and RMAA president being appointed to the other association's board.

The RMAA's contribution to the rural survival during the depression years can be likened to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, and the community role of the municipal office in tough times. The RMAA historically is there to support all matters of public interest, protecting the interests of the council and public, perhaps with a small variance of the 1930's expression and optimism being "Prosperity is just around the corner" to the 2020 familiar phrase "Re-open Saskatchewan".



“It’s home for me.”

RCMP officer reflects on 20 years of policing in Saskatchewan

WHEN GARY BONNEAU went through the RCMP Training Academy in 2000, he didn’t anticipate he would ever end up being Detachment Commander in the community he grew up in. But after 12 years of wearing the yellow stripe, his journey as a Mountie brought him “back home” to a place where he could pursue both of his passions – farming and policing.

With 19 total years of service in the RCMP, he has policed in Kindersley, Craik, Saskatoon, up North in Deschambault Lake, and finally – coming full circle back to where he was raised. For the last seven years he’s enjoyed being the Sergeant in charge in the Coronach area.

Policing was something Sgt. Bonneau wanted to do from a relatively young age. In his high school days, he’d gotten to know some of the RCMP officers in his community quite well – going on ride-alongs and being able to interact with them on a personal level. Now, he hopes he’s been that same friendly face in uniform for the local kids, shaping their opinion of the police into something positive. “If we can get involved in the community, especially with the young people so they realize I’m just Gary, then that carries on into their adult life. Those impressions formed early are ever-lasting.”

In Sgt. Bonneau’s view, the RCMP has the advantage of policing many small towns, where members live, work and become engrained in the community, “Most of my service has been in smaller centres, and we’ve lived right in the communities we police and that helps an awful lot. You get to know people and people get to know you on a more personal level. We’re not just police officers, but we help out at the local barbeques or we coach or umpire baseball. People seeing us on a human level is a really good thing and helps keep the public confidence in the police up, which makes our job so much easier.”

In his experience, the RCMP in Saskatchewan have historically fostered a good relationship with the people they serve, and that’s something that has stayed the same since he started policing nearly two decades ago, “We enjoy, and

always have enjoyed, a pretty good relationship with the public in Saskatchewan.”

What’s changed for police in Saskatchewan since Sgt. Bonneau first donned his duty belt? He says, “In some parts of Saskatchewan, it’s an awful lot busier than it was when I started policing. The province is busier, and that translates into policing being busier. We’re seeing more drug activity and more violence, at least in my experience.”

Despite these challenges and the ever-changing landscape of policing, Sgt. Bonneau believes that knowing the local people, culture and dynamic – having a shared understanding of rural Saskatchewan life – has definitely helped. Having grown up in the area he’s now policing has given him the local knowledge that the public appreciates and that, in turn, helps with preventing and solving crime. “I know what happens at brandings and I know what happens at auction sales... Speaking the ‘local language’ and having an understanding of what happens in a farming community has most definitely helped me in my policing career. When people have that confidence in you, when they know you know what you’re talking about, they’re more willing to help you out with investigations or providing information.”

His favourite part of the job? The connection he’s made with the people he serves, the mutual confidence that relationship has built, and being able to police a place he’s familiar with. Sgt. Bonneau is also thankful his career has allowed him to be with his family and go on doing what he loves – farming, “It’s relaxing for me – it’s a stress reliever and an escape.”

Sgt. Bonneau says his time with the RCMP has been rewarding, “I’ve enjoyed living in small town, rural Saskatchewan. It’s home for me.” Originally, he was supposed to be posted to British Columbia after his time at Depot, but he ended up trading with a troopmate who was slated to stay in Saskatchewan. Of that he says, “It all worked out in the end. We stayed here, and we’ve been tickled pink ever since.”



Living Heritage in Rural Saskatchewan

BY KRISTIN CATHERWOOD AND INGRID CAZAKOFF Heritage Saskatchewan



WE HAVE ALWAYS depended upon each other in rural Saskatchewan. Historically, committees, boards and councils formed to administer and provide services for the newly settled towns, farms and ranches of rural Saskatchewan. Neighbours and friends came together for seeding, brandings and harvest. They gathered in schoolhouses and barns for dances that lasted through the night, volunteered at fall and fowl suppers, rodeos, tournaments, and countless other community events. These traditions continue in many rural municipalities – part of the living heritage of our province.

Although change has been constant since settlement began in Saskatchewan in the 19th century, community-mindedness is one source of continuity. Small communities surviving in the 21st century have made it through the hard work, determination and care of community members. Even communities that did not survive continue to live on in memory. We often start our living heritage workshops with the question, “where are you from?” Sometimes people will name places that technically no longer exist, long vanished from the map, but still living on through the stories told about them and the people who came from them.

