

The logo for SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) features the word "SARM" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark red shield-like shape with a white swoosh above and below the letters.

SARM

RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 3

FALL 2022 ISSUE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT #40062693

The Voice of Rural Saskatchewan

Planning the Future of Rural Infrastructure; Why Clubroot Remains a Declared Pest; Strychnine Alternatives; Unpaid Oil and Gas Property Taxes; Procurement Can Benefit Your Community and Save You Money; SARM Fire Coverage; Weeds to Watch Out For; New Saskatchewaner; Importance of Women in Rural Politics



SaskWater

Want a water supply system that helps
your region grow and thrive?

Wish you could entrust it to a partner that
provides unmatched expertise and service?

Do rivers run?

We have the answers.

Visit **www.saskwater.com/water-and-wastewater-system**

SARM

RURAL COUNCILLOR

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Publications Agreement #40062693

Published four times per year by:

Benchmark Public Relations

2260 McIntyre Street
Regina SK S4P 2R9

T (306) 522-9326

F (306) 522-0923

E info@benchmarkpr.ca

W www.benchmarkpr.ca

Editor

Corette Mihalcea

Layout & Design

Cindy Mantei

Advertising

Warren Nerby

SARM Board

Ray Orb, President, RM of Cupar No. 218

Bill Huber, Vice President, RM of Lipton No. 217

Bob Moulding, Division 1 Director, RM of
McLeod No. 185 & RM of Abernathy No. 186

Norm Nordgulen, Division 2 Director, RM
of Lake of the Rivers No. 72

Larry Grant, Division 3 Director, RM of
Val Marie No. 17

Harvey Malanowich, Division 4 Director,
RM of Sliding Hills No. 273

Judy Harwood, Division 5 Director, RM of
Corman Park No. 344

Darwin Whitfield, Division 6 Director, RM
of Oakdale No. 320

Guy Lagrandeur, Ex-Officio Director, RM of
Redburn No. 130

Rural Councillor is online at:

www.sarm.ca

 @SARM_Voice

Views are those of the contributors and are not
necessarily the views of SARM.

Return undelivered copies to:
Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities
2301 Windsor Park Road
Regina SK S4V 3A4

Contents

COVER PHOTO © LF Photography | LFphotography.ca

inside

- 10 Minister of Justice and Attorney General Message
- 12 Minister of Energy and Resources Message
- 14 Facing Forward: 2022 RMAA Convention Report
- 16 Planning the Future of Rural Infrastructure
- 17 Why Clubroot Remains A Declared Pest in Saskatchewan
- 18 Strychnine Alternatives
- 20 Unpaid Oil and Gas Property Taxes
- 21 Procurement Can Benefit Your Community And Save You Money
- 22 SARM Coverage For Fire Departments, Fire Fighters, and Fire Volunteers
- 24 Weeds To Watch Out For
- 26 Andrew Hiltz Hits the Road Again as Saskatchewaner

regular features

- 4 Jay Meyer, SARM Executive Director
We Appreciate You!
- 6 Bill Huber, SARM Vice President
Times Have Changed
- 8 Larry Grant, SARM Director, Division 3
Mixed Bag For Harvest
- 9 Judy Harwood, SARM Director, Division 5
The Importance of Women in Rural Politics
- 28 New to SARM
- 30 Member News

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.



Municipal Elected Officials- **We Appreciate You!**

By Jay Meyer

SARM Executive Director



THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES of a municipal elected official are vast and varied; many of which are not discussed very often. The official role is to provide leadership and develop policy as well as to make decisions around the services the municipality provides its citizens. Legislation outlines the many roles municipal elected officials play and the responsibilities they have. Responsibilities could include taking an Oath of Office, understanding conflict of interest, or the responsibility of freedom of information acts. These acts include the Municipalities Act, Cities Act, and the Northern Municipalities Act. What the acts do not define is the reality of what it takes to be in a seat around the council chambers. There is a lot to wrap your head around when you are in the seat of a municipal elected official.

What is not often discussed when defining a municipal elected official is the time, energy, and passion it takes to take on the role; what it is like to be in the trenches of the operations of a municipality. The amount of dedication it takes to volunteer your time in assisting with the leadership of your municipality is much greater than most would know. The amount of time commitment it takes to be a municipal elected official is many times overlooked. It is not just the commitment to regular council meetings but also special meetings, committee meetings, meetings with other boards and agencies, conferences, seminars, workshops, and events that promote your municipality.

Elected officials are often contacted at all hours of the day by ratepayers making complaints, seeking assistance, or many times giving suggestions or advice on what could or should be done when it comes to governing the municipality. As an elected official, it is difficult to set your role aside as you are typically never off duty—many citizens look at you as the face of the community. Quite often, they have questions for you whether that is at the grocery store or the local skating rink. This responsibility comes with the territory but not being able to turn it off can be challenging at times. It takes passion to volunteer and step up to the plate to serve on council. Many days are thankless, but without individuals like municipal elected officials' decisions would not be made, which in the end delays progress for not only our municipalities, but also for our people.

Many who volunteer to be on council are not doing it for acknowledgment or power, but rather for the betterment of the community.

Many who volunteer to be on council are not doing it for acknowledgment or power, but rather for the betterment of the community. Each day comes with a different challenge and some days are better than others. People often criticize before complimenting. What assists with the many challenges when you are in the role of an elected official is a pat on the back or even a quick thank you for what you do.

I wish to thank all those who volunteer to be on council and encourage those who are not to think about volunteering to be on council and, until then, when you see one of your councillors, please thank them for their commitment to your municipality and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. A commitment that often goes unnoticed.

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 June 13th, 2022 Shaunavon Conservation Officers became aware that crude oil was dumped into the Town of Shaunavon's domestic wastewater holding cell (sewage lagoon). Conservation Officers investigated and found that a large amount of crude oil was discharged into the sewage lagoon. Officers believe that this happened between June 4th and June 12th, 2022.



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**   



Times Have Changed!

By Bill Huber
SARM Vice President

AS I SIT IN MY OFFICE looking out the window, the morning sun is shining and a light breeze is blowing, it's a beautiful day! We have been fortunate in the southeast part of Saskatchewan this spring and summer. We've received timely rains and our crops look amazing! I realize this is not the case in all parts of the province and I feel for those producers struggling with weather-related challenges.

Throughout my many years in the farming industry (and yes, I have a few grey hairs!) I have seen many changes.

The weather has certainly seemed to change overtime. During the 1950s I remember flooding in the summers and winters when trains couldn't run between Neudorf and Bulyea, because the track was plugged with snow. There were a couple of years during the 1960s that were hot and dry and in the 1980s we experienced a lot of drought, heat, windstorms, and dust.

In 1980, agriculture really started to change. More farms were continuous cropping and adapting to minimum tillage, direct seeding, and zero tillage. These days, in agriculture, it feels like we are expected to do more with less.

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.
-Winston Churchill

Change is inevitable. And throughout the current changes, the provincial government and SARM continue to advocate for the focus of agriculture to be on producing safe, and reliable, products to feed a growing world population.

Agriculture has seen its fair share of changes in technology since I began farming in the 1970s. Over the past 50 years, major changes have been made in the day-to-day operations on a farm. There was no Global Positioning System (GPS) to guide us down the field with auto steer, mapping, and variable rate control to help reduce the waste of seed. Not to mention the enhancements in fertilizer and chemicals that enable Saskatchewan growers to produce the best grains and oil seeds for export around the world.

From the cold days of seeding to the sweltering heat of haying, early farmers endured the extremes. In the mid-1970s, grain prices improved, and producers were more profitable; machinery companies began manufacturing cabs for combines and tractors to provide some relief from the elements. In 1974, I purchased my first combine harvester with a cab, cab cooler (not air conditioning), and straw chopper for the whopping price of \$10,400.



The grain industry has indeed changed dramatically, and a lot of it was to help producers be good stewards of the land. Helping the environment with direct seeding, crop rotations by growing pulses, and sequencing carbon.

When compared to the grain producers, ranching has seen fewer changes since cattle ranches were first established in southern Alberta and southwest Saskatchewan in 1865. A lot of the work with cattle is still done the same way, with a good saddle horse and a dog.

Sure, some things changed in fencing, cattle handling facilities, and transportation, but for the most part, the basics remain unchanged while at the same time they are still producing good reliable safe beef while preserving the environment. A lot of today's cattle are raised on native grass that has never been broken, this helps protect and preserve the many native grass species that this Province is so proud of. I am amazed at how much change we have seen in the past 75 years, and I can't imagine the amount of change we will see in the next 75 years.

I am sure, if you are anything like me, there are days when you long for more simplicity. But, upon reflection, the progress we have made should be a source of pride. The Saskatchewan we have created is a place the generations before dreamed could be possible.

