

RC

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 55 number 2

Summer 2022 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Recreation & TOURISM

A Great Antidote for ANTS, Embrace Your Strengths, Explore
Saskatchewan, Rural Health Investments, Hay Salvage and Ditch
Mowing, Fire Ban Map, Protection from Sun Exposure





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vision mission

Strong, autonomous municipalities powered by vibrant, diverse economies that build a sustainable future for rural Saskatchewan.

To foster rural development in Saskatchewan and build strong, sustainable communities.



Minister's Message

By the Honourable Don McMorris

Minister of Government Relations

THANK YOU for the time – or in this case – space in your magazine to communicate directly with SARM members.

Today, I'd like to provide a quick snapshot about: infrastructure investments, changes related to carbon monoxide and smoke alarms, and new projects under the Targeted Sector Support (TSS) Initiative.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

As construction season continues across Saskatchewan, so too does our government's ongoing infrastructure investments. This spring we announced the latest bundle of projects that will improve the provincial transportation system and protect the environment in rural Saskatchewan.

This included 14 landfill decommissioning projects that will see more than \$2.9 million of provincial funding toward their completion. These important environmental projects will benefit such rural municipalities (RMs) as: Barrier Valley No. 397, Excelsior No. 166, Foam Lake No. 276, Invergordon No. 430, Loreburn No. 254, Rosthern No. 403, and Torch River No. 488.

An additional six bridge and culvert projects will see more than \$1.5 million of combined provincial investment in the RMs of Hazel Dell No. 335, Porcupine No. 395, Rosedale No. 283, Spy Hill No. 152, and Val Marie No. 17. Once completed, goods, services and agricultural products can be moved more efficiently.

Since 2019, the Ministry of Government Relations (GR) has announced more than \$290 million in provincial funding under the Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to support 229 projects across Saskatchewan.

And there's more to come. Project applications continue to be accepted for the ICIP Landfill Decommissioning intake. To apply, visit: www.saskatchewan.ca/ICIP. Additional intakes for other projects will also occur in the future.

If you have questions, please contact GR's Municipal Infrastructure and Finance Branch at infra@gov.sk.ca or 306-787-1262.

CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE ALARMS

Saskatchewan's Building Code Regulations now require every building with a residential occupancy to have carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms installed by July 1, 2022. This is regardless of when the building was constructed. The change is to help improve the safety of all Saskatchewan residents.

Residential occupancies are defined as rented or owned buildings with sleeping quarters such as: houses; duplexes; apartments; condominiums; townhouses; and motels and hotels.

Building owners are required to install independent smoke and CO alarms or combination devices that detect both. The number and location of devices must conform to requirements of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC).

Devices with a 10-year tamper resistant battery are permitted to meet this requirement provided the building is not already required by the NBC or a municipal bylaw to have a hardwired CO and smoke alarms.



That means after July 1, 2022 if a building official during their duties notices a building is not in compliance with the new requirement, they could write an order to have the owner install the missing alarms.

Our government recognizes the pivotal role rural Saskatchewan plays in helping build an even stronger province.

For more information, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/smoke-co-alarms, contact GR's Building and Technical Standards Branch at 306-787-4113 or btstandards@gov.sk.ca.

NEW TSS PROJECTS

This spring, our government also announced the approval of more than \$1 million of provincial funding to invest toward 23 new TSS projects in partnership with the municipal sector.

The TSS Initiative supports municipalities partnering to strengthen their core municipal responsibilities through proj-

ects focused on good governance, capacity building and regional co-operation. Funding is provided through cost-shared grants, covering up to 75 per cent of eligible project costs.

These newly-approved projects are led by several RMs.

For example, the RM of Loon Lake No. 561 will receive up to \$25,000 toward a council and administration capacity building project; the RM of Paddockwood No. 520 up to \$75,000 for the North Central Lakelands Planning District Land Use Plan; the RM of Dufferin up to \$67,800 for their Emergency Preparedness Study: Collaboration to Improve Emergency Services; and the RM of LeRoy No. 339 up to \$33,750 for a growth strategy in their region.

These projects are from the third intake under TSS, which has seen \$4.5 million in provincial funding made available to municipalities, since the initiative began in 2020.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of these new TSS projects and their benefits – and a reminder to stay tuned for the next intake in the fall of 2022.

Our government recognizes the pivotal role rural Saskatchewan plays in helping build an even stronger province.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to reach out to you.





President's Message

By Ray Orb
SARM President

IT IS WIDELY KNOWN that Saskatchewan's tourism industry has been hurting over the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Tourism Saskatchewan, pre-pandemic tourism spending in the province reached \$2.17 billion in 2019 and Saskatchewan hosted 11.82 million

visits that year. Conversely, estimates for 2020 stated spending was down in the tourism industry to \$1.17 billion and visits dropped to 7.07 million.

Although there was more optimism last year (2021) the estimates were moderately up to \$1.71 billion in spend-

ing and 9.42 million visits (according to the Conference Board of Canada). Hopefully the industry will bounce back in 2022 as it employs in a normal year approximately 71,000 people which is 12% of the province's workforce.



According to Tourism Saskatchewan, tourism is made up of five industries: (focusing on rural Saskatchewan)

- Accommodation (which includes motels, bed & breakfasts, resorts, and campgrounds);
- Food & beverage services (bars, restaurants, coffee shops and food trucks);
- Recreation & entertainment (outdoor adventure and live events);
- Transportation (train, taxi and bus services) and
- Travel services (people that provide advice as to what to see in a community and how to travel to see other communities).

Saskatchewan is home to 34 provincial parks and approximately 80 regional parks; so there is certainly a lot to see.

There are a lot of interesting things happening in the rural part of this province. Below are just a few highlights:

DISTRICT OF CACTUS

You may have heard of it recently. A developer by the name of Dan Cole has set out to turn part of a small community into a western town. To turn back the clock, as it were, to times when people used horses and stagecoaches to travel around the countryside. He is vowing to do it in phases with one of the phases involving going back in time on two homesteads in the rural area near Kennedy. This is truly an interesting endeavor and will involve co-operation between developers and urban and rural municipalities in the area to be successful.

SOUTHERN PRAIRIE RAILWAY (OGEMA)

This railway has been in operation for some time now and attracts many tourists that simply would love to travel on this historic railway. It appears SPR will have a busy summer since people will want to get outdoors and enjoy some truly western scenery and hospitality.



WHEATLAND EXPRESS (CUDWORTH-WAKAW)

Also a historic railroad route with many awesome things to see along the way. Their excursions start in June so if you're interested check out their website.

The provincial government has designated May 23-29 as Saskatchewan Tourism week. That is something worth recognizing!

Saskatchewan also provides a myriad of opportunities for outdoor recreation which includes hiking & running on many trails, camping in the many provincial and regional parks, hunting & fishing, boating, biking and horseback riding to name a few. Saskatchewan is home to 34 provincial parks and approximately 80 regional parks; so there is certainly a lot to see. And in case you didn't know, camping season has already begun!

The pandemic caused some people to feel more isolated, many are eager to get out to enjoy the outdoors and to get reconnected with nature, whether through bird-watching, golfing, photography or just getting out for a walk in the countryside to enjoy the fresh air. It seems especially enticing to us this year after the harsh winter that most of us went through.

In closing, enjoy the outdoors this summer and make some great memories with family and friends along the way!



Recreation is Great Antidote for ANTS

By Jay Meyer
SARM Executive Director

OVER TWO YEARS AGO, with the world's introduction to COVID-19, what many of us called "normal" was flipped upside down. Suddenly a pile of unknowns were being thrown at us. Almost instantly, society was on full lock down, stores were closed, offices were empty, hospitals were filling up, and travel came to a halt. It felt like a scene from a horror movie or bad dream we all wanted to wake from. Many of us spent most of our days staring at a computer, television or cell phone. The screens were what kept us connected and occupied. What came with all this uncertainty was boredom, anxiety, depression, fear and anger, sleeping problems and substance abuse, all of which is a huge contributor to mental health challenges.

Now that society has returned to some form of normalcy, a question I ask myself is whether the health challenges we attributed to COVID-19 have disappeared. Our lives continue to be busier than ever, expectations we put on ourselves are often unachievable and ANTS (all negative thoughts) seem to be crawling around more than ever and getting in the way of our happiness. Social media has become more toxic than ever, politically our continent is in a mess, we have a growing cost of living and a war in Ukraine.

All this negativity has ANTS (all negative thoughts) crawling inside us, in our homes and our workplaces. These ANTS can be consuming and if you do not watch it, they will take over before you know it. They will take over all the positive things in your lives. An ANT can cause many issues to our mental health.

I encourage you to engage in anything you can to relax or have fun or in physical activity which primarily brings with it pleasure.

A well-known antidote for ANTS is recreation. I encourage you to engage in anything you can to relax or have fun or in physical activity which primarily brings with it pleasure. Being active assists with improving self-esteem, gives you more energy, reduces stress and has many health benefits. Spray every ANT hill you have in your life with a healthy dose of recreation.

Rural Saskatchewan is less populated and has most of the land mass in Saskatchewan. A land mass that has many open spaces where people can take advantage of recreational activities. We are so fortunate to be next door to places where we can enjoy experiences many are not able to. Next door to environments that have amenities that allow for us to live active, healthy lifestyles.

It does not take much to get outside, shake your leg, and get rid of your ANTS. Let us all commit to getting back on track, focus on the positive, and reach out to each other for help if you notice an ANT hill forming in someone's vicinity.

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Recollections

By Norm Nordgulen

SARM Director Division 2

GOOD DAY ALL. As I write this on May 1, we all hope that seven months of winter is enough, however, I have seen blizzards as late as the 23rd of May (in which I lost calves) and my grandmother told me in the 1940s the train got stuck in June, so I guess we can take nothing for granted.