Rural Saskatchewan people have always demonstrated ingenuity and innovation – finding ways to make use of what’s at hand, whether moving or repurposing buildings, or finding one more way to fix that old piece of machinery to get it through another year. Yet, people also continue to build new – visual symbols of optimism for the future, echoing the optimism of rural settlers a century ago who constructed large houses and barns, believing the land would provide. Rural people also face challenges like early settlers did. For instance, rural communities waited longer than their urban counterparts for paved roads, electricity and now for broadband internet infrastructure.

Underlying all of these lived realities runs the current of living heritage – the way we carry forward our sense of place, identity, and ways of living and working, as well as our deep connections to family and community traditions. Our living heritage informs how we see the world, our place in it, and how we make decisions for the future. Rural Saskatchewan people are deeply rooted, and yet most choose to live their lifestyle in a particular place despite the overwhelming pressures to be absorbed into urban spaces. Newcomers to rural communities soon learn that there is a rich and varied heritage in their new home, and they too add their customs, ideas and traditions – contributing to the dynamic living heritage of the place.

Our heritage lives on through the stories we tell each other, the connections we nurture and sustain, and the skills we pass from generation to generation. How many people name quarters of land after previous homesteaders, keeping those names alive when the families have long moved on? However, living heritage is much more than mere nostalgia; it is essential to the continuation of farms, ranches and communities. For instance, what mistakes were made in the past that we have learned from? Historically, the “Dirty Thirties” wrought havoc on the prairies, but lessons learned from that disaster were utilized during the drought years of the 1980s, which, though still devastating to many families and communities, did not cause nearly as much environmental damage as the 1930s drought.

Living heritage’s most powerful gift is the wisdom and knowledge from previous generations to help us make wise choices for the future. As the world rapidly changes, rural people face increasing pressures but also possess unique opportunities to shape a vibrant and resilient future. Grounded in lessons from the past and strengthened by connections forged over time, rural communities are well positioned to be as innovative and progressive as their predecessors.

Living heritage adapts itself to the present. It has as much to do with the future as it does the past. What wisdom will we choose to carry with us? And, what are we willing to let go of as we look towards a sustainable future for our communities? What do we value and want to pass on to the next generation? What and whom do we need to acknowledge as not being included historically, but and going forward will be invited to participate fully in the creation of a vibrant, shared future? These are the questions living heritage presents communities to consider as they do the important work of shaping the future of rural Saskatchewan.

For more on how Heritage Saskatchewan can help your community explore, interpret and utilize its unique living heritage, check out our social media spaces (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), visit our website www.heritagesask.ca, or email us at ich@heritagesask.ca.

Kristin Catherwood is the Director of Living Heritage for Heritage Saskatchewan. Born and raised on a century family farm in the RM of the Gap on Treaty 4 Territory, she lives between her family farm and Radville, Saskatchewan. Ingrid Cazakoff has been the CEO of Heritage Saskatchewan for ten years. Previously, she was the curator of the Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre in Shaunavon. Photos courtesy of Heritage Saskatchewan.



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Local voices – Local choices

BY SHAWN DAVIDSON SSBA President

OVER ITS 100-YEAR HISTORY, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA), our members and their communities have endured difficult times of war, drought and depression. The years have been filled with debate, changing priorities, legislative developments, times of growth and decline, amalgamations, funding changes, taxation changes – and yet the longest lasting and most-fundamental responsibility of school boards has remained to bring the voice of the public to publicly funded education.

Each and every perspective, vote, resolution and appointment that shaped our association and our education system was fueled and led by committed and passionate individuals who care about students and communities – they are the locally elected trustees who make up boards of education in Saskatchewan.

A little over a century ago, there were thousands of school districts in Saskatchewan – to be precise, 1,190 in 1906, which grew to 2,546 by 1911 and to 3,878 by 1916. Each district was to be a minimum of 36 square miles and with at least 10 school-aged children enrolled. Every district was governed by a locally-elected board of education. Most schools offered only a basic elementary education. In 1916, only six per cent of students attended high school.

We have gone from those thousands of individual school districts to the 27 school divisions in our province today, each still governed by a locally elected board of education. Over 230 people serve as school trustees and are responsible for overseeing the education operating budget for approximately 183,000 students attending more than 765 schools in Saskatchewan.

As education has changed dramatically, so too has the role of boards and our association. One hundred years ago, school trustees might have ‘started the stove’ and been directly involved in school operations. Today, the overarching responsibility of the board is to set direction and vision for the division – always with the goal of improved student achievement. The SSBA exists to support this important work.