Until next time, have a great summer!



REQUEST A LINE LOCATE

Contacting an underground utility line can be costly and dangerous. Plan ahead and stay safe.

Click
Before
You Dig.com



MUNICIPAL HAIL INSURANCE

Municipal Hail appreciates your business and we are grateful for the trust you have placed in us. Thank you for yet another successful season and we look forward to working with you again next year.

Storms are unpredictable. We aren't.

 **SMHI**  **AMHI**  **PMHI**



Mixed Bag For Harvest

By Larry Grant
SARM Director Division 3



AS I WRITE THIS, harvest has just started in the southwest with some producers already combining peas. As of yet, I haven't heard what the yields are.

Drought has hit many areas of the west side of the province, from the United States border to the north. Some places have been especially hard hit with not enough moisture in the spring to give proper germination. One municipality has already had to declare itself a disaster area, with more to potentially follow. This dry area is not totally encompassing, fortunately, there are good crops in some places, but poor crops in many others.

On the livestock front, it's feared that hay is going to be in short supply for many cattlemen on the west side of the province. Some hay field yields are acres per bale and hay advertised for sale is generally 10 cents per pound with freight on top of that. It takes years to build a good herd of cows, so everyone is reluctant to sell their future production. Because of this, cattle farmers in some of the affected areas have been trying to hang on to their herds which is likely to render them short of grass in the coming years. One producer recently said that he is feeding his cows hay to stretch his grass until after harvest when he can access stubble grazing into the winter months. Feed for livestock will be in short supply in some areas, but plentiful on the east side of the province. Hopefully, grain farmers will sell crop residue to their ranching neighbours to help them through the winter.

Cattle are a vital source of food and are an irreplaceable tool in maintaining habitats for not only species at risk, but all prairie wildlife. Right now, Canadian and Saskatchewan cow herds are shrinking. How do we stop this and reverse the trend? The Saskatchewan government would like to increase red meat production as part of its Saskatchewan plan, and the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of agriculture have agreed to the new Sustainable Canadian Agriculture program, replacing the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).

The new plan will provide \$500 million, a 25% increase in new funding for cost-shared activities, over the \$2 billion currently provided under CAP. Hopefully, there are enhancements in it to cover successive years of drought, which we are currently seeing in the west. The ministers have stated that there will be no ad hoc programs and that any financial help will come from business risk management tools. If that is to work these tools must be timely and meaningful.

Harvest will be over by the time you read this. Be safe, have a sustainable year, and may Saskatchewan farmers of all kinds continue to raise the best, and safest, food in the world.



The Importance of Women in Rural Politics

By Judy Harwood

SARM Director Division 5

IN SARM'S 115 PLUS YEAR HISTORY, I am one of only three women who have been elected as a Division Director and I am currently the only female Director on the Board. I entered municipal government as an RM Councillor in 1994, with a goal of helping to ensure our municipality remained a great place for people to live, work, and play, while not forgetting my favorite phrase, "we are open for business". I was elected the Reeve of Corman Park in 2012 and joined the SARM Board in 2014. While my initial goal from 1994 remains the same, I also want to help promote the importance of women in politics and specifically rural politics. I find myself resonating with Sheryl Sandberg as she stated: "In the future there will be no female leaders, there will just be leaders."

According to the Canadian Women's Foundation, women make up just over half of Canada's population, but are consistently underrepresented across the political and professional spheres. Women fill a mere 26% of the seats in the House of Commons, Provincial and Municipal governments. Back in 2016 the rural female election rate was merely 7% of all elected. In 2019 the election rate decreased to a 6% presence amongst the municipal members. 2020 saw an increase of the female presence with 82 of the 942 rural municipal candidates being female, that was nearly 9%. However, coming into 2021, only 6% of those holding elected council seats in Saskatchewan rural municipalities were female, and of the 296 Reeve positions within the 296 RMs, only 5% of those were held by females. Since 2016, the female presence has nearly held steady at 6% amongst RM councils.

Women can make a difference and should get involved at the rural municipal level. Being one of a few current female reeves I can say that I am working diligently to try to make a difference. I am proud to be the reeve of the largest RM in the province by population. The RM of Corman Park currently sits at approximately 9,000 residents, which is twice the size of the next largest RM in Saskatchewan. We need more female representation around our council tables and on our committees to help ensure we are making decisions that best represent all those living within rural municipal boundaries.

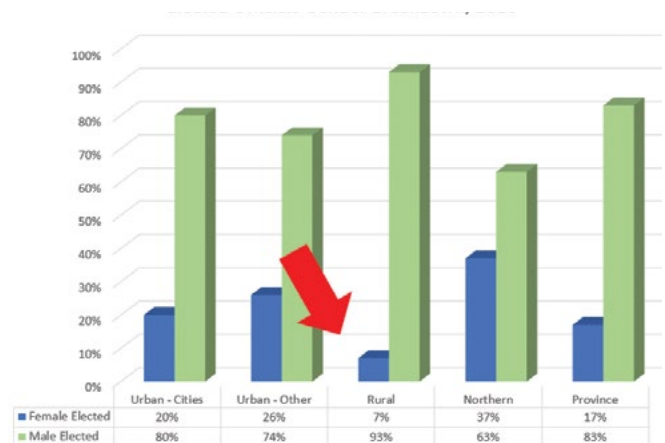
Elected officials should accurately reflect the population they serve, this way they have a better understanding of the programs and services that will benefit their population. It's easy to see rural politics benefiting from encouraging and electing more women to municipal government. It is imperative that we continue to promote and support women who have the initiative and take on the challenge of rural politics.

It has been proven that women are better at multitasking and are generally more open to communication and discussion than our male counterparts. Which means we usually talk through problems. In my experience, these qualities are appreciated and extremely useful around our council table.

If you are interested in pursuing an elected position on council, I would recommend talking to the provincial ministry that oversees local government to find out more. I would also recommend talking to local council members who are willing to share their experiences and provide guidance where they can. If you aren't quite ready for a role as Reeve or Councillor, there are other ways to get involved such as internal and external committees of council.

If you would like to discuss, in further detail, my experience and/or learn more about getting involved at the rural municipal level, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at my email: Division5@sarm.ca. The first step can be the hardest.

ELECTED OFFICIALS GENDER BREAKDOWN, 2016





Minister's Message

By the Honourable Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities for the invitation to bring greetings, in my new role as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, in Rural Councillor magazine. I look forward to working with SARM and ensuring that our province and its residents continue to have access to a fair, impartial justice system and that Saskatchewan's traditional, constitutional rights are protected.

Crime in rural Saskatchewan is of particular concern to me and the Government of Saskatchewan. Several initiatives are currently being led by both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Corrections and Policing (under the Honourable Christine Tell). These include the launch of a new Major Crimes Unit, which will focus on prosecuting the most serious, complex cases, including homicides, attempted homicides, aggravated assaults, and home invasions.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is also expanding the appointment of private lawyers as prosecutions agents to handle more straightforward matters, which will allow Crown prosecutors to prioritize complex cases involving serious offences.

As well, through The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2009, the government is authorized to forfeit property that has been acquired through unlawful activity. Between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, alone, the Civil Forfeiture program successfully completed 124 administrative forfeitures and 27 court-ordered forfeitures. It also oversaw the distribution of over \$2 million to victims of crime, community public safety initiatives, and police service operations.

On January 1, 2022, The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2019 came into force, placing the onus on individuals seeking private property access to obtain permission before entering private areas.

On May 18, 2022, further amendments came into force under Bill 40, The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022, which targets repeat trespassing and raises fines up to a maximum of \$25,000 for repeat offenders and to \$200,000 for businesses that assist or direct others to trespass on private property. In rare cases, imprisonment terms of up to six months may be imposed for first or subsequent trespassing offences. Landowners are also allowed to pursue civil court actions against trespassers without providing proof that damage occurred on their property.



Federal gun legislation is another key priority. Bill C-21, reintroduced by the federal government this past spring, withdraws important rights from lawful gun owners. At the same time, in other parallel legislation, the federal government has eliminated mandatory minimum sentences for several serious firearms-related offences. This makes no sense. Saskatchewan was not properly consulted on Bill C-21, and we are currently reviewing all options to oppose the legislation and mitigate its harmful effects on lawful firearms owners in our province.

As a government, we oppose on principle the federal handgun freeze and buy-back program under Bill C-21. Like many policing officials, we believe these initiatives will not stop violent crimes in our communities and that the funds would be better employed supporting law enforcement initiatives aimed, for example, at tackling gangs and violent offenders.

Everyone in Saskatchewan has the right to live, work and raise a family in a safe community.