As this issue is tourism related, I thought I would talk about what I heard one of our new Ukrainian immigrants say on the radio the other day about Saskatchewan's greatest asset being its people. I couldn't agree more, what are our attractions without the people who go with them? On this, I thought I would relate a few stories of some notable characters I've known, or heard of, through my travels in both SARM Division 2 and throughout the entire southwest.

One of the first people who comes to mind is the late Doug Minor who was the last Mountie to ride border patrol on horseback in 1939. I had the pleasure of meeting him several times, mostly at gun shows across southern Saskatchewan, and thoroughly enjoyed his stories, although, by then he had

lost his larynx and talked with a machine, but he had long write-ups to go with his items. I was entranced with his story of the pigeon-toed kid who was gunned down on the border south of Rockglen, SK, especially since he always had the kid's colt 44-40 on display with its four notches on the left handle. Any time you see a picture of a Mountie on horseback, with a dog at his side drinking from a creek, that's him on patrol in the big muddy.

Another character high on the list is one we all knew as "uncle dick" who was an old Romanian from Readlyn, SK, with a constant twinkle in his eye... you never knew what was coming next. It could be anything from him going into Macleod's store for a box of post holes and driving the clerk crazy looking for them (was a box here yesterday), to asking for a catalogue in the restaurant, to remarking he once had a three-legged table belonging to Sitting Bull that he foolishly sold, but no matter he can make another one! In those days his farm was a gathering place of sorts as he had a pool table in a grainery,



and mixed-in with some hootch (which his family was famous for), fights naturally broke out on occasion and all he had to do was put a can on a fence post, shoot it off with his pistol, say “Yup can still do it” and the fight was over.

I can’t forget about another favourite, little Dick Girvin who worked for the Murphy boys (characters in their own right) in Canopus, SK. My favourite story of little Dickie (as he was known) was of one night in the Franklin hotel, in his usual exuberance he got tossed out the front door by the owner only to have him immediately go round to the back door where the owner met him head-on. Little Dickie just looked at him and said, “how many bars do you own in this town anyway?”

Now, I didn’t know this next fellow but heard stories about him. Eli Botchico and his helper were working the coal mine, one day they went for dinner where old Eli had the potatoes boiling with his underwear (boiling underwear was the way they had to kill lice which were rampant among the bachelors of the day). The helper was exasperated at what he saw and remarked incredulously, “You boil your potatoes with your underwear?” To which Eli remarked, “Why not? Won’t hurt the underwear”.

There are so many stories that I could write an article a week, but I am limited here. My point is, we in Saskatchewan have such a wealth of history that it is a shame not to acknowledge it, whether it’s funny or it hurts, ignoring it or trying to cancel it is wrong. I cannot pass a cemetery without wishing I could plug a laptop into those headstones and get every story in there. We have already lost so much, let’s try and keep what we still have. When you pass that old farmyard, or set of corals in a coulee, or go through what’s left of an old ghost town, give some thought to who lived there, their hopes and dreams, their hardships, and good times— it isn’t fiction we are built



on, we live today on their past labours and loves and hopes and dreams. As you travel around this summer make your way to the southwest and remember the notable characters as you take in the many historical sights.

See you at the next ballot box.

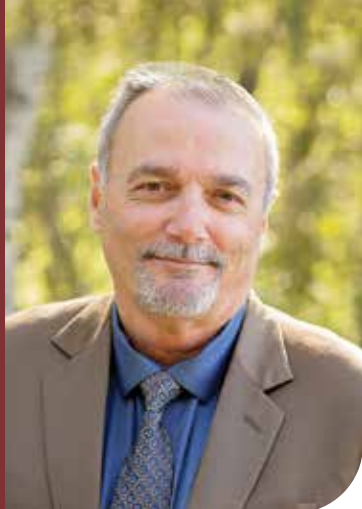
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Embrace Your Strengths or Fix Your Weaknesses

By Guy Lagrandeur
SARM Ex-Officio Director

THINK OF SOMETHING YOU WANT TO IMPROVE about yourself. How would you categorize the thing you chose? Is it a strength or a weakness?

In all probability, you chose a weakness. A study found that we tend to see weaknesses as more changeable than strengths— which means we're more inclined to try to improve where we're weak.

Studies have also shown that when we focus on developing our strengths we grow faster than when trying to improve our weaknesses. Plus, people who use their strengths are happier, less stressed, and more confident.

So, if you're finding that you're consistently failing or falling short on the goals you've set for yourself it may be time to consider trying to improve where you're already strong rather than focusing your efforts on getting better in the areas where you're weak.

Councils and administrators seem to be in an agreement that if you just do what you're good at and you won't need to improve. We need to change this mindset to "believe that your talents can be developed". In order to grow professionally and personally, it's not enough to identify your strengths and use them. You also need to believe that those strengths can be improved.

Many councils and administrators are good at what they do but they should consider developing related skills. We have an incredible amount of resources available to us to increase our strengths, but we should make an effort to learn something that will make us better at our core strength, even if that secondary skill never becomes a main area of focus for us. I am sending out this challenge. As of January 01, 2022, The Construction Codes Act came into force replacing The Uni-

form Building and Accessibility Standards Act. Are you able to discuss or explain in general terms this new act to a ratepayer?

As municipal leaders, we need to be good at what we do. We all have some good strengths and we all need to exploit our strengths for the betterment of the municipality.

As administrators we are asked to perform and manage a wide variety of tasks. On our rmaa.ca website, our promotional video shows the many areas we need to be ready for if it's presented to us. We may be proficient in several areas, but we may also be less confident in others. If we investigate the areas where we're lacking experience, we're keeping our strong points in check, but we're poking a stick at our weaknesses.

So, should we concentrate more on our weaknesses or our strengths? Improving our weaknesses is of course important. Yet there is a danger of spending too much time and energy on areas that can't change or where any improvement will be minimal.

By contrast, when focusing on our strengths we become happier, more engaged, motivated, perform better at work, and achieve our goals. We are more able to seek out opportunities for self-growth that capitalize on our strengths.

Our strengths have the potential to be our biggest growth areas and where we will see the biggest returns. When we invest in our strengths, we can be confident that we are using our time productively and making wise investments in ourselves and in our future.

So, as the spring and summer of 2022 come into focus, we all need to ask ourselves, "Do I embrace my strengths and make them better, or do I need to work and fix some of my weaknesses?"

Have a happy and safe summer!!

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Explore Saskatchewan

Visit All the Great Gems in Our Province!

By Cheryl Barrett
RMAA Director Division 1

THE SUBJECT OF THE SUMMER Rural Councillor is Recreation and Tourism. As I write this article, it is looking like anything but summer (or even spring for that matter) with our area getting hit with spring snow storms the last two consecutive weekends.

Each of our areas of the province have some unique recreation and tourism opportunities to explore and I urge each and every one of you to set some time aside this summer to explore all the great gems we have in our province! Division 1 area goes from the United States border in the south to north of the Qu'Appelle Valley in the north, from the Manitoba border on the east to about 1/3 way into Saskatchewan. Within our Division borders, we have such diverse landscapes – valleys, flat prairie, parkland, native reserves, and badlands which makes exploration limitless.

If camping is a favourite summer activity we have numerous provincial parks that lay within Division 1 borders – Moose Mountain Park, Echo Valley, Katepwa, Crooked Lake, as well as numerous Regional Parks such as Moosomin & District Regional Park, Welwyn Lake, Carlton Trail and others. My local Regional Park - Moosomin & District Regional Park - has hosted a fireworks competition the last few years that drew thousands of spectators. To change things up in 2022, Moosomin Regional Park is hosting Food Truck Wars the August long weekend. Not only will they have the food trucks, but entertainment too. So, if you have a chance, you should come out.

A lot of RMs and towns have museums and interpretive centres that you can visit. One great day trip you can do within the borders of Division 1 is to the Town of Esterhazy and surrounding area. The Town of Esterhazy has the Saskatchewan Potash Interpretive Centre, a working Flour Mill, Esterhazy Historical Park, Esterhazy museum, walking trails and Kaposvar Historical Site. If you are visiting Moose Mountain Park near Carlyle, you would be able to drop down to the Cannington Manor Provincial Historic Park and see what life was like in early Saskatchewan.

If golfing is more your favourite activity why not make a plan to visit as many golf courses as you can within your own RM Division. There are many great golf courses within our municipalities and although I'm not a golfer I'm well aware of Pipestone Hills Golf Club (Moosomin), White Bear Lake Golf Course, Kenosee Lake Golf Course, Echo Ridge Golf Course, plus numerous small-town golf courses such as Wapella, Rocanville and Whitewood.

One of my family's favourite activities is to take a Sunday drive. We have no particular destination in mind but usually end up finding something interesting to see. Look for "Places of Interest" signs and take time to stop and read the plaques. One great drive we took last summer was through the Qu'Appelle valley – we took back roads along the valley from Rocanville to Grenfell and found many historical markers and spots. We drove through the First Nations of Ochapowace and Kahkewistahaw and found many interesting places to stop.

Your particular area will have its own "famous" spots and I urge you to do a mini vacation just around home. You will be surprised on what you can find if you just take the time and an open mind. Let the wind blow you and enjoy!



Protecting Outdoor Workers From Sun Exposure

By Thomas Tenkate

Associate Professor
School of Occupational & Public Health,
Ryerson University

THE SOUTHERN PRAIRIES are the sunniest part of Canada, but exposure to the sun is a substantially under-recognized as a workplace hazard. Both ultraviolet (UV) radiation and heat from the sun can cause serious health issues for anyone working outside. This includes skin cancer, heat stress and a range of eye conditions. Most people don't know that skin cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in Canada – with sun exposure causing more than 4 times the number of cancers caused by tobacco and 10 times the number of cancers caused by alcohol each year⁽¹⁾.