The SSBA, as a democratic and voluntary organization, ensures advocacy, leadership and support for all 27 member boards by speaking as the voice of publicly funded education, offering opportunities for board and trustee development and providing information and services. SSBA services have changed and evolved, but our association continues to be a leader and a partner in the sector by bringing boards together for shared services and efficiencies that include: insurance, legal, employee benefits, First Nations and Métis education, human resources, employee relations, communications,

collective bargaining and board development services and support.

The SSBA is steadfast in our belief that all students should have the resources they need to achieve and succeed, regardless of where they live in the province or their personal circumstances.

School boards, like municipal governments, bring local voice to decision-making and are accountable to communities through elections every four years. They are the link between the schools and communities they represent.

Boards cannot do it alone and must develop relationships in their communities, including with other local governments. None of our work could be accomplished without the great partnerships that have been nurtured over the past 100 years. We are very proud of how our members value and respect the role of all partners – even when they don’t agree.

One long-standing partnership is with municipalities and SARM. In some communities, it is not unusual to have local people elected to roles in both municipal and school board governance. The work of local governments affects the lives of residents daily. Local governments are responsible for everything from educating the province’s youth to building and maintaining local roads, and collectively employ thousands of people in Saskatchewan.

It is our shared interest in local democracy that started Local Government Week. First proclaimed in 2018, the week takes place in mid-November annually. The call to recognize the week with a provincial proclamation emerged through discussions between the partner organizations as an excellent opportunity to recognize and raise awareness about Saskatchewan’s systems of local governance.

As we navigate through 2020 with a global pandemic and unprecedented times, we certainly know decisions are best made at the grassroots level and local governments have credibility and relationships with their communities. With upcoming municipal and school board elections on Nov. 9 and Local Government Week the same month, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with SARM and its members to raise the profile of local government elections, provide information on running for office and to encourage voter turn-out. Stay safe, and thanks for your commitment to representing Saskatchewan communities.



Training Changes People and Organizations



SARM AND THE SOUTHEAST COLLEGE have been working together since 2016 to develop and deliver leadership/management and safety training programs for Saskatchewan municipalities. Most of us will be familiar with and understand the importance of safety training such as First Aid & CPR, Confined Space, Fall Arrest, Powered Mobile Equipment, etc.; however, fewer people may be aware of the importance for elected officials, administrators and operators to develop their leadership and management skills. There is often a gap between the knowledge we acquire in school and those that we need every day to do our jobs. Members of an organization, whether new or seasoned, can always find room to improve, and one of the ways they can do that is by investing in training.

Developing leadership and management skills helps people become more effective and efficient in their roles in their organizations. And, if we have more effective and efficient people in our municipal organizations, we will be able to create positive changes in our municipalities. The following Municipal Essentials classes are **now available online**:

- Leadership & Influence
- Supervising Others
- Meeting Management
- Communication Strategies
- Time Management
- Assertiveness & Self Confidence
- Conflict Resolution
- Customer Service
- Critical Thinking

Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent restrictions on group size and social distancing imposed by the provincial government, a decision has been made to deliver the ME program online. Maintaining protocols for the safety of our students and staff is a priority for the College, and we believe that for now, the best way to deliver the ME program is online. Not only will members of the municipalities be able to maintain their safety, but they will be able to access the training any time and from anywhere they choose. Tuition has also been reduced, making it more affordable for members. We want to remind people that the curriculum remains the same as the classroom sessions, only the mode of delivery has changed.

An additional aspect of the ME program that deserves mention, is the awarding of certificates for Levels of Achievement. After the completion of three workshops, a Level 1 certificate will be awarded that is endorsed by SARM and Southeast College; after six, participants will receive a Level 2 certificate; and after nine, participants will receive a Level 3 certificate. We want to ensure that participants are being recognized for their efforts.

What are participants saying about the ME workshops?

- “Very interactive”;
- “Instructor was great”;
- “Good material”;
- “Will recommend to others, especially Council members”;
- “Excellent”;
- “Very well done”;
- “Truly enjoyed the class”;
- “The instructor was very approachable and knowledgeable”; and
- “I learned a lot from group discussions.”

I think the most impactful story we heard was from an administrator who registered her foreman in one of the workshops. She told us the training “changed him”. That is a pretty powerful statement, so we wanted more details. She told us that initially he didn’t want to attend the training; however, when he returned, he was different somehow. She said he had a more positive attitude, approached his job in a more professional manner, and even spoke differently, using terms he had been exposed to during the training. He also mentioned how beneficial it had been for him to meet and interact with other foreman during the session. Having had the opportunity to receive the training and gain a better understanding of what the training was like, he now wanted to continue with other sessions. We know education changes people, but sometimes we don’t necessarily see the impact a one or two day session can make on an individual or their organization.