To that end, Saskatchewan's Gang Violence Reduction Strategy focuses on the intervention, suppression and prevention of gang activity. The Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety has expanded the Dedicated Substance Abuse Treatment Unit (DSATU) to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre, a program that

has successfully operated at the Regina Correctional Centre since 2008. To further tackle gang violence, in 2022-23, the Government of Saskatchewan will invest \$1.46 million in the Community Intervention Model program, which is designed

to help high-risk, gang-affiliated individuals leave gang-life and become successful members of their communities.

Everyone in Saskatchewan has the right to live, work and raise a family in a safe community. It is a top priority for me, in my new role, to address crime across our province and canvas innovative solutions. Please feel free to reach out with your ideas and concerns. I look forward to future discussions with SARM and its members. Thank you for everything you do!

*We'll meet
you there*

with flexible weed and brush control



When you need easy-to-use vegetation management for a wide range of locations, Bayer is ready with proven solutions you can trust. Navius FLEX® provides effective, extended results for oil and gas sites, roadsides, electrical and railway rights-of-way. With two different modes of action, this all-in-one product controls more than 43 types of broadleaf weeds and encroaching brush — including invasive species and noxious weeds like wild parsnip, wild chervil, leafy spurge and more.

Will Roberts

Territory Sales Manager | Ontario and Atlantic Canada | 226-821-5845 | will.roberts@bayer.com

es.bayer.ca 1-888-283-6847



Minister's Message

By the Honourable Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

I AM HAPPY TO HIGHLIGHT a few of the many recent Saskatchewan success stories in this edition of the Rural Councillor.

Since first being elected as the MLA for Rosetown-Elrose in 2007, I have served as Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, Minister of Government Relations, Minister of Health, Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement, and now Minister of Energy and Resources.

My roles in both provincial and municipal government have helped form my perspective when it comes to rural Saskatchewan issues. This certainly applies to my new role as Saskatchewan's Minister of Energy and Resources, where I am being shown again that the industries located in rural Saskatchewan are truly the backbone of our province.

I have seen up close just how important our natural resource sectors are for our rural communities, and vice versa. Industry in our province provides tens of thousands

of jobs and contributes to quality of life in the areas they operate. This is not only from taxes and royalties, but also through actively working with these communities, investing in infrastructure, donating to local organizations, funding events, and so on.

There is so much good news coming out of our resource sectors as of late, it has been an exciting time to take on this

Industry in our province provides tens of thousands of jobs and contributes to quality of life in the areas they operate.

role. This includes some great projects in the works in our oil and gas sector. Independent Energy Corp's 16,000 bbls per day refinery in Kerrobert that is nearing completion. Genalta Power and Flying

Dust First Nation's Kopahawakenum Flare to Power Facility near Coleville, which represents an anticipated capital investment of \$30 million, is expected to open in 2023.

The Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) is disbursing millions of dollars to Saskatchewan based oil and gas service companies to conduct abandonment and reclamation work on inactive oil and gas well sites and facilities across the province.

The program has been tremendously successful, and as of June 30th of this year, approximately \$379 million has been issued in program work packages and \$270 million has been paid out to Saskatchewan-based contractors for completed program work. This program has also supported indigenous contractors with over \$18 million spent through the Indigenous Credit Pool. As of June 2022, the ASCP has maintained or created 1288 full-time equivalent jobs in the oil and gas service sector.



Municipal Sector Governance (MS.Gov)

3-Day Online Program | Includes Live Webinars, Engaging Videos & Interactive Activities

Make the most of your community and your term in office.

Join experienced facilitators and your peers from around Saskatchewan to explore relevant topics, and gain valuable insight and tools that will enhance your understanding of municipal governance. Earn your designation and help make your municipality a better place to live and work!

Certified by the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan, this program is designed for elected officials and senior staff members.

www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/ms.gov

Explore topics such as: Legal & Legislative Matters

• Roles & Responsibilities • Monitoring & Reporting
• Risk Management • Financial & Infrastructure Stewardship • Council & Organizational Culture • Conflict of Interest • and more!



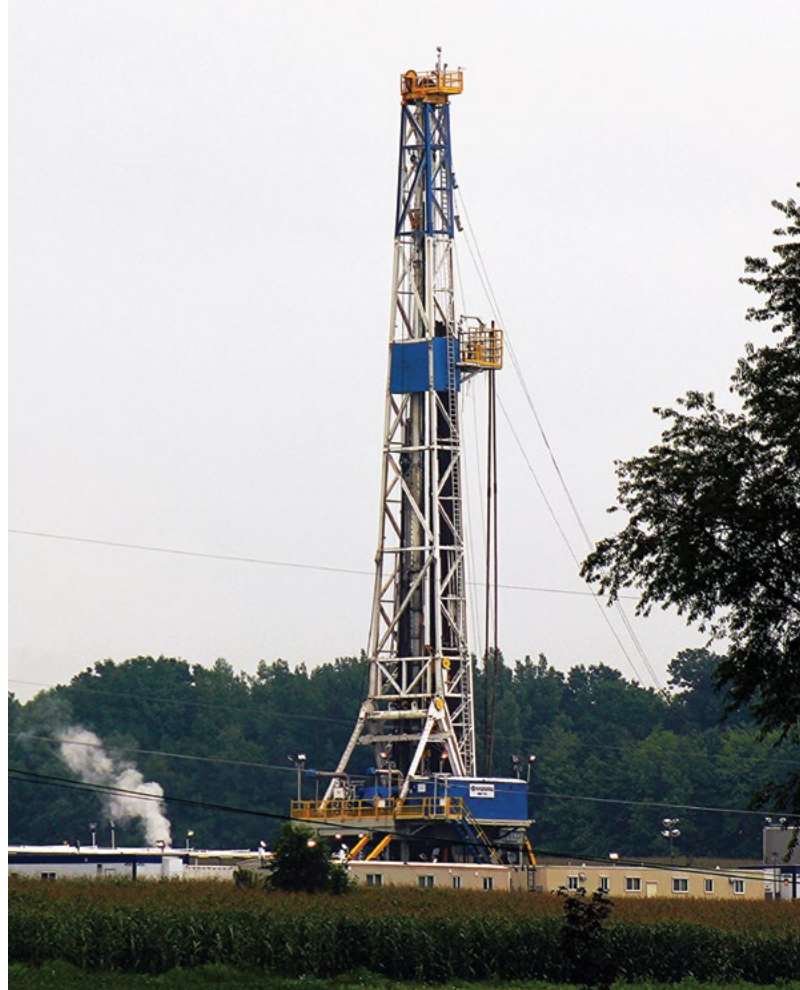
**JOHNSON
SHOYAMA**

In response to the growing demand and escalating concern around global food security, Saskatchewan's potash sector is ramping up production. The Mosaic Company, K+S Potash Canada and Nutrien Ltd. have all announced planned potash production increases at their Saskatchewan facilities. This will lead to roughly 570 new jobs in our potash sector. As well, BHP is looking to accelerate the timeframe for the construction of its \$12 billion Jansen project, which is expected to create around 3,500 jobs annually during construction and over 600 direct jobs once in operation.

Saskatchewan's forestry sector is expected to spend over \$1 billion in new capital investments between 2021 and 2024, representing over 80% of the Government of Saskatchewan Growth Plan goal to double the size of the forestry sector by 2030. Combined these projects will generate up to \$900 million in increased forest products sales and create approximately 1,430 direct jobs and 1,670 indirect jobs.

We are also very excited to be entering many emerging energy and resources sectors such as helium, lithium, and geothermal. Saskatchewan currently has nine active helium wells, with expectations of several more by the end of 2022. The largest helium purification facility in Canada opened near Battle Creek in Saskatchewan in 2021 and is operated by North American Helium. Saskatchewan is home to Canada's first geothermal facility of its scale, Deep Earth Energy Production, near Estevan. As well, Prairie Lithium uses their first-of-its-kind technology to extract lithium from oilfield brines in southern Saskatchewan and will eventually concentrate and refine their products here.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, we thank our rural communities and natural resource work force. We know you will continue to help grow Saskatchewan.



**Whatever it takes to
DIG. TOW. LIFT.**

Merlo telehandlers perform a multitude of tasks, making it a great addition to any jobsite or farm.

Contact your Redhead Equipment Territory Manager or
»»» **RYAN KUN | 306.721.2666**

AGRICULTURAL | CONSTRUCTION | TRUCKS & TRAILERS
redheadequipment.ca

Redhead EQUIPMENT



Facing Forward!

2022 RMAA Convention Report

By Rose Zimmer
RMAA Executive Director

ADMINISTRATORS FROM ACROSS the province gathered in Regina at the Double-Tree Hotel to attend the 102nd Rural Municipal Administrators' Association Annual Convention. There was a lot of ground to be covered since we last gathered in person in 2019.

We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the association, which was postponed from 2020, we acknowledged the issuance of 82 new 'C' certificates and welcomed a significant number of those recipients in person. It was our pleasure to present advanced certificates to 36 members, present 25-year pins to four members, and to acknowledge the retirement of 34 members, many of whom were in attendance.