In an occupational setting, sun exposure causes more cases of cancer each year than does exposure to asbestos, diesel engine exhaust and crystalline silica combined⁽²⁾. Reasons for this include the large number of workers exposed to the sun, their very high levels of exposure, and in general they are not well protected.

The good news is that skin cancer and heat stress are relatively easy to prevent – if the right measures are taken. However, many employers report that they find it difficult to implement effective sun safety for their workers. This is where the Sun Safety at Work Canada can help. This website contains a large range of resources available for free download and provides a model sun safety program which employers can use to develop their own sun safety measures.



For workers, the following are simple steps for heat safety and for solar UV safety.

TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM UV FROM THE SUN:

1. Cover up – wear loose clothing, long sleeves and pants
2. Protect your eyes – use ultraviolet (UV) protective eye-wear
3. Cover your head, neck and ears – wear a wide brimmed hat, hard hat with a brim and use a neck flap
4. Take your breaks in the shade – get out of the sun when you can, especially between 11am-3pm, when UV is the strongest
5. Use sunscreen and lip balm – use at least an SPF 30 broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen and don't forget to reapply
6. Be skin safe – report changes in skin spots and moles to your doctor as soon as possible – early detection is important

TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT FROM THE SUN:

1. Know the signs and symptoms of heat stress
2. Watch out for symptoms in yourself and others
3. Wear sunscreen, a hat, and lightweight, loose-fitting clothing

4. Drink water often – avoid drinks with alcohol and caffeine
5. Take breaks in the shade and more often on hot days
6. Know how your workplace deals with heat stress

Because sun safety in Canada is seasonal – the peak solar UV and heat exposures occur between June and September each year, it is important to prepare early for summer sun safety. Workplaces should try and order products/services (e.g. canopies for tractors, portable shade structures, personal protection including clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and hats) as early as possible and it is also a good idea to do sun safety training before the UV levels peak!

The bottom line is that despite outdoor workers having very high exposures to solar UV and heat, it is possible for them to be effectively protected. However, this can only happen if a comprehensive sun safety program is implemented and planning for summer commences before the heat really rises!



⁽¹⁾<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/chronic-disease/environmental-burden-of-cancer>

⁽²⁾https://www.carexcanada.ca/CAREX_OCRC_Burden_of_Occupational_Cancer_-_Results_package.pdf

Images Courtesy of Queensland Australia Department of Health

Provincial Government Makes Significant *Investments in Rural Health in 2022-23*

THIS YEAR'S PROVINCIAL BUDGET makes the largest health investment in Saskatchewan history. It provides substantial funding for health programs and services, acute and emergency care, mental health and addictions supports, and key infrastructure projects.

The investments this year will help address pressing issues, get the health system back on track and build into the future.

A \$21.6 million budget increase is dedicated to reducing the surgical wait-list by performing thousands of additional procedures in the upcoming fiscal year. In prioritizing surgical plans and setting aggressive but achievable targets, the province will deliver on the largest volume of surgical procedures in its history starting this year. The goal is to provide 97,000 surgical procedures in 2022-23. This year's investment introduces a three-year plan to eliminate the COVID-related surgical backlog and return to the pre-COVID wait times by end of March 2025.

The provincial government is also working on getting emergency medical services back on track by addressing critical

areas of need with a dedicated focus on rural, remote and northern communities. A nearly \$11 million funding increase is included in the budget for several initiatives. A majority of this funding will add paramedics and put more ambulances on the roads in 27 rural, remote and northern communities. It will add over 70 full time equivalent positions, and increase capacity to provide a stable level of service and respond to emergencies in a timely manner. Also, community paramedicine will expand to several rural, northern and First Nations communities with funding provided for staffing and training.

A significant investment in this year's budget will help improve recruitment and retention of health care professionals. The province has a four-point plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care workers in Saskatchewan. This plan includes:

- Creation of a new recruitment agency;
- International recruitment;
- Training seats for physicians and nurses; and
- Retention programs.



SASKATCHEWAN RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

Planning work has begun to establish a new, independent agency dedicated to recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals. The Saskatchewan Healthcare Recruitment Agency (SHRA) will serve to attract the best and brightest from across the province, North America and overseas.

To support international recruitment, the budget includes \$1.5 million in new funding for a recruitment incentive program. This is part of a recruitment mission to the Philippines to attract qualified candidates for hard to fill critical health sector positions.

There is also new funding in this year's budget to train more health professionals in the province by increasing the number of specialty, family medicine, and nursing training seats. The number of SIPPA seats will increase by 25 percent from 36 seats to 45 seats annually. Along with increased training opportunities, there will be enhanced supervision of physicians following their SIPPA participation, along with resources, support, and mentorship as they establish their practice in Saskatchewan.

Four new family medicine training seats will be added to southeast Saskatchewan through Distributed Medical Education, for a total of 56 seats across the province. Over the past five years, 84 percent of family residency graduates who trained in rural and regional sites were retained in the province. Also, the College of Medicine will add four new training seats for post-grad residency training, targeted for priority physician specialty areas for a total of 132 seats, including the new South East family medicine seats. This new addition to the College of Medicine's residency program is centered in family medicine with specialty rotations in several areas.

The number of post-secondary training seats for nurses will expand by 150 bringing the total to 944. These seat expansions will help our province meet future demands in the healthcare system and the needs of Saskatchewan patients and growing communities.

Saskatchewan has a lot to offer to health professionals, and these initiatives are meant to help them set up roots and practice in our communities.

The Rural Physician Incentive Program will also receive additional funding this year to better retain physicians in rural areas. Saskatchewan has a lot to offer to health professionals, and these initiatives are meant to help them set up roots and practice in our communities.

Finally, these budget investments will ensure Saskatchewan residents have access to the most current and effective oncology drugs, therapies and treatment options. Rural patients who can be treated at one of the remote cancer treatment sites will benefit from treatment options closer to home.

This year's significant investments in health care will help provide better care for patients and support health care providers.

We want to hear from you!

Changes to the Household Packaging and Paper Program (blue bin program) are being considered.

During engagement last spring, the Ministry of Environment heard support for harmonizing regulations with neighbouring jurisdictions and shifting to a program fully funded and operated by producers.

The ministry has completed a review of the regulations and wants to understand how the proposed changes may impact you and your municipality.

The ministry will be reaching out soon via email to invite you to:

- Review the draft regulations and summary of proposed changes.
- Discuss the proposed changes at an online engagement session hosted by the ministry in June 2022.
- Send your feedback on the draft regulations to the ministry by June 30, 2022.

We look forward to working with you.

Need more info?

waste.management@gov.sk.ca

saskatchewan.ca/recycling

Saskatchewan 



Hay Salvage and Ditch Mowing

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

KEY DATE: JULY 8

Hay can be salvaged any time during the spring or summer months. Before and including July 8, landowners or lessees who are 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 adjacent landowner or lessee, unless salvage operations have already begun. It is recommended that participants contact their local ministry office to provide contact information and limits on where they are salvaging hay to avoid disputes.

Hay must be cut at a uniform height in ditches and bales must be placed

at least eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. Bales must be removed by August 8, otherwise they may be subject to removal and disposal by the Ministry. After August 8, bales must be removed immediately following haying operations. The ministry may also remove and dispose of hay bales in locations deemed unsafe for drivers.

DITCH MOWING

The Ministry is working on its annual early mowing program along high traffic volume highways, which begins June 7 and will continue until July 15, except for the southwest and west central areas of Saskatchewan, which will not receive a first cut to allow additional time for

ranchers and farmers to salvage hay in anticipation of below normal moisture conditions. Contractors cut a four-metre swath along shoulders adjacent to major provincial highways. During this time, mowing may be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

Regular ditch mowing (full-width) will occur along all four-lane highways between July 15 in the northern portion of the province and not until August 15th in the central and southern portion of the province and continue into the fall. High traffic two-lane highways will receive a twelve-metre cut. Secondary

highways will receive an eight-metre cut. A four-metre-wide strip will be mowed adjacent to the other highways with additional mowing as required to ensure visibility and weed control. Progress is weather dependent.

KEY DATES

June 7 - July 15

- In the northern portion of the province, mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut adjacent to the road on high-traffic two-lane, four-lane and secondary highways. Some highway intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.
- In the central and southern portion of the province, mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut adjacent to the road on high-traffic two-lane and four-lane highways. Some highway intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.
- Mowing will not be completed in the southwest and west central areas to allow additional time for producers to salvage hay in anticipation of below normal moisture conditions.

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 or lessee.

July 15 - October 15

- In the northern portion of the province, contractors begin mowing the width of ditches along all four-lane highways. High traffic two-lane highways will receive a twelve-metre cut. Secondary highways will receive an eight-metre cut. All other highways get a four-metre cut.

August 8

- All hay bales must be removed from ditches or they may be removed and disposed of at the discretion of Ministry of Highways.

August 15 - October 15

- In the central and southern portion of the province, contractors begin mowing the width of ditches along all four-lane highways. High traffic two-lane highways will receive a twelve-metre cut. Secondary highways will receive an eight-metre cut. All other highways get a four-metre cut.