Safety training is also an important aspect of the requirements for municipalities, and Southeast College will continue to work with SARM to provide safety training when and where requested. A number of safety awareness courses are available online through the Southeast College at: www.southeastcollege.org/courses/online-safety-awareness-courses/.

The overall success of the partnership with SARM and Southeast College with the ME program is evident in the number of participants involved in the program since its inception in 2016:

- Individuals participating 443
- Total enrollments 1,058

These participation levels are a testament to the value that municipalities continue to see in these training opportunities. For more details, including how to register, visit www.southeastcollege.org/courses/municipal-essentials. For more on the program, contact Jacquie Becker, Southeast College Business & Program Development Consultant, at 306.848.2506 or email JBecker@southeastcollege.org.

Ike Thiessen Building a Foundation Award



THE LATE IKE THIESSEN, was a leader in Saskatchewan's rural local government. He was elected as councillor to the RM of Aberdeen No. 373 in 1955 and served 34 years, the last 13 years as reeve. In 1979 he was elected sub-unit director for SARM, and in 1986, he became its president. He was always in the forefront presenting the concerns of rural people and farmers to the provincial government, the premier, the federal government and the prime minister.

Ike's service was marked by exceptional commitment and leadership. A creative thinker, he always consulted those he worked with and blended in their concerns and ideas when making decisions.

When the Centre for Agricultural Medicine, led by Dr. James Dosman at the University of Saskatchewan, proposed to establish an Agricultural Health and Safety Network, Ike became a Farm Safety Champion with his RM being one of the first to



join the Network. He was instrumental in setting the foundation of the "Network" for future growth.

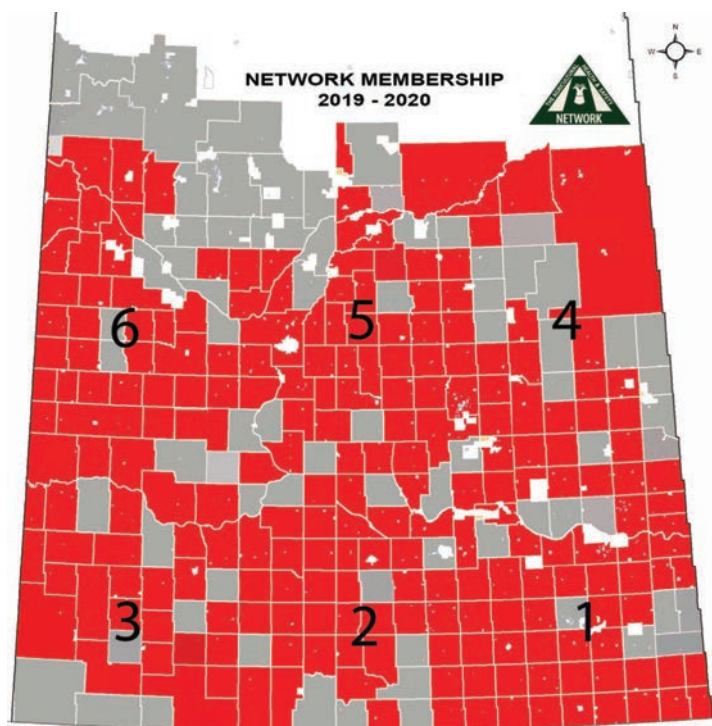
Since the first RMs joined the Network in 1988, more than 70 per cent of RMs are members. The Network's membership grew to 216 RMs, with nearly 27,000 farm families who receive farm safety programs and services.

The **Ike Thiessen: Building a Foundation Award** was established by the Agricultural Health and Safety Network to recognize those who assist us in our mission "To improve health and safety on the farm through education, service and evaluation research."

Our goal is to have 100 per cent of Saskatchewan RMs as "Network" members!

The inaugural Ike Thiessen: Building a Foundation Award was presented at the SARM Convention on March 12, 2020 to SARM recognizing the fundamental role they play in helping grow and enhance the activities of the Agricultural Health and Safety Network

This award will be given annually in recognition of the support and dedication to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Health and Safety Network for helping us further our mission and build a foundation of health and safety for agriculture in Saskatchewan. The Brick award is recycled and donated by RM No. 344 Corman Park.



Congratulations to this year's winners!

First Place

Sacichawasihc Relationship Agreement

City of North Battleford • Town of Battleford

• Moosomin, Sweetgrass, Saulteaux, and Little Pine First Nations • Lucky Man Cree Nation

Developed an agreement that gives municipal and Indigenous governments a way to work together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration through the building of government-to-government relationships.

Second Place

Emergency Medical Service Support

Town of Radville • RMs of Laurier, The Gap, Lake Alma, Souris Valley, Surprise Valley, and Lomond

Established an EMS building, including staff lodging, to attract and retain EMS employees to improve regional EMS services.