On Wednesday evening, the RMAA bestowed its highest honour, the Lou Jacob's Award, to Rodney Schoettler, CEO of SMHI at the annual banquet. Many previous winners were in attendance for the celebration. Top-notch musical entertainment by Justin LaBrash and True North was a special anniversary treat for our members and guests.

Highlights of the week included a spectacular keynote presentation by Linda Edgcombe sponsored by SMHI, updates on the TSS Municipal Inspection program, the Peer Mentorship presentation and the MEPP presentation.

Workshops given by Government Relations and Community Planning covered a wide range of topics including elections, public disclosure statements, road maintenance agreements, council procedure by-laws, special meetings, conflict of interest, grants, and online resources.

A Building Bylaw Seminar presented by Building Standards and an Employee Relations Seminar presented by the SARM legal team armed our members with lots of information to take back to their municipalities.



After the division meetings, a resolution was put forth to prepare an amendment to the Professional Development Bylaw. Currently, members with 25 years or more of service have a reduced number of continuing education hours to meet the requirement of certification.

Our members recognize the importance of continuing education to keep current with all the changes in local government administration and have asked that the reduction of hours be eliminated so that all members regardless of years of service be required to have the same number of hours.

Professional Development is a key part of an administrator's success and is of great benefit to the municipalities they serve. It is very disheartening when I hear from a member that their employing council does not want them to attend workshops or conventions.

Councils should know that it is a requirement of the MA and the RMAA Acts to have this certification.



To maintain certification status, a number of continuing education hours are required. I encourage councils to discuss this with their administrators and to ensure they are supported to attend all pertinent workshops and conventions. This will enhance the operations of your municipality and benefit those we serve.

We look forward to the 2023 convention, which will take place in Saskatoon.



FOIP IN REAL TIME: ACCESS AND PRIVACY TRAINING FOR SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC BODIES



A virtual series that presents the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP/LAFOIP) not just as legislative rules, but as a working program.



Participants will be engaged in applying FOIP/LAFOIP to real life, topical situations and problems, facilitated by seasoned and expert course leaders with decades of FOIP/LAFOIP program and training experience.



We aim to equip participants with knowledge and strategies to implement FOIP/LAFOIP in a way that supports and builds trust between your organization and the community it serves!

Visit www.cenera.ca to register today!

403.290.0466 | info@cenera.ca | www.cenera.ca

I Rely On You To Keep My Little Part Of The World Clean.



By recycling used oil, filters, antifreeze, their plastic containers and DEF containers, you help keep Saskatchewan's water, land and air clean and safe. We have one of the best recycling networks in the country, let's use it.

We have 37 EcoCentres and nearly 100 drop-off points province wide.



Saskatchewan Association for
Resource Recovery Corp.

usedoilrecyclingsk.com
Toll free in SK 1.877.645.7275



Planning the Future of Rural Infrastructure

By Taneen Rudyk

President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities



MUNICIPALITIES OWN NEARLY two-thirds of the core infrastructure assets that are critical to Canadians' quality of life and the economic sectors that keep our country competitive, from agriculture to manufacturing to the energy sector. Whether it's building bridges, water and wastewater systems or local community, cultural and recreation facilities, local governments have a strong track record of stretching every dollar and delivering innovative solutions to local needs. But with limited fiscal capacity and costs going up, rural municipalities rely on support from other orders of government to build and maintain the infrastructure and services communities need to grow and thrive.

In collaboration with Provincial and Territorial Associations like SARM, and with the leadership of FCM's Rural Forum, we've been able to secure landmark federal support for rural infrastructure priorities, including the \$2.75 billion Universal Broadband Fund, the first dedicated fund for rural transportation, and the doubling of the Canada Community-Building Fund (formerly the federal Gas Tax Fund) in 2019 and 2021. We were also successful in advocating for Infrastructure Canada to adopt a "rural lens" to ensure that new programs and policies take into consideration the unique needs of rural communities.

This work sets us up well for the next several years as we enter a period of transition for several important federal infrastructure funding agreements. This includes renegotiation of the 10-year Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) agreements, and the sunset of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

This is an opportunity to reinforce our call for new and expanded federal funding programs that will benefit rural communities and demonstrate a more modern, innovative federal-municipal partnership. FCM will continue to call for a permanent doubling of the CCBF, support for broadband for the hardest-to-reach areas, additional funding for water and wastewater infrastructure, a new Energy Community Infrastructure Fund, which was a recommendation from our Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST), and other rural priorities.

Beyond funding levels, the next generation of federal infrastructure programs needs to reflect the realities of communities of all sizes. That's why FCM is taking a pro-active approach to ensure our recommendations to government incorporate our own "rural lens".

That starts with long-term, predictable funding for local infrastructure priorities. Funding delivered through direct allocation like the CCBF is critical, but where that's not feasible, application processes need to be as simple and streamlined as possible. Getting these details right could make a big difference for small communities, leading to stronger economic development, improved community resilience, and better quality of life for rural Canadians.

Reshaping of the federal infrastructure landscape will require the on-the-ground insight of municipalities of all sizes. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with you and SARM to bring your voices to this work in Ottawa.

FCM's Rural Forum

FCM's Rural Forum was established in 2001 with a mandate to advocate for rural communities and provide local governments in rural areas with greater access to FCM. Forum members are our board and committee members from rural communities across Canada, as well as a few urban communities with a significant rural land base or interest. All the Provincial and Territorial Association Presidents are members of the Forum and speak on behalf of their members who wouldn't otherwise be at the table. SARM President Ray Orb is a long-serving past-Chair of the Forum, and currently serves on it along with SARM Vice-President Bill Huber.

The Rural Forum meets a minimum of three times a year to identify and discuss issues of national significance for rural Canada, including rural infrastructure, economic development, and broadband connectivity. The Forum also advocates directly to federal leaders like the Minister of Rural Economic Development and the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities on member priorities.

FCM's Rural Forum continues to set an ambitious agenda for our federal advocacy in 2022-23. With the united voice of rural communities from coast to coast to coast we'll continue to champion you and work to ensure you have the tools you need to strengthen your communities—and build a better Canada.

Taneen Rudyk is President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Councillor for the Town of Vegreville, Alberta. FCM is the national voice of Canada's local governments, with more than 2,000 members representing 90 percent of Canadians.

Why Clubroot Remains a Declared Pest in Saskatchewan

CLUBROOT IS A SOIL-BORNE DISEASE of cruciferous crops, including canola, that causes deformed, swollen roots (galls) which restrict the plant's ability to obtain water and nutrients from the soil. If not properly managed, clubroot can cause significant yield loss, as high as 30 to 100 per cent in fields with severe infestations. This suggests that clubroot poses a significant threat to the Saskatchewan canola industry.

Resting spores are the main survival structures of the clubroot pathogen. They are extremely resilient to harsh environmental conditions and can survive in the soil for years. Clubroot was first identified on canola in Alberta, in 12 fields in Sturgeon County in 2003. By 2020, more than 3,000 fields in Alberta with confirmed clubroot infestations had been reported, meaning the pathogen can spread rapidly. Managing the disease is challenging and most cultural or chemical control methods are either not practical or too expensive to implement. The deployment of clubroot-resistant canola cultivars has been the most convenient and cost-effective way to manage the disease, but the recent identification of novel pathotypes capable of overcoming this resistance represents an additional challenge to clubroot management.

By Alireza Akhavan

PhD, AAg, Provincial Specialist—Plant Disease; Crops and Irrigation Branch, Regina,

Raul Avila

MSc, PAg, Provincial Specialist—Pest; Crops and Irrigation Branch, Regina, Homa Askarian, PhD, AAg, Research Specialist—Crops; Agriculture Research Branch, Regina



Clubroot was declared a pest under The Pest Control Act in 2009 in Saskatchewan to strengthen clubroot surveillance, prevention, and control in the province. To date, clubroot visible symptoms have only been officially confirmed in 80 commercial canola fields in 29 Rural Municipalities (RMs) in Saskatchewan. This still suggests a relatively limited spread of the disease in the province and underlines the need to continue monitoring and managing clubroot effectively. Rural Municipalities have authority under The Pest Control Act to undertake prevention and enforcement measures related to the spread and control of the disease.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is committed to a science-based and farmer-driven approach to clubroot regulation and to working with RMs to develop effective and consistent management plans. The key to clubroot management is to keep pathogen levels low to minimize yield loss. This can be accomplished through an integrated approach that includes extended crop rotations (a minimum of a three-year rotation which is a two-year break from canola and other cruciferous crops) and the use of clubroot-resistant varieties, regardless of whether clubroot is confirmed in the area. In areas and fields where clubroot and/or the clubroot pathogen are not known to be present, the spread or introduction of clubroot can be minimized by limiting soil movement.