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

SASKATCHEWAN CONSERVATION OFFICERS NEED YOUR HELP TO SOLVE THIS CASE. YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS AND EARN UP TO **\$2000 CASH REWARDS IF THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE LEADS TO A CONVICTION.**






On Saturday, March 12th, 2022, between the hours of 1:00pm and 4:30pm, someone burnt down an ice fishing shack just South of Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park, between the park and Island View Resort Village. The remains of the shack were then abandoned and left on the ice. Rowan's Ravine Conservation Officers are looking for the public's assistance in identifying the owner of the ice shack and the person(s) who burnt it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, CALL THE TOLL-FREE TURN IN POACHERS & POLLUTERS LINE **1-800-667-7561** OR **#5555** FROM A SASKTEL CELL (NO TEXT MESSAGES). CALLS ARE TAKEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. YOU CAN ALSO REPORT ONLINE AT **www.saskatchewan.ca/tipp**.



For the latest unsolved cases, visit **www.sasktip.com** and follow **@sasktip**   



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SMHI **AMHI** **PMHI**

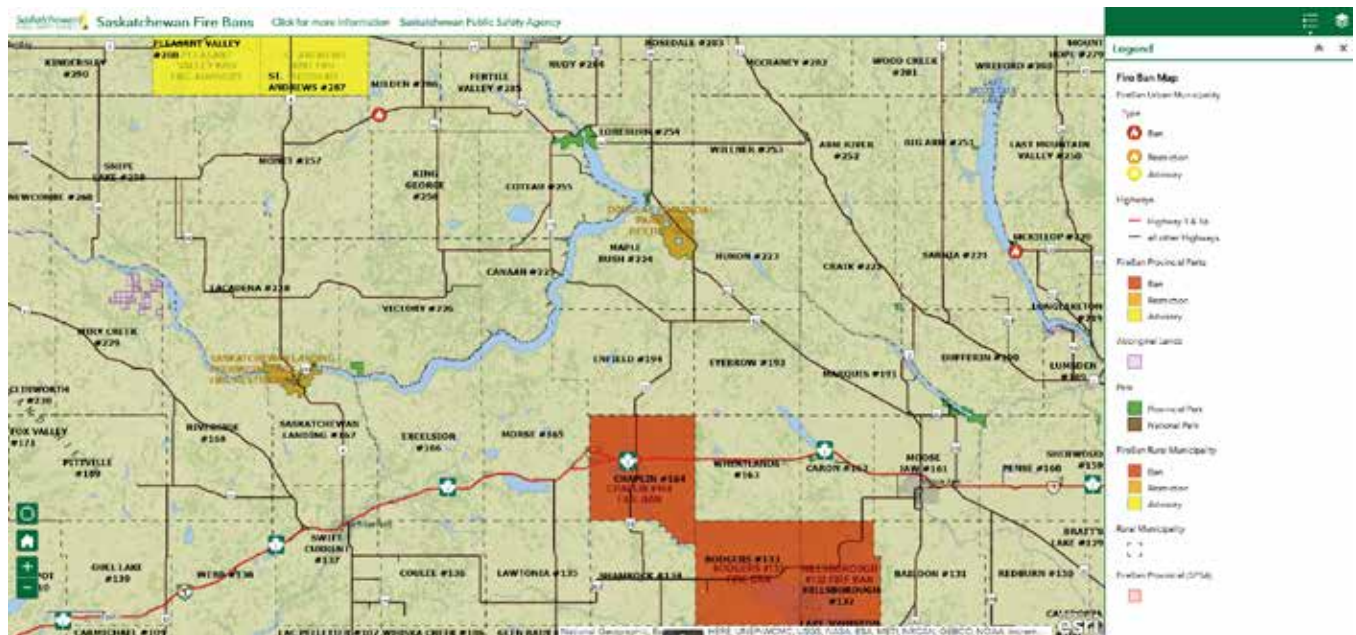
IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 15 - Last day to
file **SMHI** crop reports

JUNE 30 - Last day for new **SMHI**
applicants to apply for coverage

AUGUST 1 - Last day to apply
for coverage with **AMHI** or **PMHI**

SPSA Introduces a New Fire Ban Map



WITH WILDFIRE SEASON underway, the Saskatchewan Public Service Agency (SPSA) is introducing a new interactive fire ban map that will make it easier for residents and tourists to understand where and when they can or cannot burn.

The new map is more intuitive, visually appealing and interactive. It displays all fire bans from all authorities, whereas the old map displayed only rural municipality (RM) and urban municipality (UM) bans. The new map also provides improved quality and accuracy of fire ban information for the public and allows users to zoom in and out freely, search for a specific location and access contact information.

To ensure a ban, advisory or restriction is displayed on the fire ban map, the authorized administrator must call the Control Burn Line at 1-866-404-4911 to advise they have issued a fire ban. The

Control Burn Line is answered 24/7, 365 days a year. The caller will be asked to provide the following details:

- Their name;
- RM, UM, park name or fire department;
- The location of the ban (e.g., town, RM, park, etc.);
- The type of ban (ban/advisory/restriction). If it is a restriction or advisory, details about what is included in the advisory or restriction, such as whether fire pits or agricultural burning are allowed, will be requested; and
- A phone number the public can call for more information.

At the conclusion of the ban, advisory or restriction, it is important that the authorized administrator contact the SPSA so that the fire ban can be removed from the map.

First Nations communities, regional, provincial, and national parks have the authority to ban open burning in their areas of responsibility, while the SPSA can restrict open burning in and around provincial forests, parks and Crown land. Only in the most extreme situations, would the SPSA consider restricting burning in rural municipalities.

The SPSA strongly encourages all municipalities to pass fire restriction bylaws that meet their local need. Local leaders are in the best position to determine when and where burning should be restricted within their municipality. Sample rural fire ban bylaws and a burn permit are available at <https://www.saskpublicsafety.ca/communities/community-fire-bans>

For more info go to www.saskpublicsafety.ca and click Fire Ban Map on the homepage.

Agricultural Safety and Rural Health

SARM 90TH Anniversary Scholarship

By Sueli Bizetto de Freitas

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The winners of the 2021-2022 SARM Scholarships of \$1,500 each were announced by Dr. Niels Koehncke, Director, Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, at the 2022 SARM Convention. The proud recipients were Danielle Dordu from Shaunavon, RM No. 79 of Arlington and Caitlyn McMunn from Star City RM No. 428.

BACKGROUND

Since 1996, The Canadian Centre for Health in Agriculture (CCHSA), University of Saskatchewan through its Founding Chairs Program has maintained the Agricultural Safety and Rural Health SARM 90th Anniversary Scholarship. In 1995, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) auctioned off the first copy of their history book, "The Building of a Province: Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and with these funds initiated the "Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities 90th Anniversary \$1,000 Student Scholarship in Agricultural Safety and Rural Health. In 2013-2014 school year, CCHSA started offering two \$1500 Student Scholarships.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR 2023?

The SARM Scholarship is open to all students enrolled in grade 12 in the fall of that particular year, who are planning on studying at a post-secondary school in Saskatchewan or out of the province, if, the course they're enrolling in is not offered in Saskatchewan.

A few of the requirements for eligibility also include completion of the last two years of high school in Saskatchewan, have a farm background or have parents or guardians who own or rent land and pay taxes to a rural municipality and live in a rural area. Students can apply using the online application forms plus writing and submitting a 1,000-word essay on either (a) The importance of Safety and Health on Our Farm or (b) Safety and Health Hazards on Our Farm. The written essay should be based on their family's farming experiences rather than research-based; be clearly written in acceptable scholarly English and should be free of error in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The essay is judged according to content (80%) and correct writing (20%).

The SARM Scholarship is open to all students enrolled in grade 12 in the fall of that particular year, who are planning on studying at a post-secondary school in Saskatchewan or out of the province, if, the course they're enrolling in is not offered in Saskatchewan.



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture

CCHSA-CCSSMA.USASK.CA



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022 WINNERS

DANIELLE DORDU, highlighted on her essay titled The Importance of Safety and Health on Our Farm, that “Safety and health are important to every aspect of the farm. Safety practices keep our farm running efficiently and help us make a profit. Even the best operations can make improvements and you should never stop learning. Seeing different operation’s health and safety practices and taking those back to your operation helps you collect information to base your decisions on. Keeping people and livestock safe and healthy keeps our farm running and will help it continue in the future.”



CAITLYN MCMUNN, with her essay on Health and Safety Hazards on Our Farm emphasized that “No farm is perfect when it comes to safety. Accidents do happen. However, investing time and resources to prevent future accidents is important. The health of our family and staff is paramount. My family’s farm safety strategies will continue to evolve as we learn and access more information. Utilizing PPE, understanding WHMIS, and keeping informed on diseases is worth the time spent. Communication is a great preventative and active measure to help everyone on the farm. In addition, making sure all personnel are properly trained and comfortable in operations is instrumental in keeping our farm safe. When safety is incorporated into everyday practices, risk of accidents is dramatically decreased.”

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for the 2023 SARM scholarship is on or before JANUARY 14, 2023, by midnight (CST). Completed application form and essay must be sent by email (sueli.bizetto@usask.ca). Inquiries should be directed to shs954@mail.usask.ca. For more information on the SARM scholarship and/or our programs access the Agricultural Health & Safety Network website.

Grade Crossing Information

Every Municipality, City, Town, and Private Authority Should Know

RAILWAYS STRETCH DEEP into Canada in every direction. With nearly 41,711 route-kilometres of track, Canada has the third-largest rail network in the world. Even in the jet age, they are the iron workhorses that move goods and people to ports for export, and to the far reaches of this country for Canadians. Because they move through towns and cities, they must necessarily intersect with roads and highways.

Where a road intersects a railway line, it is known as a grade crossing. Transport Canada is the federal department responsible for regulating these crossings to ensure the safety of Canadians. Under the Grade Crossings Regulations, railway companies, road authorities (provinces, municipalities, and band councils) and private authorities (farmers, commercial businesses, or private individuals) share responsibility for managing the safety and compliance of federally regulated grade crossings. These regulations are important because grade crossings can pose a significant danger to anyone using them.