Third Place

'Beware the Grease Beast' Drain Pollution Prevention Program

City of Lloydminster

Created a marketing campaign raising resident awareness of the hazards, costs, and complications resulting from drain pollution.

Regional Cooperation

Regional Asset Management and Group Learning

Villages of Broderick, Conquest, Elbow, Glenside, Kenaston, Loreburn, Strongfield, and Beechy

• Resort Village of Mistusinne • Towns of Central Butte, Dundurn, Hanley, and Craik

• RMs of Loreburn and Fertile Valley

Developed a regional cooperation framework to provide each municipal council with a plan to forecast asset replacement investments, to better understand revenue sources and suitability, and to communicate more effectively with community members around the state of municipal assets.

**A special thank you to this year's title sponsor
for the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards:**

On-going battle against agricultural pests and weeds



By Lynne Roszell, PAg
SARM Division 4 Plant Health Officer

WHILE MANY THINGS CHANGE over time, one thing that remains constant is our battle with agricultural pests and invasive weeds. Of course, the species of concern change over time. As we develop tools and management strategies to deal with the impact of each problematic species, a new species enters the ecosystem, and we start all over again. Our tools and management strategies also change over time, as ongoing research generates new science, regulators create new rules, and pest populations change.

New science and research have helped to develop integrated pest management strategies that bring together chemical, biological, cultural, physical and prevention actions to use multiple tools collectively to address a specific pest. For example, clubroot management is best addressed using an integrated management approach that incorporates:

- crop rotation, which includes at least a two-year break between canola or brassica crops
- using clubroot resistant varieties on the rotation year that a producer does grow canola
- adopting consistent biosecurity practices, such as cleaning dirt off equipment between fields and sanitizing between farms, and
- regularly scouting crops to look for symptoms of the disease.

Current research tells us that all of these actions performed together can significantly decrease the impact of clubroot on canola yields and help to prevent the spread of this crop disease. By using a broad-based approach, integrated pest management can provide long-term prevention strategies and keep pest populations below economic injury thresholds.



An example of changing regulations leading to changes in management strategies is the use of strychnine to control Richardson's Ground Squirrel. Strychnine has been used in the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel since its registration with Health Canada's Pesticide Management Agency (PMRA) in 1928. Under the authority of *The Pest Control Products Act*, all pesticides must be regularly re-evaluated by PMRA to "ensure that they continue to meet current health and environmental safety standards and continue to have value" (canada.ca). Recent re-evaluation of strychnine by federal government regulators has led to a ban issued by PMRA, with 2021 being the last year the product will be produced, sales of strychnine will cease as of March 2022, and all product usage will be banned as of March 2023. This change in regulation will remove a tool that has long been used by agricultural producers to control and manage the Richardson's Ground Squirrel.

Pest populations also change over time, and weed species are a great example of this. Newly introduced plant species that are able to adapt quickly, reproduce rapidly and successfully, and have little to no natural predators in the area can quickly become an invasive species that outcompetes native species, effectively choking out the competi-

tion. Dame's Rocket is native to Europe and SW Asia and was brought to North America as an ornamental plant. However, in North America, this plant quickly escaped cultivation and is listed as a Noxious Weed under *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan. Existing weed species can also change and adapt; an example of this is herbicide resistance. Glyphosate resistant kochia populations in Canada are resistant to about five times the amount of glyphosate that is used normally for kochia control (saskatchewan.ca). Applying glyphosate at those levels would not only be costly and impractical, it would also push the resistance levels of any surviving kochia plants even higher and effectively select for plants with an even higher resistance ability.

The fight to prevent and minimize the impacts of agricultural pests and invasive weeds on agricultural productivity, land values, human and animal health, and ecological biodiversity continues to be a significant issue for producers and landowners in our province. By adopting new, integrated management approaches that are backed by sound research, staying current on changing regulations, and monitoring changing pest populations to identify current and emerging threats, we can work to control and manage agricultural pests and weeds on our farms and in our province.

Roadside Development Permits

New application system

It's out with the old and in with the new! **New online application system**, that is...

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has launched a new online Roadside Development Permit application system and it's ready to use on saskatchewan.ca.

Are you building a structure? Planting trees? Constructing approaches? Excavating near a provincial highway?

A permit is required for **any work within 90 metres** (approximately 300 feet) of the property line of a provincial highway.

This is needed to:

- Keep sight lines clear and provide safe driving;
- Leave space for future highway improvements;
- Control snow drifting; and
- Maintain the integrity of the highway.