Producers and agrologists who wish to test for clubroot can sign up for a free soil test at <https://agsurveys.gov.sk.ca/s3/2022-Clubroot-Monitoring-Program>. The testing kit comes with a brochure on how to collect a sample and where to mail it. The 2021 Clubroot Distribution in Saskatchewan Map is also available for anyone who wants to know where cases have been confirmed (<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/crops-and-irrigation/disease/clubroot-of-canola>).



Timely delivery of maintenance was a major priority for the Agency in 2022, and SAMA delivered maintenance on time to 97.81% of our client municipalities.

SAMA is working on 36,311 agricultural property reviews in 24 RMs. The Agency is also working on 22,952 residential/resort property reviews and 13,542 commercial, industrial, and industrial flowline property reviews in both rural and urban municipalities.

It is time to start preparing for the 2023 assessment rolls. Please sign in to MySAMA to submit your maintenance requests for your 2023 roll. To sign up for MySAMA, please contact your local SAMA office.

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.

Strychnine Alternatives

By James A Tansey, Provincial Specialist Insect/Pest Management

Richard Wilkins, Provincial Specialist Pesticide Regulatory

Raul Avilla, Provincial Specialist Pest Regulatory

Brooke Fiala, Crop and Lab Field Technician

THE BEST RODENTICIDE for Richardson's ground squirrel control in prairie agricultural settings was thought to be strychnine. In large part because of environmental concerns, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada has issued a final decision to de-register strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control. Given the great damage this pest can cause, its status as a regulated pest in Saskatchewan, and pending loss of an effective control product, solutions for and recommendations to the agriculture community are needed.

Several products are registered to control Richardson's ground squirrels (Table 1). The Ministry of Agriculture, Crops and Irrigation and Regional Services Branches, in collaboration with Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Plant Health Officers, and Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, completed a comparative study to evaluate the relative efficacies of strychnine and several registered alternatives.



| Product | Registration number | Active Ingredient | Toxicant effect | Formulation | Notable considerations |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate | 30433 | Strychnine | Respiratory failure | Liquid concentrate. Requires mixing with grain bait to achieve 0.4% application concentration | Deregistration decision March 2021. Last permitted use March 2023 |
| Burrow Oat Bait | 24795 | Zinc phosphide | Central nervous system depressant | Coated oats | Pre-baiting recommended but not required |
| ZP Rodent Oat Bait AG | 29030 | Zinc phosphide | Central nervous system depressant | Coated oats | Pre-baiting recommended but not required |
| Rozol RTU Field Rodent Bait | 29545 | Chlorophacinone | Anticoagulant | Pellet | Re-baiting required after 48 hours. Third baiting may be required |
| Ramik Green | 11669 | Diphacinone | Anticoagulant | Pellet | Re-baiting required after 48 hours |

Table 1. Products registered for use to control Richardson's ground squirrel populations in Canada and tested for efficacy and non-target effects as part of this study.

Sites characterized by high Richardson's ground squirrel populations in grassland and pasture systems were chosen in Saskatchewan (Rural Municipality of Maple Creek) and Alberta (Municipal District of Willow Creek). Sites were scouted before establishment to ensure thriving Richardson's ground squirrel populations. Sites were established in April 2022 by staking 0.16 ha (40 m x 40 m) plots. A central stake was equipped with two low-latency game cameras, capable of night-vision. The combined fields of view of both cameras covered the entire plot.

Live Richardson's ground squirrels were counted daily pre-application to determine baseline numbers, and post-application for one week to evaluate reductions in populations. In addition, the entirety of all plots was walked daily to detect any dead Richardson's ground squirrel or non-target species. An additional perimeter of 10 m around each plot was also walked daily. All anti-coagulant treatment (Rozol RTU and Ramik Green) sites received second applications.

No non-target mortality was observed for any treatment.

Significant reductions in on-site Richardson's ground squirrel populations were found for all toxicant treatments. On the Saskatchewan sites, comparable Richardson's ground squirrel control was achieved with strychnine bait and with the zinc phosphide products. On Alberta sites, no differences in control were detected among toxicants.

Costs of each product per acre, applied at maximum label rate, were calculated based on observed densities of 25 holes per 1600 square metre plot size. Zinc phosphide products were the least, and anticoagulants were the most expensive. Rozol RTU, can require three applications for efficacy, meaning that costs for this product could be \$44.19 per acre.

| Product | \$ per acre |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate | 12.97 |
| Burrow oat bait | 4.54 |
| ZP Rodent oat bait AG | 8.8 |
| Rozol RTU Field Rodent Bait | 14.73 |
| Ramik Green | 10.6 |

Table 2. Application costs comparison calculation for the registered Richardson's ground squirrel control products tested. Rozol and Ramik can require multiple applications. Costs are per application.



An important consideration with all baits is timing. Best results are achieved if baits are applied as Richardson's ground squirrels are emerging from overwintering, before spring green-up. This can be as early as late February in some regions. Once there is a selection of green growth, bait acceptance can be reduced. In the case of anti-coagulants, fresh plant material, particularly legumes, provide RGS with vitamin K. This is the antidote for anticoagulants. Strychnine and zinc phosphide have no antidotes.

Concerns over the de-registration of strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control have been expressed by many growers in a year that is becoming increasingly characterized by high pest populations and pressures. However, alternative products are available and effective.

Unpaid Oil and Gas Property Taxes

Creating Awareness

UNPAID PROPERTY TAXES by oil and gas companies not only impact Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, but also other rural residents and businesses.

The Ministry of Government Relations, SARM and Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA) are working together to raise awareness about the use of existing authority in municipal legislation to collect arrears of taxes. The focus is to provide more information to rural municipal officials about tax arrears enforcement provisions in municipal legislation, and how they might be used more effectively to collect unpaid property taxes, including from oil and gas operators.

WHY CREATE AWARENESS?

Rural municipalities are in the best position to address this issue either individually or by working together to use their authority to require operators to pay current and historical property taxes. The municipal legislation provides several tools to collect unpaid taxes.

Did you know?
Saskatchewan Municipal Legislation provides municipalities with several measures to collect arrears of taxes from oil and gas producers.

TOOLS IN THE LEGISLATION

Municipal legislation provides several measures to collect arrears of taxes including specific measures related to oil and gas producers.

The Municipalities Act (the Act) allows municipalities to:

- Place liens on property including equipment that is subject to property taxes and sue companies for tax arrears. (See section 320 of the Act)
- Collect rent, insurance proceeds and seize goods (sometimes called distress or distraint) to collect unpaid taxes. (See sections 321, 322 and 323 of the Act)
- When using distress, a municipality may issue a warrant to a bailiff to seize goods located anywhere within the municipality to recover tax arrears together with costs, as long as 30 days have passed since the tax notice is mailed or delivered to the person liable to pay the tax or if before the 30 days has expired. (See sections 323 to 335)

- Obtain an order from a Justice of the Peace authorizing a distress warrant when there is reason to believe goods are about to be moved out of the municipality. (See section 325(2))

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY REGARDING OIL AND GAS ARREARS

For oil and gas arrears, a municipality may collect oil and gas well tax arrears from amounts owing to the well operator by the purchaser of the oil and/or gas. Here, the municipality is permitted to serve notice directly to the purchaser that amounts owing should be paid to the municipality before the well operator is paid. (see section 317)

- Rural Municipalities (RMs) are encouraged to contact The Ministry of Energy and Resources service desk either by phone: 306-798- 9507 or email (er.servicedesk@gov.sk.ca) with a request for oil purchaser information
- RMs are asked to submit their requests on letterhead identifying the following:
 - » Rural Municipality and include the company they are trying to collect from and the timeframe the company is in arrears
 - » Well licence number(s) and/or detailed land description include the legal subdivision
 - » Section, Township, Range and meridian
- Several RMs are familiar with and have tried the demand letter approach or have found success simply by notifying the company in arrears that they have the authority to contact and payment from purchasers. Officials are encouraged to contact their RM colleagues.

The existing municipal authority to license business activity in the municipality and set terms and conditions on licenses could be used to require oil and gas producers to provide a list of purchasers to obtain local business license. (see Section 8)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about the collection of oil and gas arrears can be found in this well written and easy to understand article by Saskatoon lawyer Kim Anderson:

Non-Title Tax Enforcement by Saskatchewan Municipalities
(linked with permission of the author)

Please stay tuned to The Weekly Policy Bulletin, The Rural Sheaf and The Rural Councillor for more information, and stay tuned for future SARM and RMAA events regarding this issue.