Transportation Safety Board of Canada statistics note that there were 110 crossing accidents in 2021. That year, there were 47 accidents at public automated crossings, and 49 accidents at public passive crossings. There were 14 accidents at private and farm crossings.

Accidents at grade crossings are a safety issue that represent approximately half of all serious injuries from railway incidents and one third of all fatalities. That's why Transport Canada acts, through the Grade Crossings Regulations, to address the risks related to grade crossings and increase safety at Canada's federally regulated grade crossings and help prevent deaths, injuries, property damage and environmental damage.

Transport Canada has recently made changes to the Grade Crossings Regulations to help reduce the risks of preventable accidents at grade crossings while being mindful of the eco-

nomic realities that road authorities, private authorities, and railway companies face. The changes to the regulations concern deadlines by which all grade crossings must be compliant. The deadline for high priority grade crossings is November 28, 2022, while the deadline for all other grade crossings is November 28, 2024. Changes were also made to exclude some grade crossings from certain requirements.

Accidents at grade crossings are a safety issue that represent approximately half of all serious injuries from railway incidents and one third of all fatalities.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

How does one know what type of crossing they have authority over? You have a public grade crossing if railway tracks intersect with a road that is owned, opened, and maintained by a public authority like a province, municipality, or band council, and is used by the public. You have a private grade crossing if railway tracks intersect with a privately owned road that is used by private parties, like farmers, commercial businesses, or private individuals.

Railway companies, road authorities and private crossing owners must work together to make sure that regulations, standards, and guidelines are met, and the best options are used to make crossings safe. Transport Canada inspects grade crossings regularly to make sure they meet the safety requirements outlined in the regulations.

More information on identifying your grade crossing type can be found at: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/find-out-what-does-grade-crossings-regulations-amendments-mean-you> and on public grade crossings: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/public-grade-crossings>

WHAT IS A “HIGH-PRIORITY” GRADE CROSSING?

The Grade Crossing Regulations define a high-priority grade crossing as “a public grade crossing with average annual daily railway movements of 10 or more and a railway design speed of 97 km/h (60 mph) or more.” (Grade Crossings Regulations - SOR/2014-275 s.1.1). These are the crossings where the roads are owned, open and maintained by a public authority like a province, municipality, or band council, and are used by the public. High-priority grade crossings have significant traffic, at significant speeds, and are, therefore, those that require the most urgent action. The deadline for these grade crossings to be compliant is November of this year.

YOU MAY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

If you are a road authority or a private authority with a federally regulated grade crossing in your municipality or on your property, the changes to the regulations will apply to you. You should consult the Transport Canada grade crossing map online (<https://tc.tdg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a540c1fa8c6146e0a6ed4fb39dde34a5>) to determine if your crossing or crossings are affected. If they are, a thorough review of the regulations should be undertaken to ensure that the crossing is compliant. Transport Canada invites you to visit its web site to determine what these most recent amendments mean to you.

If the crossing does not meet regulatory requirements, you may face penalties for continued non-compliance. An inspector from Transport Canada would give you their findings before any enforcement action is taken and would be available to help you understand your options. However, until safety-related concerns are dealt with, one option may be that access to the crossing be restricted to make sure that all crossing users can stay safe.

WHO’S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF COMPLIANCE?

Depending on the agreement you have with the railway company, or the one filed with the Canadian Transportation Agency, the cost might be shared between the road authority/private road owner and the railway. This information is outlined in the agreement.

If you need additional information on dividing the cost, on agreements, or for any rail-related dispute, you can contact the Canadian Transportation Agency. They are available to help resolve any issues between individuals, towns, cities, provinces, and municipalities and railways.

FUNDING IS AVAILABLE

You may be eligible for financial assistance with respect to your grade crossing. Transport Canada has funding under the Railway Safety Act for eligible costs related to improving and closing crossings. Our Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) gives funding in the form of grants and contributions to improve rail safety and reduce injuries and deaths related to rail transportation.

Individuals, road authorities, municipalities are among those

eligible to apply for funding. For more information on eligibility of projects, see the Rail Safety Improvement Program website, or contact the Transport Canada Rail Safety Improvement Program via email (info@otc-cta.gc.ca)

The Transport Canada website hosts a wealth of information to help you determine how the Grade Crossings Regulations may apply to you. You can find maps of all federally regulated crossings in Canada here. Remember, high priority crossings must be compliant with regulations by November 28, 2022.

A short list of on-line resources on the Transport Canada and Canadian Transportation Agency websites are listed below.

Transport Canada Rail Safety: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/rail-safety-canada>

Map of Canadian Public and Private Rail Crossings: <https://tc.tdg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a540c1fa8c6146e0a6ed4fb39dde34a5>

Grade Crossing Regulations: What you need to know: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/grade-crossings-regulations-what-you-need-know>

Grade Crossing Regulations: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2014-275/>

Canadian Transportation Agency: Rail Transportation: <https://www.otc-cta.gc.ca/eng/rail-transportation>

Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP): <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/apply-rail-safety-improvement-program-infrastructure-technology-research-rsip-itr-funding>

Apply for Rail Safety Improvement (RSIP) Funding: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/apply-rail-safety-improvement-program-infrastructure-technology-research-rsip-itr-funding>

How do the Grade Crossing Regulations apply to me? <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/grade-crossings/find-out-what-does-grade-crossings-regulations-amendments-mean-you>



Prairie Bee Meadery Sees Change as a Matter of Course

THE COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for Saskatchewan's tourism sector. Tourism Saskatchewan's Diversification and New Market Program became a lifeline for some operators to adapt business models, expand products and be in a competitive position when health restrictions were lifted.

Prairie Bee Meadery, in the RM of Caron No. 162, applied to the program in 2020. Co-owner Gerard Milburn said the business already had the word "pivot" in its vocabulary and was accustomed to change. He summarized the evolution from an orchard and u-pick operation to award-winning mead producer to opening a new retail site during a global pandemic.

PHASE 1: GRANDPA'S GARDEN

In 2011, Milburn's in-laws, Dennis and Vickie Derksen, planted 1,000 sour cherry trees on their farm outside of Moose Jaw. "It was intended to be a retirement project, but they got bitten by the fruit-growing bug, adding strawberries, cherries and 500 haskap trees," Milburn said. "Vegetables came next and they began selling produce to the Co-op and at farmers markets, then opened to the public as a u-pick operation."

PHASE 2: FRUIT PLUS HONEY IN ONE PRODUCT

Milburn and his wife Crystal relocated from Alberta and became minority partners in the operation in 2016. By then, full-scale honey production had been underway for several



*Prairie Bee Meadery
Photo credit: Tourism Saskatchewan*

years. “Having excess honey, we started to experiment and worked with the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre to create a delicious, shelf-stable product – Grandpa’s Garden Fruit Honey.”

PHASE 3: FRUIT PLUS HONEY II – AWARD-WINNING MEAD

In 2016, the Government of Saskatchewan amended regulations for craft alcohol producers. Changes included quadrupling the production limit, permitting direct delivery to retailers and allowing independent retail spaces apart from the main site. “Turning a profit in the u-pick business is tricky,” Milburn said, noting that the Derksens suggested there was potential in crafting mead – made from honey and fruit, the two ingredients they had in abundance. “We made the pivot and never looked back. Our products are now carried by more than 100 retailers throughout Saskatchewan and in other provinces, and we made our first export shipment to Taiwan in December 2021.”

Prairie Bee Meadery has won 32 international awards, which speak to the high standards and commitment to excellence. “We have specific requirements and only use clover, alfalfa and wildflower honey,” Milburn added. “Honey is different all over the world. Local crops and flowers create a distinct flavour profile, which is reflected in the mead from that area. No two places or products are alike.”



PHASE 4: PANDEMIC PARTNERSHIP

Prairie Bee Meadery was the first craft alcohol producer in Saskatchewan to open an off-site retail store. Located next to the Tunnels of Moose Jaw, there was ample foot traffic. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and tourist activity came to a halt, operating the storefront at that location was unsustainable.

“We made the pivot and never looked back. Our products are now carried by more than 100 retailers throughout Saskatchewan and in other provinces, and we made our first export shipment to Taiwan in December 2021.”

“We began talking with the owners of Grant Hall, who showed us space they wanted to redevelop,” Milburn said. “We were interested in a partnership that could pair our wines with food and bring in some new traffic to Grant Hall. At the same time, we became aware of Tourism Saskatchewan’s Diversification and New Market Program. Our proposal for a wine and dine experience put a fresh spin on Moose Jaw historical tours. We envisioned tours that not only look at alcohol during the prohibition era but cover the gamut from the 1870s to present day, and promote the craft alcohol industry that has evolved in Saskatchewan.”

Prairie Bee Meadery and Grant Hall launched the Wine & Dine Experience in July 2021, after many COVID-19-related restrictions were lifted. The evening event features a one-hour informational tour that includes mead tastings, followed by dinner in the Little Chicago Steakhouse. Product sales during the first six months far exceeded targets.

SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND VISITOR EXPERIENCES

Hard work and willingness to diversify have resulted in two distinct visitor experiences. Prairie Bee Meadery anticipates a busy season ahead for its popular Bee to Bottle Winery Tour of the main property, offered from May-September. The year-round Wine & Dine Experience appeals to couples or groups of friends and offers a night out to enjoy exceptional local flavours and cuisine.

WHAT IS MEAD?

Enjoyed by the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Vikings and Celts, mead is arguably the world’s oldest fermented beverage. It is sometimes described as “honey wine” – honey and water are fermented by yeast, and flavoured with fruit, hops, spices and grains. Mead has similarities to wine and beer but is unique and offers tremendous versatility to experiment with techniques and flavours.