This new system allows you to complete every stage of the process online. With this system, you can monitor the review of your request, message the ministry employee assigned to your application directly and even access a copy of your permit, if approved.

For more information and an outline of necessary information needed to submit an application, visit saskatchewan.ca.

If you would like to discuss this process with a roadside technician, contact your local regional office.

Southern Regional Office

221 N Winnipeg Street
Regina SK S4R 8T6
Phone: 306-787-4688
roadside.southern@gov.sk.ca

Central Regional Office

18-3603 Millar Ave.
Saskatoon SK S7P 0B2
Phone: 306-933-5801
roadside.central@gov.sk.ca

Northern Regional Office

800 Central Ave Box 3003
Prince Albert SK S6V 6G1
Phone: 306-953-3500
roadside.northern@gov.sk.ca

15 Community Airports Receive Provincial Grants

THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN will more than double its investment in the Community Airport Partnership (CAP) program in 2020-21.

The province will invest \$1.5 million in improvements to 15 community airports around the province. When combined with local matching dollars, this represents a \$3 million investment in airport infrastructure across Saskatchewan.

Community and regional airports contribute to our economy by supporting vital public services like Saskatchewan's Air Ambulance, law enforcement and fire suppression.

The province increased the program by 21 per cent when it released its Estimates in March. In May, an additional \$660,000 in stimulus funds were added, resulting in an overall investment of \$1.5 million, which is a year-over-year increase of 114 per cent.

This year's investments include:

- Esterhazy – \$5,883 – runway and apron repairs
- Kindersley – \$9,000 – crack filling runway and apron, surface repairs to taxiway
- Leader – \$36,172.50 – crack repair and slurry seal
- Maidstone – \$5,926.17 – crack seal runway, taxiway and apron
- Maple Creek – \$43,965 – runway sealing
- Moosomin – \$275,000 – Phase 2 of runway construction
- Rockglen – \$5,000 – bring airport back into service
- Unity – \$88,450 – runway resurfacing
- Wynyard – \$45,000 – repair cracks, slurry seal and paint markings

CAP supports local airports offset the costs of rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements, with cost-shared grants up to a maximum of \$275,000.



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Saskatchewan Association for
Resource Recovery Corp.

Haying 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 of Highways and Infrastructure 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 of Highways. 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.

The Ministry of Highways is working on its annual early mowing program along high-traffic-volume highways, which began June 7 and will continue until mid-July. Contractors

Important Dates

- **June 7 to 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 to 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 of Highways' discretion.

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.

Photo credit: Shutterstock.com

Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Program

Three dozen RMs get road grants in first year

ABOUT \$28 MILLION is being invested by the Government of Saskatchewan to improve rural roads in Saskatchewan rural municipalities (RMs). The funding this year for the 36 RMs will cover up to 50 per cent of total projects costs to a maximum of \$500,000.

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than **\$9.8 billion** in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 15,500 km of Saskatchewan highways. Another **\$300 million** in highways stimulus funds will be invested over the next two years to stimulate Saskatchewan's economic recovery.

This is the first year of a three-year plan with SARM to improve 100 rural roads through the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Program (RIRG). Formerly known as the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program, the RIRG will continue to assist RMs with the costs of constructing and upgrading municipal roads, bridges and culverts to support growth. One of the changes is allowing RMs to complete construction projects over two years.

"Our government is investing in infrastructure that keeps our rural economies growing and improves safety," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. "This program supports rural infrastructure in addition to assisting with the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

In addition to helping RMs address their infrastructure challenges, the RIRG program also supports agriculture, energy, forestry and other rural-based sectors.

Some rural road projects have been approved already, so work can begin this construction season. A second intake for additional projects will begin soon.

The program will also provide grants to improve RM bridges, and since details are still being worked out, an announcement will occur at a later date.

"We continue to work with SARM on a plan to address RM bridges and expect to have details available in the coming weeks," Ottenbreit said.

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$9.8 billion in highways infrastructure since 2008, improving more than 15,500 km of Saskatchewan highways. Another \$300 million in highways stimulus funds will be invested over the next two years to stimulate Saskatchewan's economic recovery.



In these uncertain times, SAMA has taken precautions to protect the health of our staff and the general public by closing our offices to the public and suspending on-site field inspections.

SAMA remains open for business, and we are committed to completing our ongoing work for our municipal clients. We are continually monitoring the situation and adjusting our business practices to suit the developing circumstances in the province.

Thank you for your continued support as we look to provide service for our municipal clients while being mindful of the health and safety of our staff and the public.

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.

2020 Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan

Congratulations **Colin G. Ahrens**, RM of Marriott No. 317

BORN ON August 24, 1944 and raised on his family farm north of Rosetown SK, Colin has spent his entire life within the RM of Marriott No. 317. In 1967, after he convoked from the University of Saskatchewan with a BSA in Agricultural Mechanics, Colin purchased his first piece of land within the RM where he continues to farm to this day.