Procurement Can Benefit Your Community and Save You Money

By Shelby Piel

RIRG Administration Support



THESE DAYS, EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR ways that they can save a few dollars. From grocery prices to fertilizers, rising costs of living have affected everyone. Municipalities are especially aware of the increase in costs associated with maintaining their communities, which is why the topic of procurement is of chief importance for RMs. According to The New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), it is a requirement for Municipalities to conduct procurements for goods, services, and construction, and failure to do so properly can have legal implications. Mitigation of legal risk aside, though, procurement is advantageous for many other reasons.

There are certainly challenges that accompany procurement, but the process can benefit Municipalities in several areas. One of the ways it is useful is that it aids in finding reputable vendors. Understandably, Municipalities will often wish to hire the same contractor year after year as they have provided them with quality work in the past, and thus become their preferred choice. Procurement provides the RM with an opportunity to find a new favorite, particularly if their evaluation criteria have been well developed.

In the same respect, public procurement can confirm that their preferred choice was indeed their best choice. Finding a qualified and reputable vendor is important, and procurement is the first step toward these ends.

As mentioned, procurement is also extremely useful in providing cost savings for goods and services. Conducting procurements on behalf of an RM, specifically, means that there is a responsibility to ensure ratepayers get the best value for their money. Fortunately, procurement is an ongoing process, and Municipalities are therefore provided with opportunities to continually improve. If the results of a tender are unsatisfactory, this means that changes can be made to evaluation criteria to help with future tender results. This is the sort of thing that is learned over time, through trial and error. If you feel as though your Municipality has not received the best value for their money in the past, there is still opportunity to improve your procurement criteria and processes.

Administrators, Reeves, and RM Councils (as well as others participating in public procurement) are often not trained in procurement specifically, and for those reasons it can feel daunting to undertake a public tender. At SARM, we want to ensure that our members feel confident that they will get the best value for their time and money. Our Member Purchasing department is always happy to answer questions, assist with developing evaluation criteria, and even offer a suite of vendor programs that have already been properly procured. This saves RMs the time, money, and hassle of conducting their own public process. Additionally, SARM will be offering a day-long Procurement Bootcamp wherein RM Administrators will be able to register to attend expert coaching sessions with an industry leader in this area to gain practical, hands-on tools to build the confidence and skill needed for conducting public procurements. Check out the information about SARM's midterm convention to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

COMPACTION EQUIPMENT
RENTALS
YOUR COMPACTION EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER!



548 Bourquin Rd, Estevan, SK
conquestequipment.net
(306) 994-2400
sales@conquestequipment.ca



SARM Coverage for *Fire Departments, Fire Fighters and Fire Volunteers*

By Colin Warnecke

Manager of Risk Management

SARM offers a variety of benefit plans for fire safety personnel, providing support to well-deserving emergency service workers in the province. These coverage options are available to Volunteer Fire Departments, Firefighters and Fire Volunteers.

PROPERTY COVERAGE

For RMs which are insured through the Property Self-Insurance Program (PSIP), coverage can be obtained for all buildings, equipment and vehicles owned by the RM for the purpose of its own Volunteer Fire Department. As fire vehicles are not required to be licensed for travel within the Province of Saskatchewan, they can be insured through PSIP. For the purposes of due diligence, we would recommend contacting SGI to confirm the specifics around this point. That said, SARM currently insures several unlicensed fire vehicles through PSIP.

COMMANDEERED EQUIPMENT COVERAGE

With respect to equipment belonging to ratepayers which could be commandeered by a RM in the event of an emergency, such as a grass fire, our insurance plans address coverage for “Commandeered Equipment” by allowing RMs to add a blanket limit for “Commandeered Equipment” onto their PSIP Mobile Equipment Schedule. This would cover equipment, up to the limit you choose, that your RM takes on for sudden, short term use, in an emergency type situation. The rate for this is the same as all of your other equipment, \$0.306 / \$100 of coverage.

Whether your Council decided to have coverage for “Commandeered Equipment” or not, and what limit to have on that coverage, is ultimately up to them. There are currently two dozen or so RMs insured by the program who choose to carry a limit for this coverage. The limits carried vary widely from under \$100,000 to \$1,500,000.

“Commandeered Equipment” would only apply to equipment acquired by a RM in emergency situations and not in rental situations. Where equipment is rented, the individual piece of equipment would be scheduled and insured only for the duration of the rental period.

Keep in mind that equipment acquired in an emergency situation from another RM would already be covered by their insurance (either through PSIP, SGI or another carrier). The same goes for equipment acquired from a contractor. It too would likely be insured though an insurance company. Insured equipment would be covered by the owner’s policy, even if it is damaged while in use by your RM, however that insurance company may still come after the RM to cover the cost of the damage if they feel the RM is responsible.

Where coverage for “Commandeered Equipment” really would come into play is either for equipment not insured elsewhere or from equipment borrowed from a ratepayer that is insured on their Agro policy. Agro policies don’t cover farm equipment being used for commercial purposes, which could potentially leave a ratepayer uninsured for a piece of equipment being utilized by the RM, if it was damaged.

While one would think that coverage for “Commandeered Equipment” might fall under the RM’s liability coverage, this is not the case. All liability policies exclude coverage for property in the Care, Custody and Control of the Insured. When a piece of equipment is commandeered by a RM in an emergency, it is effectively under the Care, Custody and Control of the RM, who is the insured on their own liability policy. Hypothetically speaking, if a RM was to cause a grass fire by its own negligence, and that grass fire burned down a ratepayer’s shop, that damage would be covered by the RM’s liability policy. However, if that same ratepayer was called on by a RM to

help plow a fire break and the ratepayer’s tractor got caught in the fire and burned down, there would be no coverage for the damage to the tractor as it was being used as a part of the RM’s operations. This is where the coverage offered by PSIP comes into play.

For more information regarding these coverages, please contact Lisa Shordee at 306-761-3732 or property@sarm.ca

LIABILITY COVERAGE

Liability insurance is meant to protect against a liability claim made by a third party who has been injured or who has had their property damaged and it was allegedly caused by the RM (or in this case a volunteer firefighter, in the event a claim is made against them for something they did while acting on the RM’s behalf.) The liability insurance isn’t meant to cover injuries to the volunteer firefighters themselves.

Under the SARM Liability Self-Insurance Plan, the following portion of the Definition of an Insured from the Policy is what serves to bring a volunteer within the RM’s coverage as an “unnamed insured”. As the definition indicates, coverage under the RM’s policy only applies “while acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of the RM”.

iii) any appointee, volunteer or other person performing a duty for and at the request of or with the authorization of the municipality, whether remunerated or not, except for pest control officers and mere contractors with the municipality;

Provided that the RM has named the volunteer fire department and its members as the provider of fire protection services in a resolution of council or a bylaw, they would be covered by the RM’s Liability coverage. This coverage would only apply while the members of the volunteer fire department are acting within the scope of their duties for the RM (i.e. providing fire protection for the RM, including on Mutual



Aid calls outside of your municipality), as per the definition of an insured from page 25 of the LSIP wording.

With respect to individuals being “tapped on the shoulder” at the scene of a fire to assist in fighting it, for the purposes of liability coverage only, we would consider those people to be a volunteer. As such, we would cover them in the event that they were sued, along with the Volunteer Fire Department and/or the RM itself, for property damage or bodily injury allegedly caused as a result of their actions while on duty for the RM.

BODILY INJURY COVERAGE FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

With respect to volunteer fire fighters who become hurt while fighting a fire for the RM, that is what the Group Coverage for Elected and Appointed Officials under the SARM Benefits Plan is meant to cover. This coverage is optional within the SARM Benefits Plan and is offered at three different salary levels, \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000. Here are few points to keep in mind about this Group Coverage:

- The officials must be named in your minutes, designated as an elected or appointed official. (A resolution appointing them as volunteer firefighters for the RM, for example.)
- They must be age 18 or over.

- This group coverage is a top-up to Workers’ Compensation. In the event of a claim to the SARM Benefits Plan for disability benefits, a claim must also be made to WCB. Any WCB benefits received are deducted from the payment from the SARM Benefits Plan. The SARM Plan pays disability benefits to the RM at 80% of the selected annual coverage amount (\$30K, \$40K or \$50K) calculated to a daily rate, less WCB.
- The group coverage is restricted to disability benefits, the death benefit, and the accidental death and dismemberment benefit; and is limited to an injury or death occurring while they are engaged in official municipal business.

Since 2019, there are additional benefits available under the Group Elected and Appointed Officials coverage. Individuals falling under this category now have access to an Employee Family Assistance Program and coverage of up to \$1,500 per incident for Medical Expenses not otherwise covered elsewhere related to responding to an incident as a First Responder.

As well, if your RM’s Volunteer Fire Fighters are named in a council resolution as being appointed to the volunteer fire department, they would also be eligible for

the Extended Health & Dental plan offered through SARM. As an Elected or Appointed official, they could join at the same coverage level as the RM employee group and coverage would be 100% optional for each individual member.