TOURISM SASKATCHEWAN

Kichiota Indigenous Destinations: *Special Places for Many Peoples*

SASKATCHEWAN'S FIRST Indigenous tourism corridor – Kichiota Indigenous Destinations – is a partnership between Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Wanuskewin Heritage Park and Beary's & Okemasis' Cree Nation. The first of its kind in Canada, the corridor offers visitors multicultural/multi-day experiences that highlight the history and traditions of Northern Plains Indigenous cultures.

The name Kichiota has roots in both Cree and Dakota languages and is described as “a coming together of Indigenous languages, creating a whole greater than the sum of its parts.” There is no direct translation, but applied to this unique partnership, the meaning of the name becomes “special places for many peoples.”

WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION

Soak in the spectacular views of the award-winning golf course and South Saskatchewan River valley from the indoor rooftop pool at the newly built Dakota Dunes Resort & Casino. Located south of Saskatoon, the 155-room resort stands as a tribute to its Indigenous

heritage with angular window trims and exterior wood panels echoing the traditional tipi. This thoughtful nod to the culture carries through to the hotel's guest rooms by way of art and design.

The full-service resort also includes a 10,000-sq. ft. conference centre, the Moose Woods Home Fire Grill, which offers a farm-to-table dining experience, and an exhibit corridor leading to the curated Wanuskewin Gift Shop, where you can purchase unique, handcrafted items made by local First Nations artisans.

While enjoying a stay at the resort, hit the gaming floor at the Dakota Dunes Casino, pull out the clubs for a round on the 18-hole Dakota Dunes Golf Links or book an authentic Indigenous cultural experience through Dakota Dunes Adventures.

WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK

A gathering place for all nations of the Northern Plains for over 6,400 years, Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a flagship attraction and the longest-running archaeological dig site in Canada. It

is a two-time Canadian Tourism Award recipient and on its way to UNESCO World Heritage Site designation.

Walk back in time as you follow the Path of the People, explore the Trail of Discovery or climb to the east prairie along the Trail of the Bison. Follow the Bison Viewing Trail to the lookout point to see Wanuskewin's growing herd – all descendants of the last 1,000 bison on the prairies before near-extinction in the 1870s.

Through the centre's immersive programming and expanded exhibits, learn about the cultural significance of the animal, as well as the role they played in a major archaeological find. Bison activity was credited with uncovering a 1,200-year-old petroglyph. Careful excavation revealed the stone tool used to carve the rock image, as well as three additional petroglyphs.

Taste traditional Indigenous cuisine with a contemporary twist at the refreshed restaurant, or browse the well-curated gift shop and art gallery. Experience a special evening at one of



*Dakota Dunes Resort
Photo credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Chris Hendrickson Photography*

the park's popular Han Wi Moon dinners. The outdoor dining event treats guests to a decadent meal made from foraged and locally sourced ingredients, served at sunset. As night falls, enjoy Indigenous storytelling around a campfire.

Other cultural experiences include archaeological tours, native plant walks, and tipi sleepovers. For the kids, a new interpretive playground was designed to incorporate the historical significance of the site and the many Indigenous peoples who gathered there.

BEARDY'S & OKEMASIS' CREE NATION

Experience Cree culture and hospitality, and hear untold stories of Saskatchewan's past while visiting Beardy's & Okemasis' Cree Nation. Overnight glamping, cultural cuisine and theatrical performances are just some of the tourism offerings that will be available in 2022.

Kichiota Indigenous Destinations will ultimately expand to include more Indigenous experiences. As additional product offerings become available, details will be posted on kichiota.ca. For more information about the Indigenous tourism corridor, contact info@kichiota.ca.



*Wanuskewin Heritage Park
Photo credit: Wanuskewin Heritage Park*



Sask Craft Alcohol Industry *Contributing to Tourism*

TAKE A DRIVE through any part of Saskatchewan and you'll likely come across road signs or billboards providing directions to wineries, distilleries and microbreweries.

The craft alcohol industry in Saskatchewan has seen tremendous growth in recent years with new businesses setting up operations in almost every corner of the province.

By definition, a craft alcohol producer is a small independent business that manufactures beer, wine, spirits, ciders and refreshment beverages (coolers) in small batches at a locally operated Saskatchewan facility.

Twenty years ago, craft alcohol wasn't much of a thing in Saskatchewan or even throughout the rest of North America really. Almost all of the beverage alcohol consumed in the province was manufactured primarily out of province by large, often multinational, manufacturers. Back then, there were two small Saskatchewan wineries in the province and approximate-

ly 20 bars that were making small volumes of beer primarily for sale on-table in their brew pubs.

By the end of the decade, however, consumer preferences were beginning to change. With the rise of the 'buy local' movement and a greater desire among consumers to source products made with locally grown grains, produce, meat and dairy, the craft alcohol industry began to really take off.

Today, there are 36 breweries, 23 distilleries, 15 refreshment beverage producers, 13 wineries, and 5 cideries in Saskatchewan and even more on the way. Last year, Saskatchewan craft producers manufactured 700,000 litres of spirits and liqueurs, 27,000 litres of wine, 100,000 litres of refreshment beverages, and over 160,000 litres of beer. Craft alcohol now represents more than three per cent of the total sales in the province and the number continues to climb.



Aside from consumer attitudes spurring on the growth of craft, the industry has also benefited from government policies that continue to evolve with the growing industry.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA), the provincial Treasury Board Crown corporation responsible for the regulation of the industry, has implemented a number of policies to support the sector.

It's important to note that the craft industry has become about more than just producing locally made beverage alcohol – it's also about adding value.

For example, all Canadian beverage alcohol manufacturers have markup applied to them by provinces when they sell their products to consumers. Saskatchewan currently has lower markup rates for small producers compared to most other Canadian provinces, which helps support growth of these businesses.

As well, Saskatchewan remains focused on reducing red-tape and eliminating barriers that could potentially hinder the industry. Saskatchewan's craft producers have leeway to operate their own on-site hospitality suites, retail stores or direct deliver their products to bars, restaurants and other retail stores without having to go through SLGA's Distribution Centre. And it's not uncommon to see craft producers selling products at farmer's markets during the summer months in Saskatchewan. These are among some of the policies not typically extended to national alcohol manufacturers.

The fast growing industry also led SLGA to establish a separate work unit dedicated to supporting craft producers and to help them navigate the regulations and the marketplace. Provincial ministries such as Agriculture, Trade and Export Development and SaskTourism also provide support to the province's craft manufacturers.

It's important to note that the craft industry has become about more than just producing locally made beverage alcohol – it's also about adding value. Most craft producers rely on locally grown Saskatchewan inputs to make their products. This includes malt barley, hops, wheat and a variety of fruits used to make wines and ciders. Social media accounts often feature craft manufacturers visiting the Saskatchewan farms where their raw materials are sourced.

This connection to the various steps in the craft alcohol manufacturing process is also contributing to Saskatchewan's tourism sector.

Enthusiasts of craft alcohol often want to visit the facility, learn about the manufacturing process and the origin of the local inputs. The sector in turn has embraced and encouraged customer curiosity by welcoming the tourism aspect to the business, whether it's establishing tasting rooms within their facilities, having one-on-one conversations about the products at local markets and events where customers can experience the products and the hospitality and knowledge of the craft producer.

Beyond that, craft producers often partner with local restaurants with a focus on providing local food and drink or have their own facilities that can be used to host local weddings and corporate events. With such a focus on tourism and local hospitality, it's not surprising to see craft producers also throwing their support behind local causes and charities in their home communities.

So the next time you're out and see one of those winery, brewery or distillery signs, carve out some time to follow the directions and stop in and explore 'Made in Saskatchewan.'



Kevin Ritchie

1956-2022

Administrator, 1978-2016 RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129

Administrator, 1979-2011 Village of Wilcox

Director Division 2, 1993-2001 RMAA

Vice President, 2001-2003 RMAA

President, 2003-2007 RMAA

Executive Director, 2008-2016 RMAA

Director Ex-Officio, 2003-2007 SARM

Kevin Ritchie Earns Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan

ON MARCH 15, 2022, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARD for outstanding service to rural Saskatchewan was presented to the late Kevin Ritchie of Wilcox, Sask. Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife, Tammy. His daughter Sarah delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the family.

Kevin was born and raised on a farm just south of Wilcox. After graduation, the local RM administrator at the time, Graham McNamee, suggested he consider a career in local government administration. With Graham's support and mentorship, Kevin embarked on a lifetime career that he loved. He was hired by the RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129 in May 1978. Kevin was always thankful that the council of the day took a chance on a local kid who was only 21 years old. Council hoped he would stick around for a few years, and he made good on their expectations. In 1979, Kevin was approached by the Village of Wilcox council to take on the responsibilities of village administrator as well. He accepted, and the offices were combined into one.

Education was very important to Kevin and he achieved his Superior A certification in 1990. He trained four administrators and mentored numerous others over the years. Rarely a week went by that he didn't receive a call from an administrator, reeve or councillor looking for advice, a chance to vent, or to bounce some ideas around.

Kevin took his commitment to his community very seriously. He served as the secretary-treasurer of the Bratt's Lake conservation and development area for 41 years, secretary-treasurer of the Wilcox Fire Board for nine years and was a volunteer firefighter for 11 years. He served on the recreation board for 12 years in various roles and on the Wilcox School Division Board for 10 years as trustee, vice and chairman. He also helped form and was the first president of the Wilcox Optimist Club. In 1992, Kevin and Tammy purchased the local insurance brokerage and the pair served their community as insurance brokers and motor license issuers for the next 21 years.