Colin served on the RM of Marriott 317 Council for an unprecedented 47 years. For 27 of those years, from 1969-1996, he served as the Division 3 Councillor. Following this, from 1996-2016 Colin served as reeve for close to 21 years until his retirement in 2016.

As the demands of farming evolved over his time on the council, Colin helped his RM adjust to not only larger, heavier equipment, but to the increased strain on corridor and farmland access infrastructure. He transitioned the municipality from utilizing snowplow clubs and laying off the maintenance workforce during the winter months to keeping maintenance workforce staff year-round. He also was involved in the construction of a new municipal office centralized in Rosetown and the construction of a new full services municipal shop located in Marriott as well as the construction and betterment of over 50 miles of municipal roads.

The fact that Colin sat on the council consecutively through part of six decades is the greatest evidence of his overall success. Colin's belief that working together with the neighbouring municipalities benefits the entire community has helped to position the RM as a community that promotes regional cooperation and collaboration. He was a foundational leader in the creation of

numerous collaborative partnerships between community municipalities, including mutual aid agreements between the communities of Rosetown, Harris, Elrose, the RM of Harris, the RM of St. Andrews, the RM of Pleasant Valley, and the RM of Mountain View. He was also involved in the original purchase of a joint municipal

Colin's belief that working together with the neighbouring municipalities benefits the entire community has helped to position the RM of Marriott as a community that promotes regional cooperation and collaboration.

fire truck owned by the RMs of Marriott and St. Andrews, which is operated and stored by the Town of Rosetown and was the champion behind the current agreement between the RMs of Marriott and Pleasant Valley to share administrator services, and the operation of a joint municipal administration office serving both municipalities. Since its execution, the structure of this agreement has been used as a template for many other joint offices within the province.

Colin was instrumental in directing the partnership of the RM of Marriott with six other municipalities to create

a planning region that operates under the same Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws. This helped to create regional zoning standards and land use planning continuity.

Colin's nearly lifelong commitment to the local municipal government for the RM of Marriott is admirable on its own. That, combined with his representation of and advocacy for the community, has led to his participation on multiple community projects, committees, and organizations, such as the Rosetown Credit Union Board, Saskatchewan Wheat Board, Rosetown Curling Club, and the Annual Rosetown Harvest Festival.

Notably, during the 1985 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's 31st Annual Conference, the Ahren's farm was one of the selected hosts. Colin and his family had the opportunity to house 45 delegates where they hosted a field day, viewing a variety of pulse and cereal crops, as well as a demonstration of seeding, swathing and harvesting.

Colin's legacy will not only be remembered for the number of years he served, but also for what he was able to accomplish, be part of, and contribute to. The overall quality of life, services and community of the RM of Marriott and the surrounding Rosetown area have benefited during his tenure. Colin leaves behind a legacy of successful and continuing regional collaboration, the governing of a financially stable municipality, and the willingness to participate and assist with community projects and events.



Q&A

Getting to Know SARM's board and staff



GUY LAGRANDEUR



ALEXANDER UDEY

GUY

Q What is your role at SARM?

The Director Ex-Officio is a mutually appointed position between SARM and the RMAA, whereby Sarm's President is Ex-Officio to the RMAA, and the RMAA President is Ex-Officio Director to the Sarm Board. This long standing arrangement is beneficial to both boards as it gives an administrative position to both associations at any time on any current issue.

Q What do you think you will enjoy most about being on the SARM Board?

I will enjoy meeting people from across this great province. To have an opportunity to engage with people on matters important to them will be exciting and challenging.

Q What moment in rural municipal government history most stands out for you?

When the Saskatchewan Government accepted the responsibility of administering the Education Property Tax from local school boards. This change was a moment that stands out for me, and I'm sure for all Saskatchewan residents.

Q How long have you been an Administrator?

I have been an Administrator since November of 2007.

Q Where did you grow up?

I was born in Northern Ontario but was raised in South Western Ontario.

Q Family?

My wife, Sue, and I have been married for 25 years. We have one son, Wayde. Sue works in the Accounting Department at Briercrest College and Seminary, and Wayde is a Licensed Practical Nurse at Wigmore Hospital in Moose Jaw, SK.

ALEX

Q What is your role at SARM?

I am SARM's Municipal Bridge Engineer. I am one of the Program Managers for the Rural Integrated Road for Growth Program, additionally, I provide engineering design and consulting services to RMs.

Q What is your favourite part about working for SARM?