For more information regarding these coverages, please contact Jodi Hughes at 306-761-3727 or jhughes@sarm.ca.

BODILY INJURY COVERAGE FOR RATEPAYERS ASSISTING AT FIRES

With respect to coverage for individuals who help fight fires, (i.e. farmers, rate-payers, etc) who are not employees or appointees of the RM that are insured on our benefits plan, we have no coverage to offer them in the event that they are hurt while helping to fight a fire. Also, as these people aren’t employees, WCB coverage would not respond either. The RM would have to look for some kind of Accident Insurance Policy that covers volunteers who become injured, if this type of coverage is desired. This would be available from outside insurance companies.

I hope this information helps.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact Colin Warnecke, Manager of Risk Management, at cwarnecke@sarm.ca or call at 306.761.3946.



Weeds to Watch Out For:

Waterhemp and Palmer Amaranth

By Tayo Adegeye AAg, P.Biol.

Plant Health Officer, SARM Division 1

WATERHEMP and Palmer amaranth are pigweed species like the more commonly known redroot pigweed and green pigweed. These weeds are a huge concern to crop production- especially soybean and corn because of the known resistance to many herbicide groups, making them difficult to manage.

IDENTIFICATION

There are key features that differentiate these weeds from the other pigweed species. Waterhemp and Palmer amaranth are dioecious, meaning they have male and female plants, thereby increasing the potential to diversify. Both weeds have hairless stems, unlike the other pigweed species. The weeds also grow taller; they can grow up to 10 feet long. The plants can produce between 100,000 to 1,000,000 seeds per female plant depending on the level of crop competition as they germinate for a longer period.

Differentiating features between waterhemp and palmer amaranth are; palmer amaranth has petioles as long or longer than the leaf blades. Also, the female plant of palmer amaranth has a prickly seed head and spiny bracts.



Hairless waterhemp stem (right) and hairy redroot pigweed stem (left)

Photo: Manitoba Agriculture



From left to right: palmer amaranth long petiole, waterhemp petiole, and palmer amaranth spiny bracts

Photo: Joseph Ikley, Brian Jenks, and Tom Peters, North Dakota State University



Waterhemp with shiny hairless leaves

Photo: Manitoba Agriculture

DISTRIBUTION

The weeds are a great threat to crop production in the United States- soybean and corn especially. They have been found in bordering North Dakota and Manitoba making it very important for us to be vigilant for it in Saskatchewan.

MANAGEMENT

Herbicide timing is critical in the application of either pre or post-emergence herbicides. Pre-emergence herbicide application is useful in tackling the soil seed bank of the weeds. Post-emergence herbicides are best applied when the weeds are under four inches. Herbicide resistance is a huge problem in the management of these weeds. Resistance to groups 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 27 have been found with waterhemp. In addition to these groups, resistance to groups 3 and 10 has also been found with palmer amaranth.

Non-herbicide management methods such as tillage, crop rotation, good crop canopy, sanitation, cover crops, and hand weeding are also important.

SURVEYS IN SASKATCHEWAN

In our effort to stay vigilant, the Provincial Specialist Weed Control- Clark Brenzil and Plant Health Officers will carry out roadside surveys in south-east and south-central Saskatchewan this August looking for both weeds with a focus on waterhemp. A similar survey was done in 2020.

If you ever see or suspect waterhemp or palmer amaranth weeds please feel free to contact Clark Brenzil (306-787-4673, clark.brenzil@gov.sk.ca) or any of the Plant Health Officers (contact info).



Differences in the seed head. From left to right- waterhemp, palmer amaranth, redroot pigweed and green pigweed

Photo: Joseph Ikley, Brian Jenks, and Tom Peters, North Dakota State University



Bud's Barbecue, Ogema Photo credit: Tourism Saskatchewan

Andrew Hiltz hits the road again as Saskatchewaner

ANDREW HILTZ has come full circle since 2017, when he was selected as Saskatchewaner and spent the year exploring the province and chronicling his adventures on social media.

Back then, the program was a partnership between Tourism Saskatchewan and several provincial government ministries. Each year, a new candidate was chosen to travel the province, gather stories and share, across social media channels, the many reasons why Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work and visit.

Hiltz was later hired by Tourism Saskatchewan as a content creator. In early 2021, he was part of a team of “retro-Wanderers,” along with Ashlyn George and Kevin Dunn, who captured Saskatchewan winter content and stories.

The Saskatchewaner program has undergone changes over the years. After careful review, several improvements were recently made to give it clearer focus, make it more efficient and create greater opportunities to promote Saskatchewan tourism entrepreneurs and small-business owners. The position shifted from a yearly contract to a fulltime, permanent content creator with Tourism Saskatchewan.

Hiltz was the successful applicant, based on his expertise, experience and skills. He is a talented videographer, photographer, editor and drone pilot. His imaginative approach to storytelling has helped grow the number of Saskatchewaner social media followers to more than 137,000.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to build on the program’s legacy and on some of the groundbreaking work of my predecessors,” he said. “My mission is to make Saskatchewan people the showpiece – their work, their stories and how we thrive as a province because of the diverse voices here.”

Travelling Saskatchewan works up an appetite, and Hiltz admits to eating his way across the province. He is a champion for local products, flavours and creativity. His social media activities frequently give a shout out to chefs and restaurateurs who set a high bar on hospitality and taste. For a great Saskatchewan “foodcation,” Hiltz recommends these stops:

HARVEST EATERY AND THE BLIND BOAR, SHAUNAVON

Harvest Eatery is an award-winning restaurant that brings an inspired dining experience to the intimate rural setting. It has made Shaunavon a destination for hungry diners from far and near. Locally raised Speckle Park beef is a menu highlight. “You don’t need teeth to eat this beef. It’s that tender and delicious,” Hiltz commented after his first bite. A Fresh Market offers gourmet take and make meals, craft cocktail kits and a variety of local craft beers. The Blind Boar is a speakeasy-style lounge at the back of the restaurant.



Harvest Eatery, Shaunavon
Photo credit: Tourism Saskatchewan/Greg Huszar
Photography

SOLO ITALIA FINE PASTA, OGEMA

Solo Italia Fine Pasta brings a taste of Italy to Saskatchewan and a steady stream of visitors to Ogema. People plan road trips to savour the wood-fired Naples-style pizza that cooks in minutes. In addition to the mouth-watering pizza, delicious fresh pastas and sauces are available for take away. All items are made from authentic Italian recipes handed down from generation to generation.

BUD’S BARBECUE, OGEMA

In the same town as Solo Italia Fine Pasta but at a different position on the food spectrum, Bud’s Barbecue serves up Texas-inspired barbecue, homemade pies and donuts, and menu items to satisfy the hungriest traveller. Meals are made from scratch with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The family-operated restaurant



Rawhides Bistro & Saloon, Stenen Photo credit: Rawhides Bistro & Saloon

focuses on wholesome food that sticks to the ribs and keeps customers coming back for more.

THE HAPPY NUN CAFÉ, FORGET

Hiltz has a soft spot for The Happy Nun Café, not simply because of the five-course meal he was served but for its story of transformation and resilience. “It’s one of the most fascinating, beautiful restaurants I’ve been to in this province,” Hiltz said, noting its transition from a granary to a parish and then town hall, to its present role as an award-winning restaurant and live entertainment venue.

RAWHIDES BISTRO & SALOON, STENEN

Hiltz called Rawhides Bistro & Saloon “THE MOST EPIC restaurant in the province” – not just for the food and décor, but also the story of turning the village’s brick schoolhouse into a full-service destination restaurant and event centre. “It’s beautiful, full of history and feels like you’re in a western movie,” Hiltz said. An extensive menu appeals to a range of tastes and entices visitors back time and time again.

OLIVE TREE RESTAURANT AND BLACK TOP DINER, BLAINE LAKE AREA

The Olive Tree Restaurant and Black Top Diner on Highway 12, south of Blaine Lake, is surprising in a number of ways. On the outside, it is obvious that you can fill up your car with gas. Vintage décor suggests comfort food classics. But there is more on the menu – authentic Greek Mediterranean cuisine made with the finest fresh ingredients. One bite into his meal and Hiltz felt transported. “My taste buds think I hopped on a plane and landed in Greece,” he said. Wines from around the world are available

for purchase, and soft ice cream comes in over 100 flavours.



Mabel Hill Farm Kitchen & Marketplace, Nipawin
Photo credit: Tourism Saskatchewan

MABEL HILL FARM KITCHEN & MARKETPLACE, NIPAWIN

Awestruck by a place “as farm-to-table as it gets,” Hiltz cited the hospitality, portion size and explosion of tastes as reasons for a road trip. “Today is a great day to be alive,” he said, plunging his fork into a mammoth slice of whiskey brown butter cake. The restaurant offers contemporary Canadian cuisine inspired by global fare and artisanal handmade and homegrown market goods. The menu changes to reflect the season and showcase local products that are available.