At the provincial level, Kevin was the director of Division 2 for the RMAA for eight years beginning in 1993. He was then VP of the RMAA for three years and president from 2003-07. He also sat as the director ex-officio on the SARM board from 2003-07. He was appointed to the MEPP Commission from 2008-11. He was also executive director of the RMAA from



Their Honours, Russ and Donna Mirasty presenting The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan posthumously to Kevin Ritchie (accepted by Tammy Ritchie).

2008-16 and secretary to the RMAA's rural board of examiners from 2012-17.

Life was not all work and no play. Kevin was an avid baseball player and coach who played on numerous championship teams at the provincial, western Canadian and national levels. He coached all levels of youth baseball, proudly watching the boys achieve their own successes at city and provincial levels. For these achievements he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in the builder/player category in 2014. He played hockey and coached during the baseball off-season, leading those teams to provincial championships as well.

In the spring of 1996, on the way to a baseball tournament, Kevin was the first on the scene of a vehicle accident between a truck and semi. The truck was on fire and the driver was unable to get out. He and another passerby pulled the man from the burning vehicle and saved his life. Kevin later learned the man was a councillor in the RM of Craik No. 222. For this act of bravery, he was honoured with the SARM Award of Valour, the Governor General's Commendation for Bravery, and nominated for the Carnegie Fund Commission Bravery Medal. His joking response was that he'd practiced for years saving councillors' butts from the heat!

Kevin retired from the Village of Wilcox in March 2012 and from the RM of Bratt's Lake in July 2016. He spent his entire career at the same desk, humbly serving the community that he loved.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Program Results

By Kevin Brice

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers President

Statistics	2021	2020	2019	2018
Tips Received	2,325	2,621	2,667	2,122
Calls Received	7,505	7,051	7,055	7,129
Arrests	43	49	64	47
Charges Laid	130	105	138	118
Rewards Approved(#)	41	49	65	38
Rewards Approved(\$)	\$12,800	\$14,175	\$19,925	\$18,575
Total Drugs, Cash & Property(\$)	\$592,107	\$72,375	\$583,197	\$38,418

SASKATCHEWAN CRIME STOPPERS acknowledges and recognizes the tremendous financial support from SARM contributors. The program would not be able to exist without this ongoing support and we look forward to continuing to work together with all our partners to ensure the safety and security of our communities.

SUBMIT A TIP: Call 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), access our website at www.saskcrimestoppers.com or use the P3 app for tablets and smartphones.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Sgt. Rob Cozine, RCMP Police Coordinator at 639.625.3027.

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Using Beetles

to Manage Leafy Spurge

By Joanne Kwasnicki PAg

Plant Health Officer, SARM Division 2

LEAFY SPURGE is an invasive weed regulated as noxious in Saskatchewan. It invades roadsides and range and pastureland, allowing it to become widespread in many areas of the province. This plant is very competitive and can cause extensive damage to the landscape and reduce the stocking capacity of pastures. Leafy spurge can be distinguished from other plants by its light green foliage, distinctive yellow-green umbrella shaped inflorescence, and the milky white sap in the stems and leaves. Leafy spurge can be controlled in several ways, including herbicide, targeted grazing, and biocontrol.

WHAT IS BIOCONTROL?

Biocontrol is the introduction of natural predators from an invasive plant's native range to control the target plant's population. Biocontrol agents feed on and weaken the plant, which gradually suppresses the weed population to a lower density and vigour. This can provide widespread, long-term control of the target weed. Biocontrol agents are tested extensively to ensure they only attack the target weed species.

The beetles are a great integrated weed management tool in providing continuous, long-term control of leafy spurge over a large area.

The most common biocontrol agents for leafy spurge in Saskatchewan are the Leafy Spurge Flea Beetles (*Aphthona* sp.). Like all biocontrol agents, these beetles are host-specific, meaning they only feed on leafy spurge and will not feed on any other plant species. They can be very effective in controlling leafy spurge, especially in environmentally sensitive or inaccessible areas, where herbicides are not an option. The beetles are a great integrated weed management tool in providing continuous, long-term control of leafy spurge over a large area.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF USING BIOCONTROL?

There are some limitations to using these beetles and other biocontrol agents. Most biocontrol agents take time to become established in a new area, and results may not be visible for several years. Leafy spurge beetles also need an undisturbed area to allow for establishment, which means the release area cannot be cultivated, mowed, or have herbicide applied, to give the beetles their best chance for surviving and reproducing. Lastly, most of the time the leafy spurge will not be completely eradicated by the beetles. The spurge is their food, and they will rarely eat themselves out of their food source. As a result, the boundaries of the infestation may need to be contained with herbicide to prevent further spread. Although, there are instances where the biocontrol agent will completely eradicate the weed from an area.



HOW DO LEAFY SPURGE BEETLES CONTROL LEAFY SPURGE?

Most of the damage is done by the beetle larvae feeding on the roots on the plant. The adult beetles also feed on the plant foliage.

WHAT IS A GOOD SITE FOR BEETLE RELEASE?

Each species of beetle has its own habitat preferences. The brown dot beetle (*Aphthona cyarissiae*) prefers hot hill tops with lighter grass cover; the black dot beetle (*Aphthona nigriticutis*) prefers south facing slopes and can tolerate some shade, and the black beetle (*Aphthona lacertosa*) will tolerate heavier, somewhat moist soils, and move into shadier areas. The beetles prefer warm, dry, south facing slopes to establish on, but they will move into shadier spots once established. It is best to release beetles into patches of leafy spurge that cover at least 12 acres per quarter section. Any patches smaller than that are best controlled using herbicide.

HOW TO KNOW IF THE BEETLES ARE WORKING?

Over time, if the beetles have established, you should notice reduced plant cover, an increase in non-flowering stems, and stunted plants, in a ring surrounding the release point and gradually expanding outwards. The Plant Health Officers (PHOs) will also come and monitor the area in the years after a release to see if the beetles are establishing.

HOW DO I ACCESS LEAFY SPURGE BEETLES AND OTHER BIOCONTROL AGENTS?

The SARM Plant Health Officers are responsible for coordinating and monitoring biocontrol releases throughout Saskatchewan. The PHOs organize the Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Days at suitable collection sites every summer. Currently collections take place at Besant Campground, east of Mortlach. There is a mixture of spurge beetle species present at the collection site at Besant which is great because releasing a combination of beetle species will allow them to seek out their preferred habitat. Collection Days usually run the first week of July, depending on beetle emergence and activity. In 2022, the Collection Days are tentatively planned to take place July 5th to 8th. These dates may change depending on weather and when the beetles emerge in the Spring. The collection days are open to all Saskatchewan landowners, municipalities, and representatives from First Nations Bands to come sweep for leafy spurge beetles to be released on their property. The PHOs are present to provide information about the agents and assist in sorting and packaging the beetles for the journey to their new homes. Attendees also get release records to fill out and return so that the beetles can be monitored in future years. There are extra sweep nets for attendees to use and best of all, the collection days are free for all to attend.

There are other biocontrol options available in Saskatchewan, including agents for scentless chamomile, nodding thistle, yellow toadflax, field bindweed, and hound's-tongue. If you are interested in learning more about leafy spurge beetles and other biocontrol agents, reach out to your Division Plant Health Officer.



Leafy Spurge



Timely delivery of maintenance was a major priority for the Agency in 2022, and as of April 27, SAMA had delivered maintenance to 291 out of 296 (98%) of our rural municipal clients. We have delivered on time to 94% of our rural municipal clients.

In 2022, SAMA is planning to complete 36,489 agricultural property reviews in 24 RMs. The Agency is also planning 23,269 residential/resort property reviews and 13,484 commercial, industrial, and industrial flowline property reviews in both rural and urban municipalities.

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.

Q&A

Getting to Know SARM's Team



Daniel Segal

Q What do you do at SARM and in what circumstances would I come to you for something?

I'm one of SARM's bridge engineers and use my expertise to try and assist RMs as best as I can with their bridge and culvert concerns. I also assist with the administration of the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth Program (RIRG). RMs might come to me to discuss what options might be reasonable for the repair or replacement of a bridge including which of those options makes the most sense.

Q What's one thing that surprised you about working at SARM?

I'm often surprised at how many people aren't aware of rural municipalities or grid roads or SARM. I still catch myself assuming that everyone knows what lies beyond provincial highways and outside of city limits.

Q If you could add one thing to SARM's office, what would it be?

Office windows that opened to let in the sounds and smells of outside would be nice. (In-house daycare, indoor parking, lol, if all of these come off as critical: a fire pole to get to the basement would be fun.)

Q What's something you saw recently that made you smile?

My wife and I are expecting our first child soon and I've more recently been able to see the baby moving around. That's definitely brought a smile to my face.

Q With summer upon us, what's your ideal way to spend your weekends?

My ideal summer weekends are spent camping with my family. This year we are focusing on the three nearby National Parks and planning to spend about a week in each one.

Dustin Resch

Q What do you do at SARM and in what circumstances would I come to you for something?

My title at SARM is “Manager, Programs.” I give oversight and support to the awesome staff who administer programs like the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth, the Agriculture programs, and Member Purchasing. I also get to be the point person for several of the municipal education programs, including the Rural Municipal Internship Program (MAIP). The staff who are specialists in each of the programs are going to be able to provide the best detailed information about how the programs work. However, I’m always happy to hear feedback on how the programs are running and how we might improve them. As well, if folks are interested in the municipal education programs, especially the MAIP, I’m the guy for that!

Q What’s one thing that surprised you about working at SARM?

I continue to be astounded at the breadth of things that SARM is involved with. SARM has influence in province on everything from rat control to road infrastructure, from community planning to governance education, from rural mental health to public sector procurement. I love the diversity and breadth of SARM’s scope because I get to learn about so many different topics and work toward making Saskatchewan a better place to live and do business. It’s great!