One of my favorite things is working at the annual and midterm conventions. I enjoy interacting with members at the conventions and the change of pace that the convention brings.

Q How long have you worked at SARM?

I have been with SARM for five and a half years.

Q Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Prince Albert, SK.

Q Family?

I come from a family of six, including my parents and three siblings.

Q What moment stands out the most for you in the history of your time with SARM?

The release of the *Rural Timber Bridge Handbook*, I spent over three years working on the handbook project as time allowed.

New Faces at SARM



Gaylene Mellon

Gaylene is the Accounting Assistant in the Finance department and is responsible for accounts receivable, entering accounts payable and sending out program supplies and custom orders.



Jordan Gasior

Jordan joined SARM's Community Planning department as a registered planner, and he provides community planning assistance to SARM members.



Aaron Holmes-Binns

Aaron is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Policy and Research department. He is responsible for policy and legislative reviews and advocacy work on behalf of SARM members.



Adam Brougham

Adam is the Administrator Coordinator for the Strategic Engagement and Communications and the Policy and Research departments. He provides administration, convention administration, and maintaining the policy and member databases.



Corette Mihalcea

Corette is part of the Strategic Engagement and Communications department as the Communications and Marketing Coordinator. She is responsible for and develops SARM's communication tools, including the website, corporate visuals and publications.

Member news



James (Jim) Bennett
RM of Sarnia No. 221
In Memoriam

Jim Bennett of Chamberlain, SK passed away peacefully on February 14, 2020 at the age of 61 years. He was a loving husband of Brenda, father of Tyler and Brittany, and grandfather of Sophie and Brielle (the joys of his life). Jim was committed to his family.

Jim was a fun loving, witty and charming individual who touched the lives of many. He lived life independently and

on his terms; working hard and playing hard. He began working for the RM in 2007 on a casual basis as our mower man and became full-time seasonal in 2009. The past few years he worked as our gravel hauler. He enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters, golfing, as well as ice fishing on Buffalo Pound in the off-season. Jim had a way of always making us smile or laugh.

The RM of Sarnia would like to extend sincere condolences to the family of James (Jim) Bennett. Jim is going to be greatly missed by us all.

RM of Barrier Valley No. 397 Project Update

The RM of Barrier Valley No. 397 held a Ratepayer's Supper Meeting with a nice crowd attending; it's been a long time since we held one. We presented an overview of the RM operations, challenges and opportunities. Guest Speaker was the Honourable David



Marit, Minister of Agriculture, and we also heard from local MLA Hugh Nerlien.

One of the biggest projects that this RM has tackled was the McKague Access change to grid road, which was a partnership with the Ministry of Highways. The new agreement was signed March 15, 2018 with Honourable David Marit (Minister of Highways at the time). A project like this would not have been feasible for our RM without the partnership with the ministry. Working together, growing together makes for a stronger province and municipality.

Whatever it takes to **HAUL.**



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YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THIS CASE AND EARN **CASH REWARDS** IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO THE ARREST OR CONVICTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INVOLVED.
(Calls are not traced or recorded and callers can choose to remain anonymous.)

If you have any information regarding this case or other violations:
Call the Toll-Free Turn In Poachers & Polluters Line **1-800-667-7561**
Call **#5555** from a Sasktel Cellphone (no text messages)
Report online at **www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp**



ONGOING CASE: Over the past two years, Creighton Conservation Officers have had to deal with at least 14 instances where anglers have left fish, mainly northern pike, to waste at several lakes in the area. These fish could have been easily released back to the waters but were blatantly left behind. If convicted of wasting fish, a person will receive a mandatory one year angling suspension.



Visit www.sasktip.com for all of the latest cases.

Follow @sasktip   

NATURE MATTERS

Modern living habits have reduced our exposure to nature. We spend more time indoors, on screens, and performing sedentary activities. Research has shown a strong connection between time spent in nature and reduced stress, anxiety and depression. **Did you know:**

- + A 90-minute walk in a natural environment reduces repetitive, negative thoughts.
- + Calming nature sounds and even outdoor silence lowers blood pressure and levels of the stress hormone cortisol.
- + Any form of immersion in the natural world heightens an overall sense of well-being.

WETLANDS ARE ESSENTIAL SERVICES.



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103 years. 9,670 storms. \$46 billion insured.

Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance has been insuring farmers for 103 years. **We've seen it all.**

We know what farmers need because we're farmers too. You need flexible hail insurance coverage at affordable rates and you need to focus on your business while we take care of nature's mess.

Our expert hail adjusters deliver quick and accurate assessments with faster payouts. We keep you informed through every step of the claims process with a quick email or text.

Together we'll weather the storm. Apply for SMHI coverage through your local RM agent or visit us online at SMHI.ca.

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



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