Follow the Saskatchewaner on Facebook (facebook.com/skwanderer), Twitter (@SkWanderer) or Instagram (@saskatchewanwanderer).

New to SARM



Shelby Piel

Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) Administration Support

Shelby aids the RIRG Team by interacting directly with RMs about inquiries related to the various aspects of their RIRG projects (e.g., application, claims, project tracking, etc.). She also offers the team administrative support to manage the large number of projects that resulted from the recent stimulus funding.

Shelby comes to SARM with approximately five years of experience at an agriculture insurance company where she served a variety of administrative functions as an Executive Assistant. Her background includes an undergraduate degree in the humanities with a focus on English literature.

Jared Tabler

Managing Consultant, Strategic Engagement & Communications (SEC)

The Strategic Engagement and Communications (SEC) department is relatively new for SARM. This team will focus on members, and expand our advocacy, communications, and engagement priorities.

To do this, we required external expertise and have engaged Jared Tabler, and his firm MCQUEEN Creative, to

support us in leading the department and building a framework for us to grow from.

Jared will work with the SEC team over the next few years to develop, build, and put into place critical infrastructure around communications, marketing, and engagement that will position SARM for the future.



Adryan Toth

Legal Counsel

Adryan comes to SARM from the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority where he was involved in consumer protection, securities, and general litigation. Prior to that, he was with MLT Aikins LLP and the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan.

Adryan received his post-secondary education at the University of Saskatchewan, obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce, Juris Doctor, and Master of Laws. He brings a level of experience and drive that will be beneficial to SARM, and the membership.

Alicia Bay

Policy Analyst

Alicia will work closely with Brian Rakochy, SARM's Policy Manager, and Deanna Nichols, SARM's Policy Administrator, in the Policy department.

Her responsibilities include research on municipal issues and recommending related policy actions to address

such issues. Alicia's previous position was in the Government of Saskatchewan, where, for over thirteen years, she held various roles, working with a wide variety of both crown corporations and ministries.



Olivia Zuck

Administrative Support

Olivia will be assisting SARM, on a part-time basis, with administrative duties including assisting the front desk. She is a driven and friendly administrative professional who is attending University. She works on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. After high school, Olivia attended the U of R and obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree.

She is a reliable and efficient worker and is the first point of contact for those calling, visiting, or e-mailing the SARM Office.

“A Ducks Unlimited Canada conservation easement hits all cylinders for our beliefs in conservation and for how our operation runs, including soil health and grazing. It was also a huge financial boost for our operation!”

– CHRIS AND JENNA HUBICK, STRASBOURG AREA RANCHERS AND DUC PROGRAM PARTNERS



DUC Conservation Easements (CEs) pay approximately 30% of current land values, and have no restrictions on haying or grazing*. Contact us to find out how our CEs and other farm-gate programs increase your bottom line and put money back in your pocket: **Call 1-866-252-3825 or email du_regina@ducks.ca**



Proud to be your conservation partner

*Some conditions apply. Contact DUC for details.

ag.ducks.ca

Member News



Laurent Roger Cruywels
RM of MOOSE CREEK No. 33
In Memoriam

Laurent Roger Cruywels of Manor, Saskatchewan passed away April 20, 2022, at the Estevan St. Joseph's Hospital at the age of 79 years. Laurent served as Division 4 Councillor for the RM of Moose Creek No. 33 from 1978 to 1999. Laurent is remembered by his daughter Tania (Phillip) Yanchycki, granddaughter Charisse, grandson Stefen; brother, Denis (Cindy); sisters, Lucille Poirier, Marilyn (Alfred Blerot); sister-in-law, Meryle; and numerous nieces & nephews. Laurent was predeceased by his wife Odette, March 13, 2022; brother, Armand; brother-in-law, Stan Poirier.



David Bowman
RM of VISCOUNT No. 341
In Memoriam

David was born to Titus Bowman and Constance (née Wingrove) on April 27, 1930. He grew up on the family farm and attended Golden Acre School. In 1952, David met his wife Marie Pfeil, at a local dance and they were married on the Pfeil farm on October 27, 1953. He farmed with his father and brother, Les, for many years and continued on his own in a mixed farming operation. He carried on his father's pride in raising beef cattle. David served his community on the School Board, the Wheat Pool, and the council of the RM of Viscount for many years. Some of his pastimes included being an avid curler, a dedicated Blue Jays fan, fishing trips, taking bus trips, and volunteering at the Antique Club.



Lambert Simon Wourms
R.M. of FRENCHMAN BUTTE No. 501
In Memoriam

Lambert Simon Wourms was born in Morinville, Alberta on January 15, 1926. Growing up on the farm agreed with him because he often said he could not see himself doing anything else for a living. He purchased his first piece of land with his brother in his early twenties - this tract of land would eventually become the home quarter where he built his farm. In 1949, he married Lillian and together they raised a family of ten children. A born problem solver, he always had a project on the go whether it was building the barn or restoring a tractor. He seemed to be able to do it all. We all know well the scrap iron pile in the yard that served as an endless supply of material for his projects. No amount of soap could scrub the dirt from under his nails and no amount of time could weather his hands the way hard work did. Even after laboring all day, huge hands with swollen knuckles would find an instrument to play, flooding the farmhouse he built with music. Lambert also found time to serve as the Reeve of the R.M of Frenchman Butte from 1995-1997.

Many people would describe Lambert's legacy as one of hard work - a tenacious, determined homesteader who made his mark on the land and his community. Though he embodies these qualities, in his later years we saw a man who demonstrated incredible strength and determination amidst adversity and huge personal challenges. He displayed a deep, tender devotion - to his wife, his children, and grandchildren; to his homestead and land; to his music; and to his faith.



DEBBIE ARSENAULT
RM of NORTH BATTLEFORD No. 437
Retirement

Debbie Arsenault served as the Administrator for the RM of North Battleford No. 437 from 2007– 2021. During her career, she previously had served the RM's of Parkdale, Medstead and Turtle River. Throughout her time at the RM of North Battleford Debbie contributed to the economic success of the RM with multiple large-scale projects such as the Northland Power Plant, the construction of 3 new municipal buildings as well as multiple multi-parcel residential subdivisions. Debbie was instrumental in the development of the new volunteer fire department. This department would not have the level of success without her leadership and guidance.

On behalf of all the ratepayers, council, staff and firefighters, the RM would like to thank Debbie for her many years of service and contribution to the Municipality. We wish her a wonderful retirement and all the best in her years to come.

Member News submission tips:

- Photos: JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files at 300 dpi resolution. Check the file size. If it is <100 KB, it may not print properly.
 - Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of a website.
 - Write-up length maximum: 250 words.
 - Email submissions to sarm@sarm.ca.
- Member News items can be submitted free of charge by RMs. Thank you for sharing your stories with us!

**FIND YOUR
PERFECT TRUCK &
TRAILER PAIRING
TODAY.**

Trucks & Trailers that **GET THE JOB DONE.**



MACK ANTHEM DAY CAB tractors pack tons of hauling power with an MP8 engine & mDRIVE automated manual transmission. With a newly updated interior, driver control, comfort & safety is priority.

Manufactured in Saskatchewan, **DECAP BELLY DUMPS** are your trusted trailers for hauling & distributing aggregates.



**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
REDHEAD EQUIPMENT
TERRITORY MANAGER OR**

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN:
RON DUDA | 306.721.2666
CORPORATE SALES MANAGER, TRUCKS & TRAILERS

NORTH SASKATCHEWAN:
NATHAN YELLAND | 306.934.3555
NORTHERN SALES MANAGER, TRUCKS & TRAILERS

AGRICULTURAL | CONSTRUCTION | TRUCKS & TRAILERS
redheadequipment.ca

Redhead EQUIPMENT



JOHN DEERE

BREAK NEW GROUND.

The **75G excavator** delivers the power you need for big jobs along with all the advantages of a compact machine. With more in common with a full-sized excavator than compact models, the 75G delivers outsized strength, durability and exceptional flexibility, allowing your operation to deliver the same. And, its reduced-tail-swing configuration and unmatched sightlines, make working in congested conditions a breeze, while allowing for better maneuverability close to curbs, parallel to structures or alongside traffic. Best of all, these machines are backed by Brandt; the best-trained, most committed 24/7/365 after-sales support team in the business. **That's Powerful Value. Delivered.**

NEED FAST, FLEXIBLE FINANCING? WE DELIVER.

Call TOLL FREE: 1-855-711-4545
or visit brandtfinance.com

brandt.ca | 1-888-227-2638

Brandt