Q If you could add one thing to SARM’s office, what would it be?

The SARM office is already a pretty good place to spend one’s workday. I do like a good cup of coffee, though, so it wouldn’t hurt to add a top-tier coffee shop on site. That’s probably unrealistic and maybe not in my best interest since I probably don’t need more caffeine than I already take in.

Q What’s something you saw recently that made you smile?

There are a lot of positive things from these past months working at SARM. Recently, though, I smiled when we were able to connect an aspiring MAIP Intern to a placement in her community where the current RM Administrator is planning to retire. That was a win for the intern, a win for the RM, and a win for the retiring Administrator. It made for a good day!

Q With summer upon us, what’s your ideal way to spend your weekends?

The best thing about summer in Saskatchewan is the evenings after a hot day. I love to sit out on the patio around the fire with my wife, Jolene, and our kids (when they actually want to join us!), enjoy a Sask-brewed beverage, and listen to music. Those evenings always end too soon!

Robyn Rechenmacher

Q What do you do at SARM and in what circumstances would I come to you for something?

I support RM Administrators and Councils by creating Official Community Plans, Zoning Bylaws and planning bylaw amendments to manage land use and development opportunities or challenges. You can call our department if you have questions about development permits or proposals, zoning inquiries, or land use planning bylaws and policies.

Q What’s one thing that surprised you about working at SARM?

The amazing gardening skills and knowledge of some of our staff! I have a hard time keeping the hardiest plants alive and I’m always inspired by those that do.

Q If you could add one thing to SARM’s office, what would it be?

It’s a great office, so it’s hard to think of what’s missing but it would be neat to have a SARM library with the history of our RMs and the province so we can all learn more about our past on the prairies.

Q What’s something you saw recently that made you smile?

A sunny sky and a forecast in double digits!

Q With summer upon us, what’s your ideal way to spend your weekends?

Cycling, swimming and being outdoors while enjoying time with my family and community.

Member News



Keith Aldridge
RM of GRANDVIEW No. 349
In Memoriam

The family of Keith Aldridge is saddened to announce his death on December 9th, 2021. Keith was born in Churchbridge, SK on October 10, 1932.

Keith worked for the RM of Grandview No. 349 in the early 60s while he was establishing his farm. He loved farming and was very forward thinking in his practices. He was active with Save Our Soils in the '80s. He left the employ of the R.M. in 1967 and was elected as councillor for Division 2 in 1974. Over the next 37 years, Keith sat on many committees, oversaw the completion of the grid road program in the RM, was a frequent delegate to SARM conventions, was a member of the West Central Government Committee Transportation Committee, and many other municipal boards. Keith was known as the "gravel guy" and is credited with showing some of the newer members of council the ropes. He was always an advocate for the staff of the RM and treated them with respect and kindness.

Outside of the RM Keith's community involvement was vast. He was a member of the United Church Board, North West Central School Board, Kelfield Community Club, Paragon Lodge, Dodsland Lions and many fundraising groups.

Sports played a large part in his life, baseball, hockey, curling, golfing, downhill skiing and even water skiing. Keith's

woodworking skills were known far and wide. Keith was the drummer with the "Just Us Five" orchestra for many years and travelled all over Saskatchewan and parts of Alberta.

Keith was dedicated to his family and his community; his humour, generosity, and friendliness will be sorely missed.



Alfred Kohls
RM of BIG STICK No. 141
In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts and great sorrow that we announce the passing of Alfred Morris Kohls on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at the age of 90 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of almost 65 years, Doreen Kohls of Medicine Hat, as well as numerous family members and friends.

Alfred served as a councillor for the RM of Big Stick No. 141 from 1987-1997 in Div. 4.

Farming life began for Alfred in 1957 at Golden Prairie where he would enjoy the next 57 years doing what he loved. There were so many fond memories made of the farm life because of Alfred's love for farming and his family. Alfred was a good welder and carpenter and could fix almost anything but his talents were not limited, he also restored tractors, a model A car, a wooden buggy, several pedal tractors and built tractor cabs. He took up wood carving and has generously given carvings to family members. He enjoyed the simple

things in life; his family was everything to him. There was great joy for him just watching his children and grandchildren have fun. Hours of entertainment were had on the swing set, slide, teeter totter and playhouse - all built from scratch by Alfred. In the winter he would push snow so we could enjoy the huge snow piles! The last two years he enjoyed his time at Masterpiece exercising daily as well as setting up puzzles. Alfred's family meant everything to him; he was a very quiet, gentle man enjoying the simple life. He will be greatly missed by all of us and will remain in our hearts forever!



Leroy Layman
RM of WOOD RIVER No. 74
In Memoriam

Leroy Frank Layman passed away peacefully at the Lafleche & District Health Centre on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at the age of 91. Leroy, son of Frank and Zola Layman, was born in Lafleche. He received his education at One Mile Coulee, Castlemore, and Melaval. He then farmed with his dad, including custom combining in the USA. In the off-season he worked in the bush in northwest Alberta and for local farmers. He married Melva Schobert on October 27, 1956 and purchased the Herb and Edith Shulver (Melva's grandparents') homestead five miles south of Woodrow and continued farming. Leroy enjoyed raising cattle on Maple Hill for nearly five decades and willingly assisted his neighbours with calving and other vet-

erinary-related issues. He continued to work with his cattle until a few months before his passing.

Leroy enjoyed sports. He was part of organizing baseball in Melval in 1952 and went on to play in the Dunning League. His love for ball continued on throughout the years by watching the Blue Jays on TV, cheering on his grandsons and watching his great grandchildren as well. Curling was also a favorite. Leroy was an avid curler well in to his 80's. Leroy also enjoyed golfing and hunting.

Leroy was a dedicated member of his community. He taught Hunter Safety, a loyal member of the Masons and Shriners, and served on the Lafleche Library Board for 39 years. He was a Division 3 Councillor for the RM of Wood River No. 74 for 28 years, from 1978 to 2006. He served multiple terms as Worthy Patron for the Order of the Eastern Star both in Limerick and Assiniboia and was a faithful member of the Woodrow and Lafleche United Church congregation. Whether it was a chat at coffee row or a happy-hour visit with life-long friends, Leroy was happiest when he was with people.

Leroy is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Melva; two children: Colleen (Bert) Ramsey and Dean (Leah) Layman; four grandchildren: Shaylor (Carlee) Layman, Shelby (Julie) Layman, Andrew Ramsey, and Celia Ramsey; five great-grandchildren Lawson Layman, Lexi Layman, Arienne Layman, Zola Layman, and Emeric Layman. He will be missed by four, loving sisters: Lois Harding, Millie Harding, Ruth Mattson, and Evelyn Harding; and two sisters-in-law: Kay Mitchell and Arlene Woodard. Memories of Uncle Leroy will be treasured by his nieces and nephews and their families.

Funeral service was held at Lafleche United Church on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 2:30 P.M.

Vance Wensel RM of WOOD RIVER No. 74 In Memoriam

Vance was born November 17, 1943 to Henry R. and Mae (Brunelle) Wensel, on tiny McKenzie Island, located near the Manitoba/Ontario border. It was here that his parents met and were married. Vance, and his brother Greg, grew up in Lafleche and attended Mathieu School and LCH. Following school, Vance stayed

in the area and had a variety of jobs, including hauling gravel for Maurice DeCap. He moved to Regina in 1962 and held different jobs until hired by IPSCO in 1966, where he remained for ten years.

It was while living in Regina that Vance met and later married Beverley Austin in February 1976. That spring, they returned to Lafleche to take over the family farm, where they have worked together since. Vance and Beverley have both been active in serving their church, People of Praise, in Lafleche. Vance held various community positions serving many years on the volunteer fire department, eight years as an RM councillor and eleven years on the Lafleche Hospital Board. Vance was elected as Reeve of the RM of Wood River November 1997 until 2006. Vance worked with SCIC for 16 years, traveling throughout southern Saskatchewan.

Vance is survived by his loving wife of forty-four years Beverley Wensel; brother Greg (Penny) Wensel of Regina; nephew Monty Wensel (Michelle), niece Misty Wensel (Orion), nephew Cameron Wensel (Jocelyn), niece Judy Wensel (Michael); brother-in-law Clint Austin of

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Gravelbourg. He is predeceased by his parents Henry and Mae (nee Brunelle) Wensel.

A private family funeral service took place on Friday, October 23, 2020, at the People of Praise Church in Lafleche, Saskatchewan.



Leroy Steier
RM of HAPPYLAND No. 231
In Memoriam

Leroy was born and raised in Prelate, Sk. He was elected Councillor for Division 1 from 1979 to 1982 & 1991 to 1994. He served on several committees during

his 2 terms. He took great pride in his division and strived to make it better. The RM of Happyland council and staff were saddened to hear of Leroy's passing on November 16, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



Allen Taylor
RM of BUFFALO No. 409
Retirement

Allen Taylor served the RM of Buffalo No. 409 as councillor for Division 1 for eight years. His full-time job was in Battleford as a teacher. Allen resides

in Division 4 but stepped up and represented Division 1 as Councillor. Allen would always ask for feedback from the ratepayers and tried his best to assist them. He would inform all the council members and staff about the feedback he received and work together to obtain a solution that worked for the ratepayers and the RM. At the retirement party, Allen said a few words and commented on how far the RM has come and how proud he is to be part of the RM. Allen has continually seen progress through the years and the RM is always striving to be better. He hopes that this will continue in the years to come. Reeve Les Kroschinski (left) presented Allen with a framed art print in appreciation of his efforts and dedication to the RM of Buffalo. On behalf of the ratepayers, the council, and employees we wish Allen the very best in his retirement.